Dear All,

Warm greetings in this holiday season, with hope that you and those you love look forward to joyful gatherings.

At the front of many of our minds is Linda Finch Hicks, the beloved manager of our department for five years, who died from pancreatic cancer on November first. This is an awful loss, tempered by lifelong memories of her sublime combination of brains and heart. As hilarious as she was wise, Linda set a rich, humane tone for us that is one measure of her immortality. We also lost Kenneth Stampp, an immortal in the pantheon of American historians, whose life as a generative teacher and colleague and writer is remembered in the remarks from his campus memorial that appear in this Newsletter.

Happily, renewal is part of our story; for this fall we welcomed three new colleagues—Alexander Cook (a historian of modern China), Brian DeLay (a historian of early America), and Nicolas Tackett (a historian of medieval China). We also welcomed a full cohort of terrific graduate students; a really splendid group of new and returning visitors (including the Latin Americanist Barry Carr, the Ottomanist Huri Islamoglu, the Europeanist Michael Schuering, the Koreanist Ken Wells, and the Mellon postdoctoral fellow, Daniela Blei, who works on modern Germany). Peter Sahlins returned to us after two years as second-in-command at the Social Science Research Council. And four babies joined the families of our faculty.

As this glad litany suggests, the department is weathering the current financial trials with resilience. Much credit is due our prudent administrative planners: our colleague Jan deVries, who served as dean of the Division of Social Sciences last spring (following the tragic and still raw death of Jon Gjerde), and our colleague Carla Hesse, who was elevated with acclaim in August. (But can we just say that greater love hath no department than it releaseth its dearest colleagues to the campus.)

It remains critically true, however, that the department is strong because of the major endowments of the past and the continuing generosity of present donors. So many exceptional advantages—our fellowship packages for graduate students, our support for undergraduate research travel, our allowances for faculty research and special projects, and our ability to avoid staff cuts and mitigate salary cuts—result from substantial private giving to the department. We thank you endlessly for this. It makes all the difference. Let me mention, for example, that four colleagues were wooed by rivals in the past few months and all decided to stay with us, confident that our future is sound.

Our blessings are many and our community is vigorous. I invite you all to join us for History
Our blessings are many and our community is vigorous. I invite you all to join us for History Homecoming next February 10 at 7:00pm in Alumni House. Good food and drink, good fellowship, and a really good program (currently under construction), which we shall announce soon.

All thanks and cheer,
Beth Berry, Chair
Twenty years ago I happened to land in Berlin the morning after the Berlin wall opened, and after
absolving a study tour there, traveled down to a little known city (Plauen im Vogtland) to investigate
the strange occurrence of a massive demonstration that took place there before it was "safe" to
demonstrate, that is, the early days of October 1989. I arrived on the scene about five weeks later
and was able to interview many of the principals. For example the young men who challenged the
regime’s rigged balloting in the spring, the protestant pastor who helped bring the huge (and
unexpected ) demonstration (15,000 people in a town of 70,000) to a peaceful conclusion, workers
who were attempting to effect democracy in the work place. I also attended some of the
revolutionary meetings of the period, full of the excitement of free speech and association. I visited
the city a few more times up to the elections of March 1990, in which the East German population
effectively voted to be part of West Germany.

I chronicled these impressions in a 1990 academic article that in following years was cited and re-
cited in Plauen because I was one of the few to recognize the city’s unusual role in the fall of 1989. By
now, fortunately, the story is more generally known, and this fall the city’s mayor invited me back
for the conversations. On Oct. 7 this year both the German federal presidents and the Saxon minister
president (the equivalent of a state governor) were on hand for the celebrations. On one of the
photos I am featured with three other men, all of us holding plaques. The man to the far left is the
Saxon Minister President; next to me is Pastor Küttler, a hero of the demonstration, and to his left is
the current mayor.

I was asked to take part in two panels: one celebrating the appearance of a book of interviews with
"veterans of the revolution" (including a translation of my article from 1990), the second in city hall
with Pastor Küttler, as well as other figures from the fall of 1989.

