

NEWS



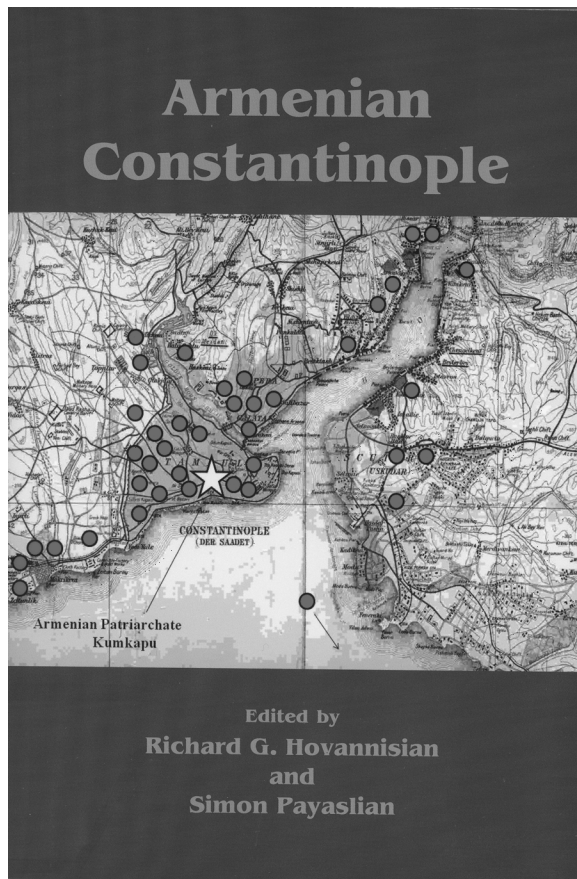
of the History Department at Boston University

November 2010

Simon Payaslian co-edits collection of essays on Armenian Constantinople

Professor Simon Payaslian has co-edited a book with Professor Richard G. Hovannisian (UCLA) entitled *Armenian Constantinople* (Mazda Publishers). This volume offers an overview of the history of the Armenian community in Constantinople from its earliest times to the twentieth century. In addition to the introduction by Hovannisian and Payaslian, the twenty chapters capture the community's rich heritage in literature, theater, architecture, music, education, and the church. Dating back to the fourth century, the Armenian community in Constantinople served as a major cultural center, as Byzantine, Arab, Seljuk, Mongol, and Mamluk invaders battled across the historic Armenian lands for regional hegemony, forcing

Armenians in growing numbers to migrate west to the Byzantine Empire. Armenians contributed to the cultural and material development of the imperial city, but their political and economic situation deteriorated rapidly in the second half of the nineteenth century, a situation which culminated in the genocide during World War I. In February 1915 the authorities ordered the removal of all Armenian officials from their government posts in Constantinople. On the night of April 24, more than 200 Armenian intellectuals and community leaders were arrested in the city and exiled. In 1916 the government also abolished the Armenian Apostolic



in brief

EVENTS OF NOTE!

On October 16 graduate student **Michael Holm** presented a paper entitled "Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr.: A Journey from Neutrality to Cold War" at the New England Historical Association's fall conference at the University of New England, Biddeford, Maine.

Graduate student **Aaron Hiltner** recently had a paper accepted for the "Biography, Autobiography, Memoir, and Personal Narrative" panel at the national conference of the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association (meeting with the Southwest/Texas regional conference). The paper is titled "The Cultural Mythology of World War Two in Vietnam War Memoir: Masculinity, Violence, and Culture." The conference will be held April 20-23 in San Antonio, Texas.

