



# THE FORUM ON *European Expansion and Global Interaction*

## **From the former President:**

We had a truly splendid meeting at St. Augustine. Many of the papers dealt with interaction around the world, so that we really lived up to our full name and went far beyond focusing purely on world interaction with European venturers. It was a tremendously lively and productive couple of days in which the sessions built on each other. Jane Landers and Jim Williams are to be congratulated for putting together such a great program—we all owe them a vote of thanks.

In St. Augustine, we elected new officers:

President: Jane Landers

Vice President: Peter Mancall

Secretary/Treasurer: Marcus Vink

Editor: Gregg Roeber

The nominating committee consists of Alison Games, chair, Steven Hackel, and David Buisseret.

On the executive board, this year marks the end of terms

of Carla Phillips, Michael Adas, and John Adams. Jim Williams and Stuart Schwartz continue until 2002. I continue on the board as past president and Jane will appoint two new members, one of whom will be our graduate student representative.

Karen Ordahl Kupperman.

## **From the Treasurer:**

As of the meeting in St. Augustine we have over 180 members and prior to the sessions around \$2000.00 in the treasury but not enough to invest in a fund as yet. It seems especially worthwhile to have some funds available to enable graduate students and beginning-level academics to be able to come to the meetings and present the results of research. In this regard, the standing invitation to return to the Huntington for the next semi-annual meeting is very attractive since this would cost the organization very little and enable us to use our limited resources wisely.

Carla Rahn Phillips

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: 2000-2002:**

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**Book Series for  
FEEGI:**

A formal contract has now been  
signed between Berghahn Books,  
New York and FEEGI which will  
seek to publish outstanding  
manuscripts, either in English, or  
in non-English languages which  
merit translation, especially in the  
case of younger scholars, and  
whose topic matter fits well with  
FEEGI-related themes. The Editor  
(Gregg Roeber) will act as they  
conduit for manuscript ideas or  
proposals, and in conjunction with  
the other members of the  
executive committee, will then  
pursue the possibility of  
publication with Berahahn. Both  
the immediate past president,  
Karen Kupperman, and Pieter  
Emmer, from Leiden representing  
the European society of which  
FEEGI is the counterpart (IGEER)  
and its journal *Itinerario*,  
co-signed the contract and will  
work with the Editor as a  
screening subcommittee for  
manuscript

acquisition. Any member of  
FEEGI, however, is encouraged to  
suggest ideas for the series. The  
Editor proposed to the executive  
committee that the modest  
acquisition fee Berghahn will pay  
for successfully soliciting  
manuscripts for the series should  
be deposited in the general FEEGI  
treasury fund against expenses for  
the semi-annual meetings to be  
disposed of at the discretion of the  
executive committee. The  
committee agreed to the suggestion  
at the February meeting of the  
committee in St. Augustine.  
Members are encouraged to  
browse the website for Berghahn  
Books for a description of  
Volumes I and II in the *European  
Expansion & Global Interaction*  
series: Edward G. Gray and  
Norman Fiering, eds., *The  
Language Encounter in the  
Americas, 1492-18110*, and Paolo  
Bernardini and Norman Fiering,  
eds., *The Jews and the Expansion  
of Europe to the West, 1400-1800*.  
The website is at: [http://www.  
Berghahnbooks.com/](http://www.Berghahnbooks.com/).

**Synopses of  
Sessions Papers,  
Bi-Annual  
Meeting, 2000  
St. Augustine,  
Florida**

*(Editor's Note: The members at  
the annual meeting suggested the  
utility of providing synopses of  
the papers for the newsletter.  
Many submissions did not arrive  
until May and further delay of  
the Newsletter for submissions not  
yet in hand seems unwise. For a  
future edition of the Newsletter,  
others have suggested that it  
would be useful to have a  
membership list published*

*with a brief (two lines) description of primary research interest that might facilitate future sessions and promote work among the membership. If you are interested in such a proposal, please send your name, email address, and a BRIEF synopsis of your- primary research interest to the Editor as soon as possible.)*

#### I. Cities and Trade:

Kayoko Fujita. "Taiwan as a Transit Port of Precious Metals, 1633-1668"