They were kind to include me but really there should have been more involvement of the "foot
soldiers." Maybe that will be corrected at the 25th anniversary celebrations...

John Connelly
We would like to thank the following donors for their generous contributions:

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Dear Dr. History,
I was recently cleaning out my attic and came upon a box of very old letters. Apparently, one of the previous owners of my house was a “chemist” who developed an ointment that claimed to cure an embarrassing ailment. The letters in the box were from an individual who did not find the ointment effective. Due to the profane language and threatening nature of these letters, I initially assumed that they had been written by some kind of foul-mouthed sailor. I was shocked, however, to see that the letters were all signed by a widely respected historical figure.

Am I ethically obligated to share these letters with the world? I do not want to sully this person’s name because of a patent medicine that did not live up to its claims.

Sincerely,
Itching for an Answer

Dear Itching:
At first blush, your profanely sick yet widely respected historical subject seems to raise two separate problems of historical ethics. Thinking about it for more than a minute, however, compels Dr.
History to dispense with the old-fashioned discretion that long protected the "peccadillos" of powerful men. It is not just that these rules have never protected women, but that the men of the past tend to survive revelations about illnesses hidden by the "gentlemen" of the press -- from FDR's bad legs to JFK's bad back and, well, let's just say "other problems." Profanity also seems quite minor, mattering only when respect is not really at issue, as in those vile Nixon tapes. But your dilemma does raise a larger question: the evidentiary issue of delineating the ailment that bedeviled your subject. Sometimes, those "chemists" limited their claims, as in this insomnia sufferer.

More often, however, we are dealing with a grab-bag of symptoms and diseases. This might be asthma, but it might just be halitosis:

The problem that bothered this fellow might be rather comprehensive.
But multipurpose remedies came in all shapes and sizes.

It does sound, however, like your subject might have been suffering from nothing a quick shot of heroin wouldn’t cure:
Or maybe just some Nervine.

Love,
Dr. History

Do you have a historical ethics dilemma? The doctor is in! Write to:

Dr. History
c/o Department of History
3229 Dwinelle Hall
Berkeley, CA 94720-2550
or historynews@berkeley.edu
Professor Cathryn Carson reports two gestational projects that finally came to fruition. Her book *Heisenberg in the Atomic Age: Science and the Public Sphere* was published by Cambridge University Press, and her second child, David, was born. She is continuing to work on her history of nuclear waste management and a local history website to be titled "Nuclear Berkeley, Nuclear World." Since she doesn’t seem to know when to stop, she picked up yet another research project, a collaborative history of Berkeley’s Museum of Vertebrate Zoology.

Brian DeLay’s book *War of a Thousand Deserts* garnered several honors this year. It was named a finalist for the Francis Parkman Prize from the Society of American Historians; was co-winner of the Norris and Carol Hundly Best Book Award from the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association; won the W. Turrentine Jackson Award, given biannually for the best first book on any aspect of the history of the American West, and the Robert M. Utley Award for best book on the military history of the frontier and western North America, both from the Western History Association; and won the James Broussard Best First Book Prize from the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic.


