NEH Regional Humanities Center Planning Office Hosts State and Regional Summits

"As we began to talk more and more, it seemed that the commonalities of the region are what should be focused on.... There is a need and a desire to create partnerships with people throughout the South Atlantic region...to create programs (that will) relate to people outside our state. A center that focuses on regional similarities would have the ability, unlike individual states, to export what we learn to other regions not only in this country but abroad." Angela Mack Gibbes, Museum of Art

The endeavor to bring a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Regional Humanities Center to the College of Charleston made some critical headway when the planning grant staff hosted two important planning meetings. The first, held on April 17, 2000, attracted about fifty people from around the state to the College of Charleston. The second, held on June 16-17, 2000, drew a group of some sixty humanities scholars from the five states (Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia and Florida) and two territories (Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands) in the South Atlantic region. A wide range of interested individuals, from preservationists to writers to state administrators, rubbed shoulders in large and small group sessions. Facilitators from the planning grant steering committee asked those assembled to identify common themes that characterize the region and its people, to suggest models of successful programs, to explore what they perceived as the strengths and weaknesses of the proposed humanities center, and to help expand the network of people and institutions who will work together to bring the center to Charleston. Many of the participants were interested in learning more about how the wealth of historical and cultural resources in the Lowcountry and in South Carolina could be put to increased advantage in gaining the center.

The participants also acknowledged some of the challenges the College faces (who could overlook the "flag issue?") in competing for the center. Everyone contributed his or her insights into what an NEH Regional Humanities Center at the College of Charleston would be able to accomplish for the South Atlantic region. To learn more about the NEH planning grant, or to join a discussion list for the project, contact the Planning Grant Office at (843) 953-7805 or e-mail Hum_Office@cofc.edu.

First Volume of Program Papers Near Publication

November 2000 is the projected publication date for Money, Trade and Power: The Evolution of Colonial South Carolina's Plantation Society. The volume is edited by Jack P. Greene, Rosemary Bruna-Stage and Randy J. Sparks, directors of the Program. It will be the first in a series entitled The Carolina Lowcountry and the Atlantic World, to be published by the University of South Carolina Press. Cost of the volume is $49.95. To order directly from the USC Press, call (800) 768-2500 or visit their website at www.sc.edu/uspress

It will also be available at the College of Charleston Bookstore.

Tell About the South

Book Discussion Series at Kiawah Island

Of Strom: An Unauthorized Biography of Strom Thurmond,
by Jack Bass (co-authored with Marilyn W. Thompson; published by Longstreet Press, 1999) Monday, October 23, 2000, 5:00 PM reception and book signing to follow Kiawah Town Hall
$10 admission fee payable at the door

Jack Bass, a veteran newspaperman and South Carolina political expert, is currently a visiting professor in the School of Humanities and the Social Sciences at the College of Charleston. Bass is also the author of The Transformation of Southern Politics (Basic books, 1976).

Together with Thompson, an investigative reporter for the Washington Post, Bass has written a revealing biography of the U.S. Senate's oldest and longest-serving member. A man of political and physical courage, Thurmond volunteered for service in World War II, took part in the D-Day invasion of Normandy, and was a highly decorated war hero. Bass and Thompson trace Thurmond's long political career, from his service as governor, his controversial 1948 presidential campaign, and his 1954 write-in campaign for the Senate seat he holds to this day. His opposition to civil rights led him to abandon the Democratic Party for the Republicans, though in more recent years he has reached out to black voters. The authors also detail Thurmond's legendary sexual appetite, his two marriages, and family misfortunes.
From Slavery to Freedom: Manumission in the Atlantic World

October 4-7, 2000 • College of Charleston • Lighthouse Conference Center

The Program in the Carolina Lowcountry and the Atlantic World will sponsor an international conference at the College of Charleston, October 4-7, 2000 on manumission in the Atlantic World. The conference is funded in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Check our website for updates.

