

NEHA NEWS

The Newsletter of the New England Historical Association

VOL XXXVI NO. 1

FALL ISSUE

OCTOBER 2010

FALL CONFERENCE AT
UNIVERSITY of NEW ENGLAND
in Biddeford, Maine
on
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2010
SECOND CALL

The 85th meeting of the Association will be held on October 16 at the University of New England (207-283-0171) on the Biddeford campus. The program is listed on pages 3-6 of this issue and was mailed earlier to all members along with registration, motel and travel instructions.

Vice-President **Martin Menke** (Rivier College) arranged this splendid program. **James P. Hanlan** made the local arrangements with the assistance of **Elizabeth de Wolfe** and the UNE Department of History. We hope this meeting in Maine will be as popular and scenic a location as was our meeting in Portland in 2009. We are very grateful for UNE hospitality on our behalf. Please see our new web pages for other conference details:

<http://www.newenglandhistorians.org/>

The October conference begins with registration and a Continental breakfast at 8:00 on Saturday morning in Marcil Hall. Panels begin at 8:30 a.m. in Marcil.

Members are invited to bring copies of their own recent publications as well as timely professional literature for display or distribution at the book exhibit at 10:00.

The *registration fee payment is required for everyone on the program* (panelists, chairs and commentators) and all who attend the conference. Pre-registration by mail prior to October 8 is strongly recommended, but registration at the conference is possible. Please feel free to photocopy the conference registration form on the back page when inviting colleagues or graduate students.

Our luncheon will be served in Marcil Hall at 12:15, but seating is limited. Please reserve your place at lunch when you register by mail. Even if you do not join us, please use this form to pay your 2010 membership dues. Lunch will be followed by a brief business meeting. The Plenary Session is at 1:30 to 3:00. The topic is *Teaching and Learning in the Digital Age*.



OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS

The Association suggests that members make early motel reservations by phone because October is the start of the leaf peeping tourist season in Maine. Ask for a NEHA or UNE discount rate when you phone for a reservation by October 8. We recommend the **Hampton Inn Express** in Saco (207-282-7222) for \$79.00 and the **Holiday Inn Express** in Saco (207-286-9600) for \$174.00, or **Comfort Suites** in Biddeford (207-294-6464).



TRAVEL INFORMATION

Driving from Boston: Take I-95 (the Maine Turnpike) 90 miles north to Exit 32 (Biddeford). After the tollbooth, turn left at the traffic light intersection onto Route 111 (Alfred Street). Stay in the right lane to the intersection of Route I and go left onto Route 1 from the right hand lane. Then take

an immediate right as Rt. 111 branches off to the right. Continue to the next traffic light. Turn right onto Route 9/208 (Pool Street). Follow Route 9/208 4 miles to the University of New England sign on the left. Pass this sign and the main entrance to UNE and then turn left and take an immediate right to Marcil Hall, a brick building with a zigzag roof. Park in the lots there.

Travel times by car are from Boston 1 3/4 hours, from Hartford 3 1/4 hours, and from Worcester 2 hours.



ADVANCE NOTICE

The Spring meeting will be held in the heart of the Commonwealth at Worcester State University in Worcester, Massachusetts on April 16, 2011. The deadline for submitting proposals (one-page abstract and a brief C.V.) is January 15, 2011. For information about the program or submissions, contact: Vice President **Martin Menke**, Rivier College, Department of History, 420 South Maine Street, Nashua, NH 03060, (mmenke@rivier.edu) or **James P. Hanlan**, NEHA Executive Secretary, WPI, 100 Institute Road, Worcester, MA 01609-2280; jphanlan@wpi.edu

THE NEW ENGLAND HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

A Regional Professional Association for all Historical Specializations Since 1965

SATURDAY
OCTOBER 16, 2010

UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND
BIDDEFORD, MAINE

FALL CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Registration and Continental Breakfast: BIDDEFORD Campus, University of New England. Please note that the conference will be on the BIDDEFORD campus, NOT the Portland campus.

8:00-8:30 REGISTRATION: UNE, Biddeford. Session rooms will be posted at Registration.

First Morning Session, 8:30-10:00:

8:30 Session 1: The Late 19th-Century United States

Chair/commentator: Bruce Cohen, Worcester State College

1. Harry Turner, Stevenson University, "Immortal Aldrich! "
2. Rhonda Chadwick, Simmons College, "Anthony Comstock – Defender of Youth"
3. Richard Canedo, The Lincoln School, "It's all in the Timing: Vaudeville and the Transformation of American Popular Music, 1880-1910."

8:30 Session 2: Cold War History

Chair/commentator: Paul Burlin, University of New England

1. Matthew J. Clarq, Niagara Community College, "Searching for Balance: Cultural Protection, Military Necessity and the Cold War."
2. Michael Holm, Boston University, "Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr.: A Journey from Neutrality to Cold War."
3. Robert Niebuhr, Wentworth Institute of Technology, "Power of Reform: Foreign Policy in the Balkans."

8:30 Session 3: African-American History

Chair/commentator: Eileen Eagan, University of Southern Maine

1. Katrina Anderson, University of Delaware, "19th c. Free African-American Women in New England."
2. Martin Whittemore, Memorial University of Newfoundland, "Supported by the Sea: Antebellum Portland's 'Households of Colour.'"
3. Margaret Sumner, Ohio State University, "From Maine to Monrovia: John Russwurm's Atlantic Vision, 1830s-1850s."

8:30 Session 4: Women in New England

Chair: Laura Prieto, Simmons College

Commentator: Tona Hagen, Worcester State College

1. Kristin Murphy, Columbia University, "Stubborn Children, Lewd Women, and Manslaughters: A Profile of Inmates at the Massachusetts Reformatory Prison for Women, 1877-1933."
2. Jessica Hynes, Quinnipiac University, "Separate Spheres and the 1870s Tax Resistance of Julia and Abby Smith."
3. Jascin Finger, Nantucket Maria Mitchell House, "The Daring Daughters of Nantucket Island: How Island Women from the Seventeenth through the Nineteenth Centuries Lived a Life Contrary to Other American Women."

8:30 Session 5: Medieval Europe

Chair/commentator: Luci Fortunato, Bridgewater State College

1. Anure Guruge, independent scholar, "How Papal Conclaves Came to Be."
2. Thomas Jackson, Rivier College, "The Concept of a Crusade."
3. Julianne Cooper, Southern New Hampshire University, "Vampires and Saints: Corpses that Don't Rot."

8:30 Session 6: Modern Britain

Chair/commentator: Mary Conley, College of the Holy Cross

1. Eddie Guimont, University of Connecticut, "Two-Nation Toryism: The Conservative Use of Minorities in the Thatcher Era."
2. Eric Zuelow, University of New England, "'Back to the Local': The Evolution of Pub Nostalgia since 1880."
3. Jonathan Shipe, Lynchburg College, "Class, Love, and Consequences: Intersections of Class and Gender in British Divorce Proceedings, 1848-1858."

8:30 Session 7: Asia

Chair/commentator: TBA

1. Lei Duan, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, "Gentry and Educational Reform in Local Society: The Case of Wuxi in late Qing dynasty."
2. Josh Sooter, Northeastern University, "'Gone Mosleming': Perception, Exchange, and Confrontation between Missionaries and Chinese Muslims, 1910-50."
3. Miki and Madhavi Desai, independent scholars, "The Cultural Expression of the Bungalow in India: The Colonial Legacy and its Post-Colonial Manifestation."
4. Sean Lent, University of Southern Maine, "Futile Democracy: Fukuzawa Yukichi and the Movement for Westernization in 19th Century Japan."