Emeritus Professor Erich Gruen continues his “retirement” at a frenetic pace that makes the teaching years seem like a holiday. He spent the spring term of 2009 as Visiting Fellow in Oxford where he was responsible for running the faculty seminar in ancient history on the topic “Roman Representations of the Alien.” The duties were quite pleasant: selecting excellent speakers each week, introducing them, presiding over the sessions and Q&A, and sitting back and looking wise. The stay in the UK also brought invitations to lecture not only in Oxford, but in Cambridge, Edinburgh, Warwick, and Reading. A number of additional trips have taken place since that time for speaking engagements in Pomona, Georgetown, Toronto, BYU, Maryland, Ohio State, and the annual meeting of the Society for Biblical Literature. He also visited three institutions as external assessor for departments: Reed College, U. of Indiana, and U. of Michigan. The frequent flyer miles continue to accumulate. Closer to home, he taught a general ancient history course in fall, 2009 at San Quentin - in which he found the students at least as industrious as those at Cal. And he still sits on the dissertation committees of twelve PhD students (three of whom should finish this year). His new book manuscript, to be published by Princeton Press, is tentatively titled “Engaging the ‘Other’: Greek, Roman, and Jewish Perspectives on the Alien.” The really big news, however, is that he is now
Emeritus Professor Roger Hahn offered a ground-breaking paper at the 23 International Congress on History of Science and Technology in Budapest this past July on "Laplace's private religious discomfort." He has also delivered several papers in celebration of Galileo's first use of the telescope for astronomy 400 years ago.

Rebecca McLennan was awarded two major book prizes this year: The 2009 Cromwell Book Prize for best first book in American legal history and the American Society for Legal History's John Philip Reid Book Award for best book in Anglo-American legal history for 2009. She recently completed an article on the states' revival, in the 19th century, of the ancient common law doctrine of civil death as a collateral consequence of conviction for crime. She is currently at work on two books: volume II of American Cultures/American Lives: A US History Survey (McGraw-Hill), and a monograph on life and death in American law.

Michael Nylan has had three books in proofs or print:


Abena Dove Osseo-Asare was a junior scholar at the Harvard Academy for International and Area Studies during 2008-09. While on leave, she conducted research on medicinal plants in Madagascar, Ghana and the United Kingdom, through the support of the Hellman Family Faculty Fund. She presented her work at the Harvard Herbarium. In July, she participated in the University of California-University of Ghana joint faculty conference in Accra.

Mark Peterson is the co-editor of a new book series from the University of Chicago Press. The series is called *American Beginnings*, and it will publish titles in American history from the 17th to the 19th centuries, with special emphasis on politics and power. For a full description of the series, go to this URL on the University of Chicago Press website:


Anyone working on a book manuscript in this field is encouraged to contact Professor Peterson at mark-peterson@berkeley.edu to discuss publishing prospects.

In addition, Professor Peterson has been elected to serve a three year term on the Council of the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture in Williamsburg, Virginia, starting in January 2010.

Yuri Slezkine is on leave this year, researching and writing under the imperial title of "W. Glenn Campbell and Rita Ricardo-Campbell National Fellow and the William C. Bark National Fellow at the Hoover Institution." This fall, he attended an international conference in Moscow and went on a speaking tour of France at the invitation of the French Ministry of Gluttony, also known as the Ministry of Culture (Centre National du Livre). As a result of his efforts at digestion and self-promotion, L'Express/Lire named Le siècle juif the best History book of 2009.
CARLA HESSE GOES TO CALIFORNIA HALL: AN INTERVIEW WITH THE NEW DEAN OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

Jonathan Sheehan: So, first of all, do you miss the third floor of Dwinelle?
Hesse: Absolutely! It is totally disorienting to have only one entrance and one staircase.

Sheehan: More seriously, has being dean of twelve other social science departments, like political science, economics, anthropology, etc., given you new insights into what it means to be a historian.
Hesse: Two things are really striking about that: first off, I have come to appreciate the richness and complexity of our department all the more -- the geographic and temporal range of inquiry that we represent, as well as the diversity of topics, problems, and approaches to the study of social phenomena that our faculty members bring to their respective locations in time and space. And it isn't simply that we have faculty who are social, intellectual, political, economic, or cultural historians. More profoundly, it is that our research agendas so frequently deploy multiple forms of analysis -- many borrow from the other disciplines -- to arrive at a holistic understanding of complex human phenomena. History really is a discipline at the crossroads of the social sciences. So we are great borrowers from other disciplines—in both the humanities and social sciences, I might add.

