The Joy Of Saks!

SHOPPING WILL BE on the menu of the UCSB History Associates' luncheon lecture at noon on Wednesday, April 29, as Asst. Prof. Erika Rappaport discusses the introduction of American-style department stores in London at the turn of this century.

A specialist in the social history of modern Britain, Prof. Rappaport contends that the opening of Selfridges, London's first store built specifically as a department store, changed much more than the way the English shopped.

It also brought respectable women for the first time into a previously male preserve, and changed shopping into an occasion for a night on the town, as well as to see and be seen.

Hence the title of her talk, "Theater of Desire: Selling an American Department Store in Early Twentieth Century London."

For the occasion, the Associates have arranged to use the private lunch room in Santa Barbara's Nordstrom department store, 17 W. Canon Perdido. Reservations at a cost of $14 for members and $16 for non-members may be made through the UCSB Office of Community Relations, (805) 893-4588.

Because seating in the Nordstrom room is limited, early reservations are advised.

Prof. Rappaport joined the UCSB History Department this year from Florida.

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO

Beware the Perils Of Writing Bio, Kalman Warns

"MOMMIES, DON'T LET YOUR BABIES GROW UP TO BE BIOPHAGERS" was the refrain at the March meeting of the UCSB History Associates as Prof. Laura Kalman detailed a litany of problems she encountered writing the story of Supreme Court Justice Abe Fortas.

Writing biography is a thankless task, Prof. Kalman told the group.

"It's no way to get a job," she explained, "because it's not regarded as 'cutting edge.'"

Moreover, the subject overshadows the biographer, to the point where readers just assume the story wrote itself.

"My mother wanted to know why his picture was on the cover of the book instead of mine!" she said.

But the biggest problem, she warned, is the closeness that inevitably grows up between the subject and the biographer.

"I worried about my instinct to shield Fortas, and even more his wife who, unlike Fortas, is still alive. We grew very close as I worked on his papers," she said.

Around her house, she said, the working title of the book became "Whitewash: The Story of Abe Fortas."

The actual title of the book is Abe Fortas: A Biography. It was published by Yale Uni-

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO

Department Gets Top Marks In Extra-Mural Report Card

The HISTORY DEPARTMENT received the long-awaited report from its team of extra-

mural evaluators at the end of Winter Quarter.

The evaluators gave the department high marks for an "exceptional" record in teaching and interdisciplinary activities, and concluded that it "fully deserves its high rank among programs nationally."

- The three-person panel was composed of William Chaet of Duke University, Patricia O'Brien of UC Irvine and Leila Fawaz of Tufts, who chaired the committee.

They based their report on a self-assessment prepared by the Department last Spring and a massive notebook of data assembled by the Program Review Panel, a faculty board which oversees the review process, and on-site interviews with faculty and staff conducted last January.

All three evaluators, in addition to being History professors themselves, have had extensive administrative experience. Prof. Chaet and Fawaz are both deans, and Prof. O'Brien is director of the UC Humanities Institute.

In their report, the extra-mural team praised the department for "a superb job of recruiting faculty" and urged the administration to provide it with a three-year recruitment plan for completing its renewal program.

"The faculty has set high scholarly standards for itself," the report stated. "It has used every recruiting opportunity to improve the research component of its faculty, and its commitment to intellectual quality has helped the department acquire a national reputation."

The evaluators were particularly im-

CONTINUED ON PAGE THREE
Emeriti Show the New Kids How It Used To Be Done

Retirement does not necessarily mean an end to headlines, as two of the History Department's own emeritus professors can testify.

Prof. Robert O. Collins will return to the History Channel this month with his long-awaited special on Dr Livingstone, which debuts April 16 at 8 p.m. The program is a sequel to one on the journalist Stanley, whose search for the missing Dr. Livingstone was avidly followed by Victorian readers.

Also making headlines is Prof. Joachim Remak, whose book on the Swiss Civil War has now appeared in a German edition that is being widely reviewed throughout Switzerland.

The Swiss war preceded the American Civil War by some 15 years, and like that war was also sparked by an issue of "states' rights," in this case the rights of the individual Swiss cantons as opposed to the Federation.

