

January 2009

AMERICAN SOCIETY
OF CHURCH HISTORY



Volume 4, Issue 1

Newsletter

Inside this issue:

A Word from President Lippy	2
ASCH Committee Appointments	3
Introduction: Elizabeth Wilson	5
ASCH Membership Committee	5
Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship Award	5
ASCH Winter Conference	6
New Newsletter Co-Editors	7
Call for Papers Winter 2010	8
Graduate Student Membership Form	9

American Society of Church History

Baylor University
Department of History
One Bear Place #97306
Waco, TX 76798
Phone: (254) 710-7845
Fax: (254) 710-2551

Email: asch@baylor.edu
<http://www.churchhistory.org/>

Newsletter Co-Editors

Courtney Lyons
Courtney_Lyons@baylor.edu
David Scott
dscott@bu.edu

ASCH SELECTS NEW EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

A PARTING WORD FROM OUTGOING EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, KEN MINKEMA

When I took on the role of Executive Secretary five years ago, I had little idea what lay in store. It was a rather rocky time, but I knew that ASCH was an association I valued, and I appreciated the work it did and respected the people who were involved. I had published an article in *Church History*, and wanted to find some way to return the favor. My appreciation especially for the people, in leadership and in the membership ranks, who organized and attended the meetings and the conferences, or who contacted our offices, has only grown. I leave the Executive Secretaryship with ASCH a much larger organization in terms of individual and institutional members than when I came in, with more diversification, a more visible web presence, and, thanks to the journal editors, a partnership with a major publishing firm.

ASCH is a wonderful fellowship, and I look forward to continuing to be of service. I give my best wishes to Keith Francis as he assumes the Executive Secretaryship, and will be in the wings to help him during the transition and afterwards.

AN INTRODUCTORY WORD FROM INCOMING EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, KEITH FRANCIS

Greetings from the new Executive Secretary's office at Baylor University! According to various dictionary editors, "bail out" and "change" were two of the most popular words last year. The latter word applies to the American presidency – and to ASCH. My interview slogan was not "Yes We Can!" Neither did I make the claim that my predecessor's administration was a failure. (In fact, without the help and encouragement of my two predecessors, I would not have become the new Executive Secretary.) Nonetheless there will be some changes in the Society over the coming weeks and months. For the ASCH office, the notable change will be its move from Yale University to Baylor University. I became the Executive Secretary after a vote at the Business Meeting in New York on January 4. Ken Minkema, my predecessor, deserved all the praise he received at the Winter Meeting. Numerous positive changes in the Society occurred under his guidance.

As for me, I have been a member of ASCH since the early 1990s. When I attended my first ASCH meeting in 1993, Henry Bowden, the Executive Secretary at the time, and his wife "showed me the ropes." Since then ASCH has been one of my academic homes. In the late 1990s, Henry Bowden invited me to become a member of the Membership Committee. About five years ago, when Randi Walker (of Berkeley's Pacific School of Religion)

(Continued on page 4)

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT:

CHARLES H. LIPPY

By now, our 2009 annual meeting in New York City is, like what we study, part of history. Those of you able to attend most likely noted that the program continued the trend evident in recent years towards a more global understanding of ties between Christianity and culture. In New York, not only did session themes point in this direction, but also presenters who came from Italy, Germany, Great Britain, Australia, and Asia. I personally wish to thank the program committee for their extraordinary work.

Sessions were well attended, with several reaching overflow conditions. Grant Wacker's superb presidential address on Billy Graham had a standing-room only crowd, even after many more chairs were moved into the room--reminiscent indeed of some of Graham's crusades.

Coming in January, the annual meeting offers a time for reflection on the past as well as for celebrating new beginnings. Presentation of the society's distinguished Career award to George Marsden, whose perceptive work on evangelicalism and fundamentalism remains classic, illustrates the former. At the business meeting came another moment of reflection as we thanked Ken Minkema for his five years of service to the society as executive secretary. It was Ken's desire to return to full-time duties at Yale Divinity School and the Jonathan Edwards papers.

