

History From The Hill

Newsletter of the History Department at Tufts University

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Volume VII Issue II

What's News in East Hall

On Friday, December 8 in the Arthur M. Sackler Auditorium Professor **Ina Baghdiantz McCabe** will present a lecture entitled "From the Inside Looking Out: Antoin-Khan Sevruguin and his Politics of Representation" as part of a symposium, *Photography in the Islamic World, 19th-20th Centuries*

The symposium is sponsored by the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture at Harvard University and the Harvard University Art Museums. It is offered in conjunction with the exhibitions *Antoin Sevruguin and the Persian Image*, which is running at the Arthur M. Sackler Museum through June 10, 2001, and *Sight-seeing: Photography of the Middle East and Its Audiences, 1840-1940*, which will be on view at the Fogg Art Museum from December 8, 2000 through April 22, 2001. The symposium is free and open to the public; registration

is not required.

Thursday, October 26, 2000 witnessed the launching of the Five College Women's Studies Research Center's *Curricular Crossings: Women's Studies and Area Studies - A Web Anthology for the College Classroom*, which can be found at <http://womencrossing.org/>

The Africa section contains Professor **Jeanne Penvenne's** essay, "Gender Studies, Area Studies, and the New History, with Special Reference to Africa" that was part of the keynote panel address from last May's "Little Berks" meeting. The Tufts History Department is affectionately maligned in her essay which can be read in its entirety on line at <http://womencrossing.org/penvenne.html>.

Professor Penvenne will soon be attending the African Studies Association annual meeting in Nashville, Tennessee in her capacity as a member of the edito-

rial board of the *Journal of African History*. She has also recently published an article entitled "Elsa Joubert's Poppie Nongena," in Jean Hay, ed. *African Novels in the Classroom* (Lynne Reinner, 2000), which draws in part on her experience using African novels to complement her history courses at Tufts.

Professor **Virginia Drachman**, on sabbatical this year at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Studies, gave a talk, "Enterprising Women: Women in Business, 1750 to 2000," on November 15 in the Cronkhite Graduate Center at Harvard University.

For the Spring semester, Professor **Beatrice Manz** is offering her course History 190 BM--*Multi-National Empires*, which was previously taught as a

*See What's News
continued on page 6*

Fresh Faces

A new feature added to the newsletter, *Fresh Faces*, will profile new faculty and staff, permanent, visiting and adjunct, within the History Department. This issue, we will be talking with Visiting Assistant Professors John Herron and Sung-Yoon Lee.

Visiting Assistant Professor John Herron

by Diana Stockwell

John P. Herron recently joined Tufts as a Visiting Assistant Professor of History. A native of Whitefish, Montana, Professor Herron attended Rutgers University and Montana State University and holds a PhD from the University of New Mexico. His areas of specialization include the American West and the environment, with particular attention to social relationships in both. His current research examines the cultural politics of adventure and exploration in American culture.

He introduced a new environmental perspective to the study of the History of the American West, which is reflected in many of his publications including, "The Disorder of Creation: Nature and the Science of Ecology" in *Crossing Contested Territories: Historical Essays on American Culture and the Environment*, (Center for the American West, 1996) and "Where there is Smoke" in *For Nature's Sake: The Forested Environment of the American West*, (forthcoming University of Arizona Press, 2001). He has also coedited a book entitled, *Human/Nature: Biology, Culture and Environmental History* (University of New Mexico Press, 1999). His interest in American culture through science extended into his dissertation, an examination of the intersection of science, gender, and nature in American culture.

Professor Herron has received numerous academic awards and honors throughout his career, including a Fellowship from the Department of Energy in the History of Science and Technology, the Clinton P. Anderson Fellowship in Public History from the Center for Southwest Research, a project grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, and a Special Merit Award in Ecology from the Department of Agriculture.

