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The Newsletter of the Pacific Coast
Conference on British Studies

<http://www.pccbs.org>

Message from PCCBS President David Lieberman

The remarkable intellectual vitality and scholarly richness of PCCBS was abundantly on display at last spring's meeting at U.C. Irvine. In a manner we come almost to take for granted, the annual meeting provided an intellectual feast of papers and commentaries from senior and emerging scholars. The program featured thirteen panels; thirty-nine original papers; and two superb plenary lectures, each of which mixed erudition with wit and insight. Former PCCBS President, David Cressy (Ohio State University) illuminated, "Early Modern Space Travel: England's Lunar Moment and the Caroline Man in the Moon"; and Dane Kennedy (George Washington University) explicated "Diagnosing the Colonial Dilemma: Tropical Neurasthenia and the Alienated Briton."

Drawing on the momentum of our recent successes, PCCBS now moves forward with an appropriately ambitious program of future meetings. On March 30-April 1, 2007, we assemble at the University of Puget Sound (Tacoma, WA), for our first-ever meeting in the beautiful Pacific Northwest. This, in fact, will be the first of any British Studies conferences held in the region in over four years, since the 2003 disbanding of the Northwest Conference on British Studies (NWCBS). Our own meetings for many years past have been regularly enriched by the participation of scholars based in the U.S. and Canadian Northwest, and we look forward to strengthening these ties this coming spring. We are in for a treat! The University of Puget

Sound is already proving a generous institutional host, and David F. Smith has already logged many productive hours as chair of local arrangements. Additional details of the meeting and program committee appear below in the **Call for Papers**.

Next, on November 9-11, 2007, we reassemble in San Francisco, where PCCBS will act as the regional host of the big NACBS annual meeting. And on March 28-30, 2008, we return to southern California for our spring meeting, at The Huntington Library in San Marino, CA.

The geographic range displayed in this schedule of future meetings is eclipsed by the new officers selected by the Conference last spring. Peter Hoffenberg maintains the Treasury from his base at the University of Hawaii (how more Pacific Coast can you be?), while Michelle Tusan serves as Secretary from her base at UNLV (thus confirming a central insight of cultural geography – who is to say Las Vegas is not part of the "Pacific Coast"?). Reassuringly, Constance Jordan, of Claremont Graduate University, is our new Vice-President and statutory southern Californian.

None of this activity and accomplishment occurs without the energy and generosity of many members of the PCCBS community. The best part of serving as president is being able to publicize - and give heartfelt thanks for - many of these important contributions. Conference

President's Message cont'd

arrangements and assorted headaches at U.C. Irvine were handled by Doug Haynes and Lamar Hill. The conference program was directed by committee co-chairs Sears McGee and George Behlmer, assisted by committee members Jennifer Andersen, Doug Haynes David Lieberman, and Robert Woods. Barbara Shapiro chaired the book prize committee; and Cyndia Clegg chaired the graduate student prize committee. Julie Taddeo completed her term as treasurer just before beginning her appointment to the University of Maryland's history faculty. Molly McClain, to the great benefit of us all, both fulfilled and enlarged the responsibilities of the secretary's office, including the migration and expansion of the PCCBS web site. I cannot mention our gorgeous new web site without also recognizing the sterling labors of John Stoner and Kathleen Noonan, who calmly launched and maintained our original web site while the rest of us were still struggling to learn email.

Finally, a special word of gratitude to Bob Woods on the completion of his presidency. Bob's contributions to PCCBS, of course, extend well beyond this particular term of office. Indeed, I'm embarrassed to think of how often I have imposed on his guidance since he stepped down. Still, it bears repeating – even if it comes at absolutely no surprise – that PCCBS simply flourished under his generous leadership and judgment.

In the meantime, PCCBS accumulates new debts as we prepare for the busy and exciting sequence of conferences over the next couple of years. Next stop, Puget Sound!

David Lieberman

Pacific Coast Conference on British Studies – University of Puget Sound – March 30-April 1, 2007

Call for Papers

The Pacific Coast Conference on British Studies (PCCBS) invites proposals for individual panels for its thirty-fourth annual meeting to be held at the University of Puget Sound from Friday, March 30 through Sunday, April 1, 2007. The University of Puget Sound is located in Tacoma, WA, in the beautiful Pacific Northwest, and is easily reached from the Seattle-Tacoma Airport.

The members of the program committee are: Randall McGowen (University of Oregon), chair; George Behlmer (University of Washington); Cynthia Herrup (University of Southern California); Rebecca Lemon (University of Southern California); David Lieberman (University of California-Berkeley). Scholars and doctoral candidates in every field of British Studies (broadly understood as the study of Britain, its component parts, and its empire) across the arts, humanities and social sciences are invited to submit proposals of two double-spaced typed pages, accompanied by a brief vita, as an e-mail attachment, to David Lieberman (dlieb@law.berkeley.edu).

Proposals for individual papers, partial panels, or complete panels are welcome; complete panel proposals are preferred. Additional information as it becomes available will be posted on the PCCBS website (<http://www.pccbs.org/>). The deadline for submission is December 18, 2006.



