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AMERICAN SOCIETY
OF CHURCH HISTORY



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Newsletter

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American Society of Church History

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A WORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

WHAT'S NEW FOR ASCH MEMBERS?

The new ASCH web site has been up and running since May. (Perhaps "new" is even inappropriate now.) Apart from information about the ASCH, the journal *Church History*, and upcoming events, new content is being added to the site on a regular basis. It is possible, for example, to read all the previous issues of the newsletter or see pictures from past meetings.

For ASCH members, the web site has some necessary and welcome additions. Members can renew their membership, register for future conferences, donate to the ASCH, and contact the ASCH Office by e-mail.

Of the more recent additions to the web site, three are very exciting. These are "members only" privileges. (In other words, members have to login with their e-mail address and password.) First, there is the member search. If members wish to contact other members about planning a conference session, for example, they can do so. (The system does rely on members completing their profile accurately and thoroughly!) Second, there is access to articles in *Church History* through EBSCO. If the American Theological Library Association has archived an article from *Church History*, members can view it through the EBSCO link. Last, though not available until mid-November, is access to the *Church History* archive held by Cambridge University Press. The CUP archive contains "gems" such as the papers of the ASCH from its beginnings to 1934. The "run-of-the-mill" material includes all present and past editions of *Church History*.

I joined the ASCH because of the opportunities to meet and work with fellow professionals in my field of study. On the other hand, some of the tangible benefits of belonging to the Society are quite impressive. For example, ASCH members can receive a 20 percent reduction on all books sold by CUP. Simply contact CUP, state that you are a member of the ASCH and, once your status is verified, buy your book at the reduced rate.

Do you have any ideas that would make the ASCH even better? Please pass them on to me or any of the officers of the Society. I look forward to hearing from some of you.

Keith A. Francis
keith.francis@churchhistory.org

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT: RICHARD HEITZENRATER

ASCH Membership—More Than Just a Journal Subscription

Membership in the ASCH entails a number of valuable benefits. The stimulating articles four times a year in *Church History*, a 20% discounts on books published by Cambridge University Press, and eligibility for book and article awards are among the items listed on the Society's web page (<http://www.churchhistory.org>). I would like to highlight another valuable benefit that is surprisingly under-utilized by many members—the annual meetings in the winter and biennial meetings in the spring. While some of our members are regular participants of these annual gatherings, many are not present regularly. They have not yet realized the many positive reasons for attendance, which I would summarize under three or four categories.

One obvious value of the annual meeting is the opportunity to attend sessions that highlight new ideas and information. Presentations by scholars who are working on the cutting edges of a variety of fields help the participants keep up to date in the field. A few of these papers do work their way into the pages of *Church History* or other scholarly journals, but the richness of the papers always ranges far beyond those that end up as published articles. In the process of listening to papers and joining in discussions, the participants are able to learn from each other—regardless of specialty, age, gender, nationality, school, or other differentiating factor.

The sessions themselves represent only one among many opportunities to network with other church historians at these meetings. The conversations in the hotel lounges, at the local restaurants, along the sidewalks, or during receptions present many occasions to develop professional and personal networking that is increasingly important to members. Newer scholars get to hear and talk with seasoned veterans, older scholars get to test out the challenges of ideas from younger folks; friendly discussions and animated debates spill over into the hallways and eating sites in ways that are continually productive of collegial interaction at its best.

An overlooked aspect of many annual meetings is the gathering of the Council, the Executive Committee, and some of the other committees. These groups present excellent opportunities for members to serve the Society and their field in such processes as selecting award winners, setting policies, determining travel grants, crafting programs, and recommending financial approaches. Not everyone is able to contribute their abilities in these ways, but for those who do, these service opportunities represent not only an excellent contribution to the Society but also another chance to work with and get to know fellow scholars in the field.

