2008 CLAH OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

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Vice President: Mary Kay Vaughan
Past President: Mark Wasserman
Executive Secretary: Jerry Dávila

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I. MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT JEFFREY LESSER

I am pleased to report that CLAH continues to be strong intellectually and financially as we move into the 2008-9 academic year. Our Secretariat, headed by Executive Director Jerry Dávila and hosted by University of North Carolina, Charlotte, has made a number of important changes to our accounting practices and to our means of communicating with members. Jerry has worked tirelessly to organize this year’s conference, to be held in New York City from January 2-5, 2009. The CLAH program continues to grow and the program committee - Matt Childs (Chair), Frank McCann, and Bianca Premo - has put together yet another exciting intellectual event.

As you know, we have already begun the process of electing a Vice-President (President-Elect) and filling two positions on the General Committee. Soon you will receive an email ballot and please vote using our new on line system.

Jerry and I are continuing to spend much of our time on financial issues and I am pleased to report that he will bring a formal budget for discussion and approval to the 2009 Executive Committee meeting. Our goal is to establish clearly a conservative income stream related to both dues and endowment interest that will allow us to both pay for our current costs and create the possibilities for new projects. Another policy, now a few years old, is that graduate students can attend the luncheon at half-price. Please encourage graduate students, as they are the future of the CLAH.

CLAH has a wonderful membership and we appreciate the loyalty you show. We all need to work together to urge new scholars to join, especially graduate students. We have made great strides in this area: this year’s program includes many graduate student presenters, we continue to maintain very low dues for those enrolled in undergraduate or graduate programs, and our policy of charging half-price to students attending the luncheon has brought many new people to our tables. Contributions to CLAH endowments benefit us all and we will formally announce a new Mexican Studies Prize at the 2009 CLAH Meeting. Thanks to the hard work of Mexican Studies Committee Chair Chris Boyer, new funds have been raised to make this prize cost neutral to the CLAH.

This is my last message as President and I am pleased to leave CLAH in the continuing hands of new President Mary Kay Vaughan and Executive Director Jerry Dávila. These two years have been gratifying to me. CLAH members have been uniformly generous with their time and energy and the General Committee has worked hard to insure that CLAH continues to go stronger. I know all of you will give the same level of support to the new CLAH leadership and I thank you for your support of this wonderful organization.

II. MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE SECRETARY JERRY DÁVILA

I am happy to report on progress in several areas of CLAH programming. This year’s Program Committee, Frank McCann, Bianca Premo and Program Chair Matt Childs, have done a terrific job
both negotiating the new AHA electronic submission system and putting together a robust program of events, despite the space limitations that the venue in New York presents. Bianca Premo will be the Program Chair for CLAH 2010, along with Program Committee members Nancy Appelbaum and Bryan McCann. The 2010 meeting, will be held in San Diego, January 7-10. Please note important changes to the CLAH Call for Proposals (see below).

I am excited to report that the CLAH is nearing its fundraising goal of $10,000 to endow an annual book prize on Mexican history. Mexican Studies Committee Chair Chris Boyer has energetically led both the initial call for pledges as well as the fund drive. It is gratifying to see the extensive support and generosity of our colleagues in endowing this prize, as well as the considerable time and work Chris has invested in making it happen. Once the fundraising threshold is reached, the General Committee will meet to approve the new prize. This may happen by the January GC meeting and that the first committee will be empanelled for this coming year.

The Nominating Committee, chair Barbara Tennenbaum, Linda Salvucci and Joel Wolfe, has selected a slate of candidates to appear on the Fall Ballot. Lowell Gudmundson and Cynthia Radding are standing for Vice-President. The elected candidate will serve a two-year term as Vice-President, beginning at the close of the New York meeting this January, followed by a two-year term as President. There are also four candidates standing for the two General Committee seats currently held by Ada Ferrer and Hendrik Kraay. The candidates are Jeremy Baskes, Todd Diacon, Georgette Dorn and Sherry Johnson. In addition, candidates for secretary of the regional and thematic committees appear on the ballot. They serve one year as secretary followed by one year as chair.

Balloting is conducted electronically via the link in the email message that notified members that this newsletter has been published online, and the ballot will be open until December 1. The online balloting system requires members to validate their vote by entering their email address, but this information is confidential and not shared. Ballots cast without an email address are not counted. Should you have trouble with the online balloting system, please let the Secretariat know.

Finally, the CLAH Call for Proposals has been modified in order to more closely match the procedures the Program Committee and the AHA follow. As you will see from the attached CFP, all session organizers are asked to submit their panel information to the AHA electronic submission system, and then to copy the confirmation page and submit it to the CLAH Program Committee. This change maximizes the possibility that sessions submitted by CLAH members are included in the program because the sessions automatically go through two review processes. The session is first considered for adoption as a joint CLAH-AHA panel, and if it is not successful, it is considered separately as a CLAH-only panel later in the year. The change also removes the early deadline for submissions to the CLAH. Now all CLAH session proposals must only meet the February 15 deadline also set for the AHA Call for Proposals. This, we hope, will alleviate the problem of session organizers submitting to the AHA but not to the CLAH.

As you consider organizing a session for the 2010 meeting and beyond, here is some guidance from the experience of past CLAH Program Committee chairs: CLAH sessions that meet the
language of the annual AHA meeting theme tend to be more successful in gaining CLAH-AHA joint adoption. Next year’s theme is “Oceans, Islands, Continents.” While the AHA prohibits session commentators from serving as chairs, a presenter can chair a session. Finally, the AHA no longer has an “every-other-year” rule for session participants. CLAH members can participate annually in the AHA program.

We are hopeful that the revised Call for Proposals for the 2010 meeting in San Diego will make it easier for session organizers and for the CLAH Program Committee to successfully build our growing annual program of events.

I look forward to seeing many of you in New York in January. Please remember all events have been shifted back by a day!

Meeting Dates: Friday, January 2 to Monday, January 5
General Committee Meeting: Friday, January 2
Luncheon and Presentation of Awards, Saturday, January 3
Cocktail Party, Sunday, January 4

III. CALL FOR PAPERS CLAH/AHA MEETINGS, SAN DIEGO, 2010

The Program Committee invites CLAH members to submit panel proposals for the meetings to be held in San Diego, January 7-10, 2010. Panels should include three or four papers, one discussant, and a chair. The deadline for submission of proposals to the CLAH (and to the AHA) is February 15, 2009.

