Dr. David Lieberman offers the “President’s Report”

2007 has proved a year of year of innovation, near-perpetual motion and satisfying accomplishment at PCCBS. Last Spring, we held our inaugural meeting in the Pacific Northwest, when we gathered on the campus of the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington. Meeting in the territory of the former Northwest Conference on British Studies was a much-anticipated experiment, which more than exceeded our hopes for expanding our reach and introducing new scholars to our activities. Our success depended on many substantial contributions. I am pleased once more to single out for praise David Smith (Puget Sound), our tireless and magnanimous host for the 2007 meeting. Repeated thanks also to Randy McGowen (University of Oregon), who chaired the Program Committee and helped ensure that the content of the conference fully sustained the intellectual quality and range we have come to expect at PCCBS. We were especially blessed by the lectures and exemplary conference citizenship of our three plenary speakers: Peter Clark (Cambridge University), Frances Dolan (UC Davis), and Peter Lake (Princeton University), Continued on Page 2
Two PCCBS prizes were awarded at the March meeting. Well-deserved congratulations are due to Priya Satia (Stanford University) and Jeff Hoppes (UC Berkeley). Priya Satia’s article, “The Defense of Inhumanity: Air Control and the British Idea of Arabia,” (American Historical Review) received the 2007 Article Prize, from a committee chaired by Michael Saler (UC Davis). The Graduate Prize committee, chaired by Lisa Cody (Claremont McKenna College), honored Jeff Hoppes’s paper on “The Formation of the New Model Army Dragoon Regiment.”

Even before we gathered last March at Puget Sound, another talented group of PCCBS citizen-heroes was busy with arrangements for the fall 2007 NACBS conference which we are co-hosting on November 9-11 in San Francisco. (Conference details and registration are available at the NACBS web site - http://www.nacbs.org/). Two PCCBS colleagues – David Como (Stanford University) and James Vernon (UC Berkeley) – serve on the NACBS Program Committee. Another PCCBS cohort staffs the Local Arrangements effort, under the direction of Candace Groskreutz (Assistant Director of the UC Berkeley Center for British Studies). Candace (who, remarkably, is still talking to me) has handled the job of conference-headache-magnet with anticipated efficiency and superhuman composure. We will be able to enjoy the fruits of all these labors when we meet next month in SF.

And amidst the preparations for the NACBS/PCCBS this November, planning is well underway for the 2008 PCCBS annual meeting at The Huntington Library on March 28-30, 2008. This will be our first meeting at the expanded facilities at The Huntington Library; and we are indebted to our colleague, Research Director Roy Richie, for agreeing to host us. Once again, we are in great hands! Mary Robertson (The Huntington) has taken charge of Local Arrangements, and Lori Anne Ferrell (Claremont Graduate University) leads the Program Committee. Her committee already has distributed the Call for Papers. The deadline for submissions is November 26, 2007; details are available at the PCCBS website - http://www.pccbs.org/.

It is impossible to preside over PCCBS without being regularly reminded of the extraordinary generosity and public spiritedness of our colleagues. I wish I did not so often have to ask others for help. I am humbled by the wondrous cheer, talent and energy with which these requests are answered. Let me close with a final word of gratitude. We are all in debt to Molly McClain (University of San Diego) for stepping in as Acting Secretary while Michelle Tuson (UNLV) is on maternity leave. This seems an odd way to reward Molly for all her excellent past contributions, but the additional service is as appreciated as it is needed. In the meantime, Sophia Elizabeth Muelrath, arrived to join Michelle Tuson’s family on September 7. Congratulations and thanks all round!
DR. PRIYA SATIA (STANFORD) WINS 2007 PCCBS ARTICLE PRIZE