On October 8 Professor **James McCann** delivered the keynote address to the Fourth Annual Graduate Conference at Michigan State University. His address was entitled "Ravens, Writing Desks, and Mosquitoes: Building Complexity into Research." His audience included senior graduate students from five universities, including the University of Botswana....On November 11 he will deliver a lecture at the Hyde Park Campus of the Culinary Institute of America: "Building a Cuisine,

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Building a Nation.” Headless horsemen, a sleeping Dutchman, and bowling gnomes will doubtless be in attendance....On November 18 McCann will deliver Grinnell College’s annual Scholars’ Convocation Lecture on the topic: “Corn: Africa’s Story.” During the week-long event he will visit local farms and a seed production site....Professor McCann has received an invitation to serve on a PhD defense at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences (UMB) in Aas, Norway. He and Professor David Anderson of All Saints College, Oxford University, will serve as “opponents” to examine a doctoral candidate on the topic “The Dynamics of the Ancient Tula Wells’ Cultural Landscape.” UMB is Norway’s major technological university, located just south of Oslo.

A paperback edition of Professor **Nina Silber**’s book *Daughters of the Union: Northern Women Fight the Civil War* is being issued this fall by Harvard University Press....Professor Silber traveled to Utah Valley University on September 22 as part of her duties as a distinguished lecturer for the Organization of American Historians; she led a seminar and delivered a talk on the subject of “Why Gender Is Important in Understanding the Civil War.”

Professor **Erik Goldstein** delivered a paper to the British International History Conference at St. Antony’s College, Oxford, on “Religion and British

Foreign Policy: The Case of St. Sophia, 1821-1922.”

The German Studies Association, which held its annual conference in Oakland, California, this year October 7-10, dedicated a roundtable discussion to Professor **Jonathan Zatlin**’s first book, *The Currency of Socialism: Money and Political Culture in East Germany*.

Professor Emeritus **Dietrich Orlow** delivered a paper entitled “The SED and the Peace Movements in East and West Germany, 1977-1989” at the annual meeting of the German Studies Association in Oakland, California. He presented the paper by proxy (that is to say, the chairman of the panel read it) because his wife, Maria, was recuperating from a total hip replacement operation.

Professor **Eugenio Menegon** published an essay entitled “Wanted: An Eighteenth-Century Chinese Catholic Priest in China, Italy, India, and Southeast Asia” in the September monographic issue on “Italy and China” of the *Journal of Modern Italian Studies*....He also traveled to Lisbon, Portugal, over the Columbus Day weekend (October 9-12) to present a paper entitled “Courtiers and Careers: Jesuits, papal envoys, and Qing imperial officials in eighteenth-century Beijing” at the International Symposium “Intercultural Encounters Europe-China, Sixteenth-Eighteenth Centuries” organized by the Centro Científico e Cultural de Macau.

Professor **Barbara Diefendorf** chaired two sessions at the annual meeting of the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference in Montreal October 14-16. The first session, on marriage in early modern Europe, was organized by Sara McDougall, who graduated from the BU BA/MA program in 2003, received a PhD in history from Yale in 2009, and is now an assistant professor at John Jay College in New York. The second session, on urban culture and sociability in religiously divided French communities, included a paper by current PhD student **Scott Marr**. **Phillip Haberkern**, who will be joining the department as an early modernist next September, was also at the conference and said that he looks forward to coming to BU in the fall of 2011. ◆



James R. Russell

BU Photo Services

Lecture on Armenian poet held

Professor Simon Payaslian organized a lecture by Professor James R. Russell, Mashtots Professor of Armenian Studies at Harvard University. Professor Russell’s talk, entitled “The Calm before the Storm: The Armenian Poet Misak Medzarents on the Threshold of the Genocide,” examined the contributions made by Medzarents to the development of modern Armenian culture in an environment of despotic rule, censorship, urbanization, and commerce.

Russell stated that “The lyric poet Misak Medzarents, who migrated to Constantinople from the interior Armenian heartland, is known for his lyrical idylls and elegies of nature and traditional rural life.” Russell related this to “parallel contemporary developments in the Russian Empire among the Jews: the forging of Zionism and the resurrection of Hebrew.”

The event was held at The Castle on October 13 and was co-sponsored by the National Association for Armenian Studies and Research, Belmont, Mass.

Professor Payaslian has held the Kenosian Chair in Armenian Studies at Boston University since 2007.

NEWS

of the History Department at Boston University

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Telephone: 617-353-2551
E-mail: history@bu.edu
Website: www.bu.edu/history

Editor: James T. Dutton, Department Administrator

Items of interest for publication and changes of address should be sent to the editor.