So what's new? Most important is our new executive secretary, Keith Francis. A historian at Baylor University, Keith will be known to most as the unusually energetic and hardworking chair of our membership committee for the last several years. Under his guidance, the committee's work has resulted in our growing at a fast pace. Keith and Ken will be working together through our spring meeting in Montreal in April, after which all of the society's work will have moved to Baylor.

It comes as no surprise that the Council and the finance committee agonized over the impact of the current economic crisis on ASCH. Costs continue to rise, even as market conditions batter our carefully managed investment portfolios. My sense is that the Council is committed to maintaining the quality and integrity of our work, but always with an eye towards controlling expenses as together we deal with recession conditions.

What lies ahead for ASCH? First will be our spring meeting in Montreal in April that will provide an opportunity for strengthening our associations with Canadian folk who study the history of Christianity and culture. For those planning ahead, next January we will gather in San Diego, where the weather promises to be much milder than New York City .

This past year was the first in which we had the privilege of a graduate student representative to the Council. Brandon Bayne, from Harvard, is continuing in that capacity and is already working on an experimental basis to increase our presence in forums such as Facebook where graduate students can not just find us, but interact with one another. By our San Diego meeting, Brandon hopes to have identified some senior scholars who might be willing to share a meal with a group of our graduate student members. Right now, with graduate students accounting for about one-third of our total membership, integrating them into our guild--especially during a time which new jobs are hard to find--is all the more important.

Ongoing conversation continues regarding how our relationship with the American Historical Association might enhance both groups and strengthen our work. Keith Francis, Ken Minkema, and I are already

(Continued on page 3)

in regular communication with the AHA leadership, and I have invited the AHA president and executive secretary to meet with our Council in Montreal in April. We are aware of the ongoing concern of many ASCH folk about having to pay dual registration fees for the ASCH and AHA annual meetings in order to access to hotels and book displays, the escalating costs of renting AV equipment for use in sessions, and kindred matters. We cannot offer any ready resolution to these thorny issues, but hope that face-to-face conversation will reveal new possibilities. As well, Keith and I will continue that conversation with AHA counterparts when the ACLS holds its annual meeting in May.

Finally, let me express my deep appreciation for the privilege of serving as president of ASCH this year. I jokingly remarked to some that chairing the program for the 2009 annual meeting, my main task as president-elect, at times seemed akin to fraternity hazing of an earlier generation. But it is an honor to work with Keith, the Council and committees, and all of you. I trust you will be as gracious to Dick Heitzenrater, on whose shoulders the 2010 program falls, as you have been to me. See you in Montreal!

ASCH COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Officers for 2009-2010

Charles Lippy, President

Richard Heitzenrater, President-Elect

John Corrigan, Amanda Porterfield, Editors of Church History

Keith Francis, Executive Secretary

Committee on Membership

Candy Gunther Brown (*Chair*)

James Ernest, Horace Six-Means,

Ray Kibler, Courtney Lyons

Committee on Nominations and Personnel

Grant Wacker (*Chair*)

Susan McArver, Anne Thayer, Elaine S. Caldbeck,

Leslie Callahan, Constance Furey

Committee on Research

Daniel Bornstein (*Chair*)

Barbara Brown Zikmund, James Bennett, Jennifer McNutt, Ken Minkema, Douglas A. Sweeney, Andrea Sterk, Reiner Smolinski, David Weir

Committee on Investment

Hans Hillerband (*Chair*)

Philip Krey, Keith Francis, Reid L. Neilson

ASCH Council

Class of 2009

John Giggie

Patricia Z. Beckman

Timothy Tseng

Patout Burns

Candy Gunther Brown

Class of 2010

Christopher Beeley

Kathleen Cummins

Steve Olsen

Quincy Newell

Brandon Bayne

(*Student Representative*)

Class of 2011

Margaret Bender

Susan Schreiner

Scott Sunquist

Augustine Thompson

A WORD FROM KEITH FRANCIS (CONT. FROM PG. 1)

retired from the Committee, I became its chair. I also served on the ASCH Council between 2004 and 2007. The moral of this tale? Hang around and one never knows what might happen, perhaps?