Sheehan: So, if we are constantly borrowing from elsewhere, what makes history a discrete and unique discipline?
Hesse: Good question! I know that the Dean of Engineering would probably answer that engineering is the key to all knowledge, and, I confess, it is tempting to make such claims. But I actually don't think I can offer a better answer about history than the one that was given to me in graduate school by a former chair of the Berkeley history department, Carl Schorske: the unique contribution of history to the humanities and social sciences is the time-line. History is the discipline that takes as its founding principle that the order in which things occur is critical to understanding their meaning. And a corollary is that what is remembered or preserved as opposed to what is forgotten or destroyed definitely shapes our understanding of the present world. So, it is highly relevant to the other social sciences as well. We give back as much as we take from other social science disciplines.

Sheehan: What is it like to be dean in the face of the "Great Budget Crisis?"
Hesse: Meetings, meetings, meetings! No, seriously, I probably wouldn't have taken this job if there
Hesse: Meetings, meetings, meetings! No, seriously, I probably wouldn't have taken this job if there hadn't been a crisis. I felt that it was an important moment to serve campus. To step up and help solve the problems we are facing. It is a cliché to say that “crisis is opportunity,” and I really don't believe that describes the situation adequately. It risks making light of the challenges and the real suffering this crisis is imposing upon campus. But there are opportunities in this moment. Decisions we make today are going to define this institution for the next several generations and so it is critical to be engaged. The real story in my view is not the crisis but the possibilities and potential resources that exist beneath it. We are in a moment of pretty momentous generational change at Berkeley and if we more senior members of the faculty do not rise to the challenge of creating opportunity for all of the marvelous younger scholars on our faculty—scholars like you—we will fail to sustain the unique and shining example that is Cal: the creation and transmission of knowledge in the service of the public good. We need to sustain excellence and access and we need to empower the next generation to reinvent the campus so that the greatness of the university is a thing of the future and not just the past. As social science dean I see my most important job as creating those opportunities and finding the resources to make that possible.

Sheehan: Can you point to some bright spots?

Hesse: Yes. The History Department is one of them--our fabulous faculty, staff and students, and not just the famous senior faculty or the great professional pillars. The sense of renewal in every area and at every level of the department is astonishing. Also, our Chair is a huge bright spot. She has made Dwinelle one of the happiest places on campus—a real haven from the storm. Oh yes, and then there is the new espresso machine.

Sheehan: How do you think being a scholar, and especially a scholar of the past, shapes your vision as an administrator?

Hesse: Well, history counsels patience, and taking the long view of change, which really helps in a moment of crisis. Of course, as a historian of the French Revolution, I can't help wishing sometimes that I had access to a guillotine. Just kidding!
NOTES FROM THE HGA

The History Graduate Student Association has been pleased to offer for the 2009-10 academic year an exciting line-up of programs aimed at enriching the history graduate student community as well as department faculty and undergraduates. The HGA hosted a lively gathering in the Ishi Courtyard to ring in the fall semester and to welcome the first year students to the department. Reception highlights included a raffle MC’d by the ever-entertaining Alice Goff, a second-year student; raffle winners received a free lunch at the Faculty Club with their favorite professor.

The HGA Colloquium Series consistently ranks among the HGA’s most favored programs, bringing together students and faculty both from within the department and from without to discuss a wide range of relevant themes. Current second-year students Brandon Schechter and Gene Zubovich have designed a stimulating line-up for the 2009-10 academic year. Over the past three semester the HGA Colloquium Series has hosted, among others, Professors John Connelly and Rebecca McClennan in a presentation titled “Morality in/and History;” Professor Richard Candida-Smith and Dr. Vic Geraci, associate director of the Regional Oral History Office, in a discussion of oral history methodology; and a panel of current graduate students discussing the process of writing a research paper, and the products of their own research. The HGA always invites recommendations for future colloquia topics.

In the spring, second-year student Carrie Ritter will lead the informal conversation series, “When I was Your Age.” Initiated by graduate student Sarah Cramsey in the spring of 2009, the series gives graduate students a chance to talk informally and candidly over a glass of wine with their favorite professors about what graduate school was like “back in the day” and how they made it to where they are now.