8:30 Session 8: Confronting Modern Times in Vermont, 1900-1940

Chair: Dona Brown, University of Vermont

1. Stephen Hausmann, University of Vermont, "Inside the Vermont Commission on Country Life."
2. Philip Moore, University of Vermont "Burlington's Leaders Confront the Slums."
3. Brittany Neiles, University of Vermont, "Inside the Vermont Federal Writers' Project?"

Break for Book Exhibit & Refreshments: 10:00-10:30

Morning Session II: 10:30-12:00

10:30 Session 9: Massachusetts in the Colonial Period and the Early Republic

Commentator/Chair: Warren Riess, University of Maine

1. Robert Smith, Worcester State College, "Foreign Affairs and the Ratification of the Constitution in Massachusetts."
2. Linda K. Palmer, independent scholar, "Dissent Among the Puritans: William Vassall: Harbinger of Religious Liberty."
3. Jared Hardesty, Boston College, "An Ambiguous Institution: Slavery, Law, and the State in Colonial Massachusetts."

10:30 Session 10: Nineteenth-Century Women in the U.S.

Chair/commentator: Melanie Gustafson, University of Vermont

1. Mary-Lou Breitborde, Salem State College: "Discourse and Women's Public Culture in the Port Royal Experiment: Interpreting the Life and Work of Laura Towne."
2. Lisa Stepanski, Emmanuel College, "Mary Baker Eddy and Technology"
3. Jan Scholl, The Pennsylvania State University, "A Great Woman of the Twentieth Century: Martha Van Rensselaer."

10:30 Session 11: U.S. Labor

Chair/commentator: James P. Hanlan, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

1. Kit Smemo, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, "The Repression of the Minneapolis Teamsters and Labor's Civil War, 1941-1942."
2. Bruce Cohen, Worcester State College, "The Worcester Machinists' Strike of 1915."
3. Abraham Miller, Simmons College, "The Public Identity of the Lowell Mill Girl: Contested Identity in the *Lowell Offering* and the *Voice of Industry*."

10:30 Session 12: U.S. Foreign Policy at the Turn of the Century

Chair: Jennifer Tebbe-Grossmann, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

Commentator: David Hecht, Bowdoin College

1. Jeff Roquen, LeHigh University, "A Lost Peace: Revisiting The Transatlantic Mediation Efforts of Early WWI, June - December 1914."
2. Darwin H. Stapleton, Rockefeller University, "Two Philanthropies, Their Plans, Panama! The Opening of the Panama Canal, Fears of Epidemics on the Pacific Rim of Asia, and the Rockefeller Response, 1913-1930."
3. Liza T. Powers, CyFair Community College, "The Role of Webb Cook Hayes in America's Imperialist Movement."

10:30 Session 13: Maine History

Chair/commentator: Libby Bischof, University of Southern Maine

1. Thomas McCord, "Sherman's March through Urban Renewal: A Planner's Challenge of Federal Rules for Small-Town Revival in Maine, 1966-1971."
2. Kay Retzlaff, University of Maine, "With no better comforts for a night's rest than a cold, damp wharf": The Potato Famine Irish in Belfast, Maine."
3. Michelle Steen-Adams and Mark Adams, University of New England, "Federal visions and programs for management of Maine coastal resources: An examination of the Works Progress Administration and the National Atmospheric and Oceanographic Administration."

10:30 Session 14: A Provincial Nation: Late Early Modern Bavaria

Chair/commentator: Martin Menke, Rivier College

1. James Bidwell, Anna Maria College, 'Revolution from Above: "Enlightened Bureaucrats and Bavarian Public Schools: The Wismayr Plan of 1804?'"
2. Joanne Schneider, Rhode Island College, "Big Brother 1790s Style: The Freising Spiritual Council's Deliberations."

10:30 Session 15: The Superficial and the Substantive: Modern Trans-Atlantic Difference and Influences

Chair and commentator, Susan Vorderer, Merrimack College

1. Michael McGuire, Boston University/Emmanuel College, "Making Major Differences Minor: American NGOS, French Refugees, and Reconstructing the Ravages of War, 1917-1920."
2. Javier Marion, Emmanuel College, "The Cadiz Cortes: Trans-Atlantic Effects."
3. Melanie Murphy, Emmanuel College, "The Stone Raft: Jose Saramago's Reconfiguration of Iberian Identity."

10:30 Session 16: "Imagining Women as Spies and Soldiers"

Chair: TBA

Commentator: TBA

1. Elizabeth DeWolfe, University of New England, " 'So Darned Clever in My Work': Agnes Parker, Girl Spy."
2. Cheryl C. Boots, Boston University, "Angels, Home-wreckers, Harlots, and Lesbians: Portrayals of Military Women in Hollywood Films from 1932 to 1999."
3. Jean Dunlavy, Boston University, "Still trespassing on womanhood: Women's published accounts of war and the military in the 1980s and 1990s."

12:15 - 1:15 LUNCHEON & BUSINESS MEETING -- The NEHA Book Award will be presented at lunch.

1:30 – 3:00: Afternoon Session, 1:30-3:00

Plenary Session, 1:30-3:00

"Teaching and Learning in the Digital Age"

Facilitator: John McClymer, Assumption College

1. Kate Freedman, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, "Teaching & Learning in the Digital University."
2. Stephanie Roper, Rivier College, "Teaching U.S. History Online."

Executive Committee Meeting to follow at 3:15



NEW NEHA NEWS EDITOR

The executive committee has selected **Clifford Putney** (Bentley University) as the new editor of the *NEHA News*. **Peter Holloran** (Worcester State University) will resign on October 30, 2010 after serving twenty years as editor. We hope all members will offer Cliff (cputney@bentley.edu) the same support, enthusiasm and information that has always made this newsletter useful and a pleasure to read.

Also NEHA President **Melanie Gustafson** (University of Vermont) announced that **Tona Hangen** (Worcester State University) will succeed **James P. Hanlan** as webmaster. Note our new web address is <http://www.newenglandhistorians.org> and feel free to contact Tona with your suggestions, comments and ideas about the new web site.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee will meet at Worcester Polytechnic Institute on December 4. The agenda includes future meetings sites, the customary postmortem on the conference, and appointment of new committee members. There will be reports on the election, selection of future meeting sites, conference programs and attendance, and NEHA's *James P. Hanlan Book Award*. The Executive Committee will meet next on April 16 at Worcester State University. Association members may submit a question or agenda item for the next Executive Committee meeting by contacting the Executive Secretary.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee announced the following candidates were elected on the ballot on April 17, 2010:

President	Melanie S. Gustafson (University of Vermont)
Vice-President	Martin Menke (Rivier College)
Secretary	Peter Holloran (Worcester State College)

Executive Committee:

Elizabeth DeWolfe (University of New England)
Edward C. Rafferty (Boston University)

Public History Position	Chuck Arning (NPS, Blackstone River Valley)
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Nominating Committee:

Mark Herlihy (Endicott College)
Ellen Dyer (Henry Knox Museum)

We congratulate those candidates those who were nominated. Any member may nominate himself, herself, or another member for election to any Association office by writing to the Executive Secretary. All dues-paying members are eligible to vote by mail or in person at the annual business meeting in April. Self-nominations are encouraged. Write-in candidates are permitted for any position on the slate. Those members interested in serving on the Executive Committee, Nominating Committee, NEHA Prize Committee, or NEHA Book Award Committee should contact the Executive Secretary.

THE NEHA PRIZE

At the April meeting, we will award the annual NEHA Prize for the most outstanding paper by a graduate student presented at a recent conference. Each session chair may nominate one paper for this prize and a committee of three members appointed by the president judges all nominations. The criteria are scholarship, presentation and originality. This year the committee members are; **Tona Hangen** (Worcester State College), chair; **Dale Potts** (University of Maine, Orono); and **Jennifer Tebbe Grossman** (Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Science). This prize is intended to encourage and recognize outstanding research papers by graduate students at our conferences. Session chairs are invited to recommend papers presented by a graduate student at the Spring or Fall meetings. Contact the Executive Secretary for details.

