



*PCCBS held its annual conference at the Huntington Library in March 2008*

## Letter from the President

### **Dr. Constance Jordan offers the President's Report:**

PCCBS showed its strong support for British Studies in 2008 by its contributions to its annual conference at the Huntington Library in San Marino California on March 28 through 30, a venue superbly designed to promote scholarly exchanges both learned and witty. Our program consisted of 16 panels on a wide array of topics in such well-established areas of study as British imperialism: "Society at War: Politics, Prejudices, and Policy in World War II Britain," "British Science in the Pacific? Food, Forests and Ferdinand Mueller" (sponsored

by The Pacific Circle), and also in fields reflecting social behaviors and cultural expression: "Famine and Feast in Britain, 1300-1700" and "Bodies and Boundaries: Masculinity and Sexuality in the Twentieth Century." Panels were complemented by a roundtable discussion on "Chaucer at the Huntington," sponsored by the Department of English, UC Riverside and the Institute for Medieval and Early Modern Studies at the Universities of Wales, Bangor and Aberystwyth, and by two plenary sessions on literary history: Linne Mooney (Director of the Centre for Medieval Studies at the University of York) spoke on manuscripts of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* - "The Scribe of

the Ellesmere and Hengwrt MSS. of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*," and William Sherman (Director, Centre of Early Modern Studies at the

2009 PCCBS conference  
to be held at the  
University of San Diego  
March 13-15, 2009

University of York), addressed the practices of book collectors - "Method and Madness: Three Baconian Book Collectors."

Members were delighted to learn that PCCBS had awarded the 2008 Book Prize twice: to Deborah Harkness for *The Jewel House: Elizabethan London and the Scientific Revolution* (Yale, 2007), recognizing the contributions of practical Londoners to knowledge of the natural world; and to James Vernon for *Hunger: a Modern History* (Harvard, 2007), representing the interrelations of nutrition and sociology as emerging sciences. The Graduate Prize for 2008 was awarded to Rebecca Hughes from the Department of History at the University of Washington for “‘Changing Africa’: Representations of Africans in British Missionary Propaganda, 1919-1939.”

We have many thanks to distribute. They go to The Institute for British and Irish Studies and the Early Modern Studies Institute at the University of Southern California for generously hosting our Reception on Saturday, and to Cynthia Herrup and Peter Mancall, their respective directors, for making this such an elegant occasion. We are also grateful to Roy Ritchie, Director of Research at the Huntington and to Mary Robertson, Curator of Historical Manuscripts, who took care of Local Arrangements at the Huntington. Lori Anne Ferrell (Claremont Graduate University) chaired the Program Committee, which included Joy Dixon, Doug Haynes, Deborah Harkness, Sammie McGlasson, assisted by Kathryn Wolford. Their enthusiasm and planning were everywhere evident. Thanks also go to George Behlmer (University of Washington), who chaired the Book Prize Committee, and Lisa Cody (Claremont McKenna College), who chaired the Graduate Prize Committee.

I'm happy to announce that Philippa Levine (History, USC) will represent PCCBS at the forthcoming

Conference of the North American Conference on British Studies and the Midwest Conference on British Studies to be held in Cincinnati on October 3-5 - Philippa, we are very grateful. Interested members will find the NACBS Conference program on its website.

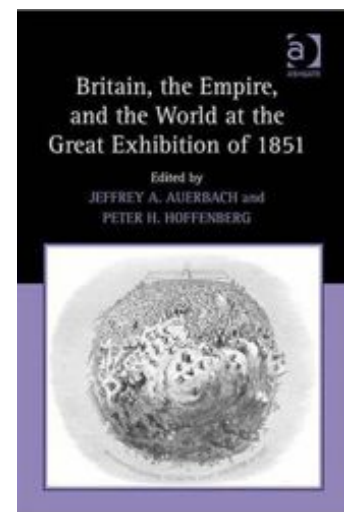
For our own conference in 2009, we will proceed further down the Southern California coast. The University of San Diego will be our host on March 13 through 15 in the Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies. We are fortunate to have secured the help of Molly McClain (University of San Diego) to organize Local Arrangements, and Patty Seleski (California State University, San Marcos) to put together the conference panels and plenaries as Program Chair. We will be awarding two prizes: Jordanna Bailkin (University of Washington) will chair the Article Prize committee, and Jennifer Andersen (California State University, San Bernadino) will chair the Graduate Prize Committee. A call for papers is already posted; see the PCCBS website: <http://www.pccbs.org>.