Of course, to balance out the hard work of seminars, teaching and research, the HGA has remained committed to hosting the ever-appreciated Happy Hour gatherings. Besides their regularly scheduled gatherings at local watering holes, the Happy Hour crew, led by second-year Ali Weiss, looks forward to hosting a game of history jeopardy in the spring.

This year’s HGA has also had the privilege of undertaking two larger projects, the first by way of a generous gift from Professor Tom Laqueur, recipient of the Mellon Foundation’s 2007 Distinguished Achievement Award. This fall Laqueur invited graduate students in the department to pull together
the program of their dreams, restricted only in that it should advance “humanistic inquiry” and/or enhance research and teaching efforts. The planning committee, chaired by sixth-year student Daniel Immerwahr, is currently in the process of drafting its formal proposals.

The second project — conducted with the encouragement of current graduate students and the support of the department’s Library Committee, chaired by Professor Peggy Anderson—involves planning a gradual renovation to both the History Department Library and graduate student lounge spaces in order to offer the best resources to current students and more enticing spaces to prospective students. In addition to expanding the library’s book selection, geared specifically toward those preparing for M.A. and qualifying exams, the HGA’s Library and Lounge Committee hopes also to propose a series of aesthetic renovations to both spaces.

Questions about past, current and future HGA programming can be directed to Jenni Allen, chair of the 2009-10 History Graduate Student Association, at jenniferallen@berkeley.edu.
As professional historians, we spend most of our time speaking either to other scholars in our respective fields, or to the students we teach here at Berkeley. Some of us aim to reach the general public, too. Another audience to whom we would like to speak are primary- and secondary-school history teachers in California, in order to facilitate the dissemination of our research to pre-college students. In practice, however, there are few opportunities to do so. This is why the UC Berkeley History and Social Science Project (HSSP) is so important to the work of the History Department. Located right in Dwinelle Hall (2407), and administered by the dedicated team of Donna Leary (director), Phyllis Goldsmith (co-director), Lauren Weaver, and Sarah Suponski, the main goal of the HSSP is to improve academic literacy in general, and historical knowledge in particular, among students in California’s elementary, middle, and high schools.

Working closely with departmental faculty, the HSSP provides essential professional development for primary and secondary school teachers, mainly in and around the Bay Area. It also serves, crucially, for the transfer of knowledge from libraries, archives, and seminar rooms to primary and secondary school classrooms. The key operations of the HSSP are workshops, held throughout the school year, and summer institutes. At HSSP workshops, teachers develop a range of pedagogical skills focused on lesson plans, strategies for reading and writing, and the evaluation of students, all connected in one way or another with historical topics.

The summer institutes of the HSSP also develop pedagogical strategies for primary and secondary school teachers, but place greater emphasis on historical content. Based on a series of presentations by professors from the History Department—both during the summer and in two follow-up meetings
during the subsequent school year—these institutes are organized around a central historical theme. The most recent institute (2008-09), for example, was entitled, “Through the Lens of Culture: Integrating Cultural History in the Classroom.” During the week-long summer meeting, teachers heard presentations by Carlos Noreña on architecture and political iconography in ancient Rome; by David Johnson on writing and poetry in premodern China; by Tom Dandelet on imperial imagery in early modern Italy; and by Mark Brilliant on representations of interracial marriage in the modern U.S. The two follow-up presentations were given by Maureen Miller, on castles and clothing in medieval Italy, and by Waldo Martin, on music in African-American culture. Through these wide-ranging presentations, the teachers who participated in the institute not only deepened their own historical knowledge of these periods and places, but also learned new ways to incorporate various cultural materials into their own teaching.

The next summer institute, to be held in 2010, will address the theme of technology and information in world history. For more information about the 2010 institute, please contact the HSSP at (510) 643-0897 or ucbhssp@berkeley.edu, or visit the website: www.history.berkeley.edu/ucbhssp.

