



THE FORUM ON *European Expansion and Global Interaction*

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

The Forum's activities in the last several months have been devoted to planning and organizing our second biennial meeting, which was held at the Huntington Library in San Marino, California, on April 34, 1998. David Hancock, FEEGI's Vice President, put together a wonderful program that brought together papers addressing similar themes in a variety of global settings. David tells me that he had to turn down about seventy additional proposals in his search for a program that was wide-ranging and focused on the themes defined by the Forum. All but one of the sessions was held at the Huntington Library. We lodged at the Pasadena Hilton Hotel.

The April meeting will reflect a large turnover in the members of the Executive Committee of the Forum, and I have worked with the current Executive

Committee to suggest several small changes to the Constitution that would make the Forum run more smoothly and efficiently. We will present our collective recommendations for a vote at the April meeting, but I would like as broad a consultation as possible from the membership before the meeting, since not all of you will be attending. What follows are excerpts from the letter I recently sent to the Executive Committee.

1) Proposed changes to the Constitution .

.... The most important change is a combination of functions between the Secretary and Treasurer. Most small societies have a more or less permanent Secretary- Treasurer who keeps track of both the mailing list and the dues payments. I think that would work better for FEEGI as well.

Another important change would be the inclusion of the Editor of the Newsletter on the Executive Committee. Until now, Bob Hoover was both Secretary and Editor of the

Newsletter, so he was in the loop. As you know, Bob is retiring and will cease editing the FEEGI Newsletter after the Spring 1998 issue. (See point 2 below). For the future, it seems better to let the Newsletter Editor concentrate on that and not have to worry about maintaining the mailing list. I have the membership list on EXCEL, and labels can be printed through Microsoft WORD in a trice directly from EXCEL. It is an ideal system and I'll pass it along to whoever we decide will maintain the list.

Another change would be in the length of the terms. With our biennial meetings, it seems preferable to have staggered four-year terms (rather than three years) for the at-large members of the Executive Committee.

That would give us some continuity, as the officers would continue to have 2-year terms. The immediate past president continues for 2 years on the Executive Committee, so that would provide additional continuity.

2) NEW EDITOR NEEDED FOR THE NEWSLETTER. Bob Hoover, the creator of the newsletter that was converted into FEEGI's newsletter, is retiring in 1998. The Spring 1998 issue, which goes to press in April will be his last issue. Bob has graciously agreed to consult with his successor, but the new editor would be free to shape the format and contents, in consultation with the Executive Committee.

Because of FEEGI'S status as a fledgling organization, the Newsletter would have to be subsidized for printing and postage by the institution of whoever signs on as editor.

3) NOMINATION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS: If we approve the revisions to the Constitution, we need to replace the President, Vice President, and three at-large members of the Executive Committee.

If Tom Cohen is willing to stay on as Secretary- Treasurer, that would be ideal. If not, we would need to find someone else. As mentioned above, I have the lists up to date and in an easily usable form, so whoever takes it on would not have much trouble maintaining and updating it.

Please send your thoughts on all three of these matters to me as soon as possible, preferably by e-mail
phi11002@tc.umn.edu

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN EDITING THE NEWSLETTER, OR IN SERVING ON THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OR AS AN OFFICER IN THE FORUM, PLEASE LET ME KNOW RIGHT AWAY, AND DON'T BE SHY.

It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as FEEGI's President these past two years, and I look forward to my continued association with you all in the years to come.

NORTH AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR OCEANIC HISTORY

The **NASOH** will hold its 22nd annual meeting on April 9-11 at the San Diego Maritime Museum. Conferees will be housed at the Holiday Inn, but all sessions will be held on board the Berkeley, a San Francisco ferryboat. Conference fees of \$145 per person, includes six meals, snack, a harbor cruise, and a tour of the submarine base. Of special interest to FEEGI

members are papers by James Allen (UCB) on "Russian shipbuilding in Spanish California," Barto J. Arnold's (IUA) "Discovery and Excavations of LaSalle's La Belle", and James K. Orzech's "Diffusion of Asian Vessel Types in the Pacific." Contact Mark Montijo, San Diego Maritime Museum, 1306 Harbor Drive, San Diego, CA 92101 for further details.