*See Faces
continued on page 4*

Perspectives

The *Perspectives* feature attempts to provide various responses to the question every historian and student of history must eventually face. What is history? In this series, faculty, graduate students and undergraduate history majors will be asked to share their views and outlooks on history and the historical process. In this issue, Visiting Lecturer **Jacqueline Carlon** offers her perspective on history.

On Ancient History

George Santayana's comment that those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it has often been cited as justification for historical studies. But the validity of his observation must surely be called into question when in the twentieth century, during which the level of education among the inheritors of the Western tradition unquestionably attained heights unimagined in previous eras, so many actions undertaken by world leaders and endorsed by their followers, actions that mirrored closely those of the ancient Greeks and Romans, resulted in horrific wars and genocide.

Memory, then, is insufficient. We must strive for an understanding of how ancient events shaped not only Greek and Roman society but also our own and how people, both ancient and modern, respond to social, political and economic change. The world of ancient Rome offers an ideal environment for in-depth study of this kind. Its millennial duration and the vast geographical reach of its empire combine with an overwhelming abundance of literary and material evidence with which to undertake its examination to offer myriad opportunities to investigate the evolution and transformation of ancient Mediterranean civilizations as Roman constructs overlay their own.

Yet, the study of ancient history is not without serious limitations. Time has selected capriciously what literary sources are extant, and so we have Tacitus' account of the reign of Tiberius but not of his successor, we have Gaius and Livy's account of the Second Punic War but not the Third, not to mention entire works whose existence is known to us only through literary references to them. As serious a barrier to our comprehension of the Roman world as the vagaries of literary preservation is the social status of the authors whose works remain. They are almost without exception male and belong either to the upper classes or write for patrons of that rank, and so, of a society comprised overwhelmingly of the poor and slaves, they present the view of perhaps five percent of the population. Archaeological resources, particularly epigraphic evidence, offer some information, but for the most part, the lives of women, slaves and those of the lower orders must be inferred from the accounts of their male superiors. It is this challenge that most entices the student of ancient history.

The role of the ancient historian increasingly depends upon teasing out information from the sources available, filling in the gaps created by incomplete sources, reading and rereading primary sources as much for what is not said regarding members of other social classes as for what is stated openly, determining, for example, that the existence of a law that prohibited the marriage of a free woman to a freedman must have been deemed necessary because of the prevalence of that behavior. Critical, too, is an understanding of the literary nature of ancient historiography, all of which is heavily influenced not only by its authors' social and political position but by the didactic nature of the ancient genre. Intent examination of these sources reveals their fragility and changes, forever, our ability to read any source in a cursory fashion.

The importance of ancient history, of all history, is not in the memory of a sequence of events but in the process of reconstructing a past wherein relationships among power structures, societies and individuals may be examined. While Santayana's view is perhaps too circumscribed to illuminate the value of broad historical knowledge, there is no doubt that the study of how ancient societies and individuals reacted to change, particularly that which was thrust upon them, can instruct the present and mold the future.

Acknowledgments

History From The Hill wishes to thank Department Administrator Annette Lazzara and Staff Assistant Judy Farrington for their continued assistance and support in producing and distributing this newsletter. Thanks also to all the department faculty who contributed notes and news including Ina Baghdiantz McCabe, Virginia Drachman, Beatrice Manz, Sung-Yoon Lee, John Herron and Jeanne Penvenne. Thanks to George Marcopoulos for his help with the St. Nicholas piece.

Special thanks to Jacqui Carlon for taking on the *Perspectives* feature this time around and to Department Secretary Mary-Ann Kazanjian for her assistance with proofreading and editing. The editor would also like to thank Diana Stockwell, Yolanda Finegan, Mariela Martinez and Gigi Ng for their steadfast assistance.



Profiles

Professor Gary Leupp

Professor Gary Leupp came to Tufts in 1988 as Assistant Professor in History being promoted in 1995 to Associate Professor. He received his MA from the University of Hawaii at Manoa and his PhD from the University of Michigan.