Unlike the American war, however, the Swiss war resulted in very few casualties and was settled amicably. For this reason, Prof. Remak entitled his book *A Very Civil War*.

The *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* hailed the German edition as "the only available history... that is both easily readable and factually sound, of the turbulent months of 1847," and *Sarganserländer Magazin* called it both "instructive" and "suspenseful."

Swiss experts, who tend to scorn work on their history by foreign scholars, have praised the book for its accuracy and style.

"History is presented not as a catalogue of facts, but gracefully and readably," wrote a reviewer in *Walliser Bote*. "Thanks to the contemporary observations of bystanders and participants, as well as to its bold organization, the book reads easily and enjoyably, like a summer novel."

*Schweizer Soldat*, a publication of the Swiss Army, recommended the book as indispensable reading, and *Blick* called it "masterful, light-hearted, suspenseful."

Prof. Remak’s book was also serialized in a Berlin newspaper, *Der Bund*. 

---

**Kalman's Fortas Bio**

Continued from p. 1

University Press in 1990 and was awarded the Littleton-Griswold Prize of the American Historical Association for the best book that year on the history of American law and society.

Another problem the biographer faces, she said, is the issue of invasion of privacy.

For this reason, Prof. Kalman added, she came to see herself in a dual role as "a personal friend and also a voyeur, or even a burglar."

And, in the case of a Supreme Court Justice, there is also the problem of the amount of materials in the archives.

"I love archives," she confessed, "for the same reason I love reading other people's mail."

But the archives of a Supreme Court Justice "are both endless and dull," with countless drafts of each decision that have to be combed for clues to the Justice's state of mind.

"It takes the skill of a literary biographer with none of the joy," she explained. "These are not literary masterpieces."

---

**Shopping**

Continued from p. 1

International University, where she was an assistant professor. She received her BA from Berkeley, an MA from Columbia and, in 1993, a PhD from Rutgers.

She is the author of several articles on department stores, the theater and the finances of women in Victorian and Edwardian England.

Happy Days!

My calendars at home and work are starred and highlighted for Wednesday, May 20 at 4 p.m. for the UCSB History Department Awards Ceremony in the Interdisciplinary Humanities Center Conference Room on the sixth floor of the Humanities and Social Sciences Building (HSSB).

This event competes with Disneyland for the reputation of "the happiest place on earth!" It is the culmination of the efforts of so many; the persevering students who are honored that day and their professors who have guided and mentored them.

As members of the History Associates who have contributed to the awards being presented, it is exciting and affirming to see how enthusiastically our efforts are received, and how well-deserving the recipients are.

The process of screening students both for financial need and academic excellence has already begun. There is representation from the History Associates Board as well as from the faculty on the selection committee for the awards we sponsor. As many deserving students as possible are selected.

As members of the History Associates, you are invited to join me and other Board members in attending this event. Please call 893-4388 for parking information.

It is gratifying for the recipients to meet and talk with members of the group that raises funds on their behalf. The opportunity for us to hear from and about these students, both formally and in conversation completes the circle of faculty, students and community working together to support the UCSB History Department and enabling young scholars to achieve their goals.

It is by no means a dry, dull occasion. The list of graduate student dissertations reads like a list of books on a "must read" list. The undergraduates who speak are bright and energetic, and give one absolute confidence in the quality of their education as well as the future. A reception following the awards affords the opportunity to meet the recipients personally.

In addition to our "shop 'til you drop" event this month, we are looking forward to the long-awaited wine country talk and tour.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 30. Final arrangements for this day are in progress and we will be mailing flyers as soon as possible. I look forward to seeing you at all three of our Spring events.

Karen Anderson
President

---

Evaluators Praise Dept. But Warn of Shortages

Continued from p. 1

pressed by the fact that the tenured faculty members are thoroughly involved in undergraduate as well as graduate teaching and that they do not delegate teaching chores to non-tenure-track faculty.

Equally strong approval was given to the department's commitment to maintain itself as a general History department while also building "clusters of excellence" in key areas.

"While the department continues to provide political history which other programs have sometimes sacrificed, they also offer social, economic, cultural, and intellectual history," the report observed. "The department's course offerings also contribute to interdisciplinary programs campus-wide."

