

# Historia

Vol. 5, No 4 Newsletter of the UCSB History Associates March 1992

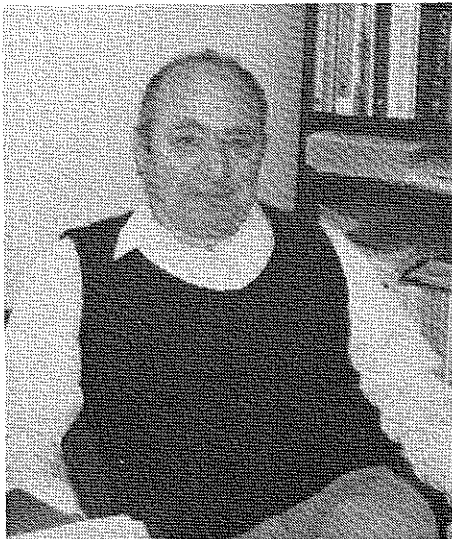
## Associates Luncheon

### On the Trail of the Man in the Iron Mask

By Joseph Finnigan

The Man in the Iron Mask, that legendary story of fact and fiction which was portrayed in Alexander Dumas' Novel on which several motion pictures were based, is the subject of UCSB Professor Paul Sonnino's talk to the History Associates March 11 lecture-luncheon.

In his lecture, "On the Trail of the Iron Mask," Professor Sonnino will, he says, "be talking about the story. Most people have heard the story of the Iron Mask through the novel by Alexander Dumas, or three movies, the last one starring Richard Chamberlain. According to these stories, the Man in the Iron Mask was the identical twin brother of King Louis XIV of France. People may wonder if that is a lot of bull or if it is true."



Professor Paul Sonnino

Good question, is it true? "There is some truth to the story," Professor Sonnino replies. "That is, there was a man wearing a mask who was in prison from 1669 to his death in 1703. He wasn't always wearing a mask, mind you, just at certain times. Historians have been trying to figure out the scoop, and not with a great deal of success. They got some things straight, but they certainly have not solved the mystery. They got a name for him, but they don't know who he was.

"What I am going to talk about is the state of the question. What do they know and where have they gotten themselves in a hole? They have come up with some outrageous conclusions, including the one about him being the King's twin brother, which he was not."

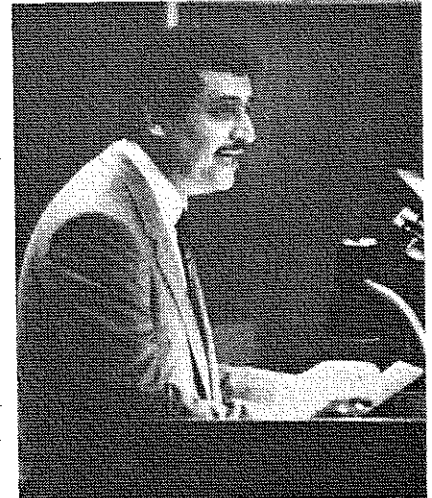
Professor Sonnino is working on the "mask" mystery with his associate Ronald Martin, a teacher at Rancho Santiago College in Orange County.

Why should we care about the identity of the Man in the Iron

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## Humphreys Delivers Inaugural Islamic Chair Lecture

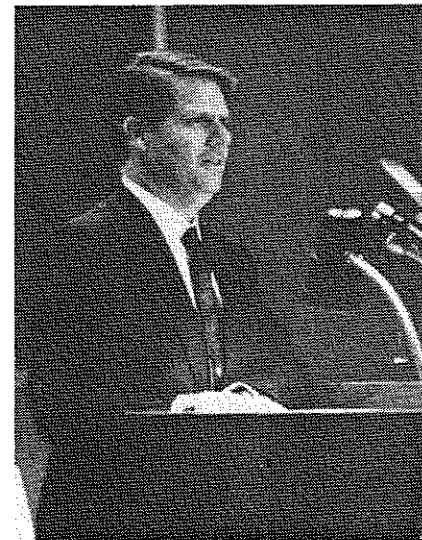
On January 29, 1992, Professor Stephen Humphreys delivered the inaugural lecture for the King Abdul Aziz Ibn Saud Chair in Islamic studies. The lecture, which had been postponed a year due to the Persian Gulf War, was very



Prince Mohamad Bin Fahad Bin Abdul Aziz

well attended with several hundred listeners packed into the chemistry lecture hall and standing room only left by the time the talk began.

Among those in attendance was Prince Mohamad Bin Fahad Bin Abdul Aziz. The Prince is one of the four grandsons of King Abdul Aziz Ibn Saud who attended UCSB in the late 1960's. The King's grandsons established the chair in honor of their grandfather, the founder of Modern Saudi Arabia, in 1984 with a \$250,000



Professor Stephen Humphreys

donation to the College of Letters and Science. Last year Prince Mohamad Bin Fahad Bin Abdul Aziz donated \$100,000 to the University for pur-

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# Latin American and History of Science Programs Flourishing

*(Ed. Note: This is the first in a series of articles on the various programs within the Department of History.)*

The Latin American program is directed by Professor David Rock.



Professor David Rock

During the past two years, two students have graduated from the doctoral program in Latin American History. They are Daniel Lewis, and Michael Burdick. Among the currently enrolled students, Joe Cotter has completed most of his dissertation and expects to graduate soon. His dissertation involves the coming of the Green Revolution in Mexico before 1943. Karen Mead returned last fall from a six month spell of field-work in Argentina where she was working on a study of the *Sociedad de Beneficencia*. This was a group of upper class women who were concerned with the improvement of social conditions

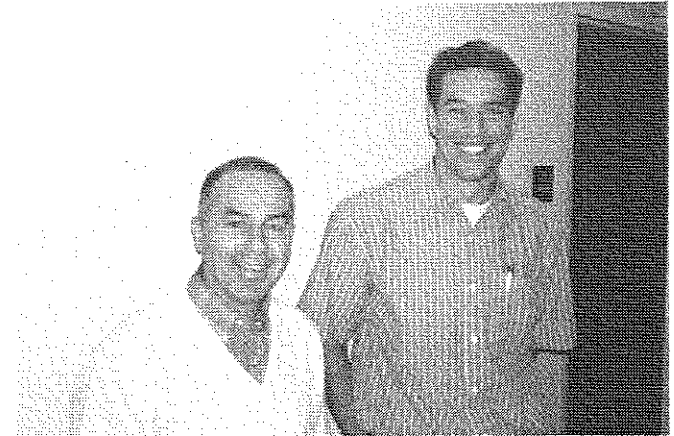
in Argentina during the mid-19th century. David Espinosa, who is seeking grants for field work in Mexico, is working on the formation of private Universities in Mexico after 1935.

There are currently five MA students currently enrolled in the Latin American program: Fernando Rocchi, who came to UCSB from Argentina, Erik Ching who is a budding specialist in Central America, Gabriel Gutierrez who plans to specialize in the US-Mexican war of 1846 from the Mexican side, Monica Orozco whose special is the history of Mexican women, and Kevin Chambers whose interest lies in Paraguay and who speaks Guaraní, the indigenous language of that nation.

During recent years the graduate students in the program have won many prestigious grants. Dan Lewis, who is now serving as a Lecturer in the History Department, won a Fulbright award for study in Argentina. Joe Cotter won grants from both the



Anita Guerrini



Professor Lawrence Badash and Peter Neushul

Rockefeller Foundation and UC Mexus. Dan Lewis and Karen Mead were among a small group of top graduate doctoral students to receive appointments as Research Assistants under the Graduate Humanities Research Program. Fernando Rocchi received a Tuition Fellowship and a grant from the UCSB History Associates. Fernando gave a paper in December at the Conference on Latin American History.

The Graduate program in the History of Science is directed by Professor Lawrence Badash. He is assisted by Michael Osborne and Anita Guerrini who is a lecturer. Osborne was chosen last year for the position of professor of the history of biological sciences from amongst a large number of candidates. He had lectured at UCSB for three years before taking the post of assistant professor. His area of interest is biology in British and French colonies in the late nineteenth and early twentieth

centuries and military medicine. Anita Guerrini's specialty is eighteenth century biology and medicine.

Both students and faculty in the History of Science program have received numerous grants and awards during the past several years. Peter Neushul and Zuoyue Wang have received Dissertation Fellowships from the UC Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation. Neushul is nearing the end of his work on production technology

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## Programs

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and its politics during World War II. Zuoyue Wang, who received a History Associates Scholarship award last year is working on a study of US science policy during the 1960's. Susan Brown, who passed her PhD exams in January 1991, won a travel research grant from the Rockefeller Archive Center and a Mellon Library Fellowship for research in the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia. She is working on the rise of the new science of astrophysics in late nineteenth century America. Professor Michael Osborne was a Research Fellow at Princeton University for the spring semester of 1991. While there he continued work on a manuscript on the French military and science around World War I. Anita Guerrini received a grant from the American Historical Association to continue work on her book about eighteenth-century physician and Newtonian, George Cheyne. She was also awarded a research grant from the Beckman Center for the History of Chemistry for a study of early modern chemistry and matter theory. Professor Lawrence Badash was awarded a two-year research grant from the National Science Foundation for his study of the science, politics and publicity of the nuclear winter phenomenon. ♦

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# Kalman Receives Prestigious AHA Award

Laura Kalman's *Abe Fortas* was awarded the American Historical Association's Littleton-Griswold Prize as the year's best book in American legal history. Kalman, who served as the History Department's vice-chairperson during 1990-91, went to the AHA annual convention in Chicago last December to receive the prize.

Abe Fortas was an important member of FDR's New Deal team in Washington, holding many high positions of influence and power; a leading civil libertarian; a professor at Yale Law School; senior partner in the famous Washington, D.C., law firm Arnold, Fortas & Porter and therefore counsel to powerful corporations and foreign governments on end; close advisor and "handy man" and "legal fixer" for Lyndon Johnson from his early days in the Senate to the presidency; Supreme Court justice, and near chief justice, finally withdrawing his nomination after spectacular Congressional hearings spawned by his decades long visibility as a liberal. Before long he was to resign under a cloud, with allegations around him of undue financial relations to major figures with cases before the Court.

Kalman's biography discusses both the great strengths and the deep flaws in this complex man's arrogance, his harsh treatment of subordinates and his unbelievably bad judgment. This is no hero-worshipping biography. Kalman's research in original archival and documentary sources is almost incredible. The biography runs 401 pages of narrative, and the footnotes occupy the next 85 pages. Visiting almost twenty libraries and archives (including one in Puerto Rico), conducting over forty oral history interviews, delving into the files of the firm of Arnold & Porter and collecting literally thousands of documents, she built the story out of an immense store of data and information, painstakingly gathered.



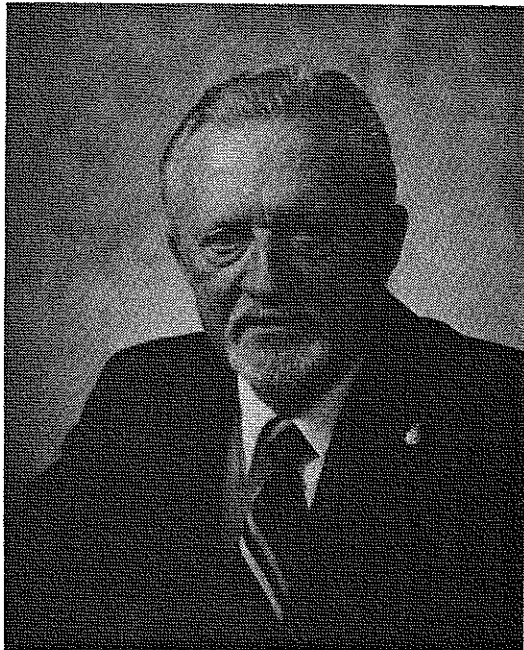
Professor Laura Kalman

*Abe Fortas* has received many glowing reviews. Professor William Leuchtenberg (currently president of the American Historical Association) wrote in the *New Republic* of "this lucid and gracefully written biography," with its "many well honed paragraphs," this "exemplary biography" with its "impressive thoroughness," written by the author of the highly regarded study *Legal Realism at Yale*. Though Kalman was given full access to Fortas's private papers by his wife and others, "in no way . . . has she permitted that courtesy to shape her narrative. Indeed, many of her judgments about Fortas sting. Yet she also acknowledges his many accomplishments and is scrupulously fair-minded." Professor Lewis Gould of the University of Texas, Austin, in *Newsday* refers to *Abe Fortas* as an "excellent biography . . . an engrossing intellectual biography of a practicing lawyer and gifted jurist. Her chapters on Fortas' Supreme Court opinions are models of clarity and precision." She makes "stern but fair judgments" throughout, setting forth "the bright and the dark sides of Abe Fortas in a well-written, thoughtful biography that is a significant contribution to the literature on recent American History." ♦

# Phil Powell Receives Posthumous Awards

By J. Sears McGee

One of the wonderful things about superior scholarship is that it keeps on working and receiving honors after the person who crafted it is gone. Phil Powell passed away on September 17, 1987, but the



Professor Phil Powell

evidence for the high regard in which his work is held keeps rolling in. The first issue of *Encuentros*, a magazine sponsored by the Spanish government and the University of New Mexico, contained an article about Phil's work on the Black Legend, and other magazines including *The Atlantic Monthly* and *Newsweek*, have also referred to it. His books have been translated and reprinted a number of times, and plans for

more continue to be made in Mexico, Japan, and Spain.

On February 19, 1989, the University of San Luis Potosi in Mexico hosted a visit by his widow, Maria L. Powell, and their daughter, Lilia Rochester. Upon arrival at their hotel, this message from the University awaited them: "The presence of your husband remains alive and real and that is how it will always be for those of us who had the honor and privilege of meeting him and knowing his valuable and excellent work." At a ceremony the next morning, the Rector of the University presented Maria with a plaque granting a Recognition of Merit for Phil's "labor of humanistic investigation in the field of colonial history in San Luis Potosi." In eulogies by several prominent speakers, two of Phil's books, *Soldiers, Indians and Silver* and *Miguel Caldera* were especially praised. They have become required textbooks at the university. Two days later at the Archivo General de San Luis Potosi a second ceremony was held honoring Phil. An exhibit displayed all of his publications, and his picture was placed in the conference room. The distinguished guests included the governor of the state, and Father Rafael Montejano, President of the Academy of History, who delivered several posthumous tributes.

In October 1989, Mrs. Powell and their other daughter, Diane

## Humphreys

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chase of library materials for Islamic Studies.

The Prince briefly addressed the audience about his grandfather's accomplishments. King Abdul Aziz Ibn Saud worked to reconcile the needs of an emerging country with its historical traditions. All of his efforts were devoted to helping Saudi Arabia adapt to the political and social conditions of the 20th century and to its role as a major power in the Middle East.

Professor Humphrey's talk, "Myth, Reality and History", focused on the dilemmas faced by Western historians when dealing with the history of Islamic peoples. The problem for the historian is in the application of "critical" Western methodology to the Islamic past. This methodology involves "scepticism as to the authenticity and reliability of sources and ironic detachment about the ways in which Muslims and Middle Easterners had constructed their own history," Humphreys said. The problem is particularly acute when dealing with a society's myth of origins, and its Golden Age, a time which established a society's key values and beliefs and identified the moral and structural foundations of the society.

In Islamic history, the crucial period, and "the one that inevitably arouses the rawest sensitivities, the one that threatens to strike at the very heart and life of Islamic identity, is the first forty years of Islamic History," Humphreys said. This is the time from the point when the Prophet Muhammad received his first revelation (ca. 610 C.E.) down to the crisis in the middle of his third successors reign, (ca. 644-656 C.E.). This period functions as "both a myth of origins and as a Golden age, the crucial moment without which nothing makes sense," he said. "If the historical tradition of those 40 years should ever prove spurious," he declared, "then there is no intellectual foundation whatever for religious doctrine, law and custom by which Muslims have sought to guide their lives for the past 14 centuries."

Humphreys then presented a masterful outline of Western Oriental scholarship from the 12th century through the 19th century. By the early twentieth century, the knowledge accrued since the 12th century had established the main

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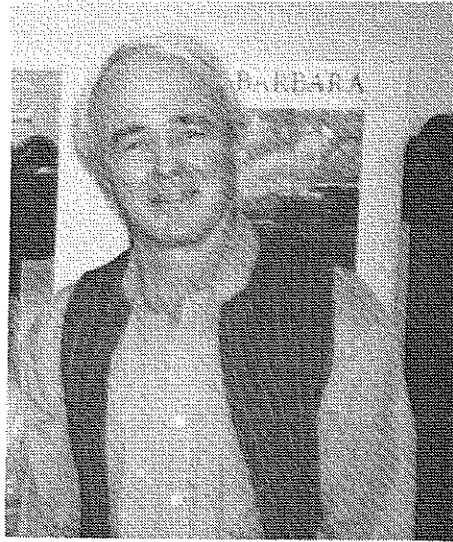
# Public History At UCSB: The Curriculum

By Otis L. Graham, Jr.

In the first article in this series, appearing in the October, 1991 issue of *Historia*, I attempted to describe the origins of that branch of professional history that is called "public history" and to relate the UCSB history department's role in establishing graduate education in this new field, as well as a journal, *The Public Historian*. Let me turn now to the curriculum of that program and its distinctive features.

Imagine, if you can, a group of (let us say) professors of economics at (let us say) Harvard in the 1920s. An unusually alert member of the group, Professor Robert Kelley (let us say), points out to the others that their thirty-year old graduate program had been training young economists to go out and teach economics to young people who would go out and teach other young people to teach, and so on. But this Harvard Kelley had noticed, on a recent trip out into the real world of Wall Street and into corporate board rooms and offices, that some of the degree-fanfare, left campuses and their former teaching roles to undertake careers in applied economics. We had not trained them for that, economist Kelley pointed out, but if some of our students are going to persist in careers off-campus, perhaps we ought to modify our curriculum for such people. Teach economics, rigorously so, but also prepare students for professional practice out in the world.

As we know, the academic economists at Harvard would have none of it, and apparently the handful of Kelleys convinced some dean to establish one of the nation's first business schools. Their curriculum was different, not housed with econom-



Professor Otis L. Graham, Jr.

ics, perhaps to the detriment of both enterprises. At UCSB, Historian Kelley was able to convince his colleagues to establish a curricular track toward an applied degree. It was at once decided that it must be as rigorous as the academic track, but contain some special features and emphases. An intellectual and professional survey of the world of public history would open the core public history curriculum, a team research seminar would train students in collaborative work for a community client, and courses would be created in three core areas where most public Historians work—cultural resources management (CRM), history in public policymaking, community history.

PHS graduate students take many history courses, and must pass the usual exams. They also complete the core curriculum described above. The faculty keep in touch with professional developments through contract work in the applied sector, attendance at conferences, and in other ways, and the program is supplemented by workshops led by practicing public Historians. Unlike Harvard's economists, we at UCSB keep all Historians in one department. It is, at least, much more interesting that way. ❖

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## Humphreys

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outlines and the key facts of Islamic history which were generally accepted. By World War I, a broad consensus among Western Orientalists was established and continued with only minor adjustments until the mid 1970's.

In the mid 1970's this comfortable consensus was "blown apart by works from a new group of scholars who adopted a determinedly radical and iconoclastic stance," he said. They questioned all of the fundamental tenants of the Islamic historical tradition. While the radicals have not persuaded many to follow them, their challenge forced a re-examination of the sources and the cooperative effort among American, European and Muslim scholars has vindicated the crucial elements of the Islamic tradition.

So where does this all lead? What should the role of the historian be when examining other peoples history? "Historians above all others," Humphreys said, "ought to recognize that their discoveries are not truth but only provisional working hypothesis which are sure to be supplanted in a few years. Serious historical research, like good science, produces new questions rather than final answers." Non-Muslim scholars who respect the spiritual and material achievements of Islamic civilization can have a genuinely constructive role in developing Islam's understanding of its origins and history. "They can achieve this by trying to recover the way the earliest Muslims understood and articulated their beliefs, actions and purposes," he said. This would make it possible for Muslims to recover the ideas of the first generation, cleansed of later accretions and use these ideas as a positive basis for contemporary self-understanding. ❖

## Sonnino

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Mask?" That is the most common question," Sonnino says. "And there are three kinds of answers, the flippant answer, a kind of belligerent answer, and a more serious answer. The flippant answer is, 'why should we care about anything?' The belligerent answer is that this kind of project is probably a lot more precise and involves a lot more thinking and verification than most historical projects. The more serious answer is that I don't think we can know much about the reign of Louis XIV if we can't explain why he would take some guy and lock him up for 34 years. Did he do it for kicks? Did he do it out of malice, or maybe for some serious reasons which, if we don't know them, then we don't know a lot stuff about the reign."

Professor Sonnino, who has been on the History Faculty

since 1967, received his PhD in history from UCLA in 1964. He has also served on the faculties of the University of Massachusetts and the University of New Mexico.

Over the past 30 years, he has written dozens of articles among them, *Louis XIV's Writings for the period 1670-1679*, *Louis XIV and the Dutch War*, and *Art as an Historical Source in the reign of Louis XIV*. He is also the author of several books, including *Louis XIV's View of the Papacy 1661-1667*, *Frederick of Prussia anti-Machiavel*, and *Louis XIV and the Origins of the Dutch War*.

Tickets for the March 11 event at the Sheraton Hotel, 1111 E. Cabrillo Blvd. are \$13 for members and \$15 for non-members. Reservations are available at the UCSB Office of Community Relations 805 893-4388. ❖

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Fornas, journeyed to Madrid, where they were entertained by King Carlos and his queen and by officers of the Spanish government and of the city of Madrid. Diana read a paper that Phil had written at the invitation of the Spanish government and leading Spanish historians. The paper, "La Reina Isabel Y Su Glorioso 1492", was for a conference honoring the quincentennial of Columbus's voyage to America.

And so, in these ways Phil's writing keeps right on teaching.



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