NOTE: Session organizers must submit their proposal both to the CLAH and to the AHA, which maximizes the chances that the proposal will be successful. Following the AHA guidelines, session organizers should compile the session information and submit it electronically to the AHA. Because the AHA system does not forward submissions to the CLAH Program Committee, session organizers must submit a duplicate of their AHA session proposals to a separate, CLAH submission address. For both submissions please follow the steps and criteria below:

STEP 1: Submitting a Proposal to the AHA
1. Session organizers will submit their proposals directly to the AHA’s online system, following the procedures and guidelines on the AHA site: http://www.historians.org/annual/proposals.htm.

2. On online cover page, you must select “Conference on Latin American History” from the Co-Sponsor menu.

3. Organizers are encouraged to adapt their proposals to the annual theme of the AHA Meeting, which in 2010 will be “Oceans, Islands, Continents.”

STEP 2: Submitting a Proposal to the CLAH
1. Upon submission of the proposal to the AHA, send a MSWord or RTF document with the
session proposal and participant information, as well as session and paper titles and abstracts, to Program Committee Chair Bianca Premo at CLAHSUBMISSIONS@GMAIL.COM. The best way to do this is to copy the preview screen of session information that you will see in the AHA system when you click the “Confirmation” button.

2. The CLAH Program Committee will review and rank proposals in tandem with the AHA process, which permits the CLAH to consider those sessions that are not adopted for joint CLAH/AHA adoption as “CLAH-only” panels.

3. Individual paper proposals can be submitted to the CLAH Program Committee and are considered for CLAH-only sessions. Their acceptance will depend on finding an appropriate session for them.

**CLAH and AHA Program Criteria**

1. **AHA Chair and Commentator Guidelines:** The AHA bars commentators from chairing their session (though a session participant may serve as session chair).

2. **Membership and Registration:** Session organizers do not need to be AHA or CLAH members at the time of proposal submission. All participants in the CLAH program must be current members of the CLAH. All joint CLAH-AHA session participants must also be members of the AHA at the time of the conference. All CLAH program participants must be registered for the AHA meeting.

3. **Gender Diversity:** Where possible, panels should have gender diversity.

4. **CLAH Special Participation Rules:** The following rules, approved by the CLAH General Committee on January 2, 2003, are intended to ensure diverse representation on the annual program, and reduce the scheduling conflicts that arise from multiple appearances in the schedule:

   - No person may have a formal role in the CLAH program (as chair, paper presenter, commentator or roundtable participant) on more than two panels or sessions. These guidelines apply to sessions organized by Regional and Standing Committees as well as to panels proposed to the Program Committee.
   - No person may present more than one paper in the CLAH Program.
   - No person may serve as commentator on more than one panel, and may not serve as commentator on a panel on which s/he is also presenting a paper.
   - No person may serve as chair on more than one panel.
   - No person may appear in the program as a participant in a roundtable discussion (where no formal papers are presented) in more than one session.
   - Officers of CLAH and its Regional and Standing Committees may be listed in the program as presiding at the scheduled meetings, in addition to any roles they may have in the program.
IV. HONORING ASUNCIÓN LAVRIN
Recipient of the 2008 Distinguished Service Award

Asunción Lavrin is this year’s recipient of the CLAH Distinguished Service Award. Recently retired from Arizona State University, Professor Lavrin has been a leader in the study of women, feminism, gender, sexuality, and religiosity in Latin America. The exceptional range and breadth of her work, which has encompassed most of Latin America from pre-Columbian to modern times, is exemplified by two path-breaking volumes that she edited and co-authored, *Latin American Women: Historical Perspectives* (Greenwood Press, 1978) and *Sexuality and Marriage in Colonial Latin America* (Nebraska, 1989), both of which have been published in translation in Mexico. Her prodigious scholarly production includes a major work focusing on the early twentieth century, *Feminism and Social Change in the Southern Cone, 1890-1940* (Nebraska, 1998), and a very recent book, *Brides of Christ: Conventual Life in Colonial Mexico* (Stanford, 2008) that represents the culmination of her long-term interest and work on female religious. In addition she recently co-edited *Monjas y beatas: La escritura femenina en la espiritualidad barroca novohispana, siglos XVII y XVIII*, published in Mexico. She has written nearly eighty journal articles and book chapters, including the chapter on colonial Latin American women for the prestigious Cambridge History of Latin America.

Professor Lavrin’s service to the profession has been similarly impressive. She has served on more than twenty editorial and advisory boards, including those of such leading journals as the *Latin American Research Review*, *the Hispanic American Historical Review*, *Women’s History Review*, *Anuario de estudios americanos*, and *Feminist Studies*, and as contributing editor to the *Handbook on Latin American Studies* and has reviewed numerous book and article manuscripts. She was co-director of two National Endowment for the Humanities summer institutes for college and high school teachers. She also has been active in professional organizations in her field, serving as president of the CLAH (2001-02), on prize committees and in other capacities. The numerous invitations she has received to deliver lectures and keynote addresses reflect her outstanding national and international reputation. The significance of her work has been recognized by

Colleagues emphasize the importance and quality of Lavrin’s contributions as “a methodological innovator and pioneer in Latin American women’s history,” her contributions as a collaborator on projects in the U.S., Spain, and Latin America, and her generosity in mentoring graduate students and junior colleagues here and abroad. One historian describes her as a “scholar of uncommon knowledge, rigor, and seriousness” whose work has “influenced several cohorts of scholars.” Colleagues cite her as a role model whose scholarship and guidance have been indispensable in their own work, noting, “her many unrecognized services that have furthered the careers and publications of so many students and scholars.” If distinction is a somewhat elusive quality, it is easily recognized in the career and achievements of Asunción Lavrin. Her work has greatly enriched the field and profession of Latin American history, and it is fitting that she be honored with this award.

