

HISTORÍA

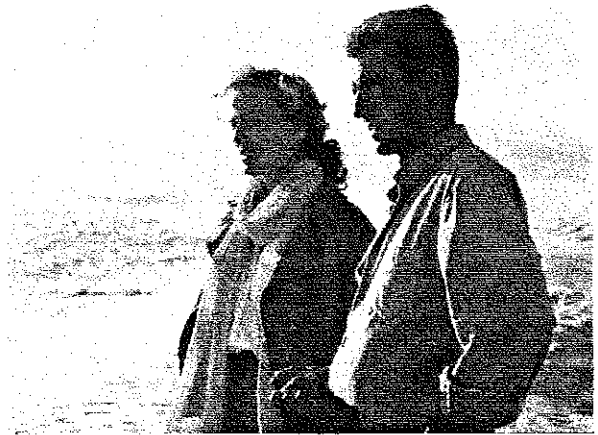
Newsletter of the UCSB History Associates * Volume 10, Number 4 * March 1997

Collins on the English Patient: A Great Lover? "Wellll..."

"The English Patient," written and directed by Anthony Minghella and produced by Saul Zaentz, has taken America by storm. Nominated for 12 Oscars, this desert tale of the years between the two great wars features as its central character the Count Laszlo d'Almásy, an explorer and adventurer who has fallen into a passionate romance with Katherine Clifton, the wife of a British pilot surveying the desert region along the borders of Libya, Egypt and Sudan. The movie is based upon the Booker Prize-winning novel of the same name by the Canadian novelist Michael Ondaatje, which is rooted in a true story. Yet how loosely? Robert O. Collins, UCSB professor emeritus of African history, who specializes in the Sudan, will talk on March 20 to the History Associates on the mysterious count. His story concerns the tangle of interwar rivalries between the European powers who sought control of the desert and incidentally also sought the location of the lost oasis of Zerzura.

The desert border of the three north African colonies became subject to intense scrutiny in the interwar years. This was a time when a Western obsession with the desert and its exploration was signaled by the popularity of Lawrence of Arabia. The Royal Geographic Society and a number of adventurers were all out in the desert in their airplanes, Citroëns and camels drawing maps and hoping to locate the fabled Zerzura, an oasis reputed since the eleventh century to be of great fertility and inhabited by a group of giant black people. As Europe headed toward another war the search heated up. The Italian Fascists began looking for a desert connection between Libya and Ethiopia, and the British aimed to stop them.

The real Count D'Almásy was a character yet more complex than his movie counterpart. Born in 1895 in the Austrian empire (in territory now part of Hungary), D'Almásy became a bolshevik-hating monarchist involved in an attempt to restore Franz-Joseph's nephew Karl to the throne after World War I. He earned the title of count for chauffeuring the would-be monarch to the site of the failed putsch, and soon fled for his life to Cairo.



He became one of a number of desert explorers for hire, rejected by the British and finally becoming a successful spy for the Nazis. D'Almásy found a lover, whose life he likely saved through appeal to the German leaders, but fate treated the real D'Almásy, who lived until 1951, more kindly than the flame-scarred character of the movie.

After the movie was created the filmmakers made a promotional film detailing the real story behind the tale. Their search for information led them to feature Bob Collins, an acknowledged expert on the region. Collins's interest in Sudanese history began when, as an undergraduate at Dartmouth College, his library carrel was placed fortuitously next to the shelf lined with books on Africa, which he began to peruse. Since then he has been a prisoner of the Arab proverb, "Once one drinks of the waters of the Nile, he will return to drink again," at Khartoum and at the waters of the oases across the desert at Jabal Unweinat and the Gilf Kebir.

How was the lost oasis found, and why does Collins say, "A great lover? Wellll..." Come to hear "Translating *The English Patient: The Lost Oasis of Zerzura*" at Andria's Harborside Restaurant on the corner of Cabrillo Boulevard and Castillo Street in Santa Barbara. Time: high noon, March 20. Reservations (\$14) by March 18 to 893-4388. Don't miss it!

— by Luke Roberts

If That's Public History, I'll Take the Private Stuff

by Josh Fogel

[Ed. Note: Here's the sequel to Josh Fogel's experiences with Japanese TV.]

When I last left you I was disappointed and unpaid for my many hours of work on a documentary on Naitō Konan (1866-1934), the great Japanese Sinologist, for NHK (Japanese educational TV). That, it turns out, was only the beginning. I rationalized the intellectual lacunae of the final product with the thought, as everyone was telling me here, that NHK is rich and pays real well.

So, every few days I moseyed over to my bank to check my balance. After four weeks following screening had passed, still no money had been transferred into the account. I called the station and was told it was on its way, not to worry, the show was a success.... Several more weeks passed and no money; I called again, but no one was there to take my call. I called my friend who appeared on the show with me, and he had also not been paid. I called the station several more times with equal success. Startlingly, no one even returned my calls.

Anyway, I was becoming desperate. Finally several faxes arrived to say that payment, now two months overdue, was forthcoming soon. It would come not by the usual electronic bank transfer but by postal money order. It never arrived, and in any event it was much less than I had expected. I now took the plunge and addressed a vitriolic letter (as vitriolic as I can be in Japanese) to the person in charge at the local station, and a full explanation of the case to the CEO of NHK in English.

Lo and behold, several days later, the ball began rolling. Incredibly apologetic phone calls came from the station. There are countless ways to say "I'm sorry" in Japanese, and I heard them all over and over again. When I complained that the payment was too small, they found a way to raise it a bit. The topper was that two people from the station—hundreds of miles away (two hours by plane from Osaka, which is another hour away by train from here)—traveled down here to apologize in person, give me some worthless gifts, and explain over and over again how sorry they were. I began to regret having ever made such a fuss.

If there's a lesson here, my fellow faculty members and graduate students, it is this. Next time someone calls and wants to interview you, ask first how much they're paying.

GRADS EXCEL

Andy Johns, Kathryn Statler, Nancy Stockdale, and Dennis Ventry have been nominated for the Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award (given by CETIS, the Faculty Senate committee on teaching).

Ron Morgan (Cline) will be teaching in the History department at Westmont College next year. Ron won a Graduate Division Spring 1997 Dissertation Fellowship of \$4000 to complete his project on ideas of sanctity and holy men and women in colonial Latin America.

Gaston Espinosa (Garcia) has been teaching full-time at Westmont as a visiting lecturer in religion. He has won a 1997 Huggins-Quarles Award from the Organization of American Historians for research on his dissertation, "Borderland Religion: Los Angeles and the Origins of the Latino Pentecostal Movement in the U.S., Mexico, and Puerto Rico, 1906-1941." He gave a paper in Boston in February on the role of women in the Latino Assemblies of God and the Apostolic Assembly for a forthcoming edited volume by Virginia Brereton and Peggy Bendroth on women and 20th-Century Protestantism.

Scopas S. Poggio (Collins) has been granted research funds by the Center for Black Studies to go to the United Kingdom to pursue research on his dissertation, titled "War and Conflict in the Southern Sudan, 1955-1972." He recently presented a paper entitled "War and Conflict in the Southern Sudan, 1955-1972: The Root Causes" at the African Studies Conference, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Beverly Schwartzberg (DeHart) was the coordinator for a new exhibit in the newly remodeled Huntsinger Gallery of the Ventura County Museum of History and Art. The exhibit, entitled "Ventura County in the New West," tells local history from the time of the Chumash to the 20th century. Three years in the making, the exhibit was funded in part with grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Latin Americanists At Conference

Several grad students and recent Ph.D.s attended the recent joint conference of the Rocky Mountain Council on Latin American Studies and the Pacific Coast Council on Latin American Studies in San Diego last month. A session on "Recasting the Countryside in Latin America: 1870-1989" was an all-UCSB production, with papers by Monica Orozco (Cline) on "Protestant Missionaries and the Place of Indigenous Peoples in Mexico, 1870-1900"; Erik Ching (Rock) on "Authority and Allegiance: Rural

Communities and Political Mobilization in El Salvador, 1890-1932"; and Kevin Chambers (Rock) on "Peasant Communities during the Stroessner Era in Paraguay." Ph.D. Daniel Lewis (Rock), now an Assistant Professor at Cal Poly Pomona, both chaired the session and spoke on "Surviving the Thirties: Grain Farmers, Government Policy, and the Great Depression in Argentina." Yet another Rock Ph.D., Joseph Cotter, now teaching at the University of Arizona, commented. Joe also presented a paper entitled "Agronomia: The Cardenista Cultural Campaign," in another session. Another session on "Intersections of Latin American and U.S. Latino Religion: Culture, Politics, Practice," included papers by Professor Mario Garcia on "Religion and the Chicano Movement" and by Garcia's student Gaston Espinosa on "We Preach the Truth': Inter-Religious Competition in the California Latino Immigrant Marketplace in the 1990s."

Recent Speakers

In February, Joyce Appleby of UCLA, current president of the American Historical Association, spoke on "The Historian and the Public Realm."

John Edwin Mason from the University of Virginia spoke on "Race, Theory and Autobiography" on March 6. Mason is completing a book on slavery in South Africa.

In February the History Department, along with the Portuguese Center, Latin American and Iberian Studies, and the National Commission for the Commemoration of the Portuguese Discoveries sponsored two talks: "Brazilian Tobacco in the Canadian Fur Trade, 1550-1821" by Linda Wimmer of Bridgewater State College, and "Social Space, Social Status, and Social Mobility in the Lisbon of Joao V, 1700-1750" by Bill Donovan of Loyola College, Baltimore.

Professor Emeritus Otis Graham, now teaching at the Cameron School of Business at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, led a workshop on March 10 on "Reflections on Green Business" with the Humanities and the Environment Research Focus Group.

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Editor: Anita Guerrini

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Cold War Group Round Table

by Ken Osgood

On February 22, the Cold War History Group (COWHIG) sponsored a round-table with David Holloway of Stanford University. Holloway, who has written widely on Soviet politics and on nuclear weapons issues, discussed his recent book, *Stalin and the Bomb: The Soviet Union and Atomic Energy, 1939-1956*. He focused on the development of nuclear weapons and Stalin's approach to diplomacy in the Cold War. Fearing that the Americans would use their nuclear monopoly to enforce their will on the post-war world, Stalin became increasingly intractable. According to Holloway, Stalin feared that concessions to the West would encourage the United States to resort to "atomic blackmail."

Holloway also led a discussion on the Soviet archives. He observed that access to many important Soviet collections are still limited, especially the Presidential Archives and Ministry of Foreign Affairs. But his appraisal was not all pessimistic. He said that some access to materials from second-level officials is possible, and noted the importance of interviews. His own work, he said, greatly benefited from interviews with scientists who worked on the Soviet atomic bomb project.

As a member of both the political science and history departments, Holloway attracted a number of UCSB political science graduate students and professors to his talk. This led to a dialogue on the relationship between the two disciplines, which began with Professor Logevall asking two questions: "How can historians benefit from the work of political scientists? How can political scientists benefit from the work of historians?" No consensus was reached, but no blood was shed either.

Participants from each discipline explained how they have gained from work of their colleagues "on the other side." Logevall, for example, said his work has benefited from decision-making models and theories of presidential leadership. Similarly, Professor Dan Philpott of political science recalled his experience doing archival research at the Public Record Office in London.

The meeting was yet another COWHIG success. Next is the presentation by Mark Harrison of Warwick University on postwar Soviet missile development on April 11, followed by Professor Wilson Miscamble of Notre Dame, who will speak on George Kennan and the Cold War on April 16. COWHIG will end this year's activity with a graduate student conference on May 31.

BLOOPERS

... AND MORE BLOOPERS

This month we had a bumper crop of bloopers. The unanimous choice for winner (well, yes, only I get to vote) is this whopper from Ken Moure, who encountered it on a 123B midterm:

"He (Mussolini) felt that the mans gorrility lied in the womens fertility."

You must admit that "gorrility" is a very useful concept.

Mark Elliott contributed the following, which he titled, "The Prime Minister Is Crabby! Or, Not for Nothing Were Cowrie Shells Used as Money in Ancient China"

"The emperor Wan-li hears that Chang hands out penalties not in the best interests of the dynasty, but for his own shellfish reasons."

Theresa Neumann gleaned the following nuggets of wisdom from the Environmental Studies 11 final last fall:

"The evolutionary theory showed reason that humans had evolved from apes, mainly from Darwin."

"Copernicus found that the sun was the center of the earth."

And a few on that real guy, Gifford Pinchot:

"Gifford Pinchot was an aristocrat and early conservationist who believed in the greatest good, for the greatest people, for the greatest time."

"Gifford Pinchot grew up as a wealthy man and later became known as the 'Godfather of the Forestry Service.'"

ES 11 students were working overtime last quarter. Ben Zulueta contributed the following. He calls the last comment "an original contribution to the problems of understanding the world we live in, as well as a trenchant critique of the developed/developing dichotomy."

"The social problems created by European exploitation of different lands was enormous. Europeans forced tribes into knowing both their own language as well as the language of the European country."

"The Europeans brought over disease and PLAQUE." (emphasis added)

On the lost bounty of the New World: "Fish were ankle deep for a mile, turkeys galore, moose that could feed a family for a year."

"The Indians felt that nature was perfect as it was and that natural balance was everywhere; and they helped as part of the balance. When they made a kill, for example, they would plant a tree."

"The developed world characteristically has an older population, while undeveloped countries have a relatively young population that will explode soon."

"Korea today is overpopulated and polluted due to increased numbers of cars." [*too many back seats? Ed.*]

"The problems in such developing countries, however, produced beneficial results to developed countries, and as developed countries developed, developing countries will be used as dumping grounds, and the way is laid for developing countries' development process to be the main reason that they are not developing."

Champion blooper-spotter Tim Savage found these in the History 90 midterms:

"Now, the samurai were not nice. Basically, they killed people for a living."

"During the Kamakura period, women were not popular."

During the Yayoi period, "Japan became centralized in villages because of the rice fields brought in from China."

During this same period, "the Japanese people became sentient."

And the truly profound:

"Confucianism was a philosophy-religion. For example, fortune cookies."

To demonstrate that City College students are equally brilliant, Chris Erickson found this on a U.S. history exam there. The question was a fill in the blank.

"The Democratic machine that dominated 19th century New York City politics was _____." The answer: "elevators."

FACULTY GARNER AWARDS

Mario Garcia's recent edited book, *Ruben Salazar, Border Correspondent: Selected Writings, 1955-1970* (University of California Press, 1995) was awarded a Southwest Book Award by the Border Regional Library.

Jeffrey Burton Russell's *A History of Heaven: The Singing Silence* will be out from Princeton University Press at the end of March. He is prominently featured in an essay in the latest Stephen Jay Gould collection, *Dinosaur in a Haystack*. Gould calls him a "voice of reason in a world ignorant of the history of science."

Sharon Farmer was awarded a membership at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton for next year. Her project is entitled "Gender and Poverty in High Medieval Paris."

Michael A. Osborne commented on a session at the biennial meeting of the American Society for Environmental History in Baltimore. Presenting papers at the meeting were Ph.D.s Zuoyue Wang and Peter Neushul.

Anita Guerrini commented on a session at the annual meeting of the Western Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies in February.

Lecturer **Mary Galvin** has been hired to a tenure track position in the Black Studies Department at Ohio State University beginning in Fall 1997.

Robert O. Collins spent his Valentine's Day giving the plenary address, entitled "The Blood of Experience," at a conference on "The Conflict in the Southern Sudan: A Search for Common Ground." The conference was held in Bolton, Ontario, and was sponsored by the Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies at Conrad Grebel College (Waterloo, Ontario), the African Studies Association of Canada, Project Ploughshares, and the United Church of Canada.

Frank Dutra contributed several articles to the *Encyclopedia of Latin American History and Culture* (5 vols., Scribner, 1996), which was awarded the Waldo G. Leland Prize of the American Historical Association at the annual meeting in January. The prize is awarded every five years for an outstanding reference tool.

Chi-Yun Chen was appointed Professor of History at the Institute of History, National Tsing Hua University of

Taiwan, in September 1994, following his retirement from UCSB. He was also elected Director of the Research Program for Intellectual-Cultural History, a semi-independent research unit of the university. He has received a three-year grant from the National Science Council of Taiwan to work on his project on Taoism.

McGee Leads Summer Institute

Prof. J. Sears McGee spearheaded the successful proposal which will bring the California History-Social Science Project (CH-SSP) to UCSB in the summer of 1997. UCSB becomes one of ten regional centers for the project, which is intended to involve K-14 teachers in "discussion and implementation of the California History-Social Science Framework." The board for CH-SSP, based at UCLA, awarded \$110,000 to UCSB for its 1997 Summer Institute. The topic is "Civic Values, Rights, and Responsibilities from Ancient Times to the Present," and participating history faculty, apart from McGee, include Sarah Cline, Patricia Cline Cohen, Tsuyoshi Hasegawa, Ann Plane, and Zaragosa Vargas. The three-week seminar, which will take place from July 7-25 at the Interdisciplinary Humanities Center, promises to bring new perspectives to an old but crucial topic. This is the first of what is hoped will be a series of annual summer programs at UCSB, with a different topic each summer. The UCSB Extension offers 5 units of post-graduate professional credit for this course for a fee of \$115. Deadline for applications is April 30. For further information contact Margaret Rose in her office at the IHC, phone (805) 893-7269.

History Receives Malek Gift

In memory of R. Michael Malek, who died on 31 October 1995, the UCSB History Department has received a gift of \$1500. Malek, who received his Ph.D. from UCSB in 1971, was a professor in the History Department at the University of South Alabama at the time of his death. He specialized in Caribbean and Latin American history. The gift is intended to purchase teaching materials, particularly in Malek's fields of interest. Department chair Sarah Cline noted that she has just begun setting up a department Teaching Resources Laboratory, and the Malek gift will go to good use.

Sonnino Advances While History Department Retreats

by Vincent Samson

Sporting a Stetson and doing his best imitation of Pat Buchanan, Paul Sonnino delivered another of his learned and witty lectures recently, this one before the chapter of Phi Alpha Theta at the University of North Texas on April 20, 1996. Sonnino's commitment prevented him from participating in the History Department's retreat.

Sonnino's talk was titled "On the Trail of the Man in the Iron Mask," and he revealed his latest researches on this question. The biggest revelation came when he demonstrated that Fouquet (Louis XIV's disgraced finance minister) and Eustache Dauger (the Man in the Iron Mask, who served as Fouquet's valet in the high security prison of Pinerolo) were in strict confinement for exactly the same reason.

"They shared more than an acquaintance with Fouquet's dirty linen," Sonnino punned, "They knew all about the dirty linen of Cardinal Mazarin and Louis XIV."

Sonnino also used his talk to publicize his two pet peeves, the use of history as propaganda and the poor performance of UCLA in the 1996 NCAA tournament. "If," he pointed out, "a specific fact such as the identity of the Man in the Iron Mask is susceptible to so many different explanations, all dependent on the correct analysis of certain documents, what then of the patently political program of the American History standards, that perpetual blotch, along with the basketball coaching of Jim Harrick, upon the reputation of my alma mater, UCLA?" [Ed. Note: at least one of these things is no longer a problem, thanks to Prof. Sonnino.] Professor Sonnino's remarks were greeted with enthusiastic applause, particularly his castigation of the UCLA basketball program.

Vincent Samson, of the Ecole militaire in Paris, reports on the American academic scene for the French army. This article was translated from the original French by Anne York. Remember the Stetson picture? Here's the story.



OUR NEXT CHAIR ?

Little Joseph Logevall at 8 weeks of age looks sufficiently astonished at the prospect of leading the History Department

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