

NEWS



of the History Department at Boston University

November 2007

in brief

EVENTS OF NOTE!

Professor **Charles Dellheim** had a chapter, "Framing Nazi Art Loot," published in *The Art of Being Jewish in Modern Times* (ed. Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett and Jonathan Karp), University of Pennsylvania Press.

Professor **Marilyn Halter** has just learned that the National Endowment for the Humanities has funded production of "Diaspora Encounters: From Whalers to White Collars in Cape Verdean New England," a public radio program for Afropop Worldwide's Hip Deep series on which she will serve as the primary program guide. Hip Deep was developed to tap into renewed public interest in history and an emerging wave of pop culture scholars to tell the often-untold histories behind the dance crazes, love songs, and myriad grooves that Africans have helped to create around the world.

Professor Emeritus **Dietrich Orlow** delivered a paper entitled "The 1966 *Redneraustausch* Between the SPD and the SED: New Perspectives and Insights" at the 2007 convention of the German Studies Association held in early October in San Diego.

Professor **Linda Heywood** attended the Third International Conference of Angolan History held in Luanda, Angola, September 23-29. She presented a

paper entitled "A identidade Kongo e Kimbundu em África e a diáspora Atlântica: os fabricantes da cultura afro-americana." She was an official guest of the Angolan Ministry of Culture, sponsor of the conference.

Professor **Jonathan Zatlin** presented a paper entitled "Money for Nothing, Goods for Free? Purchasing Power and Consumerism in the GDR, 1971-1990" at the conference on "Social Transformations and Social Identities in East-Central and Southeastern Europe under Socialism, 1944/45-1989/91" at Central European University in Budapest September 28-30. At the annual German Studies Association conference in San Diego October 4-7, he was

the commentator for the panel on "Recent Studies of the Economic History of the Third Reich" and also gave a paper entitled "Ignatz Bubis in Dresden. Jewish 'Speculators' and Communist Courts, 1945-1951."

Professor **Andrew Bacevich** wrote "No Exit from Iraq?" for *Commonweal* (October 12, 2007) and "Sycophant Savior" for *The American Conservative* (October 8, 2007). He also delivered lectures at Columbia, Amherst, and Rutgers and a talk at the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs.

On October 3 at the Boston Public Library, Professor **Nina Silber** spoke at a panel discussion, along with David Blight of Yale University and W.

UPDATED INFORMATION ON THE MERLE GOLDMAN LECTURE

James Kloppenberg

Professor of American History, Harvard University

will speak on

"America's Philosophy?
William James's *Pragmatism* (1907)
and Twentieth-Century Thought"

Thursday, November 15, 5 P.M., CAS 211, 725 Commonwealth Avenue

BY DONALD ALTSCHILLER
HISTORY BIBLIOGRAPHER

Fitzhugh Brundage of the University of North Carolina, on “The Civil War Remembered: Union, Confederate, and African American Perspectives.” The panel was organized by the American Civil War Center of Richmond, Virginia, in conjunction with the Boston Athenaeum, the BPL, and the Massachusetts Historical Society. Although Professor Silber was sad to miss the first game of the Red Sox–Angels playoff series, she was happy that about 300 people, including a few of her students, attended.

Professor **Betty Anderson** just submitted the article, “September 1970 and the Palestinian Issue: A Case Study of Student Politicization at the American University of Beirut (AUB),” for a forthcoming issue of *Civil Wars*. Professor Joseph Nevo of the University of Haifa, guest editor for a special issue on the events of September 1970 (Black September) in Jordan, asked her to write about how these events altered the political positions of the students at AUB.

Professor **Eugenio Menegon** reviewed for the latest issue of the *Journal of Chinese Religions* the book *Two-Headed Snakes: The First Generation of Catholics in the Late Ming and Early Qing Periods* (2005). Authored by the eminent historian of Chinese science and Sino-Western relations Professor Huang Yilong (Tsinghua University, Taiwan), the work examines the moral and social dilemmas faced by Christian literati in late imperial times. On October 24, at the First Parish Church of Harvard

Square, Menegon introduced the author and moderated a debate on the recent book by Laurence Bergreen, *Marco Polo* (Alfred A. Knopf, 2007). The event was organized by Cambridge Forum and is distributed for broadcast on National Public Radio.