-Ida Altman
Chair, Distinguished Service Committee

V. CLAH SESSION REPORTS, 2008 MEETING

Borderlands/Frontiers Studies Committee Meeting: Washington, D.C., January 4, 2008

The committee meeting this year was a poster session, designed to introduce new books on borderlands studies to scholars of colonial and modern Latin American history. New authors of recent books in the field made posters and handouts illustrating aspects of their work. During the committee session, they made themselves available to attendees for one-to-one discussions of their work. Participants included Barbara Ganson, Chair, Kristin Huffine, Secretary, and Juliana Barr, Richmond Brown, Steven Hackel, Timothy Johnson, Barry Robinson, Jane Landers, Hal Langfur, Andrew McMichael, Alida Metcalf, Cynthia Radding, William Skuban, Joseph Richard Werne, Elliot Young, and Samuel Truett. There were 31 people attending.

Barbara Ganson opened up the meeting by welcoming everyone and introducing Kristin Huffine as the Borderlands/Frontiers Studies Secretary for 2007. She also announced that Huffine will serve as Chair for 2008 and José Refugio de la Torre will serve as Secretary.

After these brief introductions and announcements, Ganson called the meeting to order, and the group spent the remainder of the two hours in-group and one-to-one discussions with scholars attending the session.

The meeting provided a new and interesting approach to introducing recent publications in Borderlands studies to scholars of Latin American History.
## BOOKS ON THE BORDERLANDS AND FRONTIERS:
### A POSTER SESSION

**Chair:** Barbara Ganson, Florida Atlantic University  
**Secretary:** Kristin Huffine, Northern Illinois University

- *Peace Came in the Form of a Woman: Indians and Spaniards in the Texas Borderlands.*  
  Juliana Barr, University of Florida

  Richmond F. Brown, ed. University of Florida

  Steven W. Hackel, University of California at Riverside

- *A Gallant Little Army: The Mexico City Campaign.*  
  Timothy Johnson, Lipscomb University.

- *Slaves, Subjects and Subversives: Blacks in Colonial Latin America.*  
  Jane Landers, Vanderbilt University, and Barry Robinson, Samford University, eds.

  Hal Langfur, SUNY-Buffalo.

  Andrew McMichael, University of Western Kentucky.

- *Go Betweens and the Colonization of Brazil, 1500-1600.*  
  Alida Metcalf, Trinity University, San Antonio.

- *Landscapes of Power and Identity: Comparative Histories in the Sonoran Desert and the Forests of Amazonia from Colony to Republic.*  
  Cynthia Radding, University of New Mexico.

- *Lines in the Sand: Nationalism and Identity on the Peruvian-Chilean Frontier.*  
  William Skuban, Fresno State University.

- *Juan Soldado: Rapist, Murderer, Martyr, Saint.*  
  Paul Vanderwood, San Diego State University.

  Joseph Richard Werne, Southern Missouri State University

- *Catarino Garza’s Revolution on the Texas-Mexico Border.*  
  Elliott Young, Lewis and Clark University

  Samuel Truett, University of New Mexico, and Elliott Young, Lewis and Clark College, eds.
VI. SCOBIE AWARD REPORT

RAFAELA ACEVEDO-FIELD
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA – SANTA BARBARA

The funds from the Scobie award allowed me to do archival research in two major archives in Spain during the summer of 2008. In my dissertation project entitled “The Unsettling Presence of Conversos in Seventeenth Century New Spain” I am examining a group of people of Portuguese origin known as conversos (individuals whose Jewish ancestors were forced to convert to Christianity or leave Spain by the Spanish crown in 1492) who were accused of secretly practicing Judaism and were tried by the Inquisition in Mexico in the 1640s. These trials concluded in the Gran Auto de fe of 1649. In my project I am attempting to assemble a social, political, and economic trans-Atlantic picture of some of the major families involved in these trials. My research questions revolve around how these individuals were able to incorporate themselves into the elite in New Spain between 1580 and 1640 when, after a succession crisis in Portugal, the Spanish crown ruled both kingdoms. Why and how were they able to penetrate the social hierarchy without too much resistance? Furthermore, why did their attempts finally fail as they were systematically persecuted and eliminated as a community from the New World after 1640? This group has been studied by historians interested in the Crypto-Jewish aspect of their identity. In my work I want to place them in the particular context of Colonial Mexico. How did they fit in this multi-cultural and multi-ethnic context? How did they interact with the social, political, and economic landscape there?

My research before this trip had been based on Mexican Inquisition trial records found in Mexico’s Archivo General de la Nación and in US libraries such as UC Berkeley’s Bancroft library, and the Latin American Library at Tulane University. Since most of this research was based solely on Inquisition records which are often questionable as sources I wanted to find other documentation that could corroborate some of the family histories I had reconstructed. Since many members of these families were wealthy merchants I went to the archives in Spain to research their commercial activity across the Atlantic. In the second half of July and the first half of August I spent a total of one week in Madrid at the Archivo Histórico Nacional, and three weeks in Sevilla at the Archivo de Indias. I arranged the research trip so that I would have the bulk of archive time at the Archivo de Indias in Sevilla. However, since the Archivo Histórico Nacional in Madrid holds the records of the Suprema (the governing body of the Inquisition located in Madrid) I scheduled a few research days there both at the beginning and at the end of the trip.

In the first few days at the Archivo Histórico Nacional I found reports to the Suprema regarding the property that the inquisition in Mexico sequestered from key members of the families I am studying. These reports were often legal proceedings in which some of the property was being disputed by surviving relatives as late as the 1650s and 1660s. I will use this information to evaluate the wealth that these merchants had accumulated by the time they were tried.

At the Archivo de Indias in Sevilla I was looking for documentation of the economic activity of individuals in the records of the Casa de Contratación, the royal institution in charge of administering activities in the New World. In order to identify the financial histories of individuals
I had to understand the structure of the archive itself so I could find relevant material. Once I became familiar with the organization of the archive I began to do searches of the names of individuals I was looking for. Some of the most useful data came from the records on the slave trade. Among these records ship’s licenses, slave licenses and ship’s manifestos provided detailed descriptions of the financial dealings of some of the more notorious names. In general I did not find information on as many individuals as I had hoped to find. Instead, I found extensive records on a few of the more prominent members of the community. I had to continually verify that the individuals I was identifying were the same ones who appeared in the Mexican Inquisition records. In some instances I was able to confirm their identities as names of relatives and business associates matched in both the Mexican and the Spanish sets of records. This process was both the most frustrating and the most rewarding part of my trip. Matching names sometimes was fruitless. However, it was such a thrill to come across familiar names and find out more about who they were and how and why they came to the New World.