Another value of such annual meetings, whether winter or spring, that is not often promoted as such, is the opportunity to visit places that might not otherwise be part of the member's itinerary. For instance, I might never have gone to Seattle, Harrisburg, San Diego, Grand Rapids, or Montreal if they had not been the site on an ASCH meeting. Touring the aircraft carrier "Midway", docked near the hotels in San Diego harbor, could easily be tucked into a busy schedule. So also going to the museums in New York, jogging in Grant Park in Chicago, eating at Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco, going to the Grand Old Opry in Nashville, visiting the many features of the Mall in Washington, discovering the restaurants in

(Continued on page 3)

Montreal, touring the old homes in Savannah, attending the ballparks, tourist sites, and libraries in a variety of cities on the continent can all be part of attending the Society's meetings.

All of this is to say that the annual meetings are not just a chance to present or listen to papers, but also a regular occasion for enjoying the various other ways to enjoy the networking that is a very important part of the Society.

Richard P. Heitzenrater
Duke University

Become a member of the American Society of Church History today!

The American Society of Church History, founded in 1888, encourages the scholarly study of the history of Christianity and its relationship to surrounding cultures in all periods, locations and contexts. We welcome scholars and practitioners of all backgrounds who employ traditional or newly developing methods, disciplines, and approaches to the study of religion.

Membership Benefits

- Subscription to *Church History: Studies in Christianity and Culture* (published by Cambridge University Press on behalf of ASCH), including print issues and online access to current and back issues.
- Discount on Cambridge University Press books
- Reduced registration for the ASCH annual meeting
- Eligibility for ASCH prizes and travel grants
- Networking opportunities with other professionals in your field

Member Dues

	In the USA	Elsewhere
Members	\$65.00	\$90.00
Retired Members	\$40.00	\$45.00
Graduate Students	\$25.00*	\$40.00*

Please note that graduate students may join for free for the first two years of their membership. After two years, the membership dues will be at a reduced rate until the student graduates.

To Join

To become a member of the American Society of Church History, please contact:

Keith A. Francis

Executive Secretary

American Society of Church History

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Email: keith.francis@churchhistory.org

For more information

<http://www.churchhistory.org/>

BOSTON 101

The Winter Meeting of the ASCH will take place in Boston, 6-9 January 2011. The majority of ASCH events, sessions and social activities, will take place in the Westin Copley Place (10 Huntington Avenue, MA 02116). I hope that most members and participants in the program are aware of this; below is some information members and participants might not know but ought to know...

Registration

- Can be done online (www.churchhistory.org/membership)
- Early registration is cheaper, a saving of \$15 for ASCH members
- All participants in the program must register and be ASCH members in 2011
- The ASCH registration desk will be open at 3:00 PM on Thursday, January 6
- ASCH Members must register for the American Historical Association meeting separately in order to gain access to the AHA Book Exhibit

Hotels

- ASCH members can stay at the Hilton Boston Back Bay Hotel for \$89 per night
- Contact the Hilton Boston Back Bay by phone (617-236-1100) and mention the ASCH room block or make the reservation online (www.churchhistory.org/conferences-meetings)
- ASCH members must register for the AHA meeting in order to receive the reduced rate at one of the AHA hotels, including the Westin Copley Place

The Program

- The program is available online (www.churchhistory.org/conferences-meetings)
- The program will be updated regularly until mid-December; inform the Executive Secretary of any changes that need to be made
- Paper copies of the program will be available at the Winter Meeting

Questions/Problems During the Meeting

- Start by enquiring at the ASCH Desk
- Helping the Executive Secretary at the Winter Meeting: Courtney Lyons (Newsletter Editor and member of the Membership Committee) and Stephanie Stidham Rogers (former member of the Membership Committee)
- Next-to-last resort: cell phone of the Executive Secretary (254-644-9700)
- Last resort: the Westin Copley Place Events Manager

Keith A. Francis, Executive Secretary
keith.francis@churchhistory.org

A WORD FROM PROGRAM CHAIR AND PRESIDENT-ELECT:

BARBARA NEWMAN

The ASCH returns to Boston in January for our 2011 winter meeting. This year the AHA's special theme is "History, Society, and the Sacred," making 2011 an especially propitious year for us. Our program offers 37 sessions, three of them jointly with AHA: "A Retrospective on the Scholarship of Richard Bushman," "Sacred Politics: Rethinking the Rise of the Religious Right," and "Faithful Narratives: The Challenge of Religion in History." Other sessions are offered jointly with the Mormon History Association, the Pietism Studies Group, and the Society for Reformation Research. Book panels will address the *Philokalia*, an Orthodox anthology on prayer; the *Biblia Americana* of Cotton Mather; Susan Schreiner's *Are You Alone Wise? The Search for Certainty in the Early Modern Era*; Carlos Eire's *A Very Brief History of Eternity*; and two books on Christian non-violence by Patricia Appelbaum and Joseph Kip Kosek.

There is, we trust, something for everyone. Scholars of late antiquity will explore the material imagination, the invention of monasticism, and the reception of early church traditions through history. Medievalists will look at alchemy, crusading, and the legacy of medieval women in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Americanists are set to revisit the antislavery movement, religious intolerance in American history, and alternative social gospels. Huguenots, biblical archaeologists, noble savages, and Christian publishers will all get their hour in the sun, not to mention sermon studies, global sociopolitical action, and religious history's digital future. Other perks include the annual WITCH breakfast (Women in Theology and Church History) on Friday morning, a graduate students' reception on Friday evening, and a walking tour of historic Boston religious sites, led by Peter Williams and Jeanne Kilde, on Friday afternoon. Richard Heitzenrater will deliver his presidential address, "Inventing Church History," before dinner on Saturday.

Haven't been to Boston lately? Come and munch some oysters, visit the Old North Church, take a quiet walk along the Charles or a nostalgic stroll through Harvard Yard. Reserve your discounted hotel room now for January 6 through 9, 2011.

Barbara Newman
Program Chair and President-Elect



ASCH 2011 SPRING MEETING

AN INVITATION TO GRAND RAPIDS

The Winter Meeting in Boston has not occurred yet, but planning for the Spring Meeting for Grand Rapids has been “in the works” for more than two years. The main venue for the Spring Meeting will be the Ramada Plaza Hotel (3333 28th Street SE). The dates for the meeting are April 7-10.

As the Society holds its spring meeting “solo,” not in conjunction with the American Historical Association, I can promise a more intimate affair. There will be opportunities to meet, talk, and socialize with most of the participants at coffee breaks and other events. The traditional ASCH events will occur at the Meeting – the breakfast for Women in Theology and Church History, the walking tour of historic religious sites, and a reception for graduate students. There will also be events unique to the Grand Rapids meeting – a large book exhibit including publishers such as Eerdmans and Baker Publishing, a plenary session and dinner for the Distinguished Career Award recipient, and a Sunday day-trip for members who want visit religious sites further afield from Grand Rapids.

Of course, all ASCH meetings have panel sessions. These are the “bread and butter” of the Society’s meetings. The call for papers is below. It will also be posted on the ASCH web site and sent to members by e-mail.

Our hosts in Grand Rapids are very excited at the prospect of holding the ASCH Spring Meeting. With that thought in mind, I will add: “Come to Grand Rapids!”

Keith A. Francis
keith.francis@churchhistory.org

A WORD FROM THE NEWSLETTER CO-EDITORS

Happy Fall! We hope the semester is going well for the teachers and graduate students among us, and that the year is ending well for our independent scholars. As the end of the year approaches, we hope you are looking forward to not just New Year’s festivities but also our national ASCH meeting in Boston this January. As co-editor David Scott can testify, Boston is an exciting place to be, especially for those with an interest in history. We look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at the meeting.

