From the Director:

In Memoriam: George C. Rogers, Jr.

A graduate of the College of Charleston in 1943, George C. Rogers, Jr., an active and enthusiastic supporter and the first private benefactor of the Program in the Lowcountry and the Atlantic World, died at the age of 75 on October 2, 1997. George took his doctorate at the University of Chicago in 1953. Except for the very early years of his career when he taught at the University of Pennsylvania, Hunter College, and Emory University, George was a member of the faculty of the Department of History at the University of South Carolina, where, until his retirement in 1986, he had a long and distinguished career as a teacher, scholar, historical editor, and administrator. At the time of his retirement in 1986, George was the Chair of the Department of History and Caroline McKissack Dial Professor of History.

George’s distinguished achievements made him the dean of early South Carolina history: many books and articles, his service in various offices connected with the South Carolina Historical Society, of which he was president in 1978-80, the South Carolina Commission of Archives and History, of which he acted as chair from 1984 to 1990, and his effective editorialship of the first nine volumes of the Papers of Henry Laurens. In recognition of his many contributions to the history and cultural life of the state, both the College of Charleston, in 1984, and the University of South Carolina, in 1994, awarded him honorary doctorates.

From my first encounter with George, in November 1957, when his vigorous attack on a paper I presented at the Southern Historical Society led to exciting intellectual exchange, until the day before his death, when I encountered him in Columbia, SC at a symposium to mark the retirement of his former colleague and my former student Professor Robert Weir. I never failed to learn from him about the craft of history. George had many such relationships with historians from all over the United States and Great Britain who shared his passion for colonial and early national South Carolina history. His support and advice about the Lowcountry Program was enormously helpful. Indeed, notwithstanding his obviously weakened condition, he was providing me with such advice to within a day of his death. Like all of George’s many friends and the many institutions to which he contributed so much, the Program in Lowcountry and Atlantic World will miss his counsel and support greatly.

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 Brand-Shute and Randy J. Spinks, Associate Professors of History of the College of Charleston

A CAROLINA-BARBADOS CONNECTION RECONNECTING

The Barbados Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Tourism and the Carolina-Caribbean Association of Charleston invited Prof. Rosemary Brand-Shute, co-director of the Program, to accompany a delegation from South Carolina to Barbados for a November’s week of consultations and activities leading to the official twinning of that island nation and the city of Charleston. This recognized a unique historical relationship in that the Carolina Lowcountry was the only one of the original thirteen mainland British colonies colonized from the Caribbean.

Those 17th century settlers, European and African, free and slave, indelibly etched on their new home their island experience of plantation agriculture based on enslaved labor, with all the promises and problems that institution would create for the future. By the 18th century, the Barbadian influence was superceded by others, including other Caribbean peoples, and in time the connection between the colonizer and new colony receded largely into historical memory.

This trip was intended to revitalize that connection by recognizing it and by planning for new links in the future. While others in the party explored potential connections for the future in tourism, trade, secondary education, archives, preservation, and the arts, Dr. Brand-Shute met with officials from the Barbados campus of the University of the West Indies to explore possibilities for future student and faculty exchanges, and for collaborative projects between their faculty and those at the College of Charleston.

Future fund raising will include efforts to build the Program’s endowment to support this exchange of students and faculty between both campuses. The Program also will continue to cooperate with the Carolina-Caribbean Association, in which the City of Charleston has granted space in an expanded area of the Visitor’s Center, where the Association plans to mount exhibits to inform visitors of the long and varied connections between the Carolina Lowcountry and the Caribbean.
Huguenot Lecture Series
“The Edict of Nantes in Historical Perspective”
Commemorating the 400th Anniversary of a Landmark Document
in Huguenot History

Physicians Memorial Auditorium
7:30 p.m., April 17, 1998
Reception Follows

About the panelists:

Barbara Diefendorf, Professor of History at Boston University, received her Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley in 1978. She is the author of Paris City Councillors in the Sixteenth Century: The Politics of Patrimony (1983) and Beneath the Cross: Catholics and Huguenots in Sixteenth-Century Paris (1991). She is currently working on female spirituality and the Catholic Reformation in Paris.

