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 Tájimáli (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.


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.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: 2000-2002:

1. Officers:

Jane Landers, President
Department of History
Vanderbilt University
Nashville, TN

ctrvax.vanderbilt.edu

Peter C. Maneall, Vice-President
Department of History
Kansas Lawrence, KS
66045
A. G. Roeber, Editor
Department of History
Penn State University
108 Weaver Building
University Park, PA 16802
5500
Agr2@psu.edu

Markus Vink, Secretary
Treasurer
Department of History
SUNY, College of Fredonia
Fredonia, NY 14063-1198
Vink@fredonia.edu

Karen Kupperman,
Immediate Past President
Department of History
New York University
53 Washington Sq. S.
New York, NY 10012
Karen.kupperman
@nyu.edu

Department of History University of Southern Maine 37 College Avenue Gorham, Maine 04038
Klooster@usm.maine.edu

Graduate Student Representative:
Rebecca Shumway Manelski
Department of History Emory University Atlanta, GA 30322
Rshumwa@emory.edu

3. Members Ex-Officio:

Pieter Emmer (representing the journal Itinerario) Institute for the History of European Expansion
University of Leiden
Netherlands Van Beuningelaan 32 Leiden
NL-2334 CC
Netherlands
Emmer(a)ullet.leidenuniversity.nl

Norman Fiering (representing the John Carter Brown Library) John Carter Brown Library 116
University Avenue Providence, RI 02906
Norman fiering@brown.edu

2. Members-at-large:

Department of History Yale University New Haven, CT
065208324
Stuart.schwartz@yale.edu

James H. Williams (1998-2002)
Department of History
Middle Tennessee State University

Murfreesboro, TN 37132

4. Nominating Committee:

Alison Games, Chair
Department of History
Georgetown University
Washington, D.C. 20035
1035
Gamesaf@gusua.georgetown.edu

David Buisseret
Department of History
University of Texas Arlington
UTA Box 19529
Arlington, TX 76019-0529
Buisser@utarlg.uta.edu

Steven Hackel
Department of History
Oregon State University
306 Milam Hall
Corvallis, OR 97331
hackle@orst.edu

(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@ku.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.foen.edu/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 République 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".

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.foen.edu/institute.

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 Phone: (416) 736-2100 ext. 30322, Fax: (416) 650-8173

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:
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 Mbandu, 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), Munster (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:

**Foerderverein Forschungssstiftung fuer vergleichende europaeische Ueberseegeschichte e.V.**
c/o Lehrstuhl fuer Neuere Geschichte Universitaet Bamberg 96045 Bamberg Germany
Fax: 49-951-863-2358
http: [www.unibamberg.de/~ba5ne3/](http://www.unibamberg.de/~ba5ne3/)
email: thomas.beck@gegeo.unibamberg.de

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

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 MEMBERSHIP AND NEWSLETTER INFORMATION:**

PLEASE CONTACT: FEEGI SECRETARY/TREASURER
MARKUS VINK DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY S.U.N.Y., COLLEGE OF FREDONIA FREDONIA, NY 14063-11

(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).

**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