For those members who have not met me, as I like to say when asked, I am English. (I still have some of 'the accent' and so the statement is redundant.) I was born in a borough of London called Isleworth. It has the distinction of abutting Heathrow Airport. I grew up in West London. That is one reason why I am still a passionate fan of Chelsea Football Club, my local team. More important professionally, I did my Ph.D. at King's College, London University. (My supervisor was Judith Champ who has written books on Bishop Ullathorne and English Catholic pilgrimages to Rome.) I researched the attitudes in the Church of England and English society to women in the early twentieth century. I focused on the ways in which the Church tried to influence the passage of parliamentary legislation concerning women. As I tell my students, I examined uncontroversial topics such as prostitution, sexual assault, and women's suffrage.

In my research, I am particularly interested in the ways that the Church adapted to the changes in nineteenth and twentieth-century British society. The advent of women's rights and Edwardian feminism is one example of a major change. Evolutionary theory and the impact of Charles Darwin's work is another example. The immigration to Britain of West Indians in the 1950s and 1960s is another. All three of these changes in their various guises are my research interests. In ASCH I have had numerous opportunities to converse with colleagues who share my interests. Historians of science such as Ron Numbers and Jon Roberts. Historians interested in things Anglican and Episcopalian such as Dale Johnson and Henry Bowden. And I've found colleagues who study some of the (so-called) 'outsiders' such as Jan Shipp and Steve Olsen. That is one reason why I am excited at the prospect of being the ASCH Executive Secretary.

The ASCH is, in large part, what we the members make it. That may be (obviously?) true but there are some trends to which the Society must pay attention and take deliberate action. I want to draw attention to three in particular.

First, the Society is growing. Five years ago the membership was about 1,500. Now it is over 3,000. If subscribers to *Church History* are included, there are over 5,000 people associated with ASCH. Second, graduate students are a significant portion of the Society's membership. There are now over 1,000 graduate student members in the Society. Put another way, one-third of the Society's members are graduate students. Third, the presence of the Society around the world is increasing. The Society has a significant minority of members who live outside the United States. As a result of the efforts of Cambridge University Press, *Church History* is reaching audiences in Asia and Africa 'untouched' in previous years.

How should the Society react to these changes? First, by acting consciously to serve its different constituencies. More travel stipends for graduate students and travel stipends for independent scholars, for example. Making copies of papers delivered at meetings which are not published available on the website, perhaps. More boldly even, moderating an electronic forum for discussion of issues in religion and, ultimately, creating an electronic journal.

Second, all the members need to think of themselves as resources. I have received numerous helpful ideas for my research from my fellow-ASCH members. Creating opportunities for such exchanges must be a priority of the Society. Beginning at the Spring meeting in Montreal, I will host a lunch or dinner at each ASCH meeting. (Call it 'Dinner with Executive Secretary'...) Nothing large: just an opportunity for a couple of graduate students, long-time members, and first-time attendees to converse casually. I hope other members will follow my example.

(Continued on page 5)

Last, the Society must use its financial resources efficiently and well. What are and should be our priorities over the next five, ten, or twenty years? For example, when the idea of free two-year memberships to graduate students was suggested to the Council who knew the impact implementing the idea would have later?

The Executive Secretary can only work well with the help of the members. I look forward to working closely with some of you in the future. I look forward to meeting some of you in the future. Equally important, do not hesitate to send me your ideas for making the Society even better than it is already.

Keith A. Francis

Keith.Francis@baylor.edu

INTRODUCTION: ELIZABETH WILSON,

A little bit about myself: I was raised in Texas, but decided to venture out-of-state for my undergraduate career and attended Clemson University in beautiful South Carolina. I'm currently working on and enjoying my first year as a graduate student at Baylor University. My historical interest lies in Latin America's volatile twentieth century. In addition to my coursework, I am Keith Francis' graduate assistant. I hope that I will have an opportunity to meet many of you. I will be answering the e-mails addressed to asch@baylor.edu and encourage you to direct any questions or concerns about the website, conferences, etc. to that email address. Thanks, Elizabeth.