However, in an era of shrinking resources, the evaluators warned that "decisions will have to be made about how to balance undergraduate interest in history with limited funds and space," especially with regard to the workload of graduate teaching assistants.

Department Vice Chair of Curriculum Jack Talbott said that changes in departmental programs are being implemented as a result of the report.

An ad hoc committee will be appointed "to bring our requirements into closer alignment with our current research strengths," he reported.

"The report has shown how a guaranteed commitment of faculty positions over the next three years can benefit the campus as well as the department." History Chair Hal Drake said that efforts were also underway to reduce the workload for teaching assistants.

"In the early 90s, the College increased the size of discussion sections in order to meet budget shortfalls," he said. "A TA with fully enrolled sections now teaches the equivalent of a fifth section in terms of number of students."

He said that the department's budget request for next year asked the College either to reduce the number of sections from four per TA to three or to reduce the number of students in each section.

"We are proud of the quality of instruction that our teaching assistants give us, and we believe the training they receive benefits them when they go on the job market," he said. "But this is only supposed to be a part-time job."

"I recently surveyed our TAs, and it is clear that the great majority of them now must spend more than the 20 hours a week that is the official maximum."

Prof. Drake pointed out that History courses are writing-intensive, and this makes it unfair to give them the same workload as TAs for classes that have machine-scored examinations.

---

Biography

Continued from p. 2

Would she ever consider doing a biography again?

"Like the dog who responds to the fire bell, I still think about it," she confessed. "But I have told my family and friends, if I ever say I'm contemplating it, they should take me out and shoot me."

Prof. Kalman's current project is a book on recent American history, tentatively entitled Year of Disenchantment: The United States from Ford through Bush, She is President of the American Society for Legal History.
Crunching Numbers

UCSB seems to have somebody for crunching data on any topic you can imagine.

Recently, I received from the Assistant Vice Chancellor of Academic Programs data crunched from a survey of first-year students in which they were asked to name the high school teachers who had had the greatest impact on their academic development.

Frankly, I did not expect to see too many History teachers on the list, since very few students enter the University as History majors.

So I was not too surprised to see that the list ended after a dozen names. But there was a fistful of other pages, and I was curious to see what was on them.

My mouth dropped. They were History teachers. Pages and pages of History teachers.

There was Eric Burrows of our own San Marcos High, cheek by jowl with D. Sigelouis of Brooklyn Tech High in New York, Mr. Brody of Evanston Township High in Illinois and Mrs. Abdallah of Tokay High School in Lodi.

Large high schools, one-room high schools. Page after page of names. More than 100 in all.

The first page, which I hadn’t looked at carefully, was Government teachers—sent to me, presumably, because none of the crunchers in the Vice Chancellor’s office knew what else to do with them.

What is it, I wondered, that makes students remember their History teachers?

At first I thought maybe it’s because History teaches so much about life that these students had come to value the life lessons they learned from these teachers.

But I know academics tend to over-intellectualize questions like that. It could just be that these were their easiest teachers. Or maybe they were just nice, caring people.

But I don’t think that’s it.

Students know the difference between easy teachers and academically important teachers. The important influences often aren’t even very nice—though I’m sure all of these are.

Most of our majors come from converts who decide they like History after taking one or more of our survey courses—and nobody has every called those courses easy.

Too bad the survey didn’t ask for reasons. Hard to crunch, but I’d like to know.

CONTINUED ON P. 6
Grad Students Triumph!

UCSB's History Department was well-represented at the Third Annual Graduate Student Conference on Late Antiquity, held at UCLA on April 4.

Along with students from Michigan, Princeton and UC Berkeley, four UCSB grad students presented papers — the most from any single university.

Laura Wertheimer spoke on "Clerical Celibacy, Christian Marriage and Illegitimacy in Late Antiquity."

David Tipton presented a paper on "Fourth and Fifth Century Christian Views of Julian."

Mike Proulx's paper was entitled "Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Another Look at Ambrose of Milan in the Court of Magnus Maximus."

Justin Stephens spoke on "Who Saved Antioch? The Role of Oratory in the Aftermath of the 387 Riot of the Statues."

Betty Koed was one of three finalists selected out of a national competition to interview for the position of Assistant Senate Historian in the Senate Historical Office in Washington, D.C.