NEHA BOOK AWARD COMMITTEE

Don Wyatt (Middlebury College), chair of the NEHA Book Award Committee, will present the 2010 **James P. Hanlan Book Award** at the Fall meeting. The winner is **George Athan Billias** (Clark University) for his outstanding book *American Constitutionalism Heard Round the World, 1776-1989: A Global Perspective* (New York University Press).

Any publisher may nominate one book each year by writing to Executive Secretary **James P. Hanlan**, WPI, Department of Humanities, 100 Institute Road, Worcester, MA 01609-2280 or email him at jphanlan@wpi.edu by June 1, 2011. Monographs on any historical topic, time or place published in 2010, written by an

author who lives or works in New England (or has done so in the past two years), are eligible for the annual NEHA Book Award presented at the October 2011 conference. The nominated book should represent the best historical writing and scholarship in any era or field of history. The award certificate and \$300.00 stipend are presented to the winner at the conference each Fall.

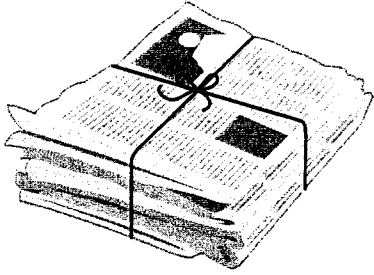
The members of the NEHA Book Award Committee for 2010 are: **Don Wyatt**, chair (Middlebury College); **James O'Toole** (Boston College); **Howard Segal** (University of Maine, Orono); and **Jennifer Tebbe Grossman** (Massachusetts College of Pharmacy).



CONFERENCE REPORT

The 84th meeting of the Association at Salem State College on April 17 was well attended with 105 historians registered for 15 sessions with 43 papers. We were pleased to join 65 members for lunch on a beautiful Spring afternoon. Association President **Laura Prieto** made a thoughtful address on *Not Even Past: Place, Memory and History*. The program continued after lunch with the plenary session on *Telling Difficult History in Public Places* followed by a reception.

This meeting was made possible by the outstanding efforts on our behalf by the program chair, Vice-President **Melanie Gustafson** (University of Vermont), Executive Secretary **James P. Hanlan** (Worcester Polytechnic Institute), and the local arrangements committee chaired by **Dane Morrison** (Salem State College).



NEWS OF THE PROFESSION

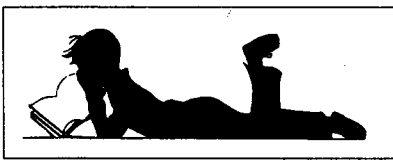
Jill Bender (Boston College) received the International Security Studies Postdoctoral Fellowship at Yale University for doctoral dissertation research.

Julian Bourg (Washington University) was appointed an associate professor of Modern European History at Boston College.

Phillip Haberkern (Princeton University) was appointed an assistant professor of early modern European history at Boston University.

Tanya Mears (University of Massachusetts, Amherst) was appointed an assistant professor of History at Worcester State College.

Arissa Oh (University of Chicago) was appointed an assistant professor of modern American history at Boston College.



BOOK NEWS

Robin Fleming (Boston College) published *Britain After Rome: The Fall and Rise, 400-1070* (Penguin).

Clifford Putney (Bentley University) published *Missionaries in Hawaii: The Lives of Peter and Fanny Gulick, 1797-1883* (University of Massachusetts Press).

Peter C. Rollins (Oklahoma State University) published *Why We Fought: America's Wars as Film and History* (University Press of Kentucky) which won the Ray and Pat Browne Award and was a selection by the History Book Club.

Ronald Rudin (Concordia University) published *Remembering and Forgetting in Acadie: A Historian's Journey Through Public Memory* (University of Toronto Press) which won the 2010 National Conference on Public History annual book award.

Robert J. Savage (Boston College) published *A Loss of Innocence?: Television and Irish Society, 1960-72* (Manchester University Press).

Paul Wainwright published *A Space for Faith: The Colonial Meetinghouses of New England* (Randall) which was nominated for the annual book award by the New England booksellers' association.

CONFERENCES MEETING

The **New England American Studies Association** (NEASA) holds its annual conference in Boston at the Massachusetts Historical Society on October 1-3, 2010. For more information contact neasacouncil@gmail.com or www.neasa.org

The **15th Berkshire Conference on the History of Women** meets on the theme *Generations: Exploring Race, Sexuality, and*

Labor Across Time and Space on June 9-12, 2011 at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. For details see the website www.berksconference.org

The **New England American Conference on Irish Studies** holds its annual regional conference at Framingham State College on November 12-13, 2010. For more information on the NEACIS contact Kelly Matthews at kmatthews@framingham.edu

The **Boston Seminar in Immigration and Urban History** will begin its 12th season on September 30 and end on April 9 at the Massachusetts Historical Society. The steering committee welcomes suggestions for papers dealing with all aspects of American immigration and urban history and culture, not confined to Massachusetts topics. If you would like to give a paper or attend the seminars contact **Conrad E. Wright**, MHS, 1154 Boylston Street, Boston,, MA 02215; cwright@masshist.org

The **American Italian Historical Association** (AIHA) holds its 43rd conference in New York City on November 11-13, 2010. For more information contact JoAnne Ruvoli at the University of Illinois at Chicago, joanneruvoli@yahoo.com

The **Popular Culture/American Culture Association** holds its annual conference at the Marriott Hotel in San Antonio on March 31-3 April, 2011. For information on this interdisciplinary conference see the PCA/ACA webpage at www.pcaaca.org/conference/2008. To submit a proposal on any *New England Studies* topics, please contact by October 31 the ACA program chair **Peter Holloran**, Worcester State College, pholloran@worchester.edu.

The **Northeast Popular Culture/American Culture Association** (NEPCA) holds its 33rd annual conference at Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in Boston on October 23, 2010. Contact the NEPCA program chair, David Tanner, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy, David.Tanner@mcpsh.edu or see the NEPCA website: www.wpi.edu/~jphanlan/NEPCA.html



CONFERENCES MEETING ABROAD

A conference on *Gossip, Gospel, and Governance: Orality in Europe, 1400-1700* will meet in London on July 14-16, 2011. Contact Alex Cowan at www.northumbria.ac.uk/sd/academic/sass/about/humanities/history/groups/memgroup/

A conference on *Public History in North America and the UK: Comparative Perspectives on Theory and Practice* will meet in London on October 22-24, 2011. Contact Holger Hooock, hhoock@liv.ac.uk or see the website: www.history.ac.uk/news

AUTHORS WANTED

The Historical Journal of Massachusetts (HJM) seeks articles about any aspect of Massachusetts history, culture, politics, and life. HJM is a peer-reviewed journal published twice a year since 1972. We are especially interested in articles on the history

of recent immigrant communities. Subscriptions are \$12.00 per year, and the acceptance rate is 35%. For submission guidelines see www.wsc.mass.edu/mhj/ or email matin.masshistory@wsc.ma.edu

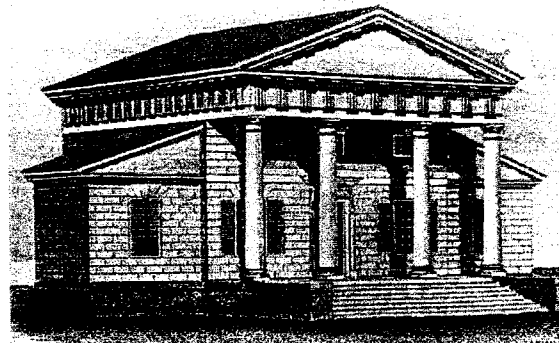
The **Northeast Popular Culture/American Culture Association** (NEPCA) offers its annual *Peter C. Rollins Book Award* for the best book on any American culture or popular culture topic published in 2010 by an author in New England or New York. Publishers may nominate one book by June 1, 2011. The award certificate and \$200 prize will be presented to the winner in October 2010 at the annual NEPCA conference. Contact the NEPCA Executive Secretary: **Robert E. Weir**, NEPCA, 15 Woods Road, Florence, MA 01062; weir.r@comcast.net

If you would like to write a book review for the *NEHA News*, please feel free to contact the Association's Book Review editor, **Thomas J. Carty**, Springfield College, Department of History, Springfield, MA 01109; Thomas_J_Carty@spfldcol.edu We have books available for review or you may suggest a good new book you have in hand. Our reviews are 600 words and due in 60 days.