This paper examines the role of the Taiwan factory of the Dutch East India Company (VOC) in intra-Asian trade in the 17<sup>th</sup> century in terms of precious metals flow. The Dutch mercantilists were significant in establishing a network between the two maritime zones, East China Sea and Indian Ocean, through the shipment of Japanese and Chinese precious metals and Bengalese silk since the late 1630s. The staple of the Dutch factory in Japan shifted from silver to gold in the 1660s, and the from gold to copper in the latter half of the 1670s. A comparison with my data based on entries in Dutch account books indicates that the total amount of silver calculated by Oskar Nachod (1897) was underestimated by well over 200,000 kilograms. Some 72 percent of the total amount was exported to the Taiwan factory. Though China was apparently the largest area to absorb silver exported from Japan by Chinese ships, it is essential to distinguish trade patterns of the Chinese

traders from China and Southeast Asia from that of the VOC on Taiwan. Between 1638 and 1649, only 22 percent of silver was re-exported from Taiwan to other factories, and we can estimate that the rest was shipped to the Chinese mainland. From 1650 to 1661, however, the VOC transited substantially 90 percent of the silver as capital for India and Persia.

Bhaswati Bhattacharya. "Competition or Co-operation? The Relationship between European and Indian Merchants in Indian Ports, 1750-1860."

This paper presents a part of a larger research project that studies the structure of commerce, commercial networks and the role of Indian entrepreneurs in the Bay of Bengal region from 1750 to 1850. It argues that indigenous people were active agents in the creation of colonial India. While this concept has formed the basis of studies on merchant communities and towns and agrarian societies in the Indian interior, studies on merchant communities in the port towns have not covered this period of transition and are limited mostly to the period up to 1750, when Indian merchants could still successfully compete with the Europeans on the sea-routes of the Indian Ocean. This paper examines the communities that crowded the European port towns in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Who were the associates of the British in the colonial ports like Calcutta and Madras?

What opportunities could these merchants look forward to? Though the "Age of Partnership" was over, there was no dearth of indigenous merchants who gathered at these ports, and cooperation from various sections of the indigenous population was still indispensable. How were they different from the merchants who worked for various European nations in the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries? What did they think of their European masters? What was their role in the construction of colonial India? The larger paper seeks to address these questions.

#### II. Nature, Science, and Expansion

Iris H. Engstrand "Spanish Naturalists in Cuba and the West Indies, 1785-1800."

Dr. Martin de Sesse, a Spanish physician/botanist serving in Cuba during the American Revolution, began conducting plant research in 1784. He proposed the establishment of a botanical garden in Havana but transferred his plan to Mexico City when his commander, Bernardo de Galvez became Viceroy of New Spain in 1785. In 1795, Sesse returned to Cuba as director of the Royal Scientific Expedition to New Spain, and, with an artist and local botanist, began a survey of flora there and in Puerto Rico. They were joined by scientists serving with a second expedition under the Conde de Mopox y Jaruco sent directly to Cuba from Spain in 1797. The latter expedition, although

primarily concerned with fortifications, cartography, and the building of roads, was directed to study natural history as well. Artist and taxidermist Jose Guio, who had previously accompanied the Malaspina expedition to South America and Mexico, joined the scientific group in Cuba. A significant number of original watercolors of fauna, flora, and general maps exist in the Madrid archives of the Naval Museum, Museum of Natural Science and Royal Botanical Garden, the Hunt Institute of Botanical Documentation at Carnegie-Mellon University. Most are unknown although the Royal Botanical Garden of Madrid's recent publication features a limited selection. My presentation, based on archival sources illustrated about forty of these plates. This aspect of Spanish exploration in Cuba and the West Indies during the late eighteenth century was aimed at historians and scientists alike.

#### 111. Interstitial People and Cultural Brokers

Mark Meuwese. "Crosscultural Sex and Community Building from a Comparative Perspective: Intimate Relations between Dutch Men and Native Women in New York and Ghana, 17<sup>th</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> Centuries."

This paper compared intimate relations between Dutch men and native women at Fort Orange-Beverwijck in New Netherland and at Elmina on the Gold Coast. By comparing interethnic sexual relations in two different geographic areas of the same Dutch Atlantic empire, I

argue that Dutch-native interactions in the Atlantic were more shaped by a combination of imperial policies and local circumstances rather than by a specific Dutch cultural attitude toward indigenous peoples. Both Fort Orange-Beverwijck and Fort Elmina were important centers for cross-cultural trade where the Dutch interacted extensively with neighboring aboriginal societies. Both places initially shared the same frequency of intimate relations and intermarriage between Dutch men and native women. Eventually, however, West India Company promotion of an agricultural colony around Fort Orange led to decline of illicit unions between Dutch men and Mohawk women as Dutch women and the transplantation of Dutch cultural and social institutions increased in numbers and stability. Fort Elmina remained an imperial outpost occupied by young European men. Intimate relations between Dutch men and native women there actually increased. This comparative, Atlantic perspective allows for a more insightful analysis than have traditional approaches that tended to isolate New Netherland from the rest of the Dutch seaborne empire.