2006 Prize Competition

Victoria Kahn wins second biennial PCCBS Book Prize

The second biennial PCCBS Book Prize was awarded to Professor Victoria Kahn of U.C. Berkeley at the 2007 annual meeting. The prize committee – comprising Barbara Shapiro (chair), Constance Jordan, and Jeffrey Auerbach – presented the following citation in making the award.

Victoria Kahn's prize-winning *Wayward Contracts: The Crisis of Political Obligation in England 1640-1674* (Princeton University Press, 2004) gives us a new and richer conception of what constitutes the political contract by analyzing its pre-modern development in the decades before John Locke's *Treatises on Government*. Arguing that earlier seventeenth-century discourses of contract engage twinned but also antagonistic ideas: on the one hand, the covenant, predicated on the exercise of the human conscience, and on the other, the contract, grounded in the presumption of valid self-interest, Kahn illustrates the creation of a new and chiefly secular political subject. Neither wholly bound by the strictures of natural law nor fully energized by personal ambition, Kahn's subject is situated at the confluence of the ancient traditions of the church and the feudal order, and the emerging systems of private ownership and market economies. This subject does not blink at recognizing how essential a part passion plays in creating relations between persons and political entities; he or she does not shy away from recognizing the basis of a contract in the feeling words of a promise, a commitment, an agreement to serve or preserve. With Hobbes's *Leviathan* and Milton's *Paradise Lost* as evidence, Kahn characterizes this subject a "man of feeling." His society, no longer organized by customary norms and practices validated by time-honored experience,

produces and is in turn produced by linguistic events that make use of the imagination as a constructive faculty of mind. He is distinctly different from the Lockean subject of modern liberal theory, a subject that Kahn terms "thin," attenuated by a kind of hyper-rationalism. The subject of *Wayward Contracts* is rather "thick" – made rich and fat and weighty by all kinds of defining personal connections and commitments to his human community. Kahn concludes by answering the disdain with which today's liberals (or so-called liberals) are so often greeted. In a salutary move, Kahn asks for a restoration of the possibilities open to the historically justified pre-modern liberal subject – possibilities that address the well-being not only of the individual but also the community at large.

2007 Prize Competitions

PCCBS Graduate Prize

The annual prize for the best conference paper presented during the 2006 calendar year by a graduate student member of the Pacific Coast Conference on British Studies will be awarded at the Spring 2007 meeting at the University of Puget Sound (March 30-April 1). The winner will receive a monetary prize and be recognized at the annual meeting.

Submissions should be made by the graduate student who presented the paper. Both the student and major professor must be members of the PCCBS. The submitted entry may have been presented at the 2006 PCCBS meeting at U.C. Irvine or (in the case of a graduate student studying at a university within the PCCBS region) at another conference held during the 2006 calendar year. The written version, mirroring the oral conference presentation, must be based on original research and deal with a topic within British Studies. Excursive footnotes may be added.

Submitted papers, along with documentation concerning the conference where the paper was presented, must be received by the committee chair by January 16, 2007. Please submit the paper in the form of a digital copy sent as an email attachment or in the form of three hard-copies sent by mail:

Professor Lisa Cody (Prize Committee Chair)
Department of History
Seaman Hall
500 E. 9th Street
Claremont CA 91711
lisa.cody@claremontmckenna.edu

PCCBS Article Prize

The third biennial article prize for the best article published between 2005-2006 by a member of the Pacific Coast Conference on British Studies will be awarded at the Spring 2007 meeting at the University of Puget Sound (March 30-April 1).

Articles on any subject of British Studies published in calendar years 2005 and 2006 by members of the PCCBS are eligible. Authors, publishers and other interested persons may make nominations. Submissions must be received by the committee chair by January 16, 2007. Submissions should be made in the form of a digital copy sent as an email attachment and in the form of three hard-copies sent by mail:

Professor Michael Saler (Prize Committee Chair)
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British Studies Happenings

IBIS

In 2005, the University of Southern California established the Institute for British and Irish Studies (IBIS) as a resource for [faculty](#), graduate students, and undergraduates from across the USC campus. IBIS is now in a position to offer several opportunities of interest to PCCBS members more generally:

IBIS LINKS. IBIS Links is the web's premier clearinghouse for electronic resources in British and Irish Studies. Need help with paleography? Interested in finding images from English parish churches? Want assistance decoding Cockney slang? You'll find links to help with these projects and many more at www.usc.edu/ibis/ibislinks. Check it out, and please tell your friends and students to check it out too.

LISTSERVE FOR LOS ANGELES AREA. IBIS maintains, IBIS-L, a listserv that keeps subscribers informed about British and Irish Studies events in the LA-area. This listserv is open to students as well as faculty and to all local people who are interested in British and Irish Studies. If you would like to subscribe, send a message to listproc@usc.edu, leave the subject line blank, and type this text in the message area: SUBSCRIBE IBIS-L YOURFORENAME YOURSURNAME. Every subscriber can post notices to the list. Once you have subscribed, you can publicize an area event by sending the information directly to IBIS-L@usc.edu.