Priya Satia’s *American Historical Review* article, “The Defense of Inhumanity: Air Control and the British Idea of Arabia,” demonstrates that cultural history can be used to marvelous effect to recast more traditional approaches to British military and diplomatic roles in the Middle East. She argues compellingly that, in the years immediately after the First World War, British intelligence agents in “Arabia” (present-day Iraq) developed a policy of aerial surveillance based on their own romantic constructions of the region as a realm of chivalric fighters and Biblical literalists. This policy, which had little empirical basis, was used to justify indiscriminate bombardments that often did not distinguish between civilians and hostile agents. Bombs from the sky would be interpreted as signs of God’s wrath, and destruction of towns would accord with the “warrior” ethos of the tribes under attack – indeed, anything less would be an insult. The intelligence agents helped convince British military officials that massive bombing was actually “humane,” justifying the British presence in the region through the 1950s. Satia’s lucid analysis represents the best form of interdisciplinary history, adroitly bringing together different approaches, such as cultural and diplomatic history, which are often pursued separately. Her work on the multi-causal factors underlying state-sanctioned violence is both timely and beholden to time-tested modes of historical inquiry; it is a tour-de-force on many levels.

PRIZE COMMITTEE
Michael Saler, UC Davis (chair); Anita Guerrini, UC Santa Barbara; Retha Warnicke, Arizona State University

Peter Stansky (Stanford) invites PCCBS members to a reception in honor of his most recent book, *The First Day of the Blitz: September 7, 1940*. It will be held on Sun. Nov. 11, from 3-5 p.m., at his house, 375 Pinehill Road, Hillsborough, CA (about 20 miles south of San Francisco, ten minutes from the airport and the Millbrae Bart stop). He writes, “I hope that those attending the NACBS conference might like to come!”

Map showing British and French Mandates in Syria-Palestine and Iraq
JEFF HOPPES (UC BERKELEY) WINS 2007 PCCBS GRADUATE STUDENT PRIZE

The Prize Committee for the Best Graduate Essay by a member of PCCBS awards Jeff Hoppes of UC Berkeley this year’s award for his essay, “The Formation of the New Model Army Dragoon Regiment.” Jeff’s advisor is Thomas Barnes, Professor Emeritus of the Department of History and Boalt Hall School of Law, University of California, Berkeley. The prize-winning essay was presented at a panel of the 2006 PCCBS meeting at UC Irvine.

Jeff Hoppes’s essay was distinguished by its clarity of argument, the density and variability of its evidence, and the feasibility of its scope provided. His paper synthesizes material gleaned from numerous secondary and archival sources to trace the careers of dozens of dragoons and their commanding officers during the 1640s. Hoppes’s careful sleuthing allows him to confirm the long-held view that, in his words, “the New Model's political activism arose only after the defeat of armed royalism.” But perhaps more significant a conclusion is Jeff’s finding that the New Model Army from 1645 forward was not a monolithic force held together by ideology and nascent patriotism, but was, as he describes, “a remarkably heterogeneous force, not merely in the sense that it recruited men from all over England or men of varying social standing, but in the sense that generalizations about the men who filled its ranks obscure as much as they reveal.” The committee found Jeff Hoppes’s sensitivity to the sources, nuanced analysis of the New Model Army, combined with his ability to build a provable argument and breathe new life into the often neglected field of military history an impressive tour de force.

PRIZE COMMITTEE
Lisa Cody, Claremont McKenna College (chair); Jennifer Andersen, Cal State University, San Bernardino; Dennis Dworkin, University of Nevada, Reno

“Union and Disunion”

The Northeast Conference on British Studies will hold its Annual Meeting October 12-13, 2007, at Dalhousie University, Halifax, Novia Scotia

Information is available online at http://users.wpi.edu/~phansen/necbs.html

Contact: Joyce Malcolm jmalcolm@gmu.edu
Call for Papers: PCCBS Annual Meeting, March 28-30, 2008

Pacific Coast Conference on British Studies Thirty-Fifth Annual Meeting

The Pacific Coast Conference on British Studies announces that its thirty-fifth annual meeting will be hosted by the Huntington Library in San Marino, California.