Finally, we owe more thanks than I can summon for the tireless help and inventive problem-solving of our outgoing president David Lieberman. “Let me count the ways” I and other PCCBS members have prevailed on him for advice and direction – David: thanks again. We are also very grateful to our Treasurer, Peter Hoffenberg (University of Hawaii) and to our Secretary, Michelle Tusan (University of Nevada at Las Vegas), for their wonderful work during these last two years. They are succeeded by David Como (Stanford University), and Simon Devereaux (University of Victoria, Canada) respectively. I look forward to working with our Vice-President George Behlmer (University of Washington) on this year's PCCBS business, now well underway, and also

on plans for 2010, when we hope to bundle up and move our annual conference again to the north!

## Member News:

**Jeffrey Auerbach** (California State University, Northridge): “Peter Hoffenberg and I co-edited a collection of essays called *Britain, the Empire, and the World at the Great Exhibition of 1851* (Ashgate, 2008), which was just published: [http://www.ashgate.com/pdf/tis/9780754662419\\_ROW.pdf](http://www.ashgate.com/pdf/tis/9780754662419_ROW.pdf). It is the first book to situate the Crystal Palace Exhibition of 1851 in a truly global context. By addressing national, imperial, and international themes, it considers the significance of the Exhibition for its British hosts and their relationships to the wider world, and for participants from around the globe.”

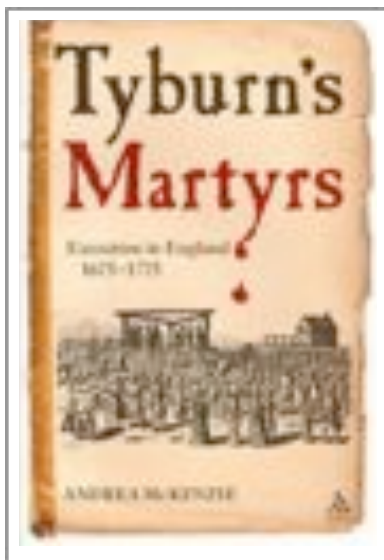


**Simon Devereaux** (University of Victoria, Canada): “This was an ‘in-between’ sort of year for me. I laid down the reins of membership of the NACBS Nominating Committee, only to take up those of the PCCBS Secretaryship. Such is the ebb and flow of power!”

**William Gibson** (Oxford Brookes University, UK): Professor William Gibson has been appointed Director of the new Oxford Centre for Methodism and Church History at Oxford Brookes University, UK. The Centre is the embodiment of the relationship between the University and the Methodist Church. Prof Gibson will also publish a new book, *James II and the Trial of the Seven Bishops* (Palgrave Macmillan), early in 2009.

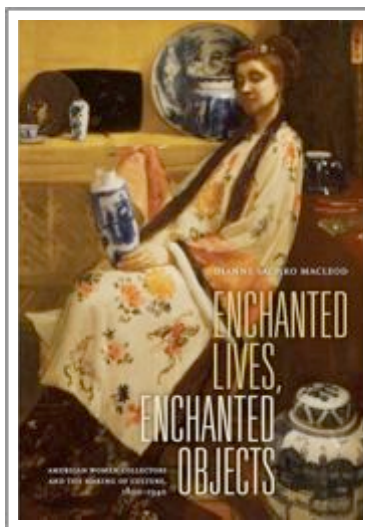
**Peter Hoffenberg** (University of Hawai'i): Peter Hoffenberg co-edited (with Jeffrey Auerbach) *Britain, the Empire, and the World at the Great Exhibition of 1851* (Ashgate, 2008). He invites all those who are interested in the history of science in the Pacific region, including colonial and national science in Australia, New Zealand and South Asia, to contact him [peterh@hawaii.edu](mailto:peterh@hawaii.edu) about "The Pacific Circle", a group of historians, scientists and public officials focusing on the history and practice of science in the Pacific, rather widely defined.

**Andrea McKenzie** (University of Victoria, Canada): "My book, *Tyburn's Martyrs: Execution in England, 1675-1775*, was published by Hambledon Continuum in autumn 2007.



**Luz Elena Ramirez** (California State University, San Bernardino) published her book, *British Representations of Latin America* (University Press of Florida, 2007).

**Dianne Sachko** (Professor Emerita of Art History, University of California, Davis): Professor Sachko published a new book, *Enchanted Lives, Enchanted Objects: American Women Collectors and the Making of Culture, 1800-1940* (University of California Press) – <http://www.ucpress.edu/books/pages/9994.php>.