ALUMNI NEWS

From Ángel Amy Moreno (PhD from Boston University 1999):

I taught history and humanities at the University of Puerto Rico for four years (1970-1974), then came to Boston University to work on my PhD in history with Tom Glick. The deal was that after completing the required course work and qualifying exams, I was to return to UPR. During that time, I started working part-time at Roxbury Community College to supplement my income. As the college developed and grew, I was offered a full-time position and decided to take it, and as they say, the rest is history. I remained at the college, resigned from my teaching job at UPR, withdrew from the history program at BU, and decided to start a new

degree in education (EdD). I graduated in 1982 from the School of Education, and that same day I reapplied to continue my degree in history. Thanks to Tom Glick and Reinhold Schumann, I was accepted to the History Department and was able to graduate in January 1999. Throughout these years I went through the ranks at Roxbury Community College, serving as chair of the Social Sciences Department for several years. In addition, I spent some years teaching humanities courses, including photography. In my professional career I have used photography to document my work pertaining to oral history (my preference has always been cultural and social history).

In Boston I served on the State Board of Affirmative Action under Governor Mike Dukakis for four years and on the Boston School Committee for eight years. In addition to my research and teaching career, I have worked as a journalist and photographer for several local newspapers; currently I am a correspondent for *El Mundo*, New England's largest and oldest Spanish newspaper. I was a founder of *Thought for Action*, a journal of higher education published by the National Education Association in Washington, D.C. My research in the field of history has been supported by two grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities. This past May I was named Professor Emeritus by the Board of Trustees of Roxbury Community College, the institution's first faculty member to receive such a designation.

In 2009 Amy Moreno published a book of photographs of Puerto Rico and Santo Domingo, *Voices and Silences*. In his review of the collection, photographer and author David Updike writes: "A student of the history of photography as well, Amy Moreno works in the black-and-white tradition of the great nineteenth- and twentieth-century photographers: Henri Cartier Bresson, Brassai, Manuel

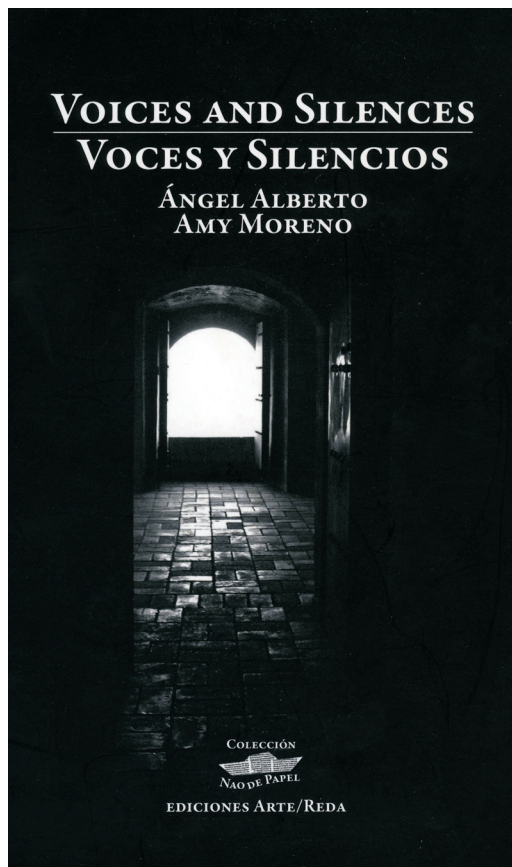
Álvarez Bravo, whose photographs of Mexico possess some of the same sense of stillness, of history on pause. Like Bravo, Amy Moreno reveals an admiration and reverence for the crumbling and living past, and also captures that elusive feeling of all great photographs: a sense of wishing we had been there too, if only to walk these same quiet streets, if only to see what and who is around the next corner, and also to see, in the endless flux of history, what happens next."