As always, we look forward to hearing from you about the newsletter. Please send any comments, questions, or suggestions for the newsletter to [Courtney Lyons@baylor.edu](mailto:Courtney_Lyons@baylor.edu), dscott@bu.edu, or georgian@udel.edu.

Courtney Lyons
David Scott
Elizabeth Georgian

ASCH 2011 SPRING MEETING

CALL FOR PAPERS

The Program Committee invites ASCH members and others to submit paper and session proposals on any aspect of the history of Christianity and its interaction with culture. The accepted papers and sessions will be part of the program at the Spring Meeting of the American Society of Church History taking place in Grand Rapids, Michigan, 7-10 April 2011.

We particularly encourage proposals exploring the connection of *Christianity and migrations*, reflecting both Grand Rapids' history as a city built upon successive waves of immigration, and the magnetic draw of other West Michigan places (e.g., Battle Creek) upon spiritual seekers and innovators. We anticipate sessions treating group movements and resettlement, interregional or intercontinental missions and evangelizing projects, interior journeys by which persons come to new grounds of conviction, the re-definition of doctrine or ethics across different locales, and the virtual migration of religious ideas and practices across time in projects of restoration or anticipation.

We welcome individual and group proposals of formal papers, panel and round table discussions, consideration of a major recent book, and other relevant themes and issues. Panels should exhibit diversity of gender, rank, and scholarly location in their composition.

Proposals for single papers and complete sessions should be submitted by email to James Bratt (jbratt@calvin.edu), chair of the Program Committee.

The deadline for proposals is January 15, 2011.

A WORD TO INDEPENDENT SCHOLARS:

RAY F. KIBLER III

Earlier this year, someone asked me if we independent scholars might consider contributing several articles about our work to this newsletter. Would you agree with me that this would be a good idea? We could contribute perspectives on our work as independent historians but also define and communicate our concerns as we work alongside historians in the academy and among colleagues in our American Society of Church History.

A good way to begin would be to have a conversation with our voices in real time, followed by texts of articles shared by e-mail. I will be happy to arrange a teleconference at no cost for up to an hour. Would you then be interested to make the call?

For a long time, I have been deterred from making progress on this and other independent scholars' concerns for reasons I will explain in private notes that I will e-mail to you who have e-mailed me, however long ago. If we work on this concrete newsletter project together, then together we might hold up the contributions of independent scholarship for church history.

Please e-mail me at ray.kibler.iii@ecunet.org, or feel free to telephone me at (909) 596-5086.

Ray F. Kibler III
Claremont, California

GRADUATE STUDENT PROFILE: LILY SANTORO

As an undergraduate, I became interested in the history of religion while taking a course on colonial America. I remember being surprised and intrigued by the role religion played in the events leading up to the American Revolution, and wanting to know more about what Americans believed during the revolution and after. As a graduate student at the University of Delaware, I am most interested in the lived religion of the laity and clergy in early American history, and how their beliefs and religious experiences were influenced by popular culture. Working with Christine L. Heyrman, I am pursuing this interest in my dissertation.

My dissertation, "The Science of God's Creation: Popular Science and Christianity in the Early Republic," explores how Christians at that time used and understood the natural sciences, and how they balanced the scientific approach to the world with their reading of the biblical account of creation. My research focuses on three related questions. The first is how "scientific" ideas appeared in early American popular culture. As scientific and philosophical societies, museums, and lectures became increasingly available, what was "popular science" and where did Americans learn about the scientific understandings of the universe? The interaction between science and theology in America is the second essential question of my dissertation. What did religious periodicals and literature have to say about the growing influence of science in American popular culture? How did parish-level clergy respond to scientific discoveries and how did they share such views with their congregations? The third goal of my dissertation is to discern how the simultaneous popularization of science and rise of evangelicalism affected the beliefs of ordinary Americans. How did average churchgoers of differing denominations view the relationship between the biblical and scientific accounts of the natural world?

