

**Winner of the 2015 Graduate Prize
Catherine L. Chou (Stanford), “Henry Howard and the Popish
Parliament”**

After reviewing excellent papers covering Early-Modern and Modern, domestic and overseas topics, the committee would like to honor Catherine L. Chou, a PhD candidate at Stanford University studying with David Como, for her paper entitled: “Henry Howard and the Popish Parliament.” Ms. Chou is currently completing her dissertation with the assistance of a Five College Fellowship in history at Amherst College.

This is a well-researched and -written consideration of a mystery, or at least a speculation: "the purported plot to have Pope Gregory XIII call together an assembly of English Catholic noblemen and grant them the power to select one of their own as King." Such later-Tudor intrigue possibly involved Catholics in Spain, Tuscany, France and Italy, as folks there and elsewhere plotted regarding the Elizabethan succession. The paper successfully and convincingly marries primary and secondary sources, evaluated and discussed with originality and verve. It explores the grey areas between and among Protestant and Catholic ideas about the monarchy and succession.