



THE FORUM ON *European Expansion and Global Interaction*

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE:

I hope that the New Year will be a good one for all. I enjoyed seeing so many of our members at the recent meeting of the American Historical Association in Boston and was especially pleased to see the big turnout (approximately sixty people) for the roundtable session Carla Pestana organized, and which FEEGI co-sponsored, on "Europe's Crisis of the Seventeenth Century in the Wider Atlantic World."

I am happy to report that FEEGI is flourishing. Our Secretary-Treasurer Markus Vink, reports that finances are sound and that we now number 229 members. Most of the new members joined at the last biennial meeting held at St. Augustine, Florida in February, 2000. The St. Augustine program featured scholars working on several Africa locales, India, China, Taiwan, and Japan, in addition to Europe and the Americas. FEEGI is broadening its programmatic horizons in interesting ways. The St. Augustine program crossed disciplinary boundaries to include papers by archaeologists working on sites as diverse as Roanoke, Williamsburg, La Isabela (Hispaniola), San Luis de Talimali (Tallahassee, Florida), and Palestine. A

number of panelists also featured art, iconography, and cartography in their presentations and the audience was treated to a fascinating array of visuals.

We are honored that Roy Ritchie has invited us back to the Huntington Library in San Marino for our 2002 meeting. A call for papers appears in this Newsletter and will also be posted electronically. We hope that many of you will send us proposals.

FEEGI is proud of its ongoing collaboration with Berghahn Books. The general editors of the series on European Expansion and Global Interaction are Pieter Emmer, Institute for the History of European Expansion, Leiden University, karen Ordahl Kupperman, New York University, and A. G. Roeber, Penn State University. The series published two new volumes in 2000: The Language Encounter in the Americas, 1492-1800, edited by Edward G. Gray and Norman Fiering, and The Jews and the Expansion of Europe to the West 1400-1800, edited by Paolo Bernardini and Norman Fiering. Other volumes are forthcoming. Watch for them on the website at www.berghahnbooks.com.

In closing, I would like to ask you to help us spread the word about FEEGI's collaborative and interdisciplinary project and to encourage others to become members. I have found this forum brings together a stimulating group of scholars engaged in fascinating and diverse areas of research. Interaction with them has truly enriched my own work, which is what one hopes for in a scholarly association. Best wishes for 2001, and we hope to see many of you in San Marino in February of 2002.

Jane Landers, President.

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(Editor's Note: the call for a membership list to be published with a brief (two line) description of primary research interest was made in the last issue of the Newsletter. The response was meager, but the idea has considerable merit in helping to facilitate future sessions of the organization. This is now a second solicitation to the membership, asking that you send such a brief indication of your research with your name, e-mail address, and institutional affiliation (if this applies) to the Editor before March, 2001 for inclusion in the Spring, 2001 edition.)

**FEEGI Session at the
AHA Annual Meeting
in Boston, 2001:**

Since 2001 is an "off year" for
FEEGI, we sponsor a

session at the AHA meeting. This year, our session was the one scheduled for Saturday, 06 January at 2:30 P.M. (See Session #92 on page 142 of the annual program: "Roundtable: Europe's Crisis of the Seventeenth Century in the Wider Atlantic World," chaired by Robert S. DuPlessis, with a panel consisting of Philip P. Boucher, Wim Klooster, Carla Pestana, and Carla Phillips). We encourage everyone attending the annual AHA meetings to make an effort to hear the papers and commentary at the FEEGI-sponsored session.

FEEGI BI-ANNUAL MEETING, FEBRUARY 2002: CALL FOR PAPERS:

The members of the executive committee attending the Boston AHA held a short meeting to discuss plans for the upcoming return to the Huntington Library in San Marion, California for the Bi-annual Meeting of FEEGI. The Meeting will be on 15-16 February 2002 (Friday and Saturday). The Theme of the 2002 Meeting will be "Global Interaction" and individual proposals on any theme during the early modern period, broadly defined, will be considered. Abstracts of a paper proposal are solicited as attachments via e-mail to Professor Peter Mancall, Department of History, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045 (Pmancall@uKans.edu) by 20 March 2001. Please confine the proposals to 250 words, and submit an abbreviated c.v. of no more

than one page. Those who prefer a hard-copy submission must provide six (6) copies of the 250 word abstract and the one page c.v.

Report on the Summer NEH Session at the Folger Library:

(Editor's Note: Past president Karen Kupperman prepared the following report of her activities at the Folger Library in Washington during this past summer.)