#### IV. Imperial Peripheries

Joyce Chaplin. "Arctic Outpost: The English Mining Camp at Kodluarn, 1577-78."

The first English attempt to establish a beachhead in America took place in the Arctic, specifically the northwest American Arctic they called "Meta Incognita,"

between 62 and 63 degrees latitude. From 1576 to 1578, Martin Frobisher made three journeys to Meta Incognita, trying to accomplish three things: find a northwest passage, mine gold, and establish a "hundred-man colony." During 1577 and 1578, at seven different sites, but mostly on Kodluarn Island, Frobisher's men dug out over 1500 tons of what they thought was gold ore; in 1578 they brought men and materials to set up a colony. John Davis then led three Arctic voyages in 1586 and 1587 to seek a northwest passage. These ventures failed in every way. News of these failures spread. King Philip's spies in England sent him specimens of the Arctic ore and a map of Meta Incognita-one spy managed to go along with and stay undercover during the third voyage. Spanish assayers proved the smuggled ore worthless, proving that the English were unlikely to attain the wealth and power of Iberian America. Why did this Arctic outpost matter? It tells us a great deal about English unease over their technical, navigational abilities, and general capacities for learning and power. That unease prompted them to differentiate themselves from the natives of America in two ways. First, the arctic experiment produced the first sustained English suggestion that some peoples inherited their bodily characteristics rather than have them caused by climate-a prefiguration of racial distinctions between English and native peoples. Second, the English began stressing American natives' technological incapacity that

contrasted sharply with earlier, overly-generous assessments of Inuit technology. Now the English argued that native magic had no effect on Christians, the main technological difference the English saw between themselves and natives.

Ignacio Gallup-Diaz. "War, Race, and Indian Politics in the Darien: The Spanish Attempt to Establish an Eastern Panama Frontier, 1739-1751."

The outbreak of the War of Jenkin's Ear in 1739 forced Spanish officials to confront the weakness of their strategic position in eastern Panama. The period of neglect which had followed a destructive Indian uprising there in 1727 now ended. Hard-pressed by the British after 1739, the Spanish were forced to make peace with a cadre of Indian leaders in eastern Panama, men who by the middle of the eighteenth century had acquired a great deal of experience in dealing with European outsiders. The pressures of war set into motion Spanish-Indian interactions, contrary to traditional practices of studying the Spaniards, the European intruders, and the Indians of eastern Panama in isolation from each other. The Spanish had never entirely ceded the region to Indian control, although current historiography argues that the region's Kuna Indians "survived" colonialism by retreating to the mountains of the Darien and avoiding all interactions with the Spanish. Instead, I argue that the Kuna Indians "survived" colonialism not because of their skill in

hiding from the Spanish, but because some of their leaders became intimately involved in defining colonialism emerging on the Darien frontier. The wide experience of Indian leaders in dealing with English, French, and African political agents in the region provided these men with invaluable weapons and strategies which they used to confront the Spanish. The paper framed an Atlantic, rather than a national or parochial focus, opening the inquiry to Indian and African actors who have not appeared in the traditional narratives of the region's history.

#### V. Slave Trade

Donald Wright. "Agents in the King's Pound: An Examination of Authority Around European Outposts on Africa's West Coast During the Atlantic Slave trade and Afterward."

The very first Europeans who arrived along West Africa's sub-Saharan coasts in the 1440s learned a lesson that would serve them well for the next three and one-half centuries: that Africans were in charge of the coast and the lands around European outposts. I use the Gambia River as a laboratory to examine authority around the European outposts, showing the extent to which the English in particular kowtowed to a local African kingdom, Niumi, so it would keep the paths of trade open. I also show how and when authority changed hands between 1815 and 1830 as a result of the industrialization and militarization of Europe, with its emissaries calling for free

trade early in the nineteenth century. I also examine other European outposts along West Africa's Guinea Coast for the sake of comparison with the Gambia River. Africans generally held onto authority around outposts into the nineteenth century, by which time Europeans had the power to take control when it suited their purposes. They did so at different times in that century, depending on local and regional commercial and political conditions.

Ty M. Reese. "Administrating the Salve Trade: The Multifarious Functions of Cape Coast Castle, 1750-1790."