Carlos Noreña
This summer I had the opportunity to attend the “Africa, Europe, and the Americas, 1500-1700 Seminar” sponsored by the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture. Co-sponsored by the International Institute for the Advanced Study of Cultures, Institutions and Economic Enterprise, the Seminar was held in Aburi, Ghana from July 13 – July 26, 2009. The idea of hosting this Seminar grew out of a Conference commemorating the Bicentennial Anniversary of the ending of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade held in Accra, Ghana in August, 2007. Facilitating the summer sessions were two renowned historians of African history, Professor Joseph Miller of the University of Virginia and Professor Irene Odetei of the University of Ghana, Legon. The thirty-one participants were from Africa, the Caribbean, South America and the United States and represented a cross section of disciplines, including history, archaeology, political science and literature. Attendees included junior professors and graduate students as well experienced academic scholars who brought a rich knowledge of African history to the discussions.

During the first week, the attendees completed assigned readings that looked at institution of Atlantic world slavery from a regional perspective. The group discussions gravitated toward achieving a better understanding of African domestic slavery as compared to the institutions of slavery in other regions of the Atlantic world. The second week gave the participants an opportunity to present their scholarly work. I presented a paper on “The Cultural Implications of Pre-Colonial African Wars on Slave Resistance in New England.” The readings and Seminar discussions provided substantive information on African military organizations and warfare that I was able to incorporate into my presentation. Group visits were also made to cultural sites in Accra, Ghana, including the local markets, the slave castles in Elmina and Cape Coast Castle, local restaurants and museums.

Kerima M. Lewis
University of California, Berkeley
Department of History – Third Year Ph.D. Student
LINDA FINCH HICKS
1954 - 2009

Linda’s C.V. begins with “Highlights.” The first entry reads: “Guide and interpret policy for Department Chairs of History (Berry, Hollinger, & Jay) and Philosophy (Code, Wollheim, Stroud & Vermazen) while carrying out all aspects of department business: finance, information technology, human resources, facilities, faculty affairs and student services.

Exactly. She guided everything and carried out everything. Anyone within miles of us knew this. And all of us rejoiced because of it. Her hands were sure and her brain brilliantly stocked. Mainly, though, her heart was huge. Great good humor and dignity fused in Linda with straightforward care for everyone she met (as far as I can tell; there had to have been exceptions). The sheer goodness of her seems astonishing in retrospect, although I think most of us came to take it entirely for granted. Pole stars are like that.

One of three daughters of a foreign service officer, Linda made the world her neighborhood, especially Japan and Korea. She majored in Japanese Language and Literature at Washington University in St. Louis and subsequently taught in Japan and worked for the Bank of Tokyo (in the San Francisco branch) before taking an M.B.A. at San Francisco State. For several years thereafter
she co-owned and ran a fashion design company in S.F. Then, in 1987, Linda brought her mission to Cal. The litany of beneficiaries is long: the Center for Korea Studies, the Institute of East Asian Studies, the Center for Western European Studies, the Department of Art Practice, the Department of Philosophy, and the Department of History. She managed all of these departments, Philosophy from 1997 until 2004; History from 2004 until last month.

It was when I became chair of the department in the summer of 2007 that I came to know Linda well—first as both the rock and the light of our communal life, very soon as a friend. Our formations, our families, our interests are almost uncannily similar. But her hilarity (that laugh is unforgettable) and her ease were of an order just thrillingly unfamiliar. And so welcome that the toughest business of the day went down gently. Like so many of us, I miss her unbearably. Daily in our thoughts are Linda’s husband Kevin, her daughter Suzie, her mother Suzanne, and her sisters Anna and Catherine.