The New England Quarterly editors invite submissions for their consideration. This historical review of New England life and letters has been published since 1928. The journal's mission remains the same as that set forth by its founders: NEQ is an open forum dedicated to the exploration and discussion of New England civilization and its effects on the nation and the world. The journal is open to any historical method, and there is no restriction on the time period covered. Features also include brief

memoranda, recently discovered documents, reconsiderations of historical controversies, periodic essay reviews, and approximately fifteen book reviews per issue.

Manuscripts should be sent to the editor, **Linda Smith Rhoades**, The NEQ, Meserve Hall, Northeastern University, Boston, MA 02115; l.rhoades@new.edu or see our website: www.newenglandquarterly.org *The Journal of Popular Culture*, a scholarly journal published six times a year by the Popular Culture Association, seeks contributions (articles, book reviews, and guest editorials). For more information, contact the editor: **Gary Hoppenstand**, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824.



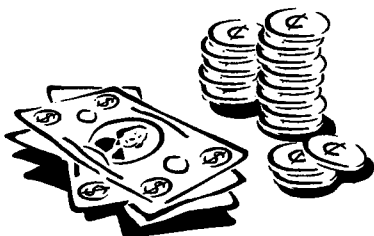
GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

The **Massachusetts Historical Society** will offer 30 research fellowships for the academic year 2010-2011, including two long-term research fellowships from the NEH. For more information please visit the website, www.masshist.org/fellowships, or contact Conrad E. Wright (fellowships@masshist.org, 617-646-0512).

The **American Philosophical Society Library** in Philadelphia offers competitive

short-term fellowships supporting in-residence research in its renowned scholarly collections. Applicants who hold the Ph. D or are advanced Ph.D. candidates or independent scholars may apply for the fellowships which have a monthly \$2,000 stipend for 1-3 months. For applications see: www.amphilsoc.org/grants/resident.htm

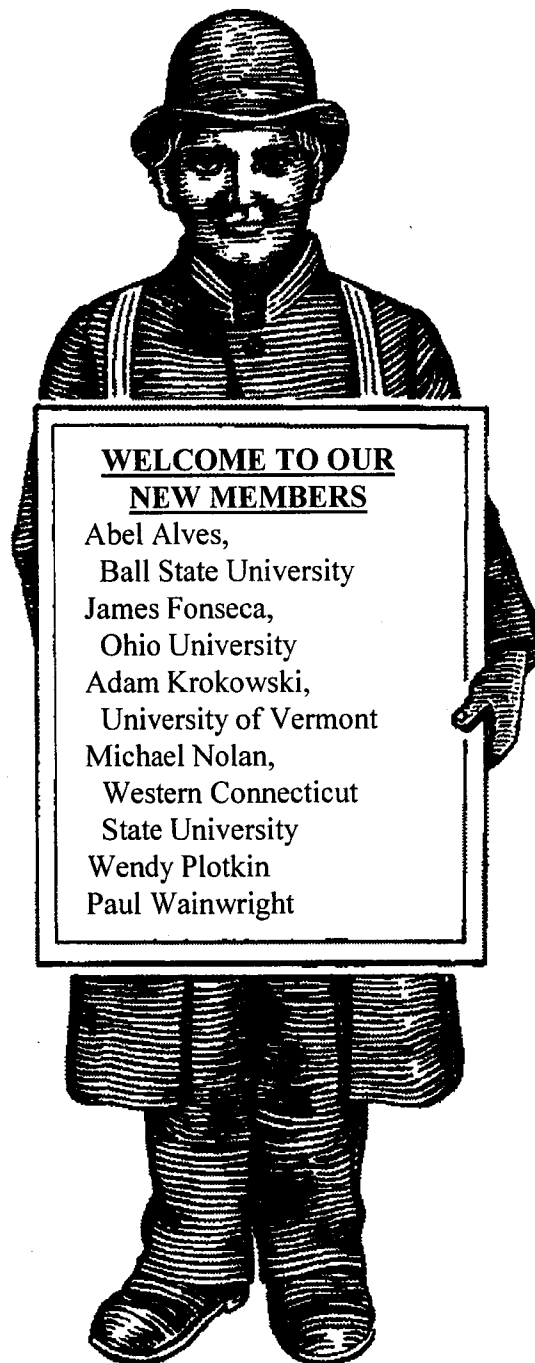
Francis A. Countway Library of Medicine, an alliance of the Boston Medical Library and the Harvard Medical Library, offers two annual fellowships to support research in the history of medicine. This is the largest academic medical library in the nation with an extensive collection of European medical texts from the 15 to 20th centuries and many other archives. For application information contact Countway Fellowships, Center for the History of Medicine, Francis A. Countway Library, 10 Shattuck Street, Boston, MA 02115.



NEHA FUND CONTRIBUTIONS

The **Association Fund** was created many years ago to support some of the Association's activities not related directly to the annual conference, newsletter, mailings or other routine expenses. It has supported the annual NEHA book award and the NEHA Prize, and to subsidize graduate students presenting a paper, and costs associated with our joint sessions at the AHA. This modest fund is supported by the generosity of our members. Please consider making a donation, mail your check payable

to NEHA to **James P. Hanlan**, the Executive Secretary, or add a contribution when you pay your annual dues or conference registration payment. Thank you for your generous support. Donations are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.



WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Abel Alves,
Ball State University
James Fonseca,
Ohio University
Adam Krokowski,
University of Vermont
Michael Nolan,
Western Connecticut
State University
Wendy Plotkin
Paul Wainwright

NEHA Presidential address by Laura R. Prieto, April 2010

There is a lovely playground on the East Side of Providence, Rhode Island, not far from where I live. I've gone there many times with my children and sometimes met friends there. Locals usually refer to it as the "baby park" because it is so hospitable to even the youngest visitors. It is fully enclosed by a black iron gate with heavy latch. Its border of old, tall trees keep it shady even at noon in midsummer. Paved paths are ideal to practice pedaling a tricycle. Grassy plots lend themselves easily to picnics. Mysterious bushes and a slope in the back beckon adventurous children to explore, deliciously far from the grown-ups but safely within view. A small tree at one end functions as both community bulletin board, and lost-and-found; tiny hats and sippy cups often hang from its branches, alongside the leaves.

Most distinctively, cast-off outdoor toys – from ride-ons to play kitchens – pepper the park. One day a trio of colorful rocking horses arrived all in a row – I fancied they were the gift of a family with triplets, suddenly called to leave town. By September 1, the quantity of cast-offs make the playground look like a kiddie flea market. The toys get loved, worn out, rained on. Mud plasters the Baby Beauty Salon; toy trucks dutifully fill the pretend fridge with sand. Their stickers peel off and they lose their wheels. The soccer balls sag and the plastic pails crack. Eventually somebody sweeps through and purges the irreparably maimed ones. This might be melancholy (especially for a sentimental historian like me) except for the lively, high-pitched buzz of the place, and the way that other toys keep popping up like mushrooms. These aren't beloved Velveteen Rabbits after all but communal property; it's not lifelong devotion, but speed dating between tots and objects. As the shabby toys grow unusable, bright "new to you" ones nudge them aside. And when the visitors are done playing with them, they can just leave them there, right in the middle of the path. Squirrels eat the crumbs, dirt soaks up spilled juice. It's a paradise, all shrieking joy and no tidying up necessary. This is the "baby park." The only alternate name I've heard people use is the "Dolphin Park," in honor of the dolphin statue inside, with its generations of fantastic paint jobs.