Two graduate students have won Fulbright Fellowships for study abroad in the next academic year.

Nancy L. Stockdale will go to Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and Kimber Quinn will study in Italy.

Valery Garrett will be participating in June in a month-long NEH-sponsored Summer Institute at Columbia University on "The History of Death."

Sexual 'Immorbidity' Competes With Real Library Questions

Not much in the way of bloopers this month, with the Spring term barely underway.

Prof. Sears McGee was taken with the following, from a student paper in his History 140B class: "The church not only punished the actual offenders, but also punished anyone who aided and abetted sexual immorality... A bawd was an individual of either sex who procured or pandered to immorality."

In lieu of others, we present the following, culled from a list of questions asked of reference librarians, discovered by Prof. Sarah Cline:

"Do you have a list of all the books written in the English language?"

"Do you have a list of all the books I’ve ever read?"

"I’m looking for Robert James Waller’s book, Waltzing through Grand Rapids."

"Do you have that book by Rushdie: ‘Satanic Nurses?’"

"I was here about three weeks ago looking at a cookbook that cost $39.95. Do you know which one it is?"

"Which outlets in the library are appropriate for my hairdryer?"

"Is the basement upstairs?"

"Why don’t you have any books by Ibidi? He’s written a lot of important stuff."

"I am looking for a list of laws that I can break that would send me back to jail for a couple of months."

Part 2: Actual Reference Interviews reported by American and Canadian library reference desk workers of various levels.

Patron: "I'm looking for a book."

Mental answer 1: "Well, you're in the right place."

Mental answer 2: "Here's one."

Hand over nearest volume.

Audible answer: "Can you be a little more specific?"

Patron: "I got a quote from a book I turned in last week but I forgot to write down the author and title. It's big and red and I found it on the top shelf. Can you find it for me?"

Mental answer: "Books classified by color are shelved downstairs in the [non-existent] third sub-basement."

Audible answer: "What were you looking for when you found the book the first time?"

In an art library:

Patron: Do you have any books on Art?

Ref: Yes. Did you have a certain artist in mind, or a period or style in mind?

Patron: No.

Ref: I guess you'll have to look through our 120,000 books and see if you find anything.

Patron: OK.

Patron: "Do you have anything good to read?" Reference person getting her audible and mental answers mixed up: "No, ma'am. I'm afraid we have 75,000 books, and they're all duds."

Telephone patron: Do you have books on leaves? Library worker: No, we keep them on shelves. (She then hung up.)

CONTINUED ON P. 6
Library Reference Questions

Can you tell she’s not too fond of Reference duty?)

Caller: “I have a painting by Vincent Van Gogh. It’s all blue with swirly stars on it. Can you tell me where I can get it appraised?”

Ref: “Sir, does it say ‘Metropolitan Museum of Art’ on the bottom? It does? Well, what you have there is a poster that they sell in the gift shop. I think they’re about $10.”

Patron: “I have to write a two-page paper on the Civil War, can you help?”

Ref: “What aspect of the war interests you?” Patron: “What aspect? You mean I have to choose something in particular about it? I thought I’d just write about the whole thing”

Patron: “I am looking for a globe of the earth. Ref: “We have a table-top model over here.” Patron: “No, that’s not good enough. Don’t you have a life size?” Ref (after a short pause): “Yes, but it’s in use right now!”

From the Chair

I’ve been doing some crunching of my own recently, with the help of Luke Roberts and our Department MSO, Maria Perez.

What we figured is that the Department costs the University $3.25 million a year to operate, and brings in $7.8 million a year in student revenues.

(In case you’re wondering how we got that latter figure, we added the total hours of student enrollment for 1996-97, divided that by three for a three-quarter average, and then divided that number by 15, which is the total hours for a “Full Time Enrolled” student, or Student FTE in USpeak. Then we multiplied that number by $7,300, which is the amount the State gives the University for every Student FTE.)

In the business world, that would be called a tidy profit. It sure makes you think twice about the departments that go around thumping their chests because they bring in a million or two in government grants.

Hal Drake
Chair

Historía

NEWSLETTER OF THE UCSB HISTORY ASSOCIATES
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93106