Mary Elizabeth Berry
Letter from the Chair

Commemorating 1989
in Plauen, Germany

Graduate Student Profile:
   Kerima Lewis

   In Memoriam:
   Kenneth Stampp

   Ask Dr. History

The History Social
Science Project

   Notes from
   Phi Alpha Theta

   Notes from the
History Graduate Association

   In Memoriam:
   Linda Finch Hicks

   An Interview with
   Carla Hesse

   Recent Donors

   Faculty News and Notes
Professor Abena Osseo-Asare at the Economic Botany Collection at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

Phi Alpha Theta, UC Berkeley’s premier undergraduate honor society, facilitates a wide range of activities every year designed to give history majors the opportunity to acquaint themselves better with one another and their faculty members. Throughout the year, we sponsor a wide range of events, including a stimulating lecture series, a fall faculty dinner, and the History 101 undergraduate thesis colloquium at the end of every spring.

This fall, Phi Alpha Theta was proud to hear from Professor Abena Dove Osseo-Asare, who discussed her research on medicinal plants in Africa. Through a combination of lecture and multimedia video, Professor Osseo-Asare gave an informative and fascinating presentation to our group. We also had a history major career panel night, which featured a graduate student, an attorney, and an archivist. The semester culminated in our annual fall faculty-student dinner, which allowed our large number of new members to enjoy pleasant conversation and a delicious meal with their favorite members of the UC Berkeley faculty. We look forward to the spring semester, and hope that you will join us at the History 101 Thesis Colloquium in the spring.

Danton Liang
Undergraduate Class of 2010
Professor Emeritus Kenneth M. Stampp died on July 10, 2009. He was 96. Here are some remarks taken from the tributes paid to him by colleagues Robert Middlekauff, Robert Abzug, and Paula Fass at a memorial gathering on September 26.

Paula Fass, Byrne Professor of History, UC Berkeley

Arriving for my job interview on February 1, 1974, I knew, of course, that Berkeley's history department was full of distinguished scholars, whom I had studied as a graduate student and with whom I would be honored to talk. From my point of view, its roster also contained one legend, Kenneth Stampp who had quite literally transformed the study of Southern slavery with his book *The Peculiar Institution* and had overturned our understanding of the entire Civil War era.

Imagine my excitement and considerable anxiety when I learned on arrival that Kenneth Stampp was on the hiring committee and that I was to have dinner with him at Winthrop Jordan's house the next evening. It was quite an event. I had a wonderful time. And Kenneth Stampp, with his inimitable
That evening began for me an association with Ken Stampp that lasted thirty-five years. From the start, Ken treated me as a colleague and as an equal. He never patronized or condescended and when he gave me advice, as for example that it might be a good thing if I included some southern schools in my study of college students and youth culture in the 1920s, he did so because he was committed to my work and to my success. He was, of course, always the gentlemen, but I saw his courtesy as a kind of natural grace.

That first year, he and Isabel invited me to spend a Christmas with their family and I was made to feel very much at home. Anyone who knew Isabel is aware that she made everyone feel special, but I think that Ken also participated in this and after that first time with them, I was able to think of them as my friends, and I invited them to my house for dinner. I will never forget the sight of tall, elegant Ken, all six plus feet of him squeezed into a small chair in my cramped one-bedroom apartment on Cedar Street where the dining room also served as my study. He was as charming and gracious as at his own beautiful home telling me that the food was superb. I never completely lost a little bit of reverence for Ken, but after a while I came to deeply enjoy and greatly anticipate the Stampp's extraordinary hospitality—their wonderful food, excellent wine, and wide-ranging conversations (about music—opera above all, travel, books, art and politics). Over the years, especially after he retired, Ken and I spent many private lunches at excellent restaurants in which I learned a lot about his past, about his family, his likes and his dislikes (Ken could be quite pointed about these). He was also playful, honest and sometimes confessional in our conversations. And he once confided to me that he found it easier to speak fully candidly and personally to women friends, than to men, and I think that was very likely true.

I feel very privileged to have been one of those friends, someone in whom reverence and great admiration quickly gave way to a genuine and deep affection. He was, of course, a great historian. But for me, Ken had become more importantly, a friend who shared his enormous intelligence, deep feeling, extraordinary taste and refinement.