For what are now obvious reasons I found less material than I had expected on women in the financial records. They were less involved in the market and therefore an institution such as the Casa de Contratación would have little reason for recording their activity. I did find that women’s lives and status were described better in the already digitized records of individuals and families requesting licenses to travel to the New World, the Catálogo de Pasajeros a Indias. These records offer a wealth of information on the lives of migrants to the New World, their justification for coming, and their lives in Europe as they presented themselves worthy of being awarded permission to cross the Atlantic. This documentation has helped me to establish the identities of individuals I had identified in the Mexican records by confirming their familial and business relationships to one another.

While I was at the Archivo General de Indias I used a search engine on line called PARES that yields results for all of the major archives in Spain. Therefore, whenever I made searches of individuals’ names in Sevilla I obtained results for the archive in Madrid as well. This was especially useful as I was able to track down some records at the Archivo Histórico Nacional when I got back to Madrid at the end of my trip. For instance at the Archivo de Indias I found the records for an individual who had been a ship’s captain and traded slaves in the 1620s. The system wide catalogue showed that the archive in Madrid held records of property, which was sequestered, by the office of the Inquisition after his arrest in the 1640s. Thus, I was able to collect records on this individual, which ran from the 1620s to the 1650s.

On my very last day at the archive I found a full volume of correspondence between the Inquisition officials in Mexico and the officials at the Suprema regarding what the inquisition officials in Mexico portrayed as a crisis of the spread of the “Law of Moses”- the term used for Judaism. Much of this correspondence boiled down to requests for funding to support the increased activity of the Holy Office in Mexico. Moreover, it provided an on-going commentary on the proceedings against the conversos. This material helps to illuminate the political context of the Inquisition in Mexico. I also found a deposition before the Suprema of a group of individuals who had been brought to Spain as part of their sentence. This was an important finding as I may be able to track the lives of such individuals as they went back to Europe making my study truly trans-Atlantic.
In doing research at the Archivo de Indias I wanted to get away from relying too much on Inquisition sources as some historians question their usage as primary sources. My findings at the Archivo Histórico Nacional made me rethink some of this. The Inquisition records that documented the sequestered property of wealthy individuals can be a useful record of the economic success of the families I am studying. These lists of property can give insight into the ways in which wealth was spent and even into the material culture of the seventeenth century. Finally, these last findings may allow my project to cover a longer span of time.

I want to thank the committee of the James R. Scobie award for 2008, as the financial support helped make my first research trip to Spain was a very productive one. I had most of the material I found photocopied or microfilmed and now I have enough material to analyze for the next four months before my next research trip to Mexico City when I will collect the remainder of the Inquisition cases I need for my project.

THEODORE COHEN
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND – COLLEGE PARK

Thanks to the James R. Scobie Memorial Award for Preliminary PhD Research, I went to the Port-City of Veracruz, Xalapa, and Mexico City during the summer of 2008. My research compares how anthropologist Gonzalo Aguirre Beltrán, ethnomusicologists, and local poet in the Port-City of Veracruz, Francisco Rivera, understood black culture in Mexico between 1920 and 1970. I am exploring how varying concepts of local and national identity and different transnational networks helped to define black culture in two distinct ways: in relation to African slavery in the colonial period and relative to nineteenth century Cuban immigration.

First, I went to the Port-City of Veracruz to look at the Archivo Municipal de Veracruz. I spent most of my time looking at information about Rivera and Aguirre Beltrán. Rivera was a popular poet who began writing in the local newspapers in the 1930s; beginning in the 1950s, he began to chronicle the Port-City of Veracruz’s cultural history. Thanks to María del Rosario Ochoa Rivera, the granddaughter of Rivera who works at the archive, I took photos of the documents in his sala. These included his inedited poems, newspaper clippings of his published poems, his unpublished autobiography, and press clippings about how veracruzanos have embraced Rivera’s legacy late in his life and after his death in 1994 with an annual award given in his name. The archive also contained Rivera’s personal library. This gave me the opportunity to see that Rivera was well versed in how Cuban intellectuals—like Alejo Carpentier, Nicolás Guillén, and Fernando Ortiz—understood afro-cubano culture. In a different sala, the Archivo Municipal had part of Aguirre Beltrán’s personal library, thus giving me the opportunity to see which books he read. Like Rivera, I could see Aguirre Beltrán’s interest of black culture expanded beyond Mexico, but unlike Rivera, his focus was not limited the Mexico and Cuba. It was in dialogue with anthropological and sociological studies of blacks throughout the Americas. Finally, I looked at some local newspapers. Most of them were from before the 1920s. They did give me a sense of how people in Port-City and State of Veracruz understood local music. I was hoping to find more about the specifics of Afro-Cubans in Veracruz, but did not see it in the newspapers.
I purposely was in the Port-City of Veracruz at the beginning of June because the conference, Diáspora, Nación y Diferencia: Poblaciones de Origen Africano en México y Centroamérica, was being held from June 10 to June 13. While the conference focused mostly on colonial slave populations and their descendents, it did give me several important insights on my own project. I observed that the conference members generally did not discuss nineteenth- and twentieth-century Caribbean immigration to Mexico when they analyzed blacks in Mexico. This indicates how much Aguirre Beltrán’s studies of slave populations has dominated the framework for understanding black culture in Mexico and in informing current political debates, such as the program “Tercera Raíz.” At the conference I met two people who helped me with my project. Anthropologist Dr. Sagrario Cruz-Carretero, a student of Aguirre Beltrán’s, told me that the Universidad Veracruzana-Xalapa, where Aguirre Beltrán worked, did not have much of his archives. I also met with Dr. Félix Báez-Jorge, who told me about the Archivo Técnico de la Coordinación Nacional de Arqueología in Mexico City; he said this archive has an unpublished work of Aguirre Beltrán’s.