This paper examined the various functions of Cape Coast Castle, under the control of the Company of Merchants Trading to Africa, within the contexts of 18th century European expansion, the slave trade and AngloAfrican coastal relations. The administrative functions of Cape Coast Castle included maintaining the supply of slaves, appeasing the local elite through an elaborate system of presents, *dashees* and jobs, supplying the Company's outposts, facilitating trade between the African slave sellers and European buyers and representing the interests of the English state in West Africa. The paper also examined how European politics affected the Gold Coast; how Europeans used African states and vice versa, in alliance systems designed to hinder the trade of their competitors; and the introduction of European social systems through the

use of wage labor, the creation and support of a local elite and the introduction of European commodities.

#### VI. Archaeology of Cities and Trade

Uzi Baram. "Contributions to a Historical Archaeology of the Ottoman Empire: Artifacts of Trade and Social Change from Palestine." Archaeologists in the Middle East have recently begun to include the material remains from the last several centuries (the period of Ottoman rule in the eastern Mediterranean) in their excavations. Much of the archaeological evidence from the Ottoman period, perhaps not surprisingly, illustrates increasing global interactions over the Ottoman centuries as well as a shift from an eastward orientation to one directed toward the west. The paper sought to connect the archaeological artifacts from Palestine to issues of trade and social change for the Ottoman Empire. Akko (Acre) supplies the main example. The wealth of archaeological remains from ottoman period Akko and the extant Ottoman period cultural landscape allow historical and material exploration of Westernization and other forms of social change for Palestine. The intersection of development schemes by local potentates, imperial domination, political interference by Western Europeans, and the consumption of goods by the people of Palestine was discussed to expand upon the assumptions of diffusionism for the period. This archaeology of the Ottoman Empire seeks a "history from

below" where the lives of the non-elite can be brought to light, in particular the variation among urbanites, rural peoples, and others in the eastern Mediterranean of the modern era.

Eric Klingelhofer. "Lost Colonies: the Search for Raleigh's Outposts."

This paper, illustrated by slides, summarized sir Walter Raleigh's colonizing activities and examined the physical evidence for these ephemeral settlements. It first presented the results of fieldwork on four of Raleigh's Munster Plantation settlements in County Cork, Ireland. In addition to the walled city, five types of rural settlement were observed: the "bawn" (Castle) town/village, the undefended planned town/village, the unplanned hamlet, and the individual farmstead. The Munster types may be useful when considering later English colonies, but the key site is Roanoke, North Carolina. The various stages of Raleigh's "Lost Colony" site, as described in the documents, is not evident in the features excavated there in the 1990s or previously. Consequently, the "Cittie of Raleigh" there cannot be used to understand Jamestown and other early towns. Two Raleigh fortified sites in the Caribbean, however, should help explain the defenses of Roanoke, and therefore the town. Archaeological searches for these sites, on Trinidad and Puerto Rico, are underway and the limited results are promising.

Andrew Edwards.  
"Williamsburg and

Yorktown: Virginia's Second Capital and its Famous Seaport."

In 1699, for various reasons political and physical, the capital of Virginia was moved from Jamestown to the newly created city of Williamsburg. The new capital, designed and executed by Francis Nicholson, supplanted the settlement of Middle Plantation some seven miles east. No period maps of the layout of Middle Plantation exist, but archaeological evidence gathered from intensive excavations at various sites over the last 15 years by The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, and the reassessment of previous finds has added to our knowledge of how the community was physically structured, and how it became important enough to succeed Jamestown. Rich Neck, the 17<sup>th</sup>-century home of two Secretaries of the Colony, Richard Kemp and Philip Ludwell has been under excavation for several years. A substantial brick house, erected by Kemp around 1644, when most Virginians outside Jamestown were living in wooden houses, suggests an attitude of permanency surrounding Middle Plantation, as does a large brick Jacobean house built by Thomas page in 1662 and Bruton Parish church, built in 1683. Williamsburg's success as the new capital depended in part on the establishment of nearby Yorktown earlier in the same decade. Yorktown served as Williamsburg's deep seaport well into the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The physical dichotomy of the

upper and lower sections of the town reflected the wealthy landowners and merchant dominance in the upper town; transient seamen, laborers and tavern-keepers populated the lower waterfront. As the significance of Williamsburg waned when the capital moved to Richmond in 1781, so did the importance of Yorktown whose waterfront was not rebuilt after a devastating fire completely destroyed it in 1814. Creating an official capitol building brought into being the baroque order of Williamsburg.

The establishment of Yorktown, Norfolk, and Hampton as seaports sought to nucleate resources into centers of trade and commerce rather than continue the dispersed plantation network formerly popular in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The archaeological and historical exploration of both towns will continue through the co-sponsorship of The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and the National Park Service.

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