Orestes Ranum, Professor of History at the Johns Hopkins University, received his Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota in 1960. He is the author of numerous books on 17th-century French history including The Fronde: A French Revolution (1993); Artisans of Glory: Writers and Historical Thought in Seventeenth-Century France (1980); and Paris in the Age of Absolutism (1979).

Bertrand Van Ruymbeke, Visiting Assistant Professor of History, College of Charleston, received his Ph.D. in American Studies from the Sorbonne in 1996. His manuscript on the early Huguenot settlers of South Carolina has been accepted for publication in the Program’s publication series with the University of South Carolina Press.

Funded by a grant from the Florence J. Gould Foundation
CONFERENCES


From May 14-16, 1998, the Program will host a major international conference which will examine the evolution of the Portuguese Atlantic, including Brazil, Madeira, the Azores, Cape Verde, and coastal and western southern Africa.

Many of the themes important in the study of the Atlantic World arise in the Portuguese context, including colonization, immigration, slavery, trade, and decolonization. The 500 -year process of interactions between the peoples of Portugal, Africa, and America has played a major role in shaping the Atlantic World. Over 177 million people speak Portuguese today; 10 million in the mother country, 148 million in Brazil, and 19 million in Africa. This places Portuguese as the eighth most commonly spoken language in the world. It is especially striking that the peoples who speak it have a history and culture that are virtually unknown in the United States.

This conference will highlight the most recent and original work on the Portuguese Atlantic World. The program includes scholars from Brazil, Madeira, Canada, and across the United States. We are especially pleased that the Portuguese ambassador to the United States, His Excellency Fernando Andrezon Guimarães, will attend the conference. Among the other highlights of the meeting will be an opening plenary session with Professor A. J. R. Russell-Wood of The Johns Hopkins University, entitled "Settlement, Colonization, and Integration in the Portuguese-Influenced World, 1415-1570." Other sessions will highlight Portugal's expansion into Africa, early views of Africa and Brazil, race and slavery, trade and piracy, women's history, literature, and the Inquisition.

In addition to the Program in the Carolina Lowcountry and the Atlantic World, sponsors include the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Luso-American Development Foundation, Fundação Oriente, and the National Commission for the Commemoration of the Portuguese Discoveries. Contact Professor Timothy Coates, Department of History, College of Charleston. Phone: (843) 953-8031 (FAX -6349), e-mail: coates@cof.cofc.edu.

THE IMPACT OF THE HAITIAN REVOLUTION IN THE ATLANTIC WORLD

The Program will host another international conference from October 15-17, 1998, focused on the impact of the Haitian Revolution outside of Haiti.

The Haitian Revolution of 1791-1804 was unique, the only example of an enslaved population successfully seizing its freedom and creating an independent state. The revolution broke out in one of the most important colonies of its day, when the Atlantic slave trade was at its peak, and when slavery was an accepted institution from Canada to Argentina. Throughout the Americas, the destruction of the French colony of Saint Domingue (later Haiti) was an inspiration to slaves and a warning to slave owners. In a period when both libertarian ideology was spreading and ideas of racial hierarchy were gaining legitimacy, when the future of colonies was being discussed, and the anti-slavery movement began to mobilize, the creation of an independent Haiti, the first black republic in the world, was a matter of intense interest and controversy.

The purpose of this conference is to pursue answers to questions that currently divide scholars and which should be of interest to a wider public audience, especially the bicentenary of the revolution approaches. Among the issues we plan to explore are the relationship between Haiti and other slave rebellions and liberation movements in the forty years after 1791. More generally, the different reactions to news of the revolution deserve comparative analysis. Although some of the best scholarship of the last thirty years has focused on the anti-slavery movement, it remains a subject of dispute whether the violent self-liberation of the Haitian Revolution retarded or advanced the abolitionist campaign that helped end slavery elsewhere. A related issue is the revolution's influence on definitions of race and freedom. Finally, the economic and cultural impact of the diaspora from Haiti of free and enslaved refugees to around the Atlantic World invites comparative study. The Carolina Lowcountry was one of the receiving societies flooded by refugees.