Update on Spring 2011 classes

Two classes have been added to the schedule for spring 2011 since publication of the previous newsletter:

CAS HI 552: Topics in Jewish History. Topic for spring 2011: The Zionist Idea. This class examines the Zionist ideology. We shall carefully examine the ideas of the main Zionist thinkers, and of the critiques of Zionism. We shall begin with mid-late 19th century, and work our way to contemporary formulations. *Instructor: Nahshon Perez.* Mondays 3-6.

GRS HI 743: Problems in Twentieth-Century History. Topic for spring 2011: modernism. This seminar examines a critical problem in late-nineteenth and twentieth-century European and American cultural history: the origins and development of the modern movement. The central theme is the relationship between art and thought and social, political, economic, and technological change. Among the issues we will discuss are whether modernism was really a unified movement or if there were fundamental differences between its manifestations in different societies, forms, and genres; the role of cultural capitals, including Vienna, Paris, and New York; the impact of World Wars I and II on modernism; the emergence of Jews and other outsiders as significant cultural producers and brokers; and the economics of culture. We will begin with the origins of modernism in Paris in the 1860s and 70s and end with post-1945 New York. This interdisciplinary course should be of particular interest to students of history, literature, the visual and performing arts, and cultural studies. *Instructor: Charles Dellheim.* Mondays 12-3.





September Graduates in History

The following students received the BA in History in September:

- ✚ Michael Jonathan Alloy
- ✚ Katrina Farias
- ✚ Edward Francis Frederick, III
- ✚ Katherine E. Hayes
- ✚ Yee Shan Leung (with a bachelor's degree from the School of Education)
- ✚ Zoe Sarah Rachel Morin (*Magna cum Laude*) (with a bachelor's degree from the College of Communication, *Magna cum Laude*)
- ✚ Jillian Elizabeth Primiano (*Magna cum Laude*) (with a bachelor's degree from the College of Communication, *Summa cum Laude*)
- ✚ Andreas Westgaard (*Summa cum Laude*) (with bachelor's and master's degrees in Political Science)
- ✚ William H. Wood (double major in Psychology)

Course planning information available

The departmental website now has tentative class schedules for fall 2011 and spring 2012 (both subject to change).

In addition, the schedule for summer 2011 will be online by the middle of November.

All course information is found in the "Courses" section of the site.

PAYASLIAN (cont. from page 1)

Church and closed the Patriarchate of Constantinople. The Allied victory led to the re-institution of the Patriarchate, but the community has never recovered its cultural vitality lost between 1915 and 1923. Nevertheless, the community has survived despite the decades of difficult circumstances since then, trying to maintain an identity and a continuing presence. ◆

Last month, PhD students Sara Georgini and Amanda Mathews, both of whom work on the Adams Family papers project at the Massachusetts Historical Society, led a workshop for Boston Public School teachers on Abigail and John Adams and their views on education. The workshop is part of "Meet the Historians," one element of the ongoing collaboration between the BU History Department and the Boston Public Schools. For more information on this program, visit www.bu.edu/history/APHI/TAH.html.



Updating of the history concentration approved by CAS faculty

As keen-eyed (and -eared) students may already know, the department has been engaged in revising (and simplifying) the undergraduate major, and in October the new rules were approved by the CAS faculty. The December newsletter will have a full explanation of the changes.

Current students need not worry since they may continue in the version of the concentration in which they are enrolled; new majors may select the revised version as of January 2011—and must do so beginning next September.

Undergraduate History Association to hold information session on attending grad school

The Undergraduate History Association is hosting a "What to Do with Your History Major / Grad School Information" panel with Professors Clifford Backman, Brendan McConville, and Cathal Nolan.

The organization urges majors and minors: "Whether you're sure about your future or absolutely lost in the wilderness of doubts, whether you're a senior ready to graduate or a freshman just getting used to university life, join us on November 10 at 6 p.m. in Room 504 of the History Department (226 Bay State Road)."