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR ETHNOHISTORY

The annual meeting of the American Society for Ethnohistory will be held at the Radisson Metrodome, Minneapolis MN, on November 12-15. Probably more in line with FEEGI interests than any other organization, ASE deals with the entire range of ethnohistorical phenomena, including pre-1500 and post 1823 periods. Submission of abstract by June 12 must be accompanied by a \$50 registration fee. Contact Jean O'Brien-Kehoe, Dept. of History, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455, for further information. Limited travel funds are available for students.

VASCO DA GAMA LECTURE SERIES

Two lectures were scheduled for this spring dealing with early Portuguese expansion and sponsored by the John Carter Brown Library. Both are to be held at 12:45 pm in Room 9, Sharpe Refectory, at Brown University. David Kowal (College of Charleston) spoke on March 4 on "Building for the Faith: The Evolution of Ecclesiastical Architecture in the Portuguese Indies." On May 6, FEEGI's Carla Rahn Phillips will speak on "Portuguese Ships in the Age of Discovery." Both lectures are preceded by an optional luncheon (\$5.00) at noon in the same location ...

PRIZE ESSAY CONTEST

The Society for the History of Discoveries announces its 10th annual \$500 prize essay contest for pre-doctoral students. Essays should be unpublished, original, in English, and no more than 6,000 words on typed double-spaced pages. Essay should be postmarked on or before May 1 and sent to Professor Carol Uness, SHD Prize Essay Contest, James Ford Bell Library, University of Minnesota, 309 - 19th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN

55455. The winner will be invited to present the paper at the the SHD meeting in Vancouver, November 5-7, and be considered for publication in Terrae Incognitae.

SOUTHEAST ASIA AND PORTUGAL

In June, the Universidade da Beira Interior was the venue for the workshop, which was convened by Jose Carlos Venancio and Mieke Schouten. Financial support was provided by the International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS), the Commao Nacional para a ComemoraCao dos Descobrimentos, the Fundaqao Oriente, the Instituto Carnes, the Municipality of Covilha, and the Caixa Geral de Depositos. The core were invited participants from various countries who either gave a paper or acted as discussant, but all sessions were open to a larger audience. The alternate use of Portuguese and English turned out to be no problem at all, partly due to the excellent simultaneous interpretations. All of the four focused sessions (devoted to respectively history, culture, economy, and politics) were plenary and this gives one very viable explanation for the lively character of the debates. The papers were of a high standard,

many being distinguished by the originality of their data and research, at the same time reflecting a familiarity with current issues and paradigms in the social sciences.

Southeast Asia was envisaged as a zone in its own right - and little room was left for Eurocentrism, or rather, in this case, Lusocentrism. This became obvious right in the first panel, on history, in which the paper-givers had used a 'double entrance': both Western and Asian sources and perspectives. As Ana Marques Guedes noted: the researcher of the history of the Portuguese in Asia needs a solid geographical, historical, and linguistic knowledge of the areas where the encounters of cultures took place. She had put these principles into practice in her research on the Portuguese in Burma - a virtually untouched topic, at least in Europe. Jorge Santos Alves adopted this same approach in his study of Macao in the early nineteenth century. It was also pointed out that Macao at the time acted quite autonomously and was simply an Asian state among other Asian states. In the panel about culture this idea was also taken up by Teotonio de Souza, when he argued that the Portuguese traders had to adapt themselves to the Southeast Asian political

cultures, in particular the principle of *mandala*, or circles of kings, The Portuguese, or rather the Luso-Asians, also created their own *negara* (statecentres) with networks, and thus pursued their own 'galactic policy'.

The tendency to replace the form of 'Orientalism' criticized by Edward Said by what discussant Rui Loureiro styled 'true Orientalism' - allowing for the Eastern perspective was manifest in all panels. In the panel on economy some contributions focused on the effects of the rapid economic changes on societies and ideologies in Southeast Asia. As Helmut Buchloit demonstrated very clearly, categories such as 'West' and 'East' and 'First World' and 'Third World' are losing - or have already lost - their significance. The function of space had changed; new boundaries are emerging, and old ones are erased. These same statements were worked out by Wil Lundstrom in her account of Malaysian society, especially in her research among female employees of an electronics company. Gender distinctions are changing, and modernization is not necessarily 'westernization', but may as well be expressed, as is the case with many Malay women, in the use of the veil.