Today, American popular culture characterizes the relationship between religion and science as one defined by conflict. Focusing attention on the firestorm surrounding the publication of Charles Darwin's *Origin of Species* in 1859, many modern-day Americans perceive scientific and religious understandings of the world as inherently opposed. My dissertation offers a longer history of this relationship. Exploring how Christians in the early United States understood the relationship between science and revelation deepens our understanding of the nature of Christianity and popular culture throughout American history, and informs the modern debate about the place of religion and science in American culture today.

I first became interested in joining ASCH as a result of my dissertation research. As a historian of religion in America, there are few publications as useful to me as *Church History*, where I have read many interesting (and sometimes eye-opening) articles over the years. At the panels I attended at the annual meetings, I met scholars—seasoned and freshly minted—who introduced me to new and exciting ideas and approaches in the history of religion. It is this community of scholars—at the annual conference and in the pages of *Church History*—that make ASCH membership important to me.

INDEPENDENT SCHOLAR PROFILE: PATRICIA APPELBAUM

I evolved into an independent scholar for various reasons. The lack of tenure track positions and family considerations contributed to my decision to work independently. Research and writing are my first priorities, and here in western Massachusetts there are several fine research libraries, and they are generous about allowing access. My main scholarly interest is American Protestantism. I began with Puritans and Quakers and have since become interested in modern “mainline” and liberal manifestations and their religious cultures. I’m interested in using what we’ve learned about popular piety, history from below, history of practice, visual and musical expression, and the history of spirituality to study liberal Protestantism. I’m also interested in the intersections and mutual borrowings between Catholics and Protestants, and between “religious” and “secular” culture, an especially significant issue for the mainline churches. Right now, I’m at work on a book on the Protestant and cultural appropriation of St. Francis of Assisi.

I stay connected with colleagues largely through local seminars and regional and national conferences. There’s an excellent history seminar in this area, and an American religious history group in Boston, two hours away. I serve on a regional committee for another organization, and I’ll be joining some colleagues in a roundtable at the next annual meeting of the ASCH. I’d also like to do more to interpret American Christianity to the public, both believers and nonbelievers. I think the discipline of public history has a great deal to teach us here.

Like many independent scholars, I’ve adjuncted when possible, but I’ve also held unrelated “day jobs.” For me, being an independent scholar is a little like being an artist -- there’s your “real” work, and there’s the other work you do to earn a living, plus the occasional grant. That said, I couldn’t do this if I didn’t have a spouse with an income. My longest-lasting adjunct teaching job paid less than \$2350 per course, and the day jobs aren’t usually lucrative. I’m following with interest the work of groups like the Coalition of Contingent Academic Labor and New Faculty Majority.

The ASCH is the organization most closely aligned with my scholarly interests. I appreciate the journal and newsletter, the conferences, and the knowledge that there are like-minded people out there. National conventions are for me enriching and intense, like going to a year’s worth of classes in a week. There have been some recent moves toward connecting independent scholars with one another more frequently than once a year. I hope those continue to develop. Informal meet-ups, correspondence, and more day-to-day connections would be wonderful for those of us who don’t work in an institutional setting.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Canadian Society of Church History

Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences

University of New Brunswick and St. Thomas University, Fredericton, NB

Noon to Noon, May 28-30, 2011 (no sessions scheduled for Sunday morning)

The Canadian Society of Church History (CSCH) is dedicated to promoting and encouraging research in the history of Christianity, particularly the history of Christianity in Canada. Since its founding in 1960, the society's annual meetings have provided a forum for historians of Christianity to present and discuss their research in a welcoming and supportive ethos. The meeting is enriched by the participation of scholars from all career stages. Thus the society encourages junior scholars (including graduate students), mid-career scholars, and senior scholars to present papers.