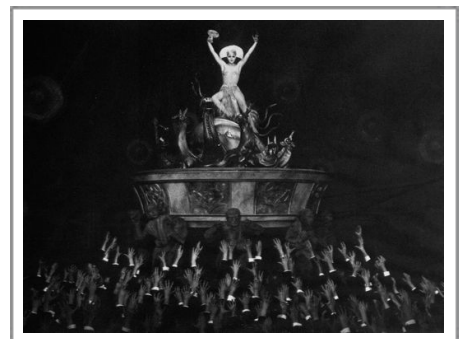
**Priya Satia** (Stanford University): "My book, *Spies in Arabia: The Great War and the Cultural Foundations of Britain's Covert Empire in the Middle East* (OUP) came out in April. This year I'm on sabbatical working on my next book, which is provisionally (and rather badly) titled, *Empire of Guns: The British Empire and the Making of the Legal Trade in a Weapon of Mass Destruction, 1760-1960*."

**Harold L. Smith** (University of Houston-Victoria): Harold L. Smith has authored *The British Women's Suffrage Campaign 1866-1928* (Longman, 2nd ed., 2007) and contributed the chapter on "British Feminism in the Second World War" to P. Levine and S. Grayzell (eds),

*Gender, Labour, War and Empire* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2008).

**Reba Soffer** (California State University, Northridge): Professor Soffer's new book, *History, Historians, and Conservatism in Britain and America. The Great War to Thatcher and Reagan*, will be published by Oxford University Press in January 2009.

**Arthur Williamson** (California State University, Sacramento): "My new book *Apocalypse Then: Prophecy and the Making of the Modern World* (Greenwood, 2008) has at last appeared. Attached is a copy of the cover, as well as a still from Fritz Lang's "Metropolis" (1927) that I preferred but Greenwood declined."



## Call for Papers: PCCBS Annual Meeting, March 13-15, 2009, San Diego

The Pacific Coast Conference on British Studies (PCCBS) invites paper and panel proposals for its thirty-sixth annual meeting to be held at the Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies at the University of San Diego (USD), from March 13-15, 2009. Situated on a mesa above the city of San Diego, California, the University of San Diego provides breathtaking views of downtown, Mission Bay and the Pacific Ocean. USD is easily reachable from Lindbergh Field, San Diego's international airport.

The PCCBS invites papers representing all fields of British Studies (broadly defined to include those who study Britain, its component parts and nationalities and Britain's empire). We welcome proposals from scholars and doctoral candidates in a wide range of disciplines across the humanities, social sciences and the arts, including History, Literature, Political Science, History of Science, Philosophy, Religion, Gender Studies, Cultural Studies, Theater Studies, and Art History.

Proposals for individual papers, partial panels, or complete panels are welcome; complete panel proposals are preferred. We encourage submission of proposals for cross- or interdisciplinary panel topics and/or speakers, as well as panels on pedagogies, technologies, and other trends in the field of British Studies. Panels using alternative or innovative formats are welcome.

The deadline for submission of proposals/panels is November 14, 2008. Proposals should include a

200-word abstract for each paper and a 1-page c.v. for each participant. Full panels and partial panels, please also include a short description of the panel and a 1 page c.v. each for the chair and commentator. Please place the panel proposal, its accompanying paper proposals, and all vitae in one file, making sure that all contact information, particularly email addresses, are correct and current. All proposals should be submitted via email attachment by November 14, 2008 to:

Patty Seleski, Program Chair,  
PCCBS 2009  
Department of History, California  
State University San Marcos  
[pseleski@csusm.edu](mailto:pseleski@csusm.edu)

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## Article Prize Submission Deadline: December 15, 2008

The biennial article prize for the best article published between 2006-2008 by a member of the Pacific Coast Conference on British Studies will be awarded at the Spring 2009 meeting in San Diego. Submissions must be received by the committee chair by **December 15, 2008**. Articles should be sent by email attachment to Jordanna Bailkin, [bailkin@u.washington.edu](mailto:bailkin@u.washington.edu) or by regular mail: Jordanna Bailkin, University of Washington, Department of History, 315 Smith, Box 353560, Seattle, WA 98195-3560.

Committee members:  
Chair: Jordanna Bailkin (University of Washington)  
Judge: Peter Herman (San Diego State University)  
Judge: Simon Devereaux (University of Victoria, Canada).

## Graduate Prize Submission Deadline: December 15, 2008

PCCBS calls for entries, submitted by graduate students, for the prize to be awarded at its annual meeting at the University of San Diego in March 2009. Both the student and the professor must be members of PCCBS. The submitted entry will have been presented to the Pacific Coast Conference on British Studies at the Huntington Library in March 2008 or (in the case of a graduate student studying at a university within the PCCBS region) to any conference during the 2008 calendar year. The essay mirroring the oral paper as delivered must be based on original research, meet scholarly standards, and must deal with a topic centering on British studies. Excursive footnotes may be added. The winner will receive a monetary prize and will be recognized at the annual PCCBS conference.