Surely I cannot be the only person who has noticed the pair of stone plaques outside one of the heavy wrought iron gates on the corner of Humbolt and Elton streets. The inscription on the left side reads: "The Gladys Potter Garden. Dec 4, 1883 – Nov 16, 1891." Its companion plaque on the right is much more weathered and thus harder to read. But if one squints a bit, one can make out the more detailed explanation: "This garden was given by a mother in loving memory of her little girl, who loved this spot and who loved to walk here with her father when it was part of an attractive ravine. MCMXX" [1920]

I am a historian. I am a mother. The inscription knocks the breath out of me. Among so many boys and girls who have played here, there was Gladys Potter, and she died at my own son's age. I know how frequently parents suffered the deaths of their children, even in the late 19th century. I can prepare myself for these awful object lessons in a cemetery (where I've also been known to walk and explore the past). But I do not expect this sharp announcement of grief, this intimate and generous act of mourning, to arrest me at the gates of my children's playground, the "Baby Park."

Of course, this is the very value of the local memorial. We pass markers every day; they are part of the neighborhood landscape, perhaps especially in New England with its historical sensibilities. It's not a tutorial that we go looking for, as when we pack up the family and head

for the Museum of Fill in the Blank. The power of the memorial rests in the suddenness, the unexpectedness with which it ambushes us as we round the corner. Or we can rush past a spot for years never noticing the names and dates on the base of that obelisk; it's just part of the landscape, one of many such memorials, statues, and plaques. But one day, the bus may be late, and since we're stuck there anyhow, we may start reading the inscription.

At first (back at the playground), I react with righteous anger. How dare we set aside the name of this little girl, Gladys Potter, so tenderly remembered by her mother, to call this perfect playground such a silly thing as the "Baby Park"? You may fill in your favorite tirade about "this generation," or "Americans," who care nothing for their history. Our culture seems anxious to put things behind us and "move on," mere moments after catastrophe. I decide to begin a personal campaign, to restore the proper name of the Gladys Potter Garden in local nomenclature. I will put my research skills to service.

Yet it is not simply 21st-century callousness that ignores the inscribed memory of Gladys Potter. The Garden seems to have failed as a memorial almost *immediately*. Little over a year after the site became a civic space, a young student from a nearby school won an Arbor Day essay competition with his essay on the park. The essay describes the place as once a ravine where boys liked to play, gradually falling victim to the encroaching town, and becoming "an ugly city ash dump" until "a family named Potter... eventually gave it to the city on condition that the city make a pretty park of it within five years. Otherwise it was to become their property again." The essay concludes tersely that, "It was given in memory of their daughter, Gladys Potter, from whom it derives its name."¹ Gladys herself has no place in this retelling; there's no mention of her life cut short, nor even of her pleasure in rambling. The tale told about the site imagines only *boys* in fact, swimming and skating and banging hockey sticks there, in riotous play. The young Arbor Day essayist (little older than Gladys' own age when she died) apparently felt no personal resonance with her, if he even knew her story.

As a failed memorial, the Gladys Potter Garden joins the company of numerous other lost, forgotten, and eradicated monuments around the world. What chance does a playground have, anyhow, in the competition for public attention to the past? The quintessential monument, the war memorial, has so much the grander purpose. War memorials speak to *collective* trauma, whereas the Gladys Potter Garden records just one mother's grief over her child. Most folks who stride purposefully past sculptures of "The Hiker" do not recognize its name, nor can they place the war whose veterans it commemorates (the Spanish-American War, a topic of my "mainline" research). If people do not recognize the "important" memorials for what they are, who can be expected to pay attention to the proliferation of names that adorn our roads, bridges, squares, and public buildings?

Still, it is an eminently human impulse, this desire to fix something beloved in one's memory. And all of our memorial ambitions are not chiseled into the Grand Nationalist Symbology. They also haunt the small and the local. Remembrances are woven into hair jewelry, and pasted into family albums. Those with means (the Potter family, in my case) on occasion seek a more public scale for their *memento mori*.

¹ Imbrie Packard, Grade II, "The Galdys [sic] Potter Memorial Gardens," *Twenty-Ninth Annual Program for the Observance of Arbor Day in the Schools of Rhode Island; May 14, 1920* ([Providence?]) Rhode Island: Commissioner of Education, State Educational Service, 1920), p. 5.

Memory thus leaves its traces on the psyche and the landscape alike. One of my favorite quotations – a justification for the essential relevance of history – is William Faulkner’s assertion: [pause] “The past isn’t dead. Hell, it isn’t even past.” Faulkner was, of course, thinking about Southern identity and the lost cause. But even when cultural memory falters – when the neighborhood calls the Gladys Potter Garden “the baby park” – the physical imprint remains. Through her mother’s act of volition, Gladys is “not even past.” The inscription revivifies her name. Through her name, we – the *historians*, I mean now – recover other records of her, still with us. Though she is lost to public memory, Gladys may yet be found.

Though the Gladys Potter Garden fails as a memorial, in this way it fulfills its ultimate purpose: it leaves a trail for me, the historian, to follow toward the girl it honors. Gladys Arnold Potter died in 1891 at the age of 7. Her very brief obituary notably omits the customary word “Suddenly,” suggesting a longer illness?² Her private funeral contrasts markedly with her public commemoration later. My perceptions of Gladys, her family, and their intentions change as I continue searching for evidence. Twenty-six years passed before Gladys’ mother, Josephine Potter, donated the land and funds to the city of Providence for “a public park or garden to be known as the Gladys Potter Garden.” By then it was 1917. Historian Jay Winter persuasively argues that World War I marked a turning point in memory and mourning; is this context part of the story of the playground?

Indeed, I have found that the park has inspired remembrances of Gladys Potter from time to time, by strangers like me. In 1925, the Playground and Recreation Association of America published an article about the Gladys Potter Memorial Garden, upholding it as a model of playground beautification. Author William G. Vinal recounts the familiar morality tale of how the spot had become “the ‘dump heap’ of the city. Ferns give way to the Jimson Weed, grey squirrels to rats, mosses to ashes, and a clear, cool brook to a muddy stream. The perfume of the hemlock is supplanted by the stench of the ‘dump.’” The tone of the periodical in question, I should note, is quite didactic but pragmatic and social scientific in the style of Progressive reform. Other essays tout the value of “Teaching Children to Fight,” they promote new games like “canoe polo,” and they report in detail on municipal politics in cities across the country. Among all this can-do zest for the modern, there turns out to be room for the memory of Gladys Potter. At the end of his piece on the playground, William Vinal evokes Gladys at play:

Before the onslaught of the ‘dump,’ this beautiful valley was the playground of a little girl. She loved to wade in the clear brook. She would gather mosses and green ferns and make ‘fairy houses’ for her dolls. On warm days, she was protected by deep shade. All that she could see or hear in that valley was hers—the elms and the whispering hemlocks, the birds and the squirrels at play, and the first violets of spring. ³

Vinal sees the cycle of nature at work, with the land reclaimed from urban spread and squalor. Gladys is gone, “called by the God of the Open Air,” in Vinal’s romantic conceptualization. But other children can play there among the shade trees, as she did. It may be a purely imaginative connection, but it is a connection, and the inscriptions at the gates preserve it.

² *Providence Journal* (17 November 1891), p. 4.

³ William G. Vinal, “Mother Nature’s Invitation: The Evolution of a Playground, Being a True Story,” *The Playground* 19:12 (March 1926), pp. 681-682.