Manumission is the freeing of an enslaved person even though the institution of slavery or serfdom continues. The focus is the Atlantic World – North and South America, Europe and Africa and interconnections between them. Among the aspects of manumission to be explored are the significance of gender, race and ethnicity, religion and religious traditions, urban/rural residence and occupations, and cross-cultural and cross-ethnic patterns within and across these systems. The aim of the conference is to bring together scholars to consider an often-mentioned but less often studied aspect of slavery – manumission – as well as the broader topic of freedom to which it is closely related. An Atlantic focus on manumission will encourage us to think both about small, illuminating cases and broader theoretical and comparative work about slavery and freedom. The time period to be covered is roughly 1450 to today.

Papers are not read at the conference but rather circulated in advance. After brief opening remarks from presenters and comments from the discussion initiators, sessions are devoted to discussion. For that reason, registrants are urged to purchase and read the papers in advance. Papers may be purchased in advance directly from the College of Charleston Bookstore at a cost of $8.00 per set. Call (843) 953-4818 to order.

Conference Program (subject to change)

Wednesday, October 4, 1:00 P.M.

Welcome: Rosemary Bruna-Shute (College of Charleston)
Samuel N. Hines, Jr. (Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences, College of Charleston)

1. Preliminary Session
Chair: Jean Marie Greene (The Johns Hopkins University)
"The Nature and Consequences of Manumission"
Orange Patterson (Harvard University)

II. The Eras of Manumission
Chair: David Brion Davis (Yale University)
William Platt C. University of Wisconsin, "Manumission in Metropolitan Spain and the Caribbean in the 15th and 16th Centuries"
Joseph Scherer (University of California, Berkeley), "Transformation in the Jewish Manumission of Slaves"

Discussion Initiator: Seymour Dreizler (University of Pittsburgh) 2:50-3:45 p.m.

III. Manumission in Spanish America (IH), 3:45-4:15 p.m.
Chair: Ulrich F. von Laffert (University of Florida)
Evelyn Powell Jennings (University of Rochester), " Forced Labor and Freedom in Havana's Public Works, 1754-1824"
Kathryn Dugy (University of Virginia), "Living in Color: Puerto Rican Free People of Color and their Communities"

Discussion Initiator: Jane Landers (University of Puerto Rico) 4:15-4:45 p.m., Break

IV. Manumission in the French Caribbean, 4:45-5:15 p.m.
Chair: Philip Beach (The University of Alabama, Huntsville)
Stuart Kmont (Mount Angel Seminary), "The Free Colored Slavemaster and Manumission in Saint Domingue, 1776-1781"
Lauren Dhillon (Michigan State University), "The Mark of Liberty: Manumission in Revolutionary Guyadouls"
Malik W. Chock (Oxford University and Harvard Law School), "Freedom's Market: The Regulation of Manumission in Saint Domingue"

Discussion Initiator: John Earrings (Jacksonville University) 5:15-6:00 p.m.

V. Manumission in the Dutch Atlantic, 6:00-6:30 p.m.
Chair: David Brion Davis (Yale University)
South Carolina
Rosemary Bruna-Shute (College of Charleston), "Sex and Gender in Nineteenth Century Manumissions"
William Kloosner (University of Southern Maine), "Manumission in the Dutch Caribbean: The Case of Curacao"
Mary Carol Carson (The Johns Hopkins University), "The Life Cycle of a Contained Population: The Dutch East India Company Lodge Slaves at the Cape of Good Hope, 1669-1751"

Discussion Initiator: Robert J. Boss (University of Leiden) 6:30-7:15 p.m.

VI. Manumission in the Portuguese Atlantic, 7:15-8:00 p.m.
Chair: Smart Schwartz (Yale University)
Timothy Walker (Boston University), "Free Blacks, Slaves and the Inquisition in Eighteenth Century Portugal"
Marita L. K. Bonas (The Johns Hopkins University), "Living in Emancipation: The Religious and Social Reality of Manumitted Slaves in Bahia and Salvador, 1790-1810"

Discussion Initiator: Mary Chappell (Oakland University) 8:00-8:45 p.m.

Friday, October 6, 9:00 A.M.

VII. Manumission in Low America
Chair: A. J. R. Russell-Wood (The Johns Hopkins University)
Kelly Geibohm (Universidade Federal Fluminense), "Manumission, Gender and the Law in Nineteenth-Century Brazil: Libertas Legal Suit for Freedom"
Matt D. Childs (University of Texas), "A Peculiar Sight and Very Fit for Photography: Rituals of Manumission by Masters and Slaves in Nineteenth-Century Brazil"
Beatrice Gallotti (University of Washington), "Seeking Emancipation for the Second Time: The Liberated Africans' Struggle for Final Emancipation - Brazil, 1840s-60s"

Discussion Initiator: Bill M. Donovan (Loyola College, Maryland) 10:10-10:45 a.m.

