



# CHARIVARI



## Letter from the President: George Behlmer, University of Washington

Amidst a grim national economy and general retrenchment among institutions of higher education, the PCCBS remains intellectually vibrant and financially fit. I say this not to tempt fate: a voluntary organization such as ours is often only a couple of poorly attended meetings away from insolvency. Rather, our relative wellbeing is testimony to the activism of our members and the remarkable generosity of the regional colleges, universities, and philanthropic bodies that have smiled on our enterprise.

The recent meeting at Pomona College, in Claremont, California, was a fine example of this happy confluence. Held at the handsome Smith Campus Center, March 19-21, the meeting featured twenty-one panels and two plenary sessions. As is our custom, the

papers presented last March spanned wide expanses of time, space, and academic field. From the “staging” of Elizabethan politics to the Caribbean cast of modern British culture, from Milton’s prose to Churchill’s contemporaries, the sweep of these papers underscored our conviction that “British Studies” must be construed broadly.

The two plenary addresses enhanced our interdisciplinary mission. Colorado’s Marjorie McIntosh turned to oral history in her fascinating analysis of “British Colonialism and African Women.” Virginia’s Paul Halliday emphasized the cultural matrix of law in his trenchant paper on “Habeas Corpus: Legal History as National and Imperial History.”

Yet this rich and varied fare could not have been served without the extraordinary contributions of several PCCBS stalwarts and the backing of Pomona College. In terms of local arrangements, Robert Woods, Meg Worley, Gina Espinoza, and Mindy Hagan transformed an unavoidably delayed start in conference planning into seamless choreography. My predecessor as President, Constance Jordan, almost single-handedly secured excellent lodgings for the many out-of-area attendees. Constance Jordan, almost single-handedly secured excellent lodgings for the many out-of-area attendees. And, as always, the Program Committee, chaired by Tom Cogswell, provided the all-important grist to be milled.

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PCCBS SEATTLE, MARCH 2011



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# Letter from the President....

**continued from page 1...** And, as always, the Program Committee, chaired by Tom Cogswell, provided the all-important grist to be milled. In addition to Pomona College's vital conference support, both the Institute for Irish and British Studies at the University of Southern California and our parent body, the NACBS, were important underwriters of the Claremont meeting.

We were pleased to award our biennial prize for the Best Book to Priya Satia (Stanford) for her *Spies in Arabia*. This monograph was judged to be "an innovative investigation of...British espionage in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries and its impact on British intervention in the Middle East." Caroline Shaw (U.C. Berkeley) received our annual prize for Best Graduate Student Essay. Ms. Shaw's paper was entitled "A Sacred Right of Refuge? The Tension between the Universal and the Particular in the British Application of the Refugee Category, 1880-1905."

Building on the success of our Claremont meeting, the PCCBS will gather next March 11, 12, and 13 on the campus of the University of Washington in ever-sunny Seattle. Well yes, I'm taking meteorological liberties here. In 2010, mid-March found the U.W. campus awash in cherry blossoms and 14,000-foot Mt. Rainier remained visible for a full week. I cannot promise that the mountain will be "out" (as the locals say) come mid-March 2011, nor can I guarantee a riot of cherry blossoms. But I'm confident that our new Program Committee, chaired by Randy McGowen, will construct another compelling set of paper sessions. And thanks to the formidable generosity of the Simpson Center for the Humanities, the U.W. Department of History, and the Stern Trust, our conference "bottom line" should prove to be cause for applause.

As many of you will know, our Pacific Coast branch of the North American Conference on British Studies has literally doubled in geographic scope during recent years. We now subsume not only the original core states of California and Nevada but also Oregon and Washington, as well as the Canadian province of British Columbia. Canadian scholars have long enlivened PCCBS meetings. But I hope that Seattle in 2011 will attract a still larger Canadian contingent while also luring Southern Californians to the exotic home of the geoduck (an enormous and delicious clam found only in Puget Sound) and the bald eagle (far more handsome up close than on a postage stamp).

The PCCBS website will soon post a 2011 "Call for Papers," along with booking details for the conference hotel. Our Program should be fixed by early-January, with paper acceptances sent out very shortly thereafter. Whether your winters call for Gore-Tex or short-sleeves, I hope that you will join us next March in the "Emerald City."

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## Call for Papers, PCCBS at the University of Washington, Seattle, March 11-13, 2011

The Pacific Coast Conference on British Studies (PCCBS) invites paper and panel proposals for its thirty-eighth annual meeting to be held at the University of Washington, Seattle, from March 11-13, 2011.

The PCCBS invites papers representing all fields of British Studies (broadly defined to include those who study Britain, its component parts and nationalities and Britain's empire). We welcome proposals from scholars and doctoral candidates in a wide range of disciplines across the humanities, social sciences and the arts, including History, Literature, Political Science, History of Science, Philosophy, Religion, Gender Studies, Cultural Studies, Theater Studies, and Art History.

Proposals for individual papers, partial panels, or complete panels are welcome; complete panel proposals are preferred. We encourage 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. Panels using alternative or innovative formats are welcome.

