Latin American Studies Association

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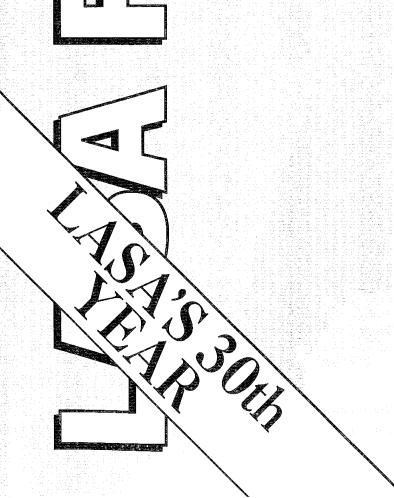
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President's Report

by Jane Jaquette Occidental College

In the Winter Forum, I expressed concern that LASA's business meetings do not successfully serve the major purposes for which they are intended: to honor our best scholars and journalists, introduce new officers, and discuss issues of organizational direction and governance. I encouraged members to send their views about how to strengthen the meeting, focusing particularly on the issue of how we might deal more effectively with the resolutions process which in my view has interfered with the meeting's other aims.

I have received several thoughtful responses, two of which are included in this *Forum* (and all of which I hope to make available on LASA's Web site). It is significant that no one thus far has defended the status quo. Several expressed frustration at the low attendance and often contentious atmosphere at the membership meeting. To help assure that the meeting can serve its governance function, I intend to propose to the LASA Executive Council (EC) when it meets in early June that the business meeting proper, including the awards ceremony, be separated from the discussion and debate on resolutions, even if only by a brief recess to mark the end of one process and the beginning of another.

Although the proposed division of the membership meeting from the resolutions process should strengthen the former, in my view this modest change does not resolve the questions raised by our current procedures on resolutions. At the heart of the matter, I think, is a tension between the scholarly norms and commitments of the Association and its members and the legitimate concerns of some (perhaps many) of LASA's members to be able to express themselves as professionals and through the Association on political and policy concerns. A number of the suggestions I have received attempt, explicitly or implicitly, to resolve or manage this tension by proposing ways for LASA members to take up political questions in a professionally appropriate manner.

The comments I have received, both written and informal, offer an impressive range of suggestions. I have grouped these below around a series of possible reforms, involving the *types of resolutions* LASA considers, the *timing* of submission and consideration of resolutions, the *locus* of discussion and debate, the *voting* of resolutions, and their *impact*.

Types of resolutions

Several members make the distinction between resolutions protesting specific actions of the United States or other governments and those affecting Latin Americanists as a profession, such as academic freedom or matters of professional integrity. They argue that LASA should only

consider "professional" resolutions on the grounds that "political" resolutions are divisive and historically have had little—or even negative—impact on LASA's credibility. Others defend the view that, as Latin Americanists with a high degree of expertise, members of LASA should express their views to try to change objectionable policies and/or better inform the public.

Timing

Several people suggest that both the quality of debate and the quality of the resolutions would be improved if there were more time for improving draft resolutions and for LASA members to consider the drafts before they vote. Under the current policy, resolutions are submitted 30 days before the