Next, I went to Xalapa. I hoped to find more archival sources about Aguirre Beltrán, but had little success, just like Dr. Cruz-Carretero said. The previous summer, I went to CIÉSAS-Xalapa and saw the other half of Aguirre Beltrán’s library, so I decided to explore other archives for potential sources. At the Universidad Veracruzana Instituto de Investigaciones Histórico-Sociales, I looked at some turn-of-the-century histories of the state of Veracruz and a late-nineteenth-century newspaper, Guillermo, on Cuban independence from the Port-City of Veracruz. While these sources did not tell me directly about Afro-Cuban culture in Veracruz, they did help establish the scale and importance of Cuban immigration during the Porfiriato. I also went to the Archivo General del Estado de Veracruz. With more time to search through the documents, this archive could be useful, but it did not help me at the moment because it emphasized the pre-1930 period and, as I expected, it did not highlight Cuban immigration or black culture.

In Mexico City, I wanted to look more at the construction of black culture in relation to music, Cuban immigration, and anthropology. I went to the Archivo Histórico de la Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores in hopes of finding information about Cuban immigration. The archive could help me generally explain how Mexicans viewed Cuba throughout between 1920 and 1970 and especially in relation to the Cuban Revolution in 1959, but this would be pushing the boundaries of my research. Its consular reports did not have much on Cuban cultures in Mexico. At the Archivo General de la Nación, I looked through the catalogues, especially the sections on Maritime Activity and the composer Carlos Chávez. The nineteenth-century maritime documents reinforced the constant interactions between the Port of Veracruz and Havana. Chávez’s archive had his correspondence with Mexican ethnomusicologists and composers from Mexico, the United States, and Europe. The Chávez archive should be a great way to look at the construction of a post-revolutionary national music through local musical cultures and transnational dialogues. To look at ethnomusicology and its relationship to black culture, I went to the Centro Nacional de Investigación, Documentación e Información Musical “Carlos Chávez” in order to look at the field notes for ethnomusicologist Gerónimo Baqueiro Fósterv. I think that his studies of local musical cultures in Southern Mexico could help me understand how ethnomusicologists understood black cultures. Unfortunately, these archives were being catalogued and were not open so I don’t know how Baqueiro Fósterv understood black culture; based on secondary works that used Baqueiro Fósterv, it seems that he saw black culture in relation to slavery and Caribbean immigration. Finally, in hopes of finding more about music and race in the twentieth century, I went to the
Conservatorio Nacional de Música de México but their librarians said that they did not have anything beyond musical scores for the twentieth century.

Following Dr. Báez-Jorge’s advice, I visited the Archivo Técnico de la Coordinación Nacional de Arqueología. I looked at Aguirre Beltrán’s original Estudio Antropolóógico de la población negra de Cuajinulapa de la Costa Chica de Guerrero from 1949. It was a useful source for bridging the period between his first publication, La población negra de México, in 1946 with his 1958 monograph Cuijla: Esbozo etnográfico de un pueblo negro. It showed how Aguirre Beltrán was moving conceptually and methodologically from studying blacks in the colonial period to doing ethnographic studies of blacks in contemporary Mexico. The archive had other documents by anthropologists and archeologists, but they did not relate to my research and at best could be part of a larger framework for discussing the anthropological discipline when Aguirre Beltrán was researching black culture.

Once again, I want to thank the Conference on Latin American History for giving me the James R. Scobie Memorial award for Preliminary PhD research. The award provided me with a wonderful opportunity to explore archives in the Port-City of Veracruz, Xalapa, and Mexico City. I know it has vastly helped me with my pre-dissertation research.

GRACE L. B. SANDERS
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

There is a Haitian proverb that says, “Dèyè mòn gen mòn” (Behind mountains there are mountains). This proverb is meant to reflect a sense that in life after you scale one obstacle there is another on the other side of it. I would argue that this research trip was exactly that—one “mòn” after another. Yet the proverb is not only meant to reflect hardship, but accomplishment. When the proverb is used in conversation it also carries the double meaning that there is success in scaling each mountain. Thanks to the generous funding provided by the James R. Scobie Memorial Award for Preliminary Dissertation Research I was able to scale a number of mountains during this research trip and experience a number of major successes.

I focused my preliminary research on Haitian women’s activism in Port-au-Prince. My interests in women’s activism in Port-au-Prince is a component of my larger research where I seek to understand how women activists were involved in the national construction of the Haitian nation and the implications of their involvement for national development and international relations. The purpose of my research trip was to work on two particular components of my research: 1) the Ligue Feminine d’Action Sociale; the first state recognized women’s organization in Haiti, and 2) determine the feasibility of working with current organizations to construct a narrative of Haitian women’s national and transnational activism since the 1950s. For the second component of my research, I was particularly interested in drawing connections between oral histories I conducted in Montreal during the summer of 2007, and Haitian women activists’ historical narratives Port-au-Prince.

In the first week of my research I spent my time reconnecting with individuals and organizations that I met during my first trip to Port-au-Prince. These individuals and organizations included Mme. Paulette Oriol, member of the Ligue Feminine d’Action Sociale and ENFOFANM, women’s
activist organization and research center. During this time I presented my project proposal to other organizations and activists. After discussing my research and project proposal with professors in the area, I was introduced to the director of the Ministry of Women’s Affairs, Danielle Magloire. Although I was unable to have a formal interview with Mme. Magloire, she graciously put me in contact with other women affiliated with the Ministry. These women’s assistance and interviews were invaluable.

One such activist was Rosenie Gustave. Mme. Gustave is the current coordinator and a founding member of the Asosyasyon Fanm Vanyan Marigo. Before meeting Mme. Gustave I was not familiar with this organization. However I learned that Asosyasyon Fanm Vanyan Marigo is a member of a larger consortium of women’s organizations, called Federasyon Fanm Nan Politik Pou Chanjman (FEPOCHA) that develops joint platforms to present to the Haitian government, NGOs and other community networks within and outside of Haiti. Speaking with Mme. Gustave about her travel and activism between Port-au-Prince, Jacmel, Wisconsin and New York, confirmed my research presumptions that both Haitian and Haitian migrant activists in North America have been intricately associated with one another and form transnational networks that are at the center of their national projects. From my interviews in Montreal, Canada I was aware that the establishment of the Ministry of Women’s Affairs had been a collaboration of women within Haiti and those in the Diaspora. However, having the opportunity to interview women who worked in the ministry and other organizations like Asosyasyon Fanm Vanyan Marigo, confirmed the significance of these transnational relationships.