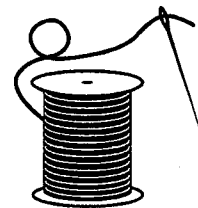
I think again about that pair of plaques, how one is so much more worn than the other. Weather cannot explain this; would the rain beat down that much harder a few feet away? Perhaps a better explanation is a near-century's worth of rubbings. How many visitors to the Garden have wanted to preserve this tenuous thread back to Gladys Potter? Does their own experience of the park resonate deeper knowing that she loved to play in the same spot? I suspect there are more "historians" among us than I initially feared.

I too can see Gladys Potter through her garden; largely, I think, because I happen to practice my craft in an age where we write histories of childhood, histories of grief, histories of the landscape -- histories of women deploying their role as mothers to enter the public sphere. The ever-changing questions of our discipline come in waves, sweeping up new interests and leaving others behind. Nothing is abandoned for very long. There's always another wave behind, to retrieve the flotsam and drag it back to sea.

In his play *Arcadia*, one of Tom Stoppard's characters mourns the burning of the library of Alexandria. "How can we sleep for grief?" Thomasina asks, overwhelmed by the loss of thousands of poems and plays of the ancient world. Her tutor Septimus responds,

By counting our stock. Seven plays from Aeschylus, seven from Sophocles, *nineteen* from Euripedes, my lady! You should no more grieve for the rest than for a buckle lost from your first shoe, or for your lesson book which will be lost when you are old. We shed as we pick up, like travelers who must carry everything in their arms, and what we let fall will be picked up by those behind. The procession is very long and life is very short. We die on the march. But there is nothing outside the march so nothing can be lost to it. The missing plays of Sophocles will turn up piece by piece, or be written again in another language. Ancient cures for diseases will reveal themselves once more. Mathematical discoveries glimpsed and lost to view will have their time again. You do not suppose, my lady, that if all of Archimedes had been hiding in the great library of Alexandria, we would be at a loss for a corkscrew?⁴

Loss is real and painful; memory is fallible and inconstant. But the task of History, as I take it, is to pick up what the travelers drop on the march. The value is to keep "counting our stock," making all we can of what remains. Some theorists see memory and history as antagonistic; I prefer to see them as symbiotic. If you'll let me indulge one last metaphor: where memory gapes, history can sometimes sew it back together. Look around and you'll see the patches, needles, and thread. We pass on the historical skill and keep mending.



⁴ Tom Stoppard, *Arcadia* (London: Faber and Faber, 1993), p. 38.



PRESIDENTS OF THE NEW ENGLAND HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

1966-1967	Frank Friedel, Harvard University
1967-1968	Reinhold Dorwart, University of Connecticut
1968-1969	Louis Morton, Dartmouth College
1969-1970	Daniel Thomas, University of Rhode Island
1970-1971	J. H. Hexter, Yale University
1971-1972	Helen Mulvey, Connecticut College
1972-1973	Sidney A. Burrell, Boston University
1973-1974	Kenneth F. Lewalski, Rhode Island College
1974-1975	John G. Gagliardo, Boston University
1975-1976	Jane Pease, University of Maine
1976-1977	Robert Lougee, University of Connecticut
1977-1978	Giles Constable, Harvard University
1978-1979	Gordon Jensen, University of Hartford
1979-1980	Neil Stout, University of Vermont
1980-1981	Fred A. Cazel, Jr., University of Connecticut
1981-1982	Darrett Rutman, University of New Hampshire
1982-1983	John Voll, University of New Hampshire
1983-1984	Emiliana P. Noether, University of Connecticut
1984-1985	Ronald P. Formisano, Clark University
1985-1986	Ridgway F. Shinn, Jr., Rhode Island College
1986-1987	Catherine M. Prelinger, Yale University
1987-1988	Paul A. Fideler, Lesley College
1988-1989	Roger Howell, Jr., Bowdoin College
1989-1990	Barbara Solow, Harvard University
1990-1991	Richard D. Brown, University of Connecticut
1991-1992	Alan J. Reinerman, Boston College
1992-1993	Richard Buel, Wesleyan University
1993-1994	Neal R. Shipley, University of Massachusetts-Amherst
1994-1995	Bruce M. Stave, University of Connecticut
1995-1996	Patricia Herlihy, Brown University
1996-1997	Roland Sarti, University of Massachusetts-Amherst
1997-1998	James S. Leamon, Bates College
1998-1999	Borden W. Painter, Jr., Trinity College
1999-2000	Alan Rogers (Boston College)
2000-2001	Joanne Schneider, Rhode Island College
2001-2002	Joseph Conforti, University of Southern Maine
2002-2003	James O'Toole, Boston College
2003-2004	Paul Monod, Middlebury College
2004-2005	Robert J. Imholt, Albertus Magnus College
2005-2006	Altina Waller, University of Connecticut
2006-2007	George Dameron, St. Michael's College
2007-2008	Luci Fortunato, Bridgewater State College
2008-2009	Ballard Campbell, Northeastern University
2009-2010	Laura Prieto, Simmons College
2010-2011	Melanie S. Gustafson, University of Vermont



MEETINGS OF NEHA

1966	University of Connecticut	1991	American Antiquarian Society & Worcester Polytechnic Institute
1967	Harvard University		John F. Kennedy Library & University of Massachusetts-Boston
1968	University of Massachusetts-Amherst	1992	Assumption College Rhode Island College
1969	Boston University	1993	University of Southern Maine John Carter Brown Library & Brown University
1970	University of Rhode Island	1994	Bentley College University of Hartford
1971	University of Massachusetts-Amherst Yale University	1995	Mount Holyoke College Saint Anselm College
1972	University of New Hampshire University of Hartford	1996	Amherst College Roger Williams University
1973	Bentley College Connecticut College	1997	Northeastern University University of Connecticut
1974	Rhode Island College Clark University	1998	University of Vermont Connecticut College
1975	Pine Manor College University of Maine, Portland	1999	Rivier College Suffolk University
1976	St. Joseph's College Exeter Academy	2000	Tufts University Stonehill College
1977	Harvard University University of Connecticut	2001	Salve Regina University Saint Michael's College
1978	University of Massachusetts, Amherst University of Lowell	2002	Massachusetts Maritime Academy Rhode Island College
1979	Boston College Colby-Sawyer College	2003	Bentley College College of the Holy Cross
1980	Old Sturbridge Village Rhode Island College	2004	Newbury College College of Saint Joseph
1981	Mount Ida College Albertus Magnus College	2005	Regis College University of Rhode Island
1982	College of the Holy Cross University of New Hampshire	2006	Bridgewater State College University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth
1983	Fitchburg State College Roger Williams College	2007	Southern New Hampshire University Worcester Polytechnic Institute
1984	American Antiquarian Society Framingham State College	2008	Northeastern University Endicott College
1985	Bowdoin College University of Connecticut	2009	University of Southern Maine University of Vermont
1986	American Antiquarian Society Boston College	2010	Salem State College University of New England
1987	Historic Deerfield Albertus Magnus College		
1988	Salem State College University of Hartford		
1989	University of Lowell Smith College		
1990	Pine Manor College St. Joseph's College		

BOOK REVIEWS



Karl Jacoby. *Shadows at Dawn: A Borderlands Massacre*. New York: Penguin Press, 2008

Shadows at Dawn: A Borderlands Massacre poignantly demonstrates that what the Gadsden Purchase (1854) defined as the Arizona-Mexican border has a long history of permeability and conflict. The centerpiece of Karl Jacoby's study is the Camp Grant Massacre of April 30, 1871 when a civilian group of Tohono O'odham (aka Papago or Pima Indians), Mexicans, and Americans collectively attacked a sleeping encampment of Apache women and children under the protection of a nearby U.S. cavalry unit. Famous at the time but subsequently overlooked in many histories, the massacre marked the first time non-Apaches were tried in court for killing Apaches despite prior centuries of bloodshed.