The PCCBS seeks papers representing all fields of British Studies (broadly defined to include those who study England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, and Britain’s empire). We welcome scholars from a wide range of disciplines, including History, Literature, Political Science, History of Science, Religion, Gender Studies, Cultural Studies, Theater Studies, and Art History. The Program Committee prefers the submission of panel proposals or roundtables, although we will consider proposals for individual papers as well. We also encourage the submission of proposals for cross- or interdisciplinary panel topics and/or speakers, as well as panels on pedagogies, technologies, and other trends in the field of British Studies.

The PCCBS invites papers from advanced graduate students and will recognize the winner of the 2006 Graduate Paper Prize at its closing reception.

Proposals should include a 200-word abstract for each paper and a 1-page c.v. for each participant, including chairs and commentators. Full panels: please also include a 2-page précis of the panel topic as a whole. Please place the panel proposal, its accompanying paper proposals, and all vitae in one file, making sure that all contact information, particularly email addresses, are correct and current. All proposals should be submitted via email attachment by November 26, 2007 to:

Lori Anne Ferrell
Program Chair, PCCBS 2008
Claremont Graduate University
School of Arts and Humanities
Claremont, California 91711
Email: lori.ferrell@cgu.edu

Program Committee: Lori Anne Ferrell, Chair (CGU); Joy Dixon (UBC); Deb Harkness (USC); Doug Haynes (UC Irvine); Constance Jordan (CGU); Sammie McGlasson (CGU)
Member News


Richard Davis (University of Calgary). The University of Alberta Press has just published Nahanni Journals, Oxford-graduate R.M. Patterson’s 1920s diary of his adventure on the northern river. Twenty-five years later, Patterson wrote a popular travel book of his experience, The Dangerous River, first published in London. In the Introduction to Nahanni Journals, editor Richard C. Davis explores the shifting attitudes — especially British — toward Canada, toward the wilderness, and toward the environment as the times and the audience change during the twentieth century.

Sandra Dawson (PhD, UC Santa Barbara). Her article, “Working Class Consumers and the Campaign for Holidays With Pay,” won the Journal of Twentieth Century British History Essay Prize and will be published in the fall edition of the journal. The article is based on the first chapter of her dissertation about British Holiday Camps which she completed in March 2007. Her dissertation adviser is Erika Rappaport (UC Santa Barbara).


Anita Guerrini (UC Santa Barbara) received a UC President’s Fellowship in the Humanities for 2007-08. She also was awarded a Franklin grant from the American Philosophical Society. Both grants support her project on animals and anatomy in Louis XIV’s Paris. She writes, “But don’t worry, I’m going back to Britain for my next project!”

Jeffrey Hankins (Louisiana Tech University) published “Crown, County, and Corporation in Early Modern Seventeenth-Century Essex,” Sixteenth Century Journal 38 (2007). He has another article under consideration on “Catholic Office Holders in Early Modern England.” He completed participation in a three-week NEH Institute, “Teaching the Reformation in a Pluralist Age” at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He also will be presenting a paper on Scottish merchants in the British Empire at the first “British Scholar Conference” in November.


Tom Kennedy (University of Arkansas). His article, “Troubled Tories: Dissent and Confusion Concerning the Party’s Ulster Policy, 1910-1914” will be published in the Journal of British Studies 46, no. 3 (July 2007). He is still working on a larger project, The Conservative Party and Ulster, 1885-1922, that, he says, “with time and divine intervention may one day see the light.”

Rebecca Livingstone (Simpson College) successfully defended her dissertation and received her PhD in British History from Tulane University in August 2007. She will start her appointment as assistant professor of history at Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa, this fall.

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Member News continued

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Carol Pal (PhD, Stanford University) filed her dissertation in January 2007. This fall, she will take up an Alhanson-Getty Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Clark Library, UCLA.


Anne Stiles (Washington State University, Pullman) edited Neurology and Literature, 1860-1920 (Palgrave Macmillan, 2007). In this volume, renowned historians and literary scholars explain how late-nineteenth and early-twentieth-century fiction incorporated neurological concepts as a means of coming to grips with late-Victorian biological determinism.