From the Director:

In 1995-96 the College of Charleston embarked upon an exciting new interdisciplinary Program in the Carolina Lowcountry and the Atlantic World. Because of my role in conceiving and founding the Program in Atlantic History and Culture at Johns Hopkins in the late 1960s and 1970s, Samuel M. Hines, Jr., Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, enlisted my advice in this undertaking and, in the fall of 1996, I agreed to serve a five-year term as Executive Director of the Program.

The Program in the Carolina Lowcountry and the Atlantic World is part of the College’s effort both to internationalize and broaden its curriculum by building on its unique history and its location in Charleston. This new program of research and intellectual activity is devoted to exploring the Carolina lowcountry and all aspects of its many relations with the broader Atlantic world of which it has always been a part.

Of the four principal “cultural hearths” formed by English colonists on the eastern coast of North America in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, those of the Chesapeake, New England, and the Mid-Atlantic have been extensively studied. By contrast, the fourth “cultural hearth” in the Carolina and Georgia lowcountry has been relatively neglected, largely consigned to local history by the American history establishment. Yet, at the time of the American Revolution, the Carolina lowcountry was a more vibrant and productive economy and had more vital traditions of economic and social innovation than any of the three regions to the north. More important, as the principal port of entry for Africans in colonial British North America, the Carolina lowcountry contained the most ethnically mixed population and, along with Chesapeake, was one of two principal seedbeds for the articulation and formation of an African American culture in North America. With extensive trade and cultural communications with Great Britain, southern Europe, Africa, the Caribbean, and the rest of North America, the Carolina lowcountry exhibited powerful civic cultures in its principal port cities of Charleston and Savannah.

The intellectual agenda of the Program is twofold. First, it seeks to promote the study of this important region of American culture, both in its formative period and in its subsequent development. Second, by focusing on the broader Atlantic world of which the lowcountry was a part and into which it was tightly bound, the Program hopes to move beyond the tight confines of regional or area studies as they have traditionally been conceived and to facilitate the development of an understanding of the interactivity among regions and areas within the wider Atlantic basin.

We hope that you will join us in our explorations of the lowcountry and the Atlantic world.

Jack P. Greene

Program Staff:
Jack P. Greene, Executive Director of the Program in The Carolina Lowcountry and Atlantic World at the College of Charleston, and Andrew H. Mellon Professor in the Humanities, The Johns Hopkins University
Co-Associate Directors:
Rosemary Brana-Shute and Randy J. Sparks, Associate Professors of History at the College of Charleston

HUGUENOT CONFERENCE

“A great collection of scholars well equipped to discuss their areas of expertise. It was a great opportunity to obtain the best sources for my own personal research.”

“Well conceived and important, with a fine sense of community interest and interactions and good publicity.”

“This is outstanding...Bringing national & international attention to Charleston & the Lowcountry...”

“Significant topic! The impact among participants was fantastic. Wide selection of presenters—very well received! Great potential! Certainly encouraged reflection and dialogue! Most stimulating!”

These are comments from a few of the more than 350 people who attended our third major annual conference, “Out of New Babylon: The Huguenot and Their Diaspora,” held at the Lightsey Conference Center on May 14-17, 1997. With over 45 people on the program, this was our largest conference to date. In addition to scholars who came from England, Ireland, France, Germany, Israel, Canada, the French Antilles, South Africa, and the United States, the conference attracted many people from the community, as well as descendants of the early South Carolina Huguenot settlers. The conference formally opened with the first Wachovia Lecture, delivered by the award-winning historian of the Huguenot in America, Professor Jon Butler of Yale University. A reception followed at the historic Blacklock House. The conference closed with a gala dinner with a menu designed by the food historian and noted cookbook author, John Martin Taylor of Charleston.
“Creating the Atlantic World”

October 9 (Thurs): Wachovia Lecture Series
Bernard Bailyn
- “The Idea of Atlantic History”
Alumnus Hall (Randolph Hall, Second Floor), 7:30 p.m.

November 14 (Fri): Wachovia Lecture Series
David Brion Davis
- “Anticipations of Racism: Ambivalent Images of Africans in the Early Modern Age”
Septima Clark Auditorium, 118 Education Center (corner of George and S. Philip Sts.), 7:30 p.m.

February 19 (Thurs): Wachovia Lecture Series
J. G. A. Pocock
- “The Atlantic Archipelago: British History and the American Seaboard”
Septima Clark Auditorium, 118 Education Center, 7:30 p.m.

March 20 (Fri): Wachovia Lecture Series
Sidney W. Mintz
- “Finding the Red Thread: The Atlantic Moment in Culture and History”
Septima Clark Auditorium, 118 Education Center, 7:30 p.m.

Funded in 1996 by a generous endowment from Wachovia Bank, The Wachovia Lecture Series will sponsor public lectures focused on the history of the Carolina Lowcountry and the Atlantic World.

HUGUENOT LECTURE SERIES

September 19 (Fri):
Charles H. Lesser
South Carolina Department of Archives and History
- “The Shafesbury Connection: The Carolina Proprietaryship, the Ashley Cooper Family, and the Beginnings of South Carolina”
Septima Clark Auditorium, Education Center 118, 7:00 p.m.

September 30 (Tues):
Darlene Dahler-Wilking
Department of Anthropology, College of Charleston
- “Huguenot Ethnicity”
Recital Hall, Fine Arts Center, 7:30 p.m.

October 11 (Sat):
Mary C. Anderson
University of South Carolina, Department of English
- “The Huguenot in the South Carolina Novel”
The Charleston Museum Auditorium, 5:00 p.m.