My inquires at the Ministry of Women’s Affairs led me to Mme. Gustave, who led me to Mme. Marcelin Magalie Jeanty and Kay Fanm. With a number of other women, Mme. Jeanty founded Kay Fanm in 1984 and it has become one of the largest women’s advocacy programs in Haiti. My interview with Mme. Jeanty was particularly insightful because of her use of the term and identification as a “feminist.” Her definition of feminism for herself and for Kay Fanm presented a useful perspective on the historical narrative of Haitian feminist consciousness. In her discussion she explained that the use of the term feminism is particular to the experience of Haitian women and cannot be confused with white middle-class North American understandings of feminism. Additionally, she narrated the process of ideological negotiations about feminism between women in Haiti and women living in the Haitian Diaspora.

Mme. Jeanty also specifically spoke of her activism in the 1970s and 80s, and her relationships to Haitian women in New York and Canada. I found this discussion to be useful in understanding how particular issues are believed to warrant international activism with Haitian migrants, where others are considered local and not international. Mme. Jeanty also provided new insight about the relationship between Haitian women’s activism and the Haitian state. Her comments on the tenuous and frustrating relationship between these two sectors in Port-au-Prince pushed me to consider additional questions in my research about methods of activism and political performance by women activists. Most useful for the development of my project, Mme. Jeanty welcomed me to use the organizational archives and secondary source reading material of Kay Fanm for future research.

In addition to interviews and making new contacts with organizations, my project came alive for me in other important ways during this trip. Of the many individual activist narratives that comprise Haitian women’s history in the twentieth century, I am most fascinated by Yvonne
Hakime Rimpel. Rimpel was a prominent member of Ligue Feminine d’Action Sociale and was a feminist journalist in Port-au-Prince during the 1950s. She was known for her confrontational style and critiques of sexism and Francois Duvalier’s regime (1957-1971). In 1957, however, she was brutally attacked by Duvalier’s police the tonton macoute and left for dead on a street in Port-au-Prince. In my research, her attack has served as a transitional moment in feminist activism where state repression toward women activists lead to an increase in international activist networks. During my first trip to Port-au-Prince I was told that a street was named after Yvonne, but I was unable to find it. One day on my way to ENFOFANM and the Centre de Documentation Madeleine Sylvain Bouchereau, I walked by the street. The closest I have ever come to Yvonne Rimpel was a blurb in the Haitian newspaper Nouvelliste three days after her attack announcing that she was hospitalized. I was ironically inspired to stand at the closest historical marker of a crime that had repercussions for Haitian women’s activism.

At the Centre de Documentation Madeleine Sylvain Bouchereau, I was further encouraged because a number of Rimpel’s writings, particularly issues of her newspaper, “Escale,” were housed there. Unfortunately, I was unable to see all of her archived work, but I did find a new archival site in the Centre de Documentation Madeleine Sylvain Bouchereau. This center for documentation has now become the largest public archive in Haiti for issues related to women. The research center also has a collection of photographs, and organizational flyers and meeting notes from members of the Ligue Feminine d’Action Sociale that I have not been able to find in other locations. In addition to archival material, I was able to find contemporary writings that were published locally in Port-au-Prince that will be useful in contextualizing women’s activism in the 1950s and 1960s.

My time at ENFOFANM’s Centre de Documentation Madeleine Sylvain Bouchereau was cut short by natural disaster. Hurricanes Faye, Gustav and Ike hit the Caribbean during my last weeks in Haiti. Ironically, in the aftermath (and during) these debilitating storms I gained new insight into transnational networks of communication and gender specific demands for assistance that caused me to re-imagine other historical moments of women’s transnational collective action. I am grateful to the Conference on Latin American History, for the opportunity to conduct this preliminary dissertation research. I know that the knowledge and experience that I gained during this trip will be valuable as I continue my research, and I hope that I will be considered as a recipient for funds to conduct further research in this area.

MATTHEW SCALENA
STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

The 2008 Scobie Memorial Award has enabled me to conduct preliminary dissertation research in Panama and for that I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to the Conference on Latin American History and the members of the Selection Committee. Closer to home, I thank the faculty and staff of the History Department at Stony Brook University, especially the department’s Latin American historians Brooke Larson, Tom Klubock, and my principal advisor Paul Gootenberg. These historians have generously provided support as well as a fruitful intellectual environment in which to develop ideas regarding the tandem twentieth-century developments of Panamanian state formation and U.S. empire building in this transit space of global importance.
My reconnaissance trip made possible by the Scobie Award came at a most opportune moment: the point at which I had spent much time developing ideas with no firsthand experience in the Panamanian archives. Rectifying this disconnect between theory and data felt especially urgent in my case because of the nature of my project. I am most interested in activities that appear less frequent in the official historical record: smuggling and the movement of other illegal, transnational “flows” across the Isthmus, including peoples, arms, contraband, gems, cultural products, drugs, exiles, and, by the age of Noriega, vast sums of laundered money. Most specifically, my dissertation will explore both U.S. and Panamanian state attempts to domesticate and control the Isthmus in relation to those who sought to take advantage of the great illicit economic opportunities that came with Panama’s reinvigorated position as a key site of global commercial capitalism. It is at the borders of the state in which such dynamic interactions are best examined and it is these types of relationships that I have been most interested in finding in the historical record in Panama.