Our guest convenor for the conference is Professor David Geggus of the University of Florida, the author of Slavery, War and Revolution: The British Occupation of Saint Domingue, 1793-98 (1982) and co-editor, with David B. Gaspar, of A Turbulent Time: The French Revolution and the Greater Caribbean (1997). Contact Professor Geggus at the University of Florida, Department of History, POB 117320, Gainesville, FL 32611. Phone: (352) 382-6543 (FAX -6927), e-mail: dgeggs@historyuf.edu; OR Professor Rosemary Brana-Shute at the Department of History, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC 29424. Phone (843) 953-5711 (FAX -6349), or e-mail brazmshute@cof.cofc.edu.

BOOK NOTES

CIVIL TONGUES AND POLITICAL LETTERS
by David Shields
(North Carolina University Press, 1995)

David Shields' new book, Civil Tongues and Political Letters, winner of several scholarly book awards, tackles readers into the fascinating cultural institutions of early colonial America—saloons, coffee houses, correspondence networks, reading circles, clubs—that were devoted to the sharing of pleasure within private society. In the pages of Civil Tongues, readers overhear the jokes and gossip in taverns, listen to the conversation of table-top players, and hang out with college students, and learn how early Americans paid compliments and broke each other.

Not only does Shields vividly recreate a colonial world designed for pleasure, he also shows the central place that belles lettres held in these institutions. Literary scholars will be particularly interested in this aspect of the book: unearthing an anonymous body of writing often in manuscript, Shields shows that belles lettres formed a creatively diverse and constitutive part of the private cultural institutions of British America, from which the public sphere and public opinion would eventually emerge.

Historians of political thought will also be interested in Shields' treatment of the development of practices of civility in colonial America. Recently rehabilitated by historians as a category of analysis, civility, Shields shows, became an important feature in American life that allowed individuals without direct access to political power to assert themselves as citizens. Shields explains how such institutions as clubs, coffee houses, and even colleges became havens of experiment in manners and identity that formed much of what was peculiar and innovative in American civic conduct, especially the synthesis of gentility and republicanism.

SLAVES IN THE FAMILY
by Edward Ball
(Farrar, Strauss & Giroux, 1998)

"I wrote this book," said Edward Ball to Bill Thompson of the Charleston Post &Courier, "because we are facing a racial crisis in this country, a deep wound. This is one individual's attempt to apply medicine to that wound." Born into a family that once owned twenty-five rice plantations in South Carolina, and thousands of slaves to work them, Ball sets out in Slaves in the Family to make public the story of his family's involvement in the institution of slavery, to tell what actually happened on his family's plantations, and "to put a human face on what is often an anonymous and battle-scarred Southern legend." Using family records and oral histories, Ball recreates the world of both slaves and slave owners, bringing "the stories of the owners and their slaves" to life. Ball hopes that his book will help blacks and whites "find a shared story," one that will "help us understand who we are as a people."
Publication Series in the Carolina Lowcountry and the Atlantic World

The Hines Prize

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.

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, the 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 conferences 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.

June 1st is the deadline for manuscripts to be considered for the first time the biennial Hines Prize will be awarded.

Please send three (3) copies to:
Randy Sparks or Rosemary Brana-Shute

Department of History
College of Charleston
Charleston, SC 29424
(843) 953-5711
E-mail: sparker@cofc.edu or branashute@cofc.edu

Manuscripts will be accepted from all disciplines, and should deal with the Carolina Lowcountry, the Atlantic World, and/or the interaction between them.

CAROLINA LOWCOUNTRY & ATLANTIC CONNECTIONS

College of Charleston • Department of History
Program in the Carolina Lowcountry and Atlantic World
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