Professor **Bruce Schulman** entered the blogosphere with two op-ed pieces that ran on Huffington Post. The first, “The Transformation of the Vice Presidency,” ran in August. The most recent, “Whatever Happened to the Veto?,” appeared on October 12. Schulman also continues to communicate in more old-fashioned ways. On October 20, he opened a year-long symposium at the Minnesota Historical Society in St. Paul with a public lecture entitled “Electing America: The Campaigns That Reshaped the Modern United States.” Next month, he will travel to Rice University in Houston, Texas, to give a talk drawn from his forthcoming volume for the *Oxford History of the United States*.

Graduate student **Kathryn Lamontagne** was profiled October 18 in her local newspaper, *Westport Shorelines* (Westport, R.I.). Under the heading “An American Dream?” the writer quotes Kathryn as saying, “My great-grandmother was an immigrant from Ireland. She worked in the cafeteria at Boston University. It resonates with me so much that she worked in the cafeteria and now I have the opportunity to get my doctorate there. It feels like an American Dream story.” And Kathryn goes on to point out an experience that had a great impact on her: “When I was in fourth grade my mom took me to see Rosa Parks at the Congregational church in Fall River and that changed my life. Rosa Parks was such a little woman on that big, big altar and she’d done some big, big things. I’ve carried that with me my whole life.”

In mid-October Professor **Diana Wylie** spent over a week in the hospital with a ruptured intestine. Although she does not expect to be back at BU until the second semester, she is recuperating satisfactorily. Meanwhile Professor James McCann is teaching her graduate seminar in African historiography. ♦

Library users don’t usually know all the different ways to obtain books or journal articles that BU doesn’t own. Before pursuing holdings in other libraries, students should always carefully check our catalog records to make sure the item is not available. Sometimes students assume a book is missing from Mugar because they fail to check the location field on the catalog record, which might indicate the title is located in one of the other dozen BU libraries.

If a book isn’t listed in the catalog, library users have three options to find it. The advantages and limitations of each option are described below. All these services can be accessed at <http://www.bu.edu/library/ill/index.html>.

■ Virtual Catalog (VC)

Established several years ago, the VC is comprised of about a dozen libraries affiliated with the Boston Library Consortium. Library users submit requests online at the above URL, and if any of the institutional members own the item, the book will be sent to BU. *Advantages:* Fastest way to obtain books; items are received three business days after requested; material is picked up and returned to Mugar. *Disadvantages:* Journal articles can’t be requested; books can’t be renewed; searches the holdings of only a dozen libraries.

■ Interlibrary Loan (ILL)

This nationwide library system allows for borrowing materials from most libraries in the United States. *Advantages:* Since thousands of libraries participate, it is very likely that you can obtain the requested item; can request journal articles. *Disadvantages:* It takes from one to two weeks to receive the item, although it is occasionally quicker.

NEWS

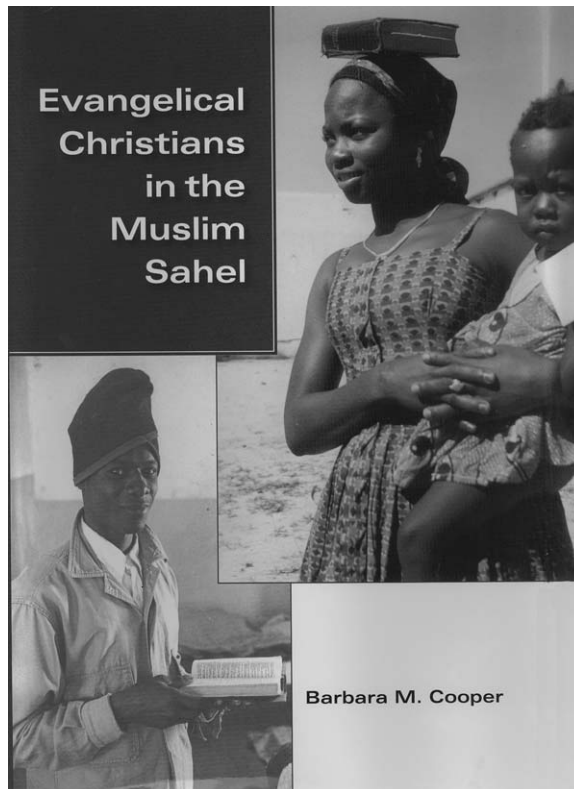
of the History Department at Boston University