The deadline for submission of proposals/panels is December 6, 2010. Proposals should include a 200-word abstract for each paper and a 1-page c.v. for each participant. Full panels and partial panels, please also include a short description of the panel and a 1-page c.v. for the chair and commentator. 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 December 6, 2010 to: Prof. Randall McGowen (Dept. of History, University of Oregon), Program Chair, PCCBS 2011, [rmcgowen@uoregon.edu](mailto:rmcgowen@uoregon.edu).



# Prizes & Member News

## PCCBS Biennial Article Prize, 2008-10

Article Prize Submission Deadline:  
December 6, 2010

The biennial article prize for the best article published between 2008-2010 by a member of the Pacific Coast Conference on British Studies will be awarded at the Spring 2011 meeting in Seattle.

Submissions must be received by the committee chair by December 6, 2010. PDF versions of articles should be sent by email attachment to Reba Soffer (Emeritus, CSU, Northridge), [rsoffer@post.harvard.edu](mailto:rsoffer@post.harvard.edu); offprints should be mailed to each Prize Committee member. Please contact Professor Soffer for mailing addresses.

Committee members: Reba Soffer, Chair (Emeritus, California State University, Northridge), Mary Robertson (The Huntington Library), and Robert Woods (Pomona College).

## PCCBS Annual Graduate Prize, 2011

Graduate Prize Submission Deadline:  
December 6, 2010

PCCBS calls for entries, submitted by graduate students, for the prize to be awarded at its annual meeting at the University of Washington, Seattle, in March 2011. Both the student and the professor must be members of PCCBS. The submitted entry will have been presented to the Pacific Coast Conference on British Studies at Pomona College in March 2010 or (in the case of a graduate student studying at a university within the PCCBS region) to any conference during the 2010 calendar year. The essay mirroring the oral paper as delivered must be based on original research, meet scholarly standards, and must deal with a topic centering on British studies. Excursive footnotes may be added. The winner will receive a monetary prize and will be recognized at the annual PCCBS conference.

Submissions must be received by the committee chair by December 6, 2010. Papers should be sent by email attachment to Patty Seleski (California State University, San Marcos), [pseleski@csusm.edu](mailto:pseleski@csusm.edu). Committee members: Chair, Patty Seleski (California State University, San Marcos); Kathleen Noonan (Sonoma State University), and Peter Hoffenberg (University of Hawaii at Manoa).

## Member News

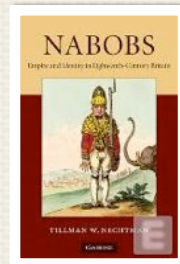
**Henry Alley** (University of Oregon) recently published, "To the Greenwood: Forster's Literary Life to Come After A Passage to India," in *Papers on Language and Literature*. His novel, *Precincts of Light*, was published by Inkwater Press, and his story "Tame" appeared in *Gertrude Literary Magazine*, for which he was also Guest Fiction editor for its "Gayest Issue Ever." This year two of his short stories, were honored in fiction competitions. He has also done radio and television interviews in Eugene, Oregon.

**David Cressy** (The Ohio State University), former president of PCCBS, has been elevated to be George III Professor of British History and Humanities Distinguished Professor at the Ohio State University.

**Peter Hoffenburg**, (University of Hawaii, Manoa), co-edited with William A. Galston, *Poverty and Morality: Religious and Secular Perspectives*, Cambridge University Press, 2010, The Ethikon Series on Comparative Ethics. He also published "Nineteenth-Century Australian Scientists and the Unholy Australian Trinity: Overcoming Distance, Exile and Wandering at Exhibitions," in *British Scholar* II:2 (March 2010), 227-253, and "A G Stephens: Australian Critic, Traveller and Nationalist, circa 1900," in *The IUP Journal of Commonwealth Literature* II: 2 (July 2010), 24-42.

**Thomas R. Metcalf**, (University of California, Berkeley) was the Ena Thompson Lecturer at Pomona College in April 2010, where he spoke on

"Trade, Empire, and Imperialism in Southern Asia."



**Tillman Nechtman**, (Skidmore College) recently published *Nabobs: Empire and Identity in Eighteenth-Century Britain* with Cambridge University Press.

**Greg Smith** (University of Manitoba) co-edited *City Limits: Perspectives on the Historical European City* (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2010) with Glenn Clark and Judith Owens.

**Michelle Tusan** (University of Nevada, Las Vegas) published "Gleaners in the Holy Land: Women and the Missionary Press in Victorian Britain" in *Nineteenth-Century Gender Studies*, (Summer 2010) and "Britain and the Middle East: New Perspectives on the Eastern Question" in *History Compass* (March 2010).

## Announcement



Interested in the history of science, technology, health and exploration in the Pacific, rather generally defined? Does Captain Cook or colonial ethnography or Indian medicine capture your fancy? If so, please contact Prof. Peter H. Hoffenberg, Department of History, University of Hawaii at Manoa, the editor of *The Bulletin of the Pacific Circle*, a semi-annual newsletter with information about publications, research opportunities, conferences, as well as book reviews about the history and practice of science broadly defined in the Pacific region. Please email Prof. Hoffenberg at [peterh@hawaii.edu](mailto:peterh@hawaii.edu) for a gratis copy of our most recent Bulletin.