Carolina Lowcountry & Atlantic Connections

The Wachovia Lecture Series

White Over Black After Three Decades


Winthrop Jordan (University of Mississippi)  Jennifer Morgan (Rutgers University)
Daniel C. Littlefield (University of Illinois)     James Sidbury (University of Texas)

* FEBRUARY 10, 1999 IN ALUMNI HALL, RANDOLPH HALL AT 7:00 P.M. *

Thirty years ago, Professor Jordan's magisterial work, exploring the origin and development of white attitudes toward African Americans from the 16th century to the early years of the republic, won the coveted National Book Award. Even before the first blacks set foot in Jamestown in 1619, English colonists had already acquired a complex set of attitudes toward Africans. Drawn from religion, from traditional folk beliefs, and from earlier contacts with Africa, these beliefs grew to create a cruel and tragic dichotomy — the concept of "liberty and justice for all" and "the white man's country." His history of the debasement of African Americans remains the most thorough and learned discussion of a topic central to America's past, present, and future. Join us as three historians discuss the importance and continuing impact of Professor Jordan's controversial study.

The Legacy of Slavery and the Burden of Southern History

Edward Ball — author of Slaves in the Family, Winner of the 1998 National Book Award

* FEBRUARY 18, 1999 IN ROOM T207 IN THE TATE CENTER AT 9 LIBERTY STREET AT 7:00 P.M. *

A Lowcountry native whose ancestors owned thousands of slaves in the Lowcountry scattered over 25 plantations, Edward Ball will discuss reactions to this award-winning family chronicle, Slaves in the Family. Based on extensive archival records, Ball family artifacts and lore, and interviews with the descendants of slaves owned by his family, this award-winning book has brought the author both praise and condemnation for publicly grappling with his own sense of accountability for slavery and its consequences. Mr. Ball's talk will explore the wide range of responses by the many different audiences he has encountered both in the Lowcountry and around the country, and what they reveal about contemporary race relations and understanding of the American historical experience.

Historical Archaeology and Multiculturalism in the Formation of the Atlantic World: Florida and the Carolinas

Kathleen Deagan (Florida Museum of Natural History)

* MARCH 18, 1999 IN ALUMNI HALL, RANDOLPH HALL AT 7:00 P.M. *

Nearly all researchers acknowledge that, in order to understand the early Atlantic world of the 16th through the 18th centuries, we must also understand the profoundly different peoples who defined and shaped it. This diversity is evident, not only in the multicultural makeup of the Atlantic World’s population, but also in the diversity of social classes and gender roles within those cultural groups. While historical documents can successfully reveal the behavior and contributions of the literate, elite members of the predominantly European groups in the Atlantic World, these same documents are much less successful in illuminating the actions and influences of non-European and non-elite groups of that time. Historical archaeology combines the skills and strengths of a number of disciplines and, utilizing both material culture and written records, has been central to the investigations of all social ranks. Professor Deagan will discuss how historical archaeology has contributed to a more balanced and complete understanding of the multicultural origins of the Atlantic World, using research from South Carolina and Florida as examples.
Dr. Raven’s book on the history of this landmark Charleston institution is forthcoming from the University of South Carolina Press.
MANUMISSION IN THE ATLANTIC WORLD

The College of Charleston's Program in the Carolina Lowcountry and the Atlantic World will host an international conference during October 5-8, 2000 on manumission in the Atlantic world. Direct proposals for papers to Professor Rosemary Brana-Sube, Department of History, College of Charleston, 66 George St., Charleston, SC 29424. Phone: 843-953-5563 or Phone/FAX 843-766-7929. Email: brana-shuter@cofc.edu. The deadline for proposals is March 1, 2000. More information will appear in our next issue.

BOOK NOTES

South Carolina: A History by Walter Edgar (University of South Carolina, 1998)

This is the first history of South Carolina's documented past to be published in a half century. Comprehensive, well written, and well illustrated, Professor Edgar covers economic, political, social, and cultural developments, tracing the various crises that marked the state's rise and decline in international and national importance, as well as modernization and progress as we approach the end of the millennium.


 Aimed at the general reader or undergraduate student, Wood's survey of the origins of slavery in English North America, including the West Indies, provides a highly readable discussion of many of the most important questions about the early history of slavery. She asks why British colonists North and South so readily adopted African slavery when no such model existed at home. She explores cultural, economic, social, religious, legal and class considerations to understand the complex evolution of the system.