Jacoby sequentially applies overlapping narratives of the Tohono O'odham, Mexicans, Americans, and Apache leading up to and following the massacre. He deftly negotiates widely diverse sources including maps, government records, oral histories, period photographs, newspaper accounts, memoirs, biographies, "memory sticks," correspondence, ballads, plays, and novels. Jacoby gives voice to those who have been silenced over time, but ultimately he recognizes the tragic void of voices that can never be recovered.

After providing the four "back stories" to the massacre, Jacoby briefly touches on the U.S. judicial proceedings. Seven alleged Anglo and Mexican American organizers and 93 other men were arraigned

in Tucson's U.S. District Court for their participation in the attack. The jury of 12 American and Mexican American men from Tucson deliberated 19 minutes and acquitted the defendants. Yet, Jacoby avoids simplistically reducing the perpetration and outcome of violence into villains, victims, and victors.

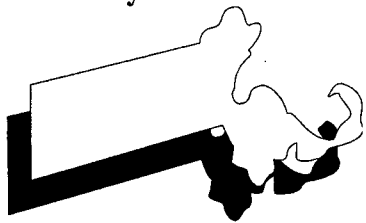
The third portion of the book presents each group's historical memory of the Camp Grant Massacre. Finally, Jacoby's epilogue brings the reader up to the present day Aravaipa Canyon where the Camp Grant Massacre occurred. Jacoby reflects that multiple, alternative historical interpretations counterbalance the inherent biases and social power of a single, predominant historical view. In short, conflating historical memory to a single story line fails to acknowledge the multiple meanings of the past.

Negotiating Jacoby's overlay of the different group's perspectives takes some adjustment—and Patricia Limerick's suggestion in the introduction to tag the glossary for easy reference is advice well taken. However, his structure proves to be a vital for his argument. Jacoby compels the reader to come to grips with the diversity of perspectives and the complexity of understanding across languages and cultures for all the borderlands people. He resists stereotypical assumptions as he teases out significant details: the diffuse organization of Apache families and society; differences between Apache and Tohono O'odham sustenance patterns; promises made and broken between and among all the groups; the abilities of members of each group to enlist the support of other groups in achieving their own goals; and ultimately the survival of the Apache despite official and unofficial efforts to eliminate them.

Jacoby waits to make connections with events in the Eastern states until the “Americans” chapter nearly halfway through the book. This approach reinforces the reader’s awareness of the difficulty Eastern immigrants had when they confronted multiple cultures. Even commonly accepted reference points varied; for example, during the American Civil War, borderlands residents associated Union soldiers with the West and Confederates with the East because U.S. troops arrived from California while C.S.A. forces came from Texas.

A worthy addition to individual and institutional libraries, this book is also relevant for upper level undergraduate Native American studies or American West history courses. Because of its distinctive structure and diverse sources it offers material for meaningful discussions in methodology classes.

Cheryl C. Boots
Boston University



Barry Levy. *Town Born: The Political Economy of New England from Its Founding to the Revolution*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2009.

In *Town Born* Barry Levy reexamined the dynamics of New England’s colonial economy. The book’s title succinctly conveys Levy’s message: the towns of New England protected their own sons and daughters by creating a legal environment that sustained employment and assisted the needy. The town meeting was the critical vehicle that steered this distinctive political economy, which

advantaged native New Englanders in comparison with workers in England and other American colonies. “New England’s male workers,” he writes, “exercised more political power and enjoyed greater equality than almost any other producers in the Atlantic world. Their position was due entirely to the town’s political economy.” (3)

Levy marshaled an impressive array of evidence on varied dimensions of colonial work and life to support his argument. Especially instructive is his comparison of work and welfare in seventeenth-century England with conditions in Massachusetts towns, the primary sites of his analyses. The role that town governance played in the supervision of economic development in colonial New England is integrated through all nine chapters. But the book is more than a political economy. It is also social history, which is creatively integrated into local histories and the community contexts that conditioned the terms of labor.

Levy contends that New England towns were democratically directed entities that purposefully created legal barriers to nurture the employment of town-born males (or occasionally, accepted strangers). Numerous motives drove this policy, but a desire to maintain a high wage environment and control welfare costs were central to it. Towns closely regulated who could settle in individual towns, and implemented social controls that advantaged locally born inhabitants. The goal of town proprietors was to provide work and encourage individual industriousness. Faced with labor scarcity in the early 1600s, New Englanders resolved to put virtually everybody to work, including young children. In his chapter on “Stripes” the author documents the extensive use of violence to force children into the desired productive mentality. New Englanders were brutal, even cruel, yet

rational and purposeful in their effort to overcome difficult economic odds during their initial decades in America. "In Massachusetts," he wrote, "no one was free to labor as he or she wanted, no one was free to use labor as he or she wanted, and no one was free not to labor." (49)

The success of this managed economy is demonstrated in the chapter on "Political Fabric," which recounts how New Englanders solved their "cloth crisis" of the early sixteenth century. Subsequent chapters examine Boston's town promotion of wharves and shipbuilding, and the livelihood of mariners. Levy notes that maritime communities such as Salem and Gloucester relented a bit on admitting strangers into town because of the high mortality rate among mariners, which continually opened up opportunities for new recruits to the town.

This study summarizes an enormous amount of research. Besides an extensive review of literature on the political economies of England, New England and other American colonies, Levy examined town birth and marriage records, wills, and tax rolls in Massachusetts, as well as diaries and account books of individuals, and the written records of town supervisors. Some of this evidence is summarized in tables, such as Levy's inspection of records for 2,309 households in 13 Massachusetts towns, in order to identify orphans and track their fate. Orphans constituted a very high proportion of the populations of settled towns, partly because of parental mortality, but also because towns removed children from wayward families. Such children were placed in households where their labor was needed and hopefully instruction would instill an industrious work ethic. Levy's examination of tax and probate records for the inhabitants of Dedham between 1710

and 1748, shows that sons commonly made their own way by their mid-twenties. They did not have wait slavishly for an inheritance from their fathers to gain standing in the communities, as Philip Greven Jr. has suggested. In this respect the New England worked as an incubator of economic development.

This penetrating research is integrated into a gracefully written narrative that is leavened with stories of individual successes and disappointments. The tale of Thomas Coram, a British gentleman and shipbuilder who was cast out of Taunton for his violation of community norms regarding the use of labor, is one of many vignettes that add a human dimension to this book. *Town Born* certainly will attract attention among colonial historians and students of political economy, not only for its intriguing thesis but also as a model of research and presentation.

Ballard C. Campbell
Northeastern University



Robert E. Niebuhr, ed. *When East Met West: World History Through Travelers' Perspectives*. Reading, MA: Trebarwyth Press, 2010.

As the identity of survey courses in world history, western civilization, or even "civilization in western perspective" (my own institution's attempt to muddy the waters) becomes ever more opaque, it becomes clear that both the strict western civilization defenders of tradition and the canon, and the iconoclast progressive advocates of world history need to pay more attention to one another if historians are to

teach historical thinking to the majority of students taking general education history surveys: those students who will never take another history course. For example, it makes no sense to discuss the *reconquista* or the rise of the Ottomans without discussing the damage to Muslim scholarly excellence these wrought. Furthermore, how can one discuss the rise of Anglo-puritan capitalism without understanding west and central African kingdoms?

Robert Niebuhr, a recent doctoral graduate of Boston College, makes a useful contribution to this increased awareness of global interdependence by offering a reader – which includes both texts and images – with which to supplement assigned readings in any of the history survey courses mentioned above. Niebuhr has assembled European accounts, largely from the early modern period, although some are from the nineteenth century, of travels to the Balkans, to North Africa, to China, India, Africa, and the Americas.