Professor Leupp has also served as Visiting Associate Professor at Yale University, Visiting Lecturer at the Center for Japanese Studies at the University of Michigan, Instructor/Supervisor of the International Academy for Youth in Sapporo, Japan, and Lecturer in History at the University of Hawaii. He is also an Associate in Research at the Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies at Harvard, and serves as a member of the Association for Asian Studies, the New England Japan Seminar, and the U.S.-China Peoples' Friendship Association (New England). At Tufts, Professor Leupp currently serves as Co-Chair of the Tufts Programs Abroad Committee and as a member of the Curriculum Committee. He has also been Chair of the Subcommittee on Interdisciplinary Minors, Coordinator of the Tufts Asian Studies Program and a member of the Subcommittee on Foreign Language and Culture Requirement, and of the Subcommittee on Interdisciplinary Minors.

Professor Leupp has received numerous awards and fellowships including a Fulbright Professional Research Scholarship, Social Science Research Council Fellowship, Japan Foundation Professional Fellowship, Tufts University Summer Faculty Research Fellowship, Social Science Research Council-Council of Learned American Societies Fellowship for Completion of Doctoral Dissertation in Japanese Studies and a Fulbright-Hayes Research Fellowship among others.

Professor Leupp is particularly interested in questions of class, ethnicity, gender and sexuality in Japanese history. He has published two highly successful and well-received books, Servants, Shophands, and Laborers in the Cities of Tokugawa Japan (Princeton University Press, 1992; paperback edition, 1994) and Male Colors: The Construction of Homosexuality in Tokugawa Japan, (University of California Press, 1992; paperback edition, 1997). His third, Race-Mixing and Intermarriage in Japan: A Social History, 1543-1900, is scheduled to be released by Atholone Press in 2002. He is also at work on two book-length manuscripts, "The Weavers of Nishijin: Wage-Labor in Tokugawa Japan" and "How Far Did The Wheel Roll West? Buddhist Contacts with the West from Classical Antiquity to the Middle Ages." The second manuscript deals with an area of history that has been virtually unprobed but promises vital insights for a wide range of scholars including historians of Buddhism and Asia as well as classicists, Byzantinists and historians of Christianity.

Professor Leupp has also published numerous articles in collected works including "Sen gohyaku yonjusannen kara happyaku rokuju hachinen no Nihon ni okeru ijishukan kankei ni tsuite: Sengoku kara Kinsei ni okeru jinshu konko to jinshu ishiki (Race Relations in Japan, 1543-1868: Race-Mixing and Racial Consciousness in the Sengoku and Early Modern Periods)," in Jiendaa no Nihonshi (History of Gender in Japan), (Wakita Haruko and Susan Hanley, eds.; University of Tokyo Press, 1994, 2 vols. Shoyama Noriko, trans.), "Male Homosexuality in Edo during the Late Tokugawa Period, 1750-1850: Decline of a Tradition?" in Imagining/Reading Eros: Proceedings for the Conference Sexuality and Edo Culture, 1750-1850 (Sumie James, ed.; Indiana University, 1996), and "Capitalism and Homosexuality in Tokugawa Japan," in Homosexuality in the Eighteenth Century (Lynn Hunt and Bryant Ragan, eds.; forthcoming). His most recent published article, "The Five Men of Naniwa: Gang Violence and Popular Culture in Genroku Osaka," in Osaka: The Merchant's Capital in Tokugawa Japan (James L. McClain and Wakita Osamu, eds.; Cornell University Press, 1999; Japanese translation, Osaka University Press, 2000), is based on his translation of an unpublished police report he found in an archive, concerning the apprehension, interrogation and public execution of gangsters in 1701-2, and analysis of profound class hostilities within the commoner (non-samurai) population of early modern Japanese cities. He has turned out articles in journals including *The Gest Library Journal*, *Japan Forum*, *Thamyris: Mythmaking from Past to Present*, and has published book reviews in the *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, *Journal of Asian Studies*, *The Historian*, *Journal of Asian History* and the *Journal of Social History*. One of his most innovative articles, "Images of Black People in Late Mediaeval and Early Modern Japan: Race Theory and Colour Consciousness, 1543-1900," *Japan Forum* (Oxford University Press), vol. 7, no. 1 (Spring 1995) focused on the fact that there were Africans in premodern Japan, something that has been virtually ignored in the mainstream scholarship. He has reviews forthcoming of W.G. Beasley's The Japanese Experience: A Short History of Japan for the *Journal of Asian Studies*, and of Gregory M. Pflugfelder's Cartographies of Desire: Male-Male Sexuality in Japanese Discourse, 1600-1950 for the *American Historical Review*.