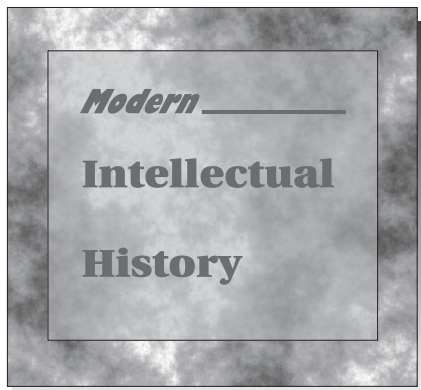
History Department Seminar

Nahshon Perez

will present a paper to the department on Wednesday, December 8, at noon as part of the department seminar series. The title of his talk is

"The Privatization of Jewishness in Israel, on Markets, Pork, and the Sabbath (or, Is Israel a Jewish State?)"

Nahshon Perez is Visiting Assistant Professor of Religion and is teaching classes in both History and Religion Departments this academic year.



Cambridge University Press has announced the contents of the November 2010 issue of the journal *Modern Intellectual History*, of which Professor Charles Capper is one of the editors.

Articles

- Richard Reitan, "Völkerpsychologie and the Appropriation of 'Spirit' in Meiji Japan"
- Jens-Uwe Guettel, "From the Frontier to German South-West Africa: German Colonialism, Indians, and American Westward Expansion before the First World War"
- Joan Shelley Rubin, "Repossessing the Cozzens-Macdonald Imbroglio: Middlebrow Authorship, Critical Authority, and Autonomous Readers in Postwar America"
- Edward Baring, "Humanist Pretensions: Catholics, Communists, and Sartre's Struggle for Existentialism in Post-War France"

Essay

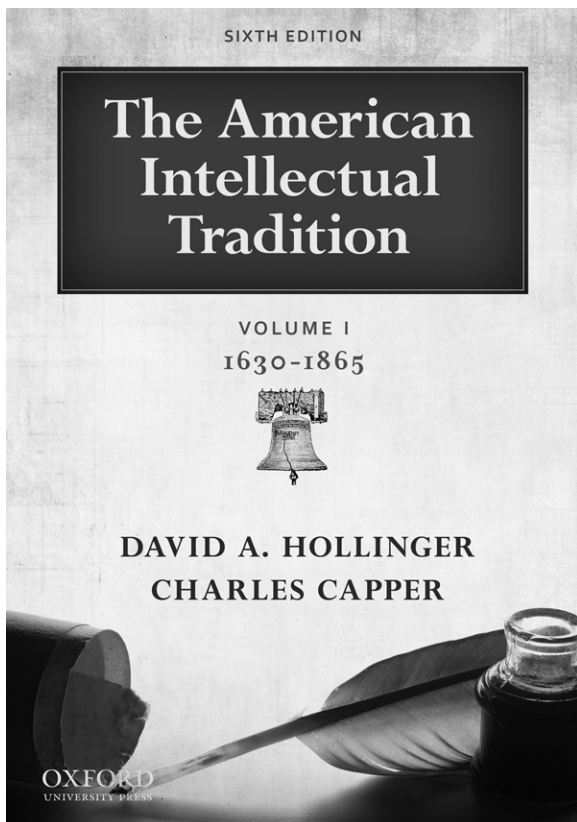
- Robert Mayhew, "Geography as the Eye of Enlightenment Historiography"

Review Articles

- Matthew Jones, "Matters of Fact: the early modern scientific revolution revisited"
- Alan Kors, "Mind, Body and Soul in the Early Enlightenment"
- Javed Majeed, "The Crisis of Secularism in India"
- Robert W. Rydell, "The Proximity of the Past: Eugenics in American Culture"

**BOSTON
UNIVERSITY**

Department of History
226 Bay State Road
Boston, MA 02215



Charles Capper and David Hollinger's new 6th edition of *The American Intellectual Tradition*, 2 vols. (Oxford University Press, 2011) includes 15 new authors and selections. The editors have added texts especially in the areas of American philosophy, theology, social theory, and conservative and environmental thought. They also revised substantially introductions, headnotes, and recommended readings to take into account new scholarship.

The American Intellectual Tradition has sold over 40,000 copies and is now the standard American intellectual history sourcebook taught in most of the major colleges and universities in the United States as well as many in the United Kingdom.