Niebuhr's decision to include the Balkans as well as Africa and the Americas among the "east" indicates his definition is meant conceptually rather than geographically. And yet, like in so many world history readers and textbooks, the nexus of the global is the local, specifically the European. In other words, there are no texts by non-Europeans, which is not unusual for such readers; the subtitle of Niebuhr's work suggests as much.

The texts themselves are very useful to help students learn to analyze historical texts at multiple levels. Superficially, students learn about places entirely foreign to them, particularly so as many of the places visited are not necessarily "hot spots" today. Students can then ask themselves, based on their knowledge of early modern and nineteenth century Europe how the

travel accounts are shaped and framed by European attitudes of the times. In other words, they can begin to see how the Europeans' perception of the "other" reveals as much about Europeans as it does about the "other." Finally, students might draw contemporary parallels to ask themselves how they themselves perceive peoples and cultures in other parts of the world. Niebuhr uses a number of images to augment the text, and these images also lend themselves to further analysis. The quality of these images generally is good, while the quality of the enclosed maps could be better.

Niebuhr ends this collection with a brief note on textual analysis, in which he uses word frequency counts to support a discussion of the questions raised above. One wishes he might have expanded on this to offer some more suggestions for students how to conduct a sophisticated analysis of these complex texts.

On the whole, this is a useful volume not only for courses in western civilization, but also for courses on travel narratives, in cultural history generally, courses on race and identity, and imperialism, as well as on courses in historical methodology. At twenty dollars, the volume is an affordable enrichment for our undergraduate students.

Martin Menke
Rivier College



Elijah Wald. *How the Beatles Destroyed Rock'n' Roll: An Alternative History of American Popular Music.* New York: Oxford University Press, 2009.

Anyone expecting to find evidence of the Beatles' serious crimes against youth

music will be sorely disappointed in Elijah Wald's *How the Beatles Destroyed Rock 'n' Roll*. Regretfully there are no dirty deeds recounted, no new information about scandalous behavior, and not even any unflattering comments about Ringo's drumming. Instead Wald treads the well-worn path of the rise of new youth music in the 1950s, following the Beatles from hard-rocking beat group to purveyors of pop music as art. Like everyone else who ever heard or wrote about the band, he believes that they "changed everything," but in this case it served "to resegregate the pop charts by distracting white kids from the soul masters, to diffuse rock's energy with effete sentimental ballads." I am not a big fan of "Yesterday" either, but I don't think it was so bad that it turned rock'n'roll from "vibrant black" music into to a vehicle for "white pap and pretension." (p.5)

To buy into this interpretation of popular music in the 1960s one has to believe that rock'n'roll was primarily African American, which negates the powerful influence of country music for one, and that there was no pap or pretension at all in the youth music of the 1950s until the Beatles turned up in the early 1960s, killing it softly with melody and romance. There are no crimes at all in this book, only the commonplace misdemeanors of white musicians co-opting black music and getting rich from it. In these guilt-stricken narratives of American popular music, only whites turn out worthless, formulaic pop while blacks play with honesty and authenticity. It can not be denied that the popularity of the Beatles killed off any chance of Motown becoming "the voice of young America," but there were as many crimes of musical mediocrity committed in the name of soul and R&B as there were in pretentious white pop.

If the title of this book is a

disappointment, the sub title is misleading; this is not an alternative history of American popular music, but the same old story, well told and with some provocative insights. Wald covers the same cast of characters, from John Philip Sousa to Jimi Hendrix, recounts the same famous stories, and like everyone else uses the statistics of the record charts to prove his points.

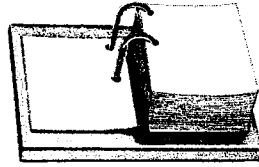
A much better title for this book would be "How Paul Whiteman Produced a Recombinant Popular Music and How the Beatles Followed This Example." As Wald tells us, "The King of Jazz" was no such thing, but he did bring together many different types of music, both black and white, into a melting pot of popular music and he sold a lot of records, just like the Beatles. It was Whiteman who first showed that one could cross the lines of musical genres with impunity and connect with a mass audience who always wanted to dance. This accomplishment is at the heart of Wald's interpretation of American popular music, which is to stress "the continuity and connections between pop era." (216). Before Wald can surprise us with genre jumping from Whiteman to the Beatles, he has first to build up the distinctions between low and high culture, black and white music and so on. He needs genre more than any of the musicians he writes about, and it seems that only music writers and record retailers take these divisions seriously any more. Nevertheless, this book could be useful in many modern American history courses.

Andre Millard

University of Alabama at Birmingham



PLAN AHEAD



American Historical Association

2011 * Boston * 6-9 January
2012 * Chicago * 5-8 January
2013 * New Orleans * 3-6 January

Organization of American Historians

2011 * Houston * 17-20 March
2012 * Milwaukee * 19-22 April
2013 * San Francisco * 11-14 April
2014 * Washington * 2-5 April

American Studies Association

2010 * San Antonio * 18-21 November
2011 * Baltimore * 20-23 October
2012 * San Juan * 15-16 November
2013 * Washington, DC * 21-24 November

American Conference for Irish Studies

2011 * Madison, WI * March 30-April 2

New England ACIS

2010 * Framingham * 12-13 November

Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association

2011 * San Antonio * 20-23 April
2012 * Boston * 4-7 April
2013 * Washington, DC * 27-30 March
2014 * Chicago * 16-19 April

Northeast Popular Culture/American Culture Association

2010 * Boston * 22-23 October
2011 * Danbury * October

Oral History Association

2010 * Atlanta * October 27-31

Economic History Association

2010 * Evanston * 24-26 September

National Conference on Public History

2011 * Pensacola * 6-10 April

North American Conference on British Studies

2010 * Baltimore * 12-14 November

Social Science History Association

2010 * Chicago * 18-21 November

Society of Historians of the Early American Republic

2011 * Philadelphia * 14-17 July

World History Association

2011 * Beijing * 7-11 July

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Please do not mail after October 8. Registration will be available at the conference. Use this form to pay your 2010 annual dues, even if you do not attend the Fall meeting. NEHA does not bill for dues. Membership expiration date is noted next to the letters "ex" on your mailing label. Membership is for the calendar year. Note on this form on which committee you would like to serve.

Make checks payable to NEHA in US funds and return by October 8 to:

James P. Hanlan, NEHA Executive Secretary
WPI
100 Institute Road
Worcester, MA 01609-2280
jphanlan@wpi.edu

NEHA NEWS

The Newsletter of the New England Historical Association

ASSOCIATION OFFICE

Worcester Polytechnic Institute
100 Institute Road
Worcester, Massachusetts 01609-2280
Phone: (508) 831-5438
Fax: (508) 831-5932
Email: jphanlan@wpi.edu
Web site: www.wpi.edu/~jphanlan/NEHA

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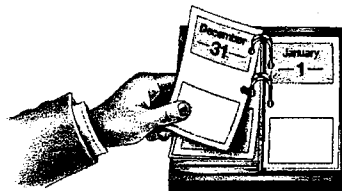
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The New England Historical Association is a comprehensive organization for professional and avocational historians in all disciplines and fields. Membership is open to all persons or organizations interested in studying, teaching or writing history. It is *not restricted* to New England history or American Studies. The Association is affiliated with the **American Historical Association**.

Annual dues (calendar year) for regular members are \$20.00, or \$10.00 for graduate students and adjunct or retired faculty members. Life membership for individuals or organizations is \$150. An Association Fund assists in supporting the work of the Association. All dues and contributions to the Association Fund are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. Please address all correspondence to the Executive Secretary.

CALENDAR



Fall Meeting
University of
New England
October 16, 2010

Spring Meeting
Worcester State University
(formerly Worcester
State College)
April 16, 2011

**Worcester Polytechnic Institute
New England Historical Association
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