IX. Manumission in the English Caribbean, 10:45 a.m.
Chair: Venetia Shepherd (University of the West Indies, Mona)
David Ryden (Brandeis University), "Manumissions in Late-Eighteenth Century Jamaica"
Thomas W. Reine (U.S. Air Force Academy), "Manumission and Human Rights: Early Delaware Inter-American History"
John F. Campbell (University of the West Indies, Mona), "How Free is Free? The Limits of Manumission in the British West Indian Society"

Discussion Initiator: Edward Cox (Rice University) 11:47-12:15 p.m., Break

X. Religion and Ideology in Manumission in the United States, 12:15 p.m.
Chair: Richard Blackmun (University of Houston)
Larry Tate (Independent Scholar), "The Idea of Manumission in Postslavery Religious Discourse"
Randolph Scull (University of Pennsylvania), "Religion and Manumission in Early National Virginia"
Eva Shepard (Hobart and William Smith Colleges), "The Liberty of Emancipating Their Slaves: Manumission in Virginia, 1782-1861"

Discussion Initiator: Douglas R. Egerton (Lehigh University) 1:00-1:30 p.m., Break

XI. Manumission in the Chesapeake, 1:30 p.m.
Chair: Michael P. Johnson (The Johns Hopkins University)
T. Stephen Whitman (Yale University), "Manumission and Black Independence in Maryland, 1775-1840"
Scott Condon (University of North Dakota), "The Skewermen's Family and Manumission in the Post-Revolutions Chesapeake: Evidence from Anne Arundel County, Wills, 1790 to 1820"
Ellen Edinger (DuPont University), "Emancipation in a Rural Context: The Valley of Virginia, 1800-1860"

Discussion Initiator: Michael L. Nicholls (Loughborough University) 2:00-2:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 7, 2000, 10:00 A.M.

C. Manumissions in the Atlantic World
Chair: Peter Kolchin (University of Delaware)
Randy J. Sparks (Brandeis University), "The Two Princes of Calcuta: An Atlantic Odyssey from Slavery to Freedom"
Eric Burin (University of North Dakota), "If the next step, I'll walk; if the sky, I'll fly; if hope, I'll go: How Slaves Formed Bonds Across African Colonization Society Manumissions"
William L. Ramsey (University of Missouri), "The Cost for Indian Conflict: Mapping the Boundary Between Freedom and Slavery in Colonial America"

Discussion Initiator: Gud Haugen (University of Warwick) 10:10-10:45 a.m., Break

XIII. Manumissions and Revolt, 10:45-11:15 a.m.
Chair: Ina Berlin (University of Maryland)
Patrick Wolfe (Virginia University), "No More Free Blacks: Race and the Implications of Freedom in the U.S. and Brazil"
Scott Henry (University of Notre Dame), "From 'No Country' in Our Country: African Americans Defining Themselves and the Boundaries of Rights and Citizenship, 1775-1850"
John Wood (Catholics United), "The Ordained Manumission in Revolutionary New England"

Discussion Initiator: James Riddle (University of Texas) 11:15-11:50 a.m.

XIV. African Manumissions, 11:50-12:15 a.m.
Chair: Ibrahim B. Sundiata (Howard University)
Frederick The Economic and Social: How to Do It, the Baptists in the Captivity
M. Alpa Bah (College of Charleston), "Manumission Among the Indigenous Groups of the Saint River in Ten Years. A Case Study of the Institution of Slavery Among the Fulful-Fulbe in Futa Jalon"
Philippe-Joseph Salazar (University of Côte d'Ivoire and College International de Philosophie, Paris), "Aphrodis' Recitative of a Nineteenth-Century Brazilian: Manumission, the Forest and the Sea"

Discussion Initiator: IRA
Closing Remarks: Rosemary Bruna-Shute (College of Charleston)

REGISTRATION

The registration fee for the conference is $25 for non-participants before September 15 and $35 after that date (participants should contact the organizers directly). Graduate students may register at the reduced fee of $10 at any time. Registration is free to faculty and staff of the College of Charleston.