The CSCH invites proposals for session themes, panel discussions and papers from scholars working in the area of the history of Christianity in Canada, as well as the history of Christianity in other times and places. The CSCH also welcomes proposals for joint sessions with other societies, such as the Canadian Historical Association (CHA) or the Canadian Catholic Historical Association. Proposals may address the theme for Congress 2011, which is "Coasts and Continents: Exploring Peoples and Places" (<http://congress2011.ca/>).

Please submit one-page proposals and a brief CV (one-page maximum) to the programme chair:

Dr. Darren Schmidt, Visiting Research Fellow, The King's University College,
Edmonton, Alberta; email: Darren.Schmidt@kingsu.ca.

Mailing address for printed proposals: Attn: Darren Schmidt, The King's University
College, 9125 – 50th Street NW, Edmonton, AB T6B 2H3

Proposals are due by Saturday, January 29th, 2011. Please note that presenters normally are members of the society. Travel subsidies may be available for presenters.

Information about past conferences, membership, publications, etc., is available at the Canadian Society of Church History website: <http://www.augustana.ualberta.ca/csch/>.

UPCOMING SEMINARS AT CALVIN COLLEGE

2011 Summer Seminar Opportunities



The Enlightenment and the Life of the Church: Worship in the Age of Reason

July 11 – July 29, 2011, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI

Dr. Bryan Spinks, Yale Divinity School

An investigation into the culture, intellectual ideas, and influence of the Enlightenment on Christian practices of devotional life and worship. Participants will examine primary texts as well as secondary sources spanning the 17th and 18th centuries as well as worship trends in the contemporary church in a postmodern, global culture.

This interdisciplinary seminar seeks participants from a variety of scholarly areas, including political, social and church history, philosophy, theology, musicology, and liturgy. Scholars of the enlightenment are particularly encouraged to apply, as are those who are engaged in better understanding post-modern liturgical and cultural trends. All applicants should have received their terminal degree.



Congregations and Social Change: Adaptation and Innovation among Religious Communities

June 27 – July 22, 2011, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI

Dr. Gerardo Marti, Davidson College

This seminar focuses on the ongoing changes and negotiations that religious congregations make in relation to the broader social world, engaging these issues in a historically sensitive way, informed by scholarship rooted in a sociological perspective. The seminar aims to expose Christian scholars to the most current thinking in sociology of religion that will further their ability for constructive analytic engagement with conversation partners within and without the Christian community.

This research seminar is most intended for current and recent doctoral students in fields related to religious and organizational studies (sociology, anthropology, history, ethnic studies, folklore, and others). The director also eagerly welcome humanities oriented scholars, theologically oriented participants from seminaries or divinity schools, and scholars working on their first or second books to mid-career scholars retooling with defined projects.



Cognitive Science of Religion and Christianity

July 18 – August 5, 2011, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI

Dr. Justin Barrett, University of Oxford

A seminar designed to equip participants to conduct research in cognitive science of religion, particularly as applied to Christianity, and so to catalyze scholarly engagement between the academic study of religion and Christian practices, beliefs and theology. The goal is to develop a community of scholars with the expertise to participate in cognitive studies of religion, critically respond to the implications of such studies, and facilitate productive, informed dialog among Christians and cognitive scientists.

We seek scholars at any stage of their post-doctoral career from any relevant disciplinary or interdisciplinary background including but not limited to: anthropology, archaeology, classics, history, philosophy, psychology, religious studies, and theology. Applicants should be committed to pursuing scholarly work in the area of cognitive science of religion that has particular bearing on issues related to Christianity such as the study of Christian belief, practice, and institutions; the evolution and spread of Christianity; and implications for Christian theology. Though we are principally targeting academics, ministers looking to productively engage the cognitive science of religion area are welcome to apply.

Application deadline is January 14, 2011

For more information and application requirements, visit www.calvin.edu/scs

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

P.O. Box 2216

Hewitt, TX 76643-2216

keith.francis@churchhistory.org

Phone: 254-666-2457

Fax: 254-666-8010

Date: _____

Name: _____

Institution: _____

Mailing Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____