Due to an early summer teaching engagement in the United States, I only arrived in Panama in the late summer, my stay extending into the fall of 2008. I am therefore still working in the Panamanian archives as I write this report. Nonetheless, my exploratory research thus far at the Archivo Nacional de Panamá has confirmed that the type of project I seek to undertake is possible. Indeed, only six years after independence in 1909, reports of rising illicit activities show up in the highest echelons of the Panamanian state: following labor migrants, the Minister of Government and Justice warned, poured a new class of foreigners onto the Isthmus “thirsty for profit with little moral standing.” More important than ministerial declarations have been my findings grounded in the judicial records at the archive, which contain records of criminal cases (including testimonies) and police files organized by crime. I have focused on activities that involve some type of border crossing, from Zonians in Panama City for illegal poker games and prostitutes to illegal activities of a much grander transnational scope. The information contained in these records has provided much insight and will be of crucial importance for my future research plan. The other key research site I have consulted has been the Biblioteca Nacional. This library houses a large collection of Panamanian newspapers and magazines that will also be vital sources for my project. While I plan on spending more time at both the Archivo Nacional and the Biblioteca Nacional before my trip is over, I still have a host of other sites to visit.

Last, I would like to acknowledge that the Scobie Award has allowed me to become acquainted with a community of scholars from, and interested in, Panama. In this regard, I would like to thank especially Richard Millett, Aims McGuinness, Berta Ramona Thayer, Michael Conniff, Frank Robinson, Bill Furlong, Alfredo Castillo Calvo, and Alfredo Castillo Hoyos for their generosity and collegiality. My stay in Panama has been more successful because of them.

This Scobie exploratory trip has allowed me to gain a strong idea of Panama’s archival material which, in turn, will enable me to better organize my extensive research trip this coming year. In the end, my goal is to bring a new perspective to the historical study of the connections between Panamanian state formation, U.S. empire construction, and regional commercial activity. I am grateful for the generous funding from the Conference on Latin American History that has so aided me in these beginning stages.
With the Scobie Award from CLAH, during July and August 2007 I completed an initial survey of documents, mainly newspapers and magazines, in Brazilian private, state and federal archives. During the summer of 2008, I will continue this research at the archives and will begin collecting life stories through oral interviews. During my travel this year I established contact with the main Gypsy community leaders in São Paulo, Campinas and Rio de Janeiro. I was fortunate enough to earn the trust of these leaders and received permission to interview many members of the Gypsy community in these three cities, especially the few immigrants that are still alive and who preserve Gypsy memoirs of the Holocaust and immigration that cannot be collected elsewhere. Primary and secondary sources on the Gypsies in the Americas in general are very scarce, and so it is important to preserve and analyze such memoirs. Professor Olga Von Simpson, director of UNICAMP’s Memory Centre in Campinas, offered me great academic support for my next research trip including a place to work and access to the Centre’s oral laboratory. Campinas holds the largest Gypsy community in Latin America, and UNICAMP’s support will be essential to my research, since it depends predominantly on oral history sources. In Campinas, I will interview at least forty Gypsies focusing on their immigration stories and the construction of their identities. In São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, I have begun to organize interview with roughly thirty Gypsies; I will focus on questions of identity, politics and citizenship.

I also traveled to Brasília in order to meet the Special Secretary for the Promotion of Racial Equality in Politics director, Maria do Carmo and the Gypsy Working Group coordinator, Lea Gomes. This governmental contact proved valuable for my research, since it opened my network with other scholars working with Gypsies and legitimized the importance of my work to Gypsy leaders in Brazil.

The Scobie Award was fundamental in helping me access the feasibility of my thesis dissertation; fortunately my dissertation proposal entitled “Dia do Cigano: Immigration and Identity among the Gypsies of Southeastern Brazil, 1936-2007” was accepted by my committee on February 2008 and I already presented my preliminary findings at three conferences. I will be also presenting it at the upcoming CALACS Conference in Vancouver (June 2008).
VII. IN MEMORIAM ANA GÓMEZ

With great sadness I report the passing of Ana Margarita Gómez in February 2008 after a battle with cancer. Gómez was born in San Juan Chinameca, El Salvador. She completed her elementary education in El Salvador before moving with her mother to San Francisco, California, where she completed high school. She earned a B.A. at San Francisco State University, where she was inspired in particular by coursework with Arturo Arias. Her 2003 doctoral dissertation at the University of Minnesota, directed by Stuart B. Schwartz and Carla Rahn Phillips, was titled “Al servicio de las armas: The Bourbon Army of Late Colonial Guatemala, 1762-1821.”

Gómez was editor with Sajid Herrera Alfredo of two volumes of essays -- Mestizaje, poder y sociedad. Ensayos de historia colonial de las Provincias de San Salvador y Sonsonate (San Salvador: FLACSO, 2003) and Los rostros de la violencia. Guatemala y El Salvador, siglos XVIII-XIX (San Salvador: UCA Editores, 2007). She was the author of “De máquina imperial a control interno: El rol cambiante del Ejército Borbón en la Guatemala Colonial, 1762 a 1808” in the latter volume; “The Evolution of Military Justice in Late Colonial Guatemala, 1762-1821” in A ContraCorriente (winter 2007); and various pieces in the Salvadoran press.

After receiving the Ph.D., Gómez taught for a year at Lewis University in Illinois, and then joined the faculty at William Paterson University in New Jersey as an assistant professor of history. She was well-loved by her students, who appreciated her energy and her passion for history and Latin American issues, and by her colleagues in both the United States and Central America. She will be deeply missed.

Her colleagues at William Paterson have established an endowment in her memory; it will be used to continue an annual film series that Gómez had organized on campus. Contributions can be sent to:

William Paterson Foundation
William Paterson University
Wayne, New Jersey 07470

Checks should be made out to William Paterson Foundation, and earmarked for the “Ana Gomez Fund.”

-- Cathy Komisaruk
VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

RMCLAS 2009 Annual Conference Call for Papers

The 56th Annual Conference of the Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies will be held in Santa Fe, New Mexico, Wednesday, March 4-Saturday, March 7, 2009. The RMCLAS Annual Conference provides an opportunity for scholars and graduate students to share original research on Latin America. The conference hotel will be the Hotel Santa Fe.

The RMCLAS Program Committee is now accepting panel and paper proposals on general topics in Latin American Studies. We encourage presentations from all disciplines including, but not limited to, Anthropology, Archaeology, Art History, Cultural Studies, Economics, Environmental Studies, Ethnomusicology, Film Studies, Gender Studies, History, Linguistics, Literature, Political Science, and Sociology.