These and other phenomena reveal the growing selfawareness of the people of Southeast Asia. It was impossible in this panel to ignore the debate on the 'Asian values' and their ideological functions.

That Westerners dealing (economically) with Asians should try to understand and adapt to their world was a viewpoint not unconditionally endorsed by Américo Magalhaes, director of a Portuguese company recently established in China. His lecture about his company's considerations and experiences was informative and original, -here was a practical man in the midst of a throng of academics. These different professional backgrounds also accounted for divergences of opinion, which emerged even more clearly in the ensuing debate. In this panel on economics, the scene had been set by Felisberto Marques Reigado who - using statistical data - provided an overall view of the recent trends in the economy of several Southeast Asian countries. Carlos Monjardino recounted first-hand his experiences in Macao, and pointed out, using some examples, recent changes in the economy of that territory.

In the panel about 'politics', António Graga de Abreu gave a

well-informed paper regarding recent developments in China and the imminent administrative changes in Hong Kong and Macao. It was stressed that the role of Macao in Asia is usually overestimated by Portuguese in Europe, obsessed as they are with their past 'empire', Armando Marques Guedes criticized that recent and current cultural diplomacy of Portugal in Southeast Asia precisely for its emphasizing in its activities the past of discoveries and navigation, seemingly without questioning whether this is the best way of defending Portuguese interests in those countries in modern times, or whether this is what those countries are most eager for.

Of course a highly important political issue these days is the question of East Timor. The workshop in fact started and ended with discourses related to this issue, both delivered by Antonio Barbedo Magalhaes. In the opening session the audience was informed about recent developments in this region, and in the panel on politics an overview was given of the political history of Indonesia, including an assessment of the result of the elections, then held just one week before. A period in Timor's history much further away had been addressed by

Arend de Roever in the panel about 'history'. He showed how a couple of factors, some of which have been neglected up to now, such as the singular geographic features, in his view led to the partition of the island of Timor between the Dutch and the Portuguese.

It is not only in Macao and East Timor that the Portuguese presence in Southeast Asia had continued until the twentieth century as was shown by Betty Litamahupuffy in the case of language. She pointed to the abundance of words and other features of Portuguese stock in Indonesian languages, both in Indonesian and in several regional varieties of Malay. 'Language' and Literature' - in Macao these are very much associated with Henrique de Senna Fernandes, considered Macao's greatest literary artist. His books, written in Portuguese and usually addressing a theme of Macao, include *Amor a dedinhos de pi* ('Love and Little Toes'); the film based on this novel

situated in Macao at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century was screened on Thursday evening. Before and after that, the writer responded to questions about his work and especially about matters of identity. As he stated; 'I am a Portuguese of the East, but I am a Portuguese', at the same time asserting that his world is Macao. Senna Fernandes's improvised and witty talk was one of the high points of the conference. Discussions and conversations continued between and after the sessions, and some participants even outlined ideas for common future projects. The proceeding of the conference will be published, hopefully still in 1997.

EDITORIAL FAREWELL

As part of a larger plan of on-campus academic retirement (though not from field classes or research), I regretfully must step down as editor of the

FEEGI Newsletter. I have enjoyed my term immensely and appreciate all the encouragement, support, and contributions from you which have made the newsletter successful. Particular thanks should be expressed to Tom Cohen, Carla Phillips, and George Winius. The reorganization of the Board should help greatly in overcoming operational difficulties of the past. The success of a fledgling organization depends on its balance, wide appeal, and diversity (geographical and disciplinary). FEEGI has gone a long way toward achieving these goals. I wish the organization and its individual members success in their endeavors. I plan to continue to frequently contribute news items and help my successor in any way possible. Thank you for the pleasant and stimulating opportunity of working with and for you.

Bob Hoover