Gary Leupp has delivered a host of papers at conferences spanning the United States and Japan including "Nishi-O kan no kokusai kekkon to konketsu, 1543-1868—Sengoku Kinsei ni okeru minzoku ishiki sei kaikyū (Japanese-European Intermarriage and Race-Mixing, 1543-1868: Racial Consciousness, Sexuality and Class in the Sengoku and Early Modern Periods)" at the Conference on Female and Male Role-Sharing in Japan: Historical and Contemporary Constructions of Gender (Part Three), sponsored by the Toyota Foundation (Osaka, Japan); "Naniwa gonin otoko' no densetsu: Kinsei Osaka ni okeru yakko boryoku to minkan bunka (The Legend of the 'Five Men of Naniwa': Gang Violence and Popular Culture in Early Modern Osaka)" at the Symposium on Early Modern Osaka, sponsored by Osaka University, the Kaitokudo Memorial Society, and the Society of Friends of the Kaitokudo (Osaka, Japan); "Confine and Register: Wage-Labor, Vagrancy and Urban Governance in Tokugawa Japan" at

See Leupp

continued on page 5

Faces

continued from page 1

He has also presented papers at various conferences including the American Society for Environmental History Conference, the Western History Association Conference, Blacks in the West: Image and Reality, and the Women's History and Gender Conference, among others.

Professor Herron has also served as a contributor to the *Columbia Guide to America in the 1960s* and as an environmental history/western history consultant for Harper Collins Press and Publications-International.

This spring, Professor Herron will offer History 88--*American Environmental History*, an attempt to refocus the understanding of traditional American history through an environmental lens. He will also teach at the graduate level with History 217: Walls and Mirrors-- *Defining Culture in the American West*, a course designed to examine how diverse peoples identified their culture and shaped social relationships. Professor Herron brings a fascinating new perspective to the history of the American West which can only serve to strengthen the department.

Visiting Assistant Professor Sung-Yoon Lee

by Gigi Ng

Professor Sung-Yoon Lee joined the History Department faculty this year but is no stranger to Tufts having taught at Fletcher for the last two years and having earned his MA and PhD from the Fletcher School. Born in Seoul, Professor Lee has lived in a variety of places: Bonn, London, Geneva, Singapore and Vienna. A son of a diplomat, he does not feel as if he is "rootless" because he has travelled so much. His experiences have given him a multicultural and cosmopolitan view of the world and history. In fact, it was Professor Lee's father who encouraged him to come to the United States to learn more about the world. After graduate school, Professor Lee was offered a position at a prominent university in Korea, but he wanted to remain in the U.S. to learn more about this country. Having lived here for fifteen years, he feels at home both in Korea, where his family lives, and in the U.S.

Currently Professor Lee is teaching *Premodern Korean History* and *History of Interactions among Europe, America and Asia*. In the spring, he will be teaching History 42-- *Modern Korea* and History 01-YL-- *Wars in East Asia*. A gift from a Korean benefactor designated for Korean studies made it possible for the History Department (in cooperation with the Political Science Department) to hire Professor Lee, who had already performed outstandingly as an instructor of graduate students at the Fletcher School. Professor Lee feels that the dynamics of the classroom experience are the same for both graduates and undergraduates, but he expects more of graduates in terms of papers and research. Graduates tend to have a greater reservoir of knowledge since they have been studying longer, however, undergraduates exhibit a kind of "raw energy and youthful exuberance that is infectious," according to Professor Lee. He has been thoroughly impressed with the passion and drive of Tufts undergrads.