A WORD FROM INCOMING MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR: CANDY GUNTHER BROWN

Welcome from the incoming chair of the membership committee, Candy Gunther Brown! Many thanks to Keith Francis for his service in this capacity, and congratulations and heartfelt welcome to Keith as he steps into his new position as executive secretary of the Society. I am an associate professor of Religious Studies at Indiana University (Harvard Ph.D. 2000); my research and teaching interests lie in Religion in the Americas, including evangelical print culture and spiritual healing practices, such as divine healing traditions in Pentecostal and Charismatic Christianity as well as American involvement with Complementary and Alternative Medicine. There is much reason for enthusiasm about the health of the ASCH membership. The Society now counts more than three thousand members, over three hundred of whom live outside the U.S., and more than a third of whom are graduate students. Please continue to encourage your colleagues to join us! We look forward to finding innovative ways to meet the needs of our members and to attract others to join—if you have suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me—browncg@indiana.edu, (812) 855-8929. One way that you can help ASCH leadership to help you is to take this opportunity to visit the ASCH website and update your information in the member database—keeping records updated really helps ASCH officers to know how to meet the needs of ASCH members.

JAN SHIPPS WINS ANDREW W. MELLON EMERITUS FELLOWSHIP AWARD

Jan Shipps, Professor Emeritus of History and Religious Studies at IUPUI, was awarded the Andrew W. Mellon Emeritus Fellowship to aid her in finishing her book on Mormonism after World War II. Congratulations to Professor Shipps and best wishes as she completes her manuscript!

ASCH 2009 WINTER CONFERENCE

GEORGE MARSDEN HONORED



(Pictured: Darren Dochuk, Nathan Hatch, Bill Smelvoe, George Marsden, Catherine T. Long, Harry S. Stout, Thomas Kidd)

ASCH honored George Marsden with the Distinguished Career Award at the Winter Meeting in New York City. Panelists, comprised of former students and long-time colleagues, offered their tributes to Professor Marsden's contributions to the discipline and to their professional and personal development. Grant Wacker presented the award to Professor Marsden.

CONFERENCE PROFILE:

In "Holy Cures," panelists Catherine Bowler, Heather Vacek, and Amy Laura Hall provided insight into how American Protestants sought Christian diagnoses and cures for problems affecting the unconventional home, the unbalanced mind, and the unredeemed body. Bowler provided a lively account of her tour of the Holy Land with faith healer Benny Hinn, focusing her research on the believers who followed Hinn to Israel in order to find the secret to living in divine health and wealth. She argued that these Christians did not look to Hinn for relief from their physical or financial problems, but instead saw in him a role model for how to live faith-filled lives and one who provides a broad eschatological framework for understanding their faith. She maintained that these Christians, in a spirit of American individualism, use the Word of Faith teaching and the example of Benny Hinn to realize their divine potential and pull themselves up by their own bootstraps.

Heather Vacek contrasted the various attitudes that mainline and evangelical Protestants had about mental illness in the last half of the twentieth century. Although both groups showed real concern for the mentally ill, their divergent theological positions shaped their responses to its treatment. Liberal Protestants generally supported the secular organizations and mental health professions that treated this disease, while their more conservative brethren distrusted secular treatments and eventually formed their own faith-based initiatives.

Amy Laura Hall, using the correspondence of Methodist missionary Sadie Maude Moore, explored the challenges that American female missionaries faced when they ministered to Korean women. She asked important questions about how Methodist women thought about their work in an Eastern culture, and how the Americans might have taken a "matronist" approach to this relationship. These papers shed important light on how Western notions about the home intersected with Eastern traditions, how liberal and conservative theologies shaped one's views about mental illness, and how some Christians sought solutions for their physical and financial woes from a faith healer and prosperity teacher.

Scott Billingsley

ASCH NEWSLETTER WELCOMES NEW CO-EDITORS

INTRODUCTION: CO-EDITOR COURTNEY LYONS

I am excited to be the graduate student representative on the Membership Committee and co-editor of the ASCH newsletter! I am a first-year Ph.D. student at Baylor University in Waco, TX, studying American Church History and specializing in the relationship between Christianity and the 1960s African-American civil rights movement, with particular sensitivity to the experiences of women. I have served in church ministry for over 10 years and was recently ordained at Seventh and James Baptist Church in Waco. I have also trained as a competitive figure skater for 17 years and am working toward judging certification. I hope to represent the graduate students of ASCH in the membership committee and work with other graduate student leaders in ASCH to cultivate a strong community of mutual support. Graduate students, I hope to hear your feedback, ideas, and suggestions to improve the association and your membership experience! Please contact me at [Courtney Lyons@baylor.edu](mailto:Courtney_Lyons@baylor.edu).