NEH Summer Institute
Texts of Imagination and
Empire: The Founding of
Jamestown in Its Atlantic
Context

FEEGI past president Karen Ordahl Kupperman directed an NEH Summer Institute on "Texts of Imagination and Empire: The Founding of Jamestown in Its Atlantic Context" at the Folger Library in Washington, D. C. in June and July, 2000. The Folger, with its incomparable holdings in the literature of the period, is an ideal place to hold such a seminar. The sixteen participants, about equally split between people whose principal training was in history or in literature and with one archaeologist, brought a rich variety of expertise to the discussion of the primary texts on which the institute focused.

The plan of the institute aimed to place Jamestown, whose founding is often seen as a singular event---the founding of the United States---within the larger pattern of events and interests throughout the

Atlantic that were not only contemporaneous, but that also informed and influenced the course of the Virginia colony. Each week the institute read and discussed key documents with two or three visiting faculty. Historians, including FEEGI president Jane Landers, led discussions on the motivations of various European nations as they participated in Atlantic currents, on American Indians who confronted and responded to transatlantic presences, or on the incorporation of Africans into transatlantic movements. Visiting faculty in literature illuminated the ways in which new insights from around the Atlantic were interpreted and brought into literature, and also the expansion of the category to include various kinds of travel writing and ethnographic reports.

The institute included a field trip to Jamestown with the support of the College and William and Mary. There we were introduced to the excavation of the original fort site by the team working under Bill Kelso sponsored by the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, as well as to the various plans under way by the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, the National Park Service, and Colonial Williamsburg for the presentation of Jamestown to the public as the 400th anniversary approaches. Thus in addition to our own scholarly debates, the institute's discussions also centered on how to interpret Jamestown and its Atlantic context to the larger public.

In keeping with the goal of presenting the fruits of our own analysis more broadly, the institute's members are creating a website in which each participant is writing an essay on one aspect of Jamestown's experience with links to primary sources, other webbased sources, and primary materials in the Folger's own holdings. This website will also contain the institute bibliography and the weekly plan. It can be reached by following the links at www.foenedu/institute.

Introduction to the York University/UNESCO Nigerian Hinterland Project:

The Nigerian Hinterland Project affiliated with the UNESCO Slave Route Project focuses on the development of the African diaspora stemming from the "Nigerian" hinterland during the era of the slave trade from approximately 1650-1900. The region under investigation includes the interior of the Bights of Benin and Biafra, from where approximately 40 per cent of all slaves who went to the Americas trace their origins. In addition slaves from this region were sent to various parts OF the Islamic world. The project concentrates on the effects of this population displacement on historical developments both in Africa itself and in the African diaspora. The region identified here as the "Nigerian" hinterland today comprises modern Nigeria, the Rpublique du Benin and, to a lesser extent,

neighboring countries (Togo, Ghana, Niger and Cameroon). The project is under the directorship of Professor Paul E. Lovejoy.

The program of research is collaborative in nature, involving a network of scholars and institutions. The project explores the historical impact of Africa on world history as reflected in the development of the African diaspora and the extent to which enslaved Africans and their descendants in the Americas and elsewhere contributed to the making of an "Atlantic world".

Areas of Research:

Archival Inventory and Preservation of Primary Sources
Biographical Database of Enslaved Africans
Historical Atlas of Slavery
The Ports of the Nigerian Hinterland
The Muslim Diaspora in the Era of the Slave Route
Ethnic Identity in the Diaspora and the Nigerian Hinterland
Linkages between the Diaspora and the Nigerian Hinterland

This project is financed by a five-year grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada under its Major Collaborative Research Initiative (MCRI) program.

The Nigerian Hinterland Project is located at: Room 113 Vanier College, York University 4700 Keele Street, Toronto, Ontario
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<http://www.yorku.ca/nhp>

Forthcoming Conferences:

The Nigerian Hinterland Project helps to foster collaborative research on this area of historical inquiry through the organization of major international conferences bringing scholars and graduate students together. **FIGHTING BACK: African Strategies Against the Slave Trade: An International Conference at Livingstone Campus, Rutgers University, New Jersey, February 16-17, 2001:**

The Rutgers Department of History and Center for African Studies in collaboration with the UNESCO/SSHRCC Nigerian Hinterland Project of York University, Canada, are sponsoring an international conference, Fighting Back African Strategies Against the Slave Trade. This conference is unique in its topic and scope, and constitutes the first scholarly attempt to consolidate scattered information about the various dimensions of African people's resistance to the slave trade. Scholars will present research that will open up new directions for studies in African history, as well as the history of the Atlantic World, African-American history and the history of the African Diaspora. It will challenge widely-held myths of African passivity and complicity in the slave trade by using

history, literature, oral tradition, psychology, the arts, traditional cultural forms and political science to show that resistance to enslavement and involvement in the slave

trade was much more pervasive than acknowledged by the orthodox interpretation of historical literature. While most studies of the slave trade focus on the volume of captives and on their ethnic origins, few concentrate on the strategies Africans used to protect

themselves and their communities. Moreover, most scholarly references to this crucial topic are dispersed among a variety of specialist studies, where they are often treated as marginal to the broader theme of the slave trade. However, no picture of the slave trade, across the Atlantic, the Sahara, or the Indian Ocean, or indeed within Africa itself, can be complete without a systematic study of the ways in which men and women responded to the threat and reality of enslavement. Individuals, families, communities, and states used a variety of strategies. They included, but were not limited to: the defensive planning of settlements, architectural design, the establishment of refugee villages, and the relocation of villages. Others involved the redemption of captives, the use of occult protection, religious interdiction against sale, attacks on slaving forts and entrepôts, and revolts by captives.

The papers presented at the conference will cover a wide area of Western and Central Africa from the 16th to the 20th centuries. As a group, they will offer an unusually

comprehensive and historically accurate narrative of a critical chapter in the global story of the slave trade.

Past Conferences:

Most recently the Nigerian Hinterland Project collaborated with the Department of History at York University in the organization of:

Enslaving Connections: Africa and Brazil During the Era of the Slave Trade, October 12-15th, 2000

This conference brought together most of the leading international authorities on the cultural, demographic, economic, linguistic, political, and religious connections between Brazil and Africa during the era of the trans-Atlantic slave trade. As is well known among specialists, Brazil received more enslaved Africans than any other part of the Americas—ten times as many as North America, and more than all of the Caribbean and North America combined. A great majority of these enslaved Africans came from Angola and other parts of west-central Africa, including Kimbundu, Kikongo and Umbundu speakers, even though many of the enslaved also came from the far interior beyond the locations of the Mbundu, Kongo and Ovimbundu. Another large segment of the deported African population came from the Bight of Benin (the "Slave Coast"), and included, especially Gbe and Yoruba speakers, but also a sizeable Muslim population. The

conference addressed the major themes emerging from these connections: the South Atlantic slave trade, the making of African identities within and outside of Africa, the transmission of African cultures to Brazil, ethnicity and resistance in Brazil under slavery, from African to Creoles in Brazil until the late nineteenth century, the Brazilian impact upon western and southeastern Africa, and comparative perspectives on enslaved Africans in Brazil, Spanish America, and the Caribbean. Over 35 leading experts and advanced graduate students from Canada, the United States, Brazil, Europe, Africa, Central America, and the Caribbean presented their most recent research on these themes. The conference was capped off by a graduate students workshop in which the reconstruction of Africa-American-Africa interconnections during slavery was discussed from the perspective of their research agendas.

(Editor's Note: The following is brought to the membership's attention courtesy of Norman Fiering, Director and Librarian at the John Carter Brown Library; Professor Fiering asks if it might not make sense to have a combined conference of FFCHEE, FEEGI, and our Leiden colleagues at the Institute for the History of European Expansion.)

The Federation/Foundation of Comparative History of European Expansion

Founded in 1998, FFCHEE is affiliated with the University of Bamberg, Germany. At

present there are approximately 100 members in Germany, Switzerland, and Austria. Conferences have been held at Heidelberg (1992), Hamburg (1992), Munich (1994), Zuerich (1996), Muenster (1997), and Bochum (1998). Membership is open to anyone interested in interdisciplinary approaches to non-European history and European expansion. Conferences and publications have been in German, but applicants and participants can count on meeting current members who are fluent in both European and Oriental languages. Correspondence and applications for membership should be directed to:

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Current membership rate
is DM 24 for students,
DM 84 for all others.

**FEEGI PAST-PRESIDENT
WINS FIRST ATLANTIC
HISTORY PRIZE:**

Professor Karen Ordahl
Kupperman of New York
University's Department of
History has been named the first
recipient of the AHA Prize in
Atlantic History for

her most recent work, Indians and
English: Facing Off in Early
America (Ithaca, N.Y.: 'Cornell
University Press, 2000) . On behalf
of all the members of FEEGI we
want to extend warmest
congratulations to Karen for an
accomplishment that not only
reflects her own superb
scholarship, but which also testifies
to the importance of the approaches
to scholarship FEEGI was founded
to foster and

promote.

**FEEGI
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AND
NEWSLETTER
INFORMATION:**

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*(Editor's Note: Our membership
has grown now to approximately
230 members. Since most of the
monies in the treasury go to support
graduate students, independent
scholars, and academics who have
little or no chance of obtaining
funding to present their work at our
co-sponsored or biannual meetings,
all members are urged to be sure
that they have paid their current
dues in a timely fashion).*