April 1998

- “The Edict of Nantes in Historical Perspective”
A panel discussion from a group of distinguished scholars in French History
Location and time to be announced

Funded by a grant from the Florence J. Gould Foundation

Scholars for The Wachovia Lecture Series: “Creating the Atlantic World”

Bernard Bailyn, premier historian of colonial America, Bailyn completed his Ph.D. at Harvard University in 1963 and joined the faculty there, where he is now Adams University Professor Emeritus. He has played a decisive role in shaping the study of colonial America through major books, including The Ideological Origins of the American Revolution (1967), for which he won both the Pulitzer and the Bancroft Prizes; The Ordeal of Thomas Hutchinson (1974), winner of the National Book Award in History; The Boston of British North America (1996), and Voyagers to the West (1986), which also won a Pulitzer Prize. Prof. Bailyn currently directs the International Seminar on the History of the Atlantic World at Harvard.

David Brion Davis, Sterling Professor of History at Yale University, will present an illustrated lecture exploring the origins of racism in the Atlantic World. Educated at Dartmouth College and Harvard University, he has achieved an international reputation as an historian of slavery with such works as The Problem of Slavery in Western Culture (1966) and The Problem of Slavery in the Age of Revolution, 1776-1867 (1975). He is currently at work on a third volume entitled The Problem of Slavery in the Age of Emancipation. His work has won many awards and prizes, including a Pulitzer Prize in 1967 and a National Book Award in History in 1976.

J. G. A. Pocock, Black Professor Emeritus of History at The Johns Hopkins University, was educated at the University of New Zealand and at Cambridge University, and received an honorary degree from the University of Canterbury in 1973. His studies of political discourse in Britain led to a major reassessment of the influence of systems of thought and language on political behavior. His books include The Machiavellian Moment (1975); Politics, Language and Time (1971); and Virtue, Commerce and History: Essays on Political Thought and History (1988). He is currently at work on a multi-volume project entitled Barbarism and Religion: Enlightened History, or Goods Decline and Fall.

Sidney W. Mintz, Strauss Professor Emeritus of Anthropology at The Johns Hopkins University, received his Ph.D. from Columbia University in 1951. One of the most widely recognized scholars of the Caribbean, his major publications include Worker in the Cave: A Puerto Rican Life History (1974); Sweetness and Power: The Place of Sugar in Contemporary History (1984); and African-American Culture (with Richard Price, 1992); and Tasting Freedom: Excursions into Eating, Culture, and the Past (1996). His path-breaking work on the political, cultural, and social ramifications of the sugar industry has given him a broad perspective on the history of colonialism, slavery, and racism in the Caribbean and the Atlantic world.
Publication Series in the Carolina Lowcountry and the Atlantic World Established.

In 1996 the Program established a publication series with the University of South Carolina Press. Edited by Jack P. Greene, Rosemary Brana-Shute, and Randy Sparks, this series will publish books on topics related to the Carolina Lowcountry, the Atlantic World, and the connections between the two. Already two volumes are scheduled. The first, an edited volume based on selected papers from the first annual conference, as well as papers solicited from other authors, focuses on new directions in research on the South Carolina Lowcountry during the colonial period; the volume is nearing completion. The second volume, a book-length study of the South Carolina Huguenots in the early colonial period by Bertrand Van Ruymbeke, has been accepted for publication and should appear in two to three years. Selected papers from the May 1997 Huguenot conference will also appear in this series.

The Hines Prize

With pleasure, the Program announces that the Hines Prize of $1,000 will be awarded biennially to the best first book on the Carolina Lowcountry and/or the Atlantic World. The prize is a bequest from the family of Rachel Carroll Hines, who took an M.A. in History at the University of North Carolina in 1937. Manuscripts will be reviewed by an outside panel of distinguished scholars, and the winning manuscript will be published in the series. The Program and the family of Rachel Carroll Hines anticipate that the series and the prize will encourage exciting and innovative research on topics related to the Carolina lowcountry and the Atlantic world.

Looking Ahead to Future Conferences


The program is being organized by Prof. Tim Coates of the History Department (803-953-8031). Financial support from the Program will be generously supplemented by grants from the Calouste-Gulbenkian Foundation, the Luso-American Development Foundation, and the Portuguese National Commission for the Commemoration of the Discoveries, all in Lisbon.


Beginning in 1998, our international conferences will move to October, a wonderful month to visit Charleston. Dr. David Geggus, an eminent historian of the Haitian Revolution, will be the Program’s guest convener of scholars interested in the impact of this radical revolution on other societies of the Atlantic world in the late 18th and 19th centuries. The Carolina lowcountry, like New Orleans and Philadelphia, experienced a massive influx of refugees, both black and white, slave and free. How did that revolution change the lowcountry politically and socially? How did it influence the policies and economic and social practices of other regions of the United States and of other countries? This conference is designed to explore these questions.

Exchange Program with the University of La Rochelle

In May 1997 the Program formally established an exchange program with the University of La Rochelle in France and their research center called “Littorales, Espaces Maritimes et Relations Internationals.” Our program will include faculty and student exchanges and joint sponsorship of conferences and publications. We are pleased to welcome Myriam Khaoua, a native of La Rochelle, as the first student from La Rochelle. Myriam is studying the Huguenot community of New Bordeaux in the South Carolina upcountry. This exchange is the first of what we hope will be a series of similar programs with colleges and universities in other parts of Europe, Africa, the Caribbean, and Latin America.