We suggest that panels consist of three presenters (one of whom may be the chair and/or commentator) and a commentator. Papers can be in English or Spanish. Please provide us with your name, affiliation, electronic address, the paper title, and a short abstract (not to exceed one page). The deadline for panel and paper proposals is November 30, 2008.

Please send proposals to rmclas@uh.edu.

We will send information regarding transportation to Santa Fe, local accommodations, and local tourist activities in the fall. Conference registration will be $60 for faculty and $25 for graduate students. More information will be posted at the RMCLAS website (www.rmclas.org) as it becomes available. There is no registration fee for foreign participants.

2008-2009 Co-Presidents, Susan Kellogg (skellogg@uh.edu) and Susan Socolow (socolow@emory.edu).

Fulbright Scholar Program

The Fulbright Scholar Program offers U.S. faculty, administrators and professionals grants to lecture or do research in a wide variety of academic and professional fields, or to participate in seminars. For information on Fulbright Scholar Awards, consult our website at www.cies.org for descriptions of awards and new eligibility requirements. If you are interested in requesting materials, please write to apprequest@cies.iie.org.

We appreciate your consideration and assistance in sharing this information. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at anytime.

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Program Officer -- Outreach and Communications
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IX. NEWS FROM MEMBERS

José Alvarez,
University of Florida, Adjunct and Emeritus Professor

Publications:
I have recently published a book dealing with the Cuban insurrection (1952-1959), specifically about Castro’s 26 of July Movement. I am trying now to reach the academic circles. Although the book is in Spanish (we are working slowly in the English version), I think it could be useful as an additional reading in several related courses. A nice addition to libraries in colleges, universities, and many other institutions. Please, do not hesitate to contact me if necessary.

John Crocitti
San Diego Mesa College

Publications:

Appointments, promotions, changes in employment:
Since Fall 2007, serving as Assistant Chair, Department of Social Sciences, San Diego Mesa College.

Michael Gonzales
Northern Illinois University

Publications:

Richard Graham
University of Texas, Emeritus

Publications:
Jens R. Hentschke
University of Newcastle

Publications:

Hernán Horna
Uppsala University, Sweden

Research:
“A History of Latin America”
“A History of the Third World”

Appointments, promotions, changes in employment:
Promoted from Docent to Professor

Martí Lamar
St. Norbert College

Grants, Fellowships, Honors and Awards:

Asunción Lavrin
Arizona State University, Emerita

Publications:


Pamela Murray
The University of Alabama at Birmingham

Publications:
Research:
Current research & writing concerns women and gender in 19th-century Colombian political life with focus on mid-century civil wars; I am finishing an article on gendered aspects of and female involvement in the war of 1860-63, including the revolt led by T.C. Mosquera

Other Professional Activities- Include conference papers:


James Sanders
Utah State University

Publications:

X. COMMITTEES FOR CLAH PRIZES AND AWARDS, 2008
Our gratitude to the CLAH members who have served on CLAH prize committees this year:

Bolton-Johnson Prize
Peter Guardino, Chair, Indiana University
Elizabeth Kuznesof, University of Kansas
Florence Mallon, University of Wisconsin

Lydia Cabrera Award
Lauren (Robin) Derby, Chair, University of California – Los Angeles
David Sartorius, University of Maryland – College Park
Sherry Johnson, Florida International University

Lewis Hanke Award
Charles Walker, Chair, University of California – Davis
Alida Metcalf, Trinity University
Christine Ehrick, University of Louisville

Conference on Latin American History
B. J. Barickman, Chair, University of Arizona
Andrew Kirkendall, Texas A & M University
Maria-Elena Martínez, University of Southern California
Distinguished Service Award
Ida Altman, Chair, University of Florida
Maurício Tenorio, University of Chicago
Margaret Chowning, University of California - Berkeley

Elínor Melville Prize for Environmental History
Sonya Lipsett Rivera, Chair, Carleton University
Stuart McCook, University of Guelph
Susan Deeds, Northern Arizona University

James A. Robertson Memorial Prize
Vincent Peloso, Chair, Howard University, Emeritus
Matthew Restall, Pennsylvania State University
Brodwyn Fischer, Northwestern University

James R. Scobie Award
Jamie Sanders, Chair, Utah State University
Karin Rosemblatt, Syracuse University
Karen Graubart, University of Notre Dame

Tibesar Prize
Jeremy Baskes, Chair, Ohio Wesleyan University
Lillian Guerra, Yale University
Tiffany A. Thomas-Woodard, University of New Mexico

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XI. IN APPRECIATION:

CLAH ENDOWMENT AND FUND CONTRIBUTORS

CLAH PRIZES AND AWARDS
F. Carter Bancroft
Jeremy Baskes
Bruce Castleman
Maurice Demers
Maria Elena Diaz
Mary Floyd
Cynthia Radding
Reinaldo Roman
James Sanders
Justin Wolfe

ELINOR MELVILLE AWARDS
Richard C. Hoffman
**WARREN DEAN AWARDS**
Peter Beattie  
B. J. Barickman  
Teresa Meade  
Anthony Russell-Wood  
Barbara Weinstein  
Justin Wolfe

**LEWIS B. HANKE AWARDS**
Charles Beatty  
Jonathan Hanke

**LYDIA CABRERA AWARD**
Rick Lopez

**MEXICO BOOK PRIZE**
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All contributions are welcome. You may specify a specific prize fund if you wish, or contribute to the General Endowment Fund.

The gift can be made online at the “Pay dues online” page (It is not necessary to pay dues while making the contribution), or by check payable to CLAH and sent to: Conference on Latin American History, Department of History, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Charlotte, NC 28223.

XII. WELCOME TO LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP STATUS

Jesús F. de la Teja
The Newsletter (ISSN 0069-8466) of the Conference on Latin American History is published semi-annually (Spring/Summer and Fall/Winter) in the offices of the Secretariat, located at the University of South Florida. Deadlines for submission of material for the Newsletter are March and September. Receipt of the newsletter is contingent upon membership in CLAH. For more information regarding dues and other activities of the Conference, please write to:

CLAH Secretariat  
Department of History  
University of North Carolina at Charlotte  
9201 University City Blvd.  
Charlotte, NC 28223

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