is published monthly September through May at the department office, 226 Bay State Road, Boston, MA 02215, telephone: 617-353-2551, E-mail: history@bu.edu, Website: www.bu.edu/history.

Editor: James T. Dutton, Department Administrator

■ Boston Library Consortium card (BLC)

BU is a member of this Consortium which includes almost two dozen major academic libraries in the Boston area, in addition to Brown University and University of Massachusetts–Amherst (Harvard University is not a member). If you can't wait the three business days to obtain a book from the VC, you can go to the individual BLC library and take out the item. You must first apply for a BLC card either online or in person at the Mugar Reference Desk. To find out whether any of the BLC libraries own the item, first check WorldCat (<http://firstsearch.oclc.org.ezproxy.bu.edu/autho=100203601&dbname=WorldCat&FSIP>). Make sure also to check the individual library catalog to ensure that the book is not already charged out. *Advantages:* After receiving the BLC card, you can take books out of almost two dozen libraries. The books can be returned at BU (but please factor in the return delivery time). *Disadvantages:* You need to personally visit the library to obtain the item. On some occasions, books listed as available are not on the shelf. ♦



At the recent annual meeting of the African Studies Association, alumna Barbara Cooper (PhD in 1992, now Associate Professor of History at Rutgers University) received the prestigious Herskovits Prize for an outstanding scholarly work on Africa for her book *Evangelical Christians in the Muslim Sahel* (Indiana University Press, 2006). In this work Barbara examines the Sudan Interior Mission, an evangelical Christian mission on the southern fringe of Niger, introducing themes as disparate as Bible translation, medical outreach, and the mission's changing views of Islam.

Madia Thomson (PhD in 2005) wrote to inform the department that she is now in Morocco as an Assistant Professor at Al-Akhawayn University. A paper that she wrote for a conference in Mainz, Germany, in 2002, "Like a Motherless Child: Researching Slavery in Morocco," just appeared in the journal *Sudanic Africa* (2005 issue); it can be read online. Madia will also be attending a workshop titled "Spatializing the Missionary Encounter: The Interaction between Missionary Work and Space in Colonial Settings" at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Leuven, Belgium.

Japanese faculty search begins

The department has been authorized to search for an assistant professor in modern Japanese history. There have been no courses offered in that field at Boston University since 2003. Chair of the search committee is Professor John Thornton; other members are Professors Arianne Chernock, William Grimes (of the International Relations Department), and Eugenio Menegon.

Applications have already begun arriving, and finalists will visit campus early in the new year.

The American political history search is also drawing a large number of applicants.

Scheduling Notes for Spring 2008

The following classes have been added to the schedule for the spring semester:

- **CAS HI 204. Europe between Renaissance and Revolution.** The course surveys the key movements that transformed European culture, politics, and intellectual life between the fifteenth and eighteenth centuries: the Renaissance, Protestant and Catholic Reformations, new age of science and exploration, absolutism and constitutional monarchy, Enlightenment, and French Revolution. Instructor: *Jon Westling*. MWF 2-3 p.m.
- **CAS HI 333. French Revolution and Napoleon.** The course covers the origins of the revolution; principal events in terms of political, social, and cultural impact on France and Europe; Napoleon's restructuring of France and Europe; the settlements of 1815. Instructor: *Mitchell Allen*. W 6-9 p.m.

Majors should be aware that if they change the track of their concentration (for example, move from the general track to the American), they will fall under the new concentration rules. Similarly if they neglected to declare a track when they became a history major, they will need to follow the new regulations. To declare or change a track, students must go to Student Records in CAS B3.



Clemens Häusler at Dorchester Bay near the John F. Kennedy Library

Transnational rapprochements

BY CLEMENS HÄUSLER

When I arrived in Boston in the first days of September, it was a bit like coming home: The warm and sunny weather of the late summer, the hustle and bustle around the university campuses, the fact that the Red Sox were the best team of the season—all this reminded me of the first time I had entered the city in 2004. Back then, I was enrolled in the American Studies master's program of Ludwig-Maximilians University in Munich and had come to spend one academic year as a visiting student at Harvard's Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.

In the three years since, I have switched academic disciplines, schools, and countries, but the feeling that Boston is “my American home” has remained unchanged. I am now a PhD student in History at the University of Cambridge in England. When my thesis adviser, Professor Tony Badger, asked me whether I would be interested in spending the fall term at Boston University, I answered “yes” without hesitation.

Apart from my personal preference

for the city, Boston is also an ideal location for my thesis research in the US. In my doctoral dissertation, I am tracing the institutional and personal relations between American liberals and social democrats from Britain and Germany from the mid-1950s to the mid-1970s and evaluating their impact on domestic policy thinking on both continents. Almost all of my “protagonists” are high-ranking, liberal politician-intellectuals—i.e., intellectuals with a direct involvement in politics or visionary politicians conversant with intellectual circles. In the US, individuals such as John Kenneth Galbraith, Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., and Walter Reuther qualify for these categories. On the European side, my research focuses on German social democratic leader Willy Brandt and his entourage as well as the British Labour politicians Roy Jenkins, Tony Crosland, Richard Crossman, and Harold Wilson. The Boston area was—and to some degree still is—one of the major hubs of the transatlantic exchanges I am interested in. With BU as my “base camp” for the fall term, I have the possibility of accessing a wealth of historical resources in the region including the John F. Kennedy Library and the Harvard Archives. Moreover, some of the very persons I am researching still live here and will be available for interviews.

Following the lead of historians such as Daniel Rodgers and James Kloppenberg, I have based my work on the assumption that American liberalism and European social democracy have mutually influenced each other's paths of intellectual development since the late nineteenth century. The search for a “Third Way,” a rejuvenation of center-left politics advocated by politicians such as Tony Blair, Bill Clinton, and Gerhard Schröder in the 1990s, was one of the most recent episodes in this ongoing exchange.

Why do I consider the two decades between roughly 1955 and 1975 to be of special relevance for historical research? Quite simply, this was a time when American liberals and European social democrats for the first time confronted a curious problem: The redistributive public policies and the

solid economic development of the post-war years had lifted a large proportion of their traditional constituencies from lower socio-economic backgrounds into the middle classes. With “mass affluence” becoming a fact, American liberals and European social democrats had to reinvent central parts of their political programs and revise their overall vision for society.

In their search for a new “progressive” agenda, American liberal intellectuals called attention to neglected public tasks such as urban renewal, educational reform, improved and more inclusive health care, and environmental protection—issues that are still hotly debated today. Whereas these ideas first manifested themselves among the American liberal intelligentsia in the mid-1950s—with Galbraith and Schlesinger as central figures—they soon became common topics among elites of the European center-left. For instance, they entered the reform debate inside the British Labour Party in the late 1950s and figured prominently in Willy Brandt's election platforms throughout the 1960s. All in all, one may assume that the transatlantic contacts between US liberals and social democrats in Britain and Germany shaped political history in all three countries in yet unexplored ways.

In closing, the possibility of traveling as part of one's academic work is certainly one of the most enjoyable aspects of writing a dissertation in transnational history. (In fact, some of my friends have ironically remarked that I devised my entire thesis around the countries and places I would like to visit.) At the same time, working away from one's own country and university can come at the price of relative isolation. I have often heard stories about the “loneliness of the researcher” or the “solitude of the archive” from senior graduate students. Fortunately, I have been spared from these dreary experiences so far. Boston University has done an excellent job at providing me with an academic (and also a physical) home. I would like to use this opportunity to thank the Boston University History Department and all those individuals who have made my stay here possible. ♦

Articles

Richard Bourke: Edmund Burke and the Politics of Conquest

Richard Schaeffer: Program for a New Catholic *Wissenschaft*: Devotional Activism and Catholic Modernity in the Nineteenth Century

George Cotkin: Illuminating Evil: Hannah Arendt and Moral History

Symposium: What Was the History of the Book?

Bill Bell: Introduction

Robert Darnton: "What is the History of Books?" Revisited

Roger Chartier: *The Order of Books* Revisited

Peter Burke: *A Social History of Knowledge* Revisited

David D. Hall: What Was the History of the Book? A Response

Essays

Donald Reid: Inciting Readings and Reading Cites: Visits to Marx's *The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte*

Ian Hunter: The History of Philosophy and the Persona of the Philosopher

Review Essays

Darrin McMahon: What are Enlightenment?

Alexander Etkind: Orientalism Reversed: Russian Literature in the Times of Empires

Ross Posnock: "Like but Unalike": Eric Sundquist and Literary Historicism

James Schmidt edits collection of essays on work of Adorno

Ashgate has published *Theodor Adorno*, edited by Professor James Schmidt. This collection provides an overview of the English language reception of the work of the philosopher, social theorist, and cultural critic. Topics include Adorno's career, his critical theory and his cultural criticism (including his critique of the "culture industry"), and his later work on the relationship between art and utopia.

"Gags": an affectionate tribute

BY WILLIAM R. KEYLOR

When my wife Rheta and I arrived in Boston in the fall of 1972 and I took up my post as a beginning assistant professor at this university, we did not know a soul in the city. We became fast friends with another young couple: Norman Naimark, who joined the BU history department in the same year I did, and his lovely and intelligent girlfriend Liz Kennedy. We hung out together in various places as we got to know the city and the university. The place that I recall with the greatest fondness was John Gagliardo's apartment in Charles River Park in downtown Boston, where the sign outside read, "if you lived here, you'd be home now." John took us all under his wing, and made us all feel at home in the big, strange city. His stance was avuncular. He dispensed advice, encouragement, and, on occasion, reprimand. He had a lasting influence on all four of us. Neither Liz nor Norman, who ended up marrying other people and moving to California, could be here today. But when they learned of John's death, they both immediately sent tributes to him. I'd like to read portions of their statements before adding a few remarks of my own.

"He was...a remarkable man," Norman Naimark remembers, "whose life touched his students and colleagues in profound ways. I don't think, really, he had very many friends. But those people who came to his apartment and talked to him long into the night could not but be affected by his unusual, profound, and even somewhat mysterious insights into life....We drank a lot together, with him doing most of the drinking. We smoked a lot together; in that case, I could keep up, at least in those days. We reminisced about our respective families. In the course

of 15 years, I felt like I knew intimately John's adoptive parents, his hometown, Lawrence, Kansas (where I have never been), and Oswald Backus, a famous Kansas University Russianist, whom John admired to no end. His Yale and Amherst years would come alive in his long and precise meanderings about his academic career. These were meant, in part, to help me keep faith in mine.... We also talked about life, its deeper meaning, and the implications of this meaning for how one should act. He had a fierce attachment to leading an ethical life. He loved to laugh and joke about all sorts of things; but underneath his effervescent sense of humor and gift of gab was a hard determination to do the right thing, always. He was fiercely loyal to his friends, in part out of sentiment, and he was a very sentimental man, in part out of this idea of higher morality. But he also could get very angry, sometimes even with me, when he felt that these important standards of doing the right thing were not being met.... He was...a master of friendship; and that is how I will always remember him."

And from Elizabeth Kennedy Myers, who has gone on to a distinguished career in television production:

"I met John when I was 22 years old. John was, for me, someone only a few young women are lucky enough to have in their lives. An older man and...a gentleman, who sees in her something that others may not. Others mostly would not have the depth and age, or the talent with words, or the generosity of spirit to see. And the powerful words and sentiments [that] help to form a protective covering, a new skin for her to grow into.... That was John, for me. I eventually moved and there were many years of only sporadic contact until five years ago. In 2002 we began a correspondence that lasted until he died. I can say we talked about everything. Those were, of course, difficult years for John and coincidentally somewhat challenging for me as well. So we talked in a way few friends do.... I wanted to know every difficult thing about his life, and he mine. In his case, I wanted to hear about every fall, every newly lost ability, every coping mechanism.

William Keylor, Professor of History and International Relations, delivered this eulogy at the memorial service for Professor John Gagliardo on October 10 in Marsh Chapel.

Department of History
Boston University
226 Bay State Road
Boston, MA 02215



And what amazed me, and taught me, was his ability to always, always find the good in life, something to be grateful for.... His strength became my own. I think because we were so removed from each other it was easier to offer the truth and not leave out much. We were an unlikely pair of friends...separated by miles, age, politics, professions, and family situations. Perhaps that was where the easy connection lay, in our differences." And she concludes with the observation that "John, I think, was defined by contrasts. He was gentle and kind yet could be abrupt, funny but with an undercurrent of sadness, endearing yet formal. He had a gravitational pull yet his old world manners sometimes lent some distance. There was reserve yet there was always a boldness and passion as well. That convertible of his, now wasn't that a contrast."

Jay Corrin, who knew John best and who attended to him with love and devotion in his last difficult years, has written a moving tribute to John in the Department of History Newsletter, and has spoken about him as mentor and inspiration this afternoon, as will two of his former students. So I won't say anything about that part of my memory of him. Instead, I'd like to say a few words about John in the classroom. As a young wet-behind-the-ears assistant professor I was assigned the task of coordinating the History of Western Civilization course, which included a set of guest lectures by the

Europeanists in the department. (One of the teaching fellows in that course, I might add, was a brilliant young graduate student named Jay Corrin.) So I actually had the opportunity to observe John at the podium, an opportunity that students regularly enjoyed but few colleagues did. I was so blown away by his performance that I went right to his office armed with questions about the preparation and delivery of a lecture. John prepared every lecture with the care that a great master would devote to a painting. It was tightly organized, with no meandering or off-the-cuff speculation. It was written out verbatim, with each word carefully chosen to convey the precise meaning of his thought. He was a craftsman, in the best sense of the term. The result was a masterpiece of pedagogy. He was not a spellbinding orator, a tub-thumping speaker. On the contrary, he spoke slowly, precisely, elegantly, with quiet authority. Over the years I would drop by his office and he would be hard at work revising these lectures that were already gems, incorporating the findings of recent scholarship, adding or subtracting a word or phrase to better convey his meaning. I ended up developing a different style of lecturing, but I have always tried to emulate his seriousness of purpose and his devotion to the art of clear, evocative communication.

The final observation I would like to make about John is a much broader one that has to do with his chosen career. He really was, more than any other colleague I have met in my many years in this job, the quintessential professor. His whole life was devoted to the old-fashioned ideal of the academy—a sequestered place where serious-minded people dedicate themselves to learning and to teaching. He did have some hobbies, including a mean game of tennis to which Jay has alluded. But I always had the impression of someone who got his greatest pleasure from preparing and delivering a lecture, leading an animated seminar discussion, sitting before his typewriter, and later his computer, composing his many books and articles, and (above all) sitting at his desk with a single, attentive student in the chair in front of him, doing, and being, what he loved most. ♦

Elizabeth Kennedy Myers and John Gagliardo