In presentations to his classes, Professor Lee strives to point out larger themes, rather than dwelling on facts. He wants to present Korean history through a broader cultural context, because although Korean history is distinctly different from Chinese or Japanese history, the international history of Northeast Asia, in which the United States has played such a seminal role in the twentieth century, are indeed connected. Professor Lee's open-minded approach to teaching was mainly influenced by his mentor, Professor John Perry of the Fletcher School. Professor Lee was taught that a teacher's duty was not only to disseminate information, but to *inspire*. He wants to illuminate historical events in a different way, through literature, songs, and poems, as well as through historical narratives.

Professor Lee admits getting nervous before each classroom experience, because even if he's giving an old lecture, the class itself is a new challenge. He deems it his "fundamental duty" to "exude enthusiasm" as a teacher and says that teaching is a challenging calling, requiring much preparation and energy. Although a good class can be exhausting, he says it is also exhilarating to draw out students' responses. To strive to touch a few hearts and to make a difference in students' lives are enormously rewarding aspects of teaching for Professor Lee. He would not settle for any other job.

Professor Lee would like to be remembered as someone who tried to inspire his students, to get them to think in different ways, and to encourage them to seek further answers. He abides by Bertrand Russell's dictum, "The goal of teaching is not to teach orthodoxy or even heterodoxy, but how to think." Presently, Professor Lee is authoring a book on Syngman Rhee, South Korea's first president. The Tufts History Department is enhanced by the presence of this talented professor.

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Leupp

continued from page 3

the Conference on New Directions in the Study of Social History, Status, Discrimination and Popular Culture in Premodern Japan, sponsored by The Japan Foundation and the East Asian Studies Department and Program (Princeton University); “Male Homosexuality in Edo during the Late Tokugawa Period, 1750-1850: Decline of a Tradition?” at the Conference on Sexuality and Edo Culture, 1750-1850, sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Japan Foundation (Indiana University); and most recently “Capitalism and Homosexuality in Eighteenth Century Japan” at the Conference on the History of Homosexuality in the Eighteenth Century (Clark Library, University of California at Los Angeles). Professor Leupp has also delivered countless lectures covering a host of subjects including “Emptiness and History: Some Thoughts on the Buddha and Marx,” “Quarrels Over Women, Quarrels Over Boys: Violence and Pleasure in Tokugawa Cities,” “Researching the Underside of Tokugawa Cities,” “Genroku Gangsters: Criminal Violence and Popular Culture in Early Modern Osaka,” “Hunky-Dory: Western Men and Brothels in the Japanese Treaty Ports,” “Era Beginnings, Era Ends: Millenarianism and Redemption in Japanese Religious History” and most recently, a fascinating lecture right here at Tufts entitled “The Birth of ‘Madame Butterfly’: Western Representations of Japanese Women, ca. 1880-1910.”

Well-known to his students as an energetic and enthusiastic teacher possessing a wide range of knowledge and interests, Professor Leupp has taught a variety of courses at Tufts including, History 47--*Japan from Prehistory to 1868*, History 133--*Japanese History through Literature*, History 134--*Tokugawa Japan*, History 135--*Gender and Sexuality in Japanese History*, and History 193GL--*London and Edo: Comparative Perspectives on the Early Modern City* (co-taught with Professor Carol Flynn). This spring he will be offering History 48--*Japan from 1868 to the Present* and History 132--*Religion in Japanese History*.

The Byzantines and Santa Claus

He is known by many names and has become a part of cultures throughout the world. But what are the classical origins of the legend of Saint Nicholas that would eventually become a basis for the Dutch, and eventually American, Santa Claus.