SPEAKERS: In 2006-7, IBIS-sponsored speakers at USC include:

--October 9, 2006: Denis Dworkin, speaking about his forthcoming book on class in modern Britain

--October 10, 2006: Thomas Laqueur

--October 30, 2006: Angela John, "Words in Deed: Henry W. Nevins, Evelyn Sharp and Women's Suffrage in Britain"

In spring 2007 Ruth Mazo Karras will speak on medieval sexuality; Deborah Valenze will participate in a forum on "Money and Representation"; and Susan Dwyer Amussen will talk about her current work on slavery in seventeenth-century English culture.

Full details for each event will be posted on IBIS's website (www.usc.edu/ibis).

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP. IBIS will offer a postdoctoral fellowship in 2007-8. Details will be available on the website later this fall.

Center for British Studies

Thanks to a generous endowment of \$2.1m from the Robert Kirk Underhill Trust, The Center for British Studies has been established at the University of California, Berkeley. The Center, which officially opened in September 2003, will provide a platform for one of the largest and most distinguished group of scholars studying British culture, society and history - spread across the arts, humanities, social sciences and professional schools - in the United States.

The Center has three objectives:

- Strengthen Berkeley's intellectual and institutional ties to Britain

- Support graduate and undergraduate teaching and research in British Studies

- Support interdisciplinary research that recognizes Britain's relationships with America, Europe and Commonwealth countries and their effects on British economy, society, politics and culture

For more information on the Center and to view upcoming events go to: <http://ies.berkeley.edu/cbs/index.html>

Member News

Tom Barnes, after a half-century teaching, the last 45.5 of which was spent at Berkeley, retired 1 January last as Professor of History & Law. He remains Co-Director of the Canadian Studies Program, which he co-founded two decades ago, and was honored by the naming of its new chair the Thomas Garden Barnes Chair in Canadian Studies.

Christina de Bellaigue announces her recent appointment to the position of Fellow and Lecturer in Modern British History at Exeter College Oxford.

Lisa Cody's *Birthing the Nation: Sex, Science, and the Conception of Eighteenth-Century Britons* (Oxford University Press, 2005) has won three prizes: the Berkshire Conference of Women Historians' Best First Book Prize in any field of history published by a woman in the United States; the Western Association of Women Historians' Frances Keller Richardson-Sierra Book Prize for the best book by a member of the society; the Phi Alpha Theta, The History Honor Society's Best First Book Prize for the academic year 2004-2005. *Birthing the Nation* was also shortlisted for the Royal Historical Society's Whitfield Prize. Her article, "Living and Dying in Georgian London's Lying-in Hospitals" (*Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, 2004) also won the NACBS Walter D. Love Prize last fall.

Former PCCBS President David Cressy, The Ohio State University, published *England on Edge: Crisis and Revolution 1640-1642* (Oxford University Press) early in 2006. His plenary address at PCCBS at Irvine, on Early Modern Space Travel and the English Man in the Moon, is published in the October 2006 issue of the *American Historical Review*.

Jeffery Hankins, Louisiana Tech University, will have his article, "Anglican and East Anglian: The Episcopacy, The Bishop's Commissary, and the Enforcement of Ecclesiastical Law in Early Seventeenth-Century Essex and Hertfordshire" published in the September issue of *Anglican and Episcopal History*. He also has an article, "Court, County, and Corporation: Colchester, the Dutch Congregation, and the Autonomy of Borough Government in Early Seventeenth-Century Essex" forthcoming in the *Sixteenth Century Journal*.

Thomas Metcalf, UC Berkeley, announces that his book, *Imperial Connections: India in the Indian Ocean Arena, 1860-1920*, is due out with California Press in early spring 2007. It examines the role of India as a 'subimperial' center for the British Empire. He will be back at Berkeley in spring 2007 teaching the British Empire, plus a seminar on the new historiography of empire. He and his wife Barbara are planning a permanent return to Berkeley two years from now.

Priya Satia, Stanford University, recently published "The Defense of Inhumanity: Air Control in Iraq and the British Idea of Arabia," in *American Historical Review* (February 2006) and has a forthcoming article, "Developing Iraq: Britain, India, and the Redemption of Empire and Technology in World War I," in *Past and Present*.

David Smith, University of Puget Sound, will be acting as the local representative for our forthcoming meeting next spring in Tacoma. His article, "Official Responses to Juvenile Delinquency in Scotland during the Second World War," will be published in *Twentieth Century British History*, Volume 18, Issue 1, 2007. He continues his study delinquency and youth in the post-war years.

Member News cont'd

Julie Anne Taddeo, former PCCBS Treasurer and of the U.C. Center for British Studies, joined the history department of the University of Maryland as an assistant professor.

Stefania Tutino has been appointed as an assistant professor in the departments of History and Religious Studies at UCSB.

Retha Warnicke, Arizona State University, published Mary, Queen of Scots, with Routledge in April 2006.

Anne Wohlcke recently accepted a new position as Assistant Professor of British History at Cal Poly Pomona.

Membership Reminder

If you have not already renewed your PCCBS membership for the upcoming year please send \$15.00 for faculty and \$5.00 for graduate students to:

Michelle Tusan
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*Make checks payable to PCCBS