I will not see his like again.

Robert H. Abzug, Professor of History, University of Texas at Austin

Ken Stampp's Family of Students

I will try to speak for Ken's students as a group. He was the reason we came to Berkeley. We had read at least some of his books, and in any case his reputation had preceded him. He challenged received wisdom, grounded his views in the most thorough-going and meticulous research, and he expressed himself in succinct, bell-like prose, compelling in its logic and economy and brought to full humanity by the carefully chosen anecdote or quote.

He expected the same from his students. At first sight, as we encountered Ken—rather, Professor Stampp—tall, imposing, intense, stern, and precise—he was the picture of the Doktorvater, not at all imaginable as Ken. Those of us who entered Dwinelle Hall in the late 1960s were told by veterans of the 1950s and early 1960s that we were meeting a somewhat mellowed Stampp, and this may have been true, but it was hard to imagine that this was mellow. He tirelessly coaxed, cajoled, and occasionally grimly insisted that we do better. He certainly had not mellowed his commitment to excellence.

And one always had his example with which to grapple. Reading a few paragraphs from Peculiar Institution or sitting in on one of his splendidly lucid undergraduate lectures set a standard as daunting as the marginal comments one found on a draft chapter. Spoken and unspoken expectation was always built into the experience of being a Stampp student. Week by week, chapter by chapter,
was always built into the experience of being a Stampp student. Week by week, chapter by chapter, we worked to gain his approval, to meet his standards. When we finally finished the ordeal of graduate school, there was a very special rite of passage. Berkeley could give you a ceremony and a certificate, but the true moment of graduation came when you received the real diploma, a handwritten letter from Dr. Stampp, one that noted some final comments on the dissertation and that was signed, almost shockingly, “Ken.” It was his invitation to become his lifelong peer and friend.

When news of Ken’s passing reached obituary pages all over the country, my own students wrote to me in sympathy, as if there had been a death in the family. There had been. My first doctoral student, Jim Marten, now chair at Marquette in Ken’s hometown of Milwaukee, reminded me that when Ken came to Texas to give a lecture and I introduced Jim as my student, he quipped “I guess that makes you my grand-student.” It was a sweet sentiment, one that Ken expressed more than once to our students.

I must tell you, however, that in the case of Jim Marten and others of my students now teaching across the country, Ken was wrong. In fact, they are great-grand-students. I had come to Berkeley in the late 1960s at the insistence of my first mentor in history, Bill Freehling, one of Ken’s students. At Berkeley, I learned more than I can express about history, writing, and what counts from another of Ken’s students, Leon Litwack. I can only hope, and I know we all share this sentiment, that Ken’s grand-students, great-grand students, and great-great-grand students, will gain through us a taste of the mentorship, friendship, and deep caring we shared with him.

Robert Middlekauff, Professor Emeritus, UC Berkeley

What I will say first concerns Ken’s importance to the department in the 1960s, a critical time for the university and a time when the Department of History came together in morale and spirit as a community of scholars and teachers.

The year 1964 — when the Free Speech Movement occurred — was the key. The FSM tore apart several departments on our campus, but it pulled History together; in part, surely, because of the leadership of a number of senior faculty. There were several senior scholars who took the lead, but for me Ken was the most important. He was the chair of the Senate Committee on Academic Freedom at the critical moment, December 1964. He helped fashion the rules that permitted, within limits, student political activity: most importantly, of course, freedom of speech (which the Regents apparently were surprised to learn was guaranteed by the First Amendment!). The policy set out by the Committee on Academic Freedom established time, place, and manner rules. These rules were the center of much discussion among faculty before they were approved by the Academic Senate on December 8, 1964. Ken along with Professor Jacobus ten Broek drafted those rules and helped explain them to the full Senate. He did this with great clarity and without raising his voice. In a time of irrationality Ken’s was the voice of reason.