One of the few saints recognized by the Roman Catholic Church, the Greek Orthodox Church, the Armenian Apostolic Church and the Anglican Church, historic Saint Nicholas was the bishop of Myra in Asia Minor during the reign of Constantine I the Great. He attended the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea in 325 though was not an active participant. He was, however, much loved by his flock in Myra and was particularly well known for his fondness for and staunch protection of children. Once canonized, he became recognized as the patron saint of children and later merchants, sailors and scholars. He also became a symbol of protection for travelers.

The relics of Saint Nicholas remained in Asia Minor until the eleventh century. By the late 1070s, a large portion of Byzantine possessions in Asia Minor had fallen or were under serious threat from the advancing Seljuk Turks. Meanwhile in Italy, the last Byzantine outpost, Bari, fell to Robert Guiscard and his Normans in 1071. With Byzantine power temporarily collapsing on all sides, an expedition was launched from Bari to remove the remains of Nicholas from now Seljuk-controlled lands. The mission was successful and on May 9, 1087, the remains of Nicholas were enshrined in Bari. Currently, relics of Saint Nicholas can be found in the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of North and South America, the Church of the Archangel in Stamford, Ct., the Archdiocesan Cathedral in New York City and the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Flushing, NY.

But how then, did this Byzantine clergyman become the basis for our Santa Claus. His centuries old association with children and his feast day falling in November/December (depending on the branch of Christianity) are certainly strong encouragements. The fact that he is also the patron saint of merchants, and is traditionally a symbol of protection for travellers seem uniquely appropriate for a holiday marked, for better or worse, by shopping and travel. However, the most generally accepted story of how Saint Nicholas became the basis for Santa Claus is that Bishop Nicholas secretly provided the dowries for three daughters of a poor member of his parish. One version of the story says he left bags of gold inside shoes that had been left at the doorway of the parishioner's home. Another claims that Nicholas dropped the bags of gold down the poor man's chimney. The bags fell into socks that had been hung from the mantel to dry. Arguably, one of the first direct connections made between the personage of Saint Nicholas and the “jolly old elf” in the United States was by Clement Clark Moore's “'Twas the Night Before Christmas” published in *The Sentinel* in Troy, NY on December 23, 1823 (the authorship of which was recently challenged in a *New York Times* article).

The history of Santa Claus and his many manifestations is far more complicated than what is mentioned above. However, the links between the Christian saint and the image pictured on Coca-Cola bottles at this time of year seem undeniable.

Sources

Ostrogorsky, George. *History of the Byzantine State*. Rutgers University Press, 1969. pp. 343-346.

Poulos, George. *Orthodox Saints*. Holy Cross Press, 1992. pp. 171-172.

Additional information provided by Professor George Marcopoulos.

What's News

continued from page 1

research seminar, and is now being given as a regular course.

Professor **Jose Alvarez-Junco** organized an extremely captivating and successful conference that ran November 3-4, 2000 entitled *On the 25th Anniversary of General Franco's Death: Rethinking the Spanish Civil War*, which coincided with an exhibit that opened in the Aidekman Arts Center on October 19 called *Shouts from the Wall: Posters and Photographs Brought Back from the Spanish Civil War by American Volunteers*. The conference featured a series of panel discussions which brought together leading Spanish historians from throughout the globe. Topics discussed included "The Military: The *Africanistas* and the 'Other'," "Los Intelectuales y la Guerra Civil," "The Spanish Civil War: Revolution and Counterrevolution in a Comparative Context," "The Francoist Dictatorship in a Historical Perspective," "The Consolidation of the Francoist Regime," "The Church: *Regalismo* and the Franco Regime," and "El Legado del Franquismo en la Transicion Espanola Actual."

East Hall Gallery

Welcome to the newsletter's newest feature! In this and each upcoming issue, we will feature photos of the faculty, staff, and students who make up the History Department.



Department Secretary Mary-Ann Kazanjian



Department Administrator Annette Lazzara



Department Staff Assistant Judy Farrington



**Newsletter Faculty Advisor
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