To Have and to Hold: Slave Work and Family Life in Antebellum South Carolina by Larry E. Hudson, Jr. (University of Georgia Press, 1997)

In this carefully researched and innovative study, Hudson looks closely at the world enslaved African Americans made in South Carolina by focusing particularly on the internal economies that emerged as slaves produced and traded food and crafts on their own time. He demonstrates how, as slaves exploited such opportunities to trade, they increased control over their own family life and achieved higher status within the slave community. Slaves gained greater autonomy, tempered some of the brutality of their daily lives, and gained experience that served them well when the slave system was destroyed.

The Devil's Lane: Sex and Race in the Early South edited by Catherine Clinton and Michele Gillespie (University of Georgia Press, 1997)

A collection of seventeen essays focused on issues surrounding race and sex in the South before 1808, this volume includes several articles on South Carolina and the Lowcountry by scholars including Peter Wood, Clinton, and Gillespie. Wood uses a little-known incident involving the massacre of some fifty runaway slaves encamped on Sullivan's Island during the Revolutionary War as a "chance to weigh new facts against traditional images in the eighteenth-century South." Clinton uses two sensational "immorality tales" about South Carolina spouses who murdered wives or husbands as windows into attitudes toward violence, sex, and exploitative literature in the South. Gillespie explores the fascinating life of Mary Musgrove, daughter of Creek mother and white father, who played an important and complex role in the political life of early Georgia by manipulating her biracial status.


Weiner's study challenges much of the received wisdom on the domestic realm of the 19th-century southern plantation—a world in which white mistresses and female slaves labored together to provide food, clothing, and medicines to the larger plantation community. Although divided by race, black and white women were joined by common female experiences and expectations of behavior. Because work and gender affected them as much as race, mistresses and their female slaves interacted with one another very differently from the ways they interacted with men. Weiner offers fresh interpretations of the ideology of domesticity that influenced women's race relations before the Civil War, the gradual manner in which they changed during the war, and the harsher behaviors that resulted during Reconstruction. Historian Jane Turner Censer called the book "highly original and compelling . . . Weiner's analysis of the plantation white and black women and the changing relationship between them [is] the most convincing I have yet read."

Looking Ahead to Future Events: Mark Your Calendars!

THE EMERGENCE OF THE ATLANTIC ECONOMY

The College of Charleston's Program in the Carolina Lowcountry and the Atlantic World will host an international conference from October 14-16, 1999 on the emergence of the Atlantic economy in the late medieval and early modern periods. In recent years, a substantial body of new work has been published by Europeanists, Africanists, and Americanists on aspects of this topic, and the time seems right both to bring together these findings and to attempt to analyze and interpret Atlantic exchange and production relations at higher levels of historical generalization. At the conference we hope to provide a forum for new micro studies and for broader examinations of the systems of the emerging Atlantic economy as a whole. Please send paper proposals to: Professor Peter Coclanis, Department of History, Hamilton Hall, CB# 3195, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3195 (Phone: 919-962-9824/FAX: 919-962-1403/Email: coclanis@unc.edu). The deadline for proposals is April 1, 1999. For registration information contact Professor Randy J. Sparks, Department of History, College of Charleston, 66 George St., Charleston, SC 29424. (Phone: 843-953-8273/FAX: 843-953-6349/Email: sparksr@cofc.edu).

PROGRAM TO WELCOME EARLY AMERICANISTS

The Program is pleased to help host the Society of Early Americanists which will hold its biannual meeting March 4-7, 1999 at the Lightsey Conference Center at the College of Charleston (843-953-5822, FAX 843-953-1454). Conference program updates will be posted on the Society's Website at http://www.hnet.uci.edu/mlark/SEAConf.html
PROGRAM TO SPONSOR HERITAGE TOUR OF HUGUENOT FRANCE IN AUGUST 1999.

The tour is organized and conducted by Dr. Bertrand Van Ruymbek of the College’s History Department, an expert on Huguenot history and a graduate of the Sorbonne who has conducted two previous tours. The tour will cover important sites in an area called the “Huguenot Crescent” extending from Nimes in Languedoc to La Rochelle in Saintonge with additional stops in Paris, Geneva, and other cities. Sites include Jean Calvin’s birthplace in Noyon, the Musee Du Desert, the largest museum devoted to Huguenot history, the French Huguenot Society headquarters, library, and museum in Paris, the Protestant Museum and temple in La Rochelle, and other important sites off the beaten tourist path. Join Professor Van Ruymbek and other interested travelers on an exciting and informative journey combining breathtaking sites, excellent food, and fascinating lectures into an unforgettable experience.

For further information please complete the following form:

Name

Address

Home Phone

Business Phone

Number in Party?

Would you prefer a tour of 1 or 2 weeks?

Return to: Huguenot Tour, c/o History Department, College of Charleston, 66 George Street, Charleston, SC 29424.