Submissions must be received by the committee chair by **December 15, 2008**. Papers should be sent by email attachment to Jennifer Andersen [janderse@csusb.edu](mailto:janderse@csusb.edu) or by regular mail: Jennifer Andersen, California State University, San Bernardino, English Department, 5500 University Parkway, San Bernardino, CA 92407

Committee members:  
Chair: Jennifer Andersen (California State University, San Bernardino)  
Judge: Anthony Brundage (California State Polytechnic University, Pomona)  
Judge: Meg Worley (Pomona College)

## Winner of Graduate Prize 2008

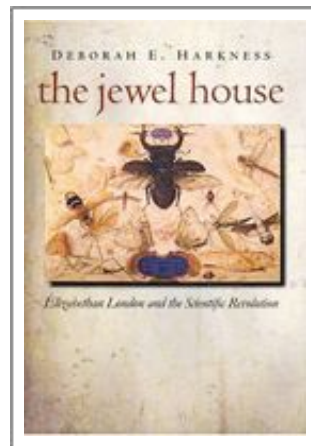
The Graduate Prize Committee chose as its first-place winner **Rebecca Hughes** from the Department of History at the University of Washington for “‘Changing Africa’: Representations of Africans in British Missionary Propaganda, 1919-1939.” Hughes illuminated how early twentieth-century British missionaries situated Africans, not so much in an inferior position, but rather a historical one. Missionaries described Africans as living in “Biblical times” to explain their “primitive” status, but also their potential for redemption and civilization. The committee was struck by Hughes’s imaginative engagement with the sources and mastery of a vast literature on the colonial project and religious discourse.

As an honorable mention, the Committee also recognized **Naomi Lloyd** from the Centre for Women’s and Gender Studies at the University of British Columbia for “Making and Unmaking Empire in Turn-of-the-Century Female Homoeroticism: The Case of Constance Maynard.” In this evocative essay analyzing the spiritual and erotic relationship between English educator Constance Maynard and Anglo-Irish Marion Wakefield, Lloyd provided a compelling cultural analysis of an unpublished gem of a source. Her analysis of the personal as imperial is ambitious and rich in its promise.

## Winners of PCCBS Book Prize 2008

PCCBS announces the winners of the 2008 Book Prize:

**Deborah Harkness, *The Jewel House: Elizabethan London and the Scientific Revolution* (Yale University Press, 2007).** The Jewel House is a fascinating ethnography of the experimental culture that made late-sixteenth-century London one of the key sites for the production of what Deborah Harkness calls “vernacular science.” Nuanced in argument, imaginative in its use of fragmentary sources, and sensitive to the limitations on how much we can know about the lived experience of early modern people,



her book re-animates another kind of “world we have lost.” It is on the “natural knowledge” sought by merchants and midwives, by alchemists and instrument-makers, that Harkness’s work concentrates. And it is among the boisterous folk of the City of London, rather than among the placid dons of Oxford and Cambridge, that the story unfolds. Who ought to be licensed to practice medicine? Of what should mathematical literacy consist? How did royal patrons and venture capitalists shape technological innovation? The answers to these and

related questions create a narrative that is at once discontinuous and ingenious. As Professor Harkness puts it, “Londoners collected specimens, planted gardens, made medicines, cut open bodies...and dug into nature with wild enthusiasm.” The meanings of such messy exuberance emerge with jewel-like brilliance here.

**James Vernon, *Hunger: A Modern History* (Harvard University Press, 2007).** In *Hunger: A Modern History*, James Vernon offers a deeply humane account of how dearth—that most material of conditions—was, to a large degree, the work of culture. It is a humane book because it shows, with piercing clarity, that the ways in which hunger was understood shaped who actually experienced it. Vernon poses two deceptively simple questions. First, how has the meaning of hunger changed over time in Britain? And second, what were the causes and consequences of those changes? The answers to these questions prove to be far from simple, of course. Starting with the demise of a neo-Malthusian view of hunger before World War One, Vernon moves on to examine how the linked emergence of nutritional science, social welfare provision, and shifting notions of citizenship created a demand for the “governance” of hunger. What this compelling study does, then, is to delineate a moral economy of the hungry in ways that say nearly as much about famine in today’s Darfur as about the politics of want in Depression-era Jarrow.