Name:
Address:
Phone:
E-mail:

Make your check payable to the College of Charleston Foundation (Manumission Conference, the "Manc" Line). We cannot accept payment by credit card. Send to: Manumission Conference, History Department, College of Charleston, 66 George St., Charleston, SC 29404. For additional information call (843) 953-5711.

The Venté Francis Marion, located at Collem and King streets, is the conference hotel. Call 1-800-435-3735 for information. For bed and breakfast accommodations call Charleston Inns at (843) 723-7000 (www.charleston.com) or Historic Charleston Bed & Breakfast at 1-800-743-5283 (www.charleston.com/ohh/bb/).
Hines Publication Prize Winner Announced

The Hines Publication Prize for the best first book relating to any aspect of the history and life of the Carolina Lowcountry or any area of the broader Atlantic World has been awarded to Braid Wood for *The Formation of a Region in Colonial North Carolina: The Lower Cape Fear, 1670-1775* (Johns Hopkins, 1999). Wood is Assistant Professor of History at Eastern Kentucky University. The prize carries a cash award of $1,000 plus publication in the Program's Series in the Carolina Lowcountry and the Atlantic World, edited by Jack P. Greene, Rosemary Braun-Shute and Randy J. Sparks and published by the University of South Carolina Press. The prize is made possible by a bequest from the family of Rachel Carroll Hines, who took an M.A. in History at the University of North Carolina in 1957.

Staff Changes in the Program in the Carolina Lowcountry and the Atlantic World

Randy J. Sparks, a founder of the Program and one of its Associate Directors, has resigned from the College of Charleston to accept a position on the History faculty at Tulane University. Max Edelson, who has served as Assistant Director, is now Associate Director, along with David Shields of the English Department at The Citadel. The new Assistant Director will be Simon Lewis, a member of the English Department faculty at the College of Charleston. Professor Lewis teaches African colonial and postcolonial literature at the College of Charleston and edits the literary magazine *Illuminations*. Associate Director Rosemary Braun-Shute is on leave of absence for the fall term.

Coming in February 2001:

Symposium on Denmark Vesey: featuring recent scholarship and the controversial proposal for a Vesey statue in Charleston.

Check for details in the next newsletter or at our website (www.cofc.edu/atlanticworld).

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Program Website Up and Running! Visit our website at www.cofc.edu/atlanticworld! You'll find conference programs and registration information and announcements of upcoming events. Coming soon will be a link to the NEH planning grant website which is under construction.

First Wachovia Lecture of the Season Focuses on Fanny Kemble

Professor Catherine Clinton of Bard College, City University of New York, visited the College of Charleston campus on September 13 and 14 to discuss her new biography of Fanny Kemble, as well as a new volume of excerpts from Kemble’s diaries. Both books were published in early September 2000: *Fanny Kemble’s Civil Wars* (Simon & Schuster) and *Fanny Kemble’s Journals* (Harvard University Press). Dr. Clinton presented the Wachovia Lecture, open to the public, at Randolph Hall. A reception and book signing followed. Dr. Clinton also held a seminar for the faculty and graduate students in the Joint Programs in History and English Literature at the University of Charleston and The Citadel.

Kemble was a British stage star who became a reluctant plantation mistress when she wed Pierre Butler, owner of a plantation on the Georgia Sea Islands, in 1834. Her name became linked to abolitionism when, in 1865, she published her *Journal of Residence on a Georgia Plantation*, an anti-slavery record of her life in the South from 1838-59.

“In Catherine Clinton, Fanny Kemble has finally found a historian worthy of her remarkable career...An insightful account of the ‘civil wars’—between masters and slaves, Northerners and Southerners, husbands and wives, and parents and children—-a central to the history of the nineteenth century.”

Kiri Tewodrose, Columbia University

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Catherine Clinton is the author of more than a dozen works of history including *The Plantation Mistress* (1982). Since earning her Ph.D. from Princeton, she has taught at Brandeis, Brown and Harvard, and will hold the Mark Clark Chair in History at The Citadel in 2001-2002. She lives in Greenwich, Connecticut.

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