INTRODUCTION: CO-EDITOR DAVID SCOTT

Greetings from your new ASCH newsletter co-editor! My name is David Scott. I'm a Ph.D. student at Boston University working in the field of World Christianity. My particular interest is Christians in the Chinese diaspora in Southeast Asia, including Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, and the Philippines. I'm excited to have a chance to be involved in the production of the newsletter, and I'd like to thank Candy Gunther Brown for giving me this opportunity. I hope you'll find it a useful and informative read. Please let me or Courtney Lyons know if you have any suggestions concerning the newsletter. You can contact me at dscott@bu.edu.

OUR VISION FOR THE NEWSLETTER

We hope the newsletter will provide information about ASCH (conferences, scholarships and grants, awards, etc.), invite you to greater participation in the society, and build community among members. Our next issue will launch a column dedicated to the professional development of graduate students, written by a prominent field scholar. We will also feature very brief scholarly articles and reviews. If you are interested in submitting material, please email Courtney or David at Courtney_Lyons@baylor.edu or dscott@bu.edu.

ASCH 2009 WINTER CONFERENCE PHOTOS



ASCH members socialize at the 2009 ASCH Winter Conference at a reception for George Marsden.

CALL FOR PAPERS

American Society of Church History Winter 2010 Meeting

Dear ASCH members—

The annual Winter 2010 meeting of the American Society of Church History will be held on Thursday to Sunday, January 7-10, 2010, in San Diego, CA, in conjunction with the American Historical Association's annual meeting. We invite ASCH members to submit paper and session proposals on any aspect of the history of Christianity and its interaction with culture, including proposals for formal papers, panel and round table discussions, consideration of a major recent book, critical assessments of a distinguished career, and other relevant themes and issues. In addition to the usual categories relating to periods, geographical areas, and special topics, we encourage proposals that cut across categories. We would also like to have sessions that deal with pedagogical issues of concern especially to younger and older scholars and that examine the use of technology and electronic resources in research and the classroom. Panels should exhibit diversity of gender, rank, and scholarly location in their composition.

- Proposals for entire panels/sessions are preferred, while proposals for individual papers are welcome.
- The proposed use of computers, internet, or projectors in the session must be stated and rationalized in the proposal.
- The deadline for proposals is March 15, 2009.

Paper proposals should consist of (1) a short description of less than 200 words, (2) a biographical paragraph or c.v. summary of the applicant, and (3) a current mailing location, email address, and phone number for the proposed presenter. Session proposals should contain all of the above for each of the two or three presenters as well as (1) the session title, (2) a brief description of less than 200 words outlining the theme or topic of the session, and (3) biographical data for the chair and the respondent (which can be the same person). Use of audio-visual equipment is limited to the hotel provider's equipment, has become very expensive, and must be restricted to presentations for which it is requisite.

Please send proposals, preferably by email, before March 15, 2009, to the program committee at asch2010@duke.edu. Applicants will be notified when their materials are complete. The program committee reserves the right to reconfigure sessions as needed. All program participants are expected to register for the annual meeting.

Richard P. Heitzenrater, Duke University

ASCH GRADUATE STUDENT MEMBERSHIP FORM

American Society of Church History
Graduate Student Membership Form

ASCH offers a free, two-year beginning membership to graduate students. Please fill out the information below and mail or fax this form to:

American Society of Church History
Baylor University
Department of History
One Bear Place #97306
Waco, TX 76798
(254) 710-7845
Fax: (254) 710-2551
asch@baylor.edu

Date: _____

Name: _____

Institution: _____

Mailing address: _____

Email address: _____

Degree Program: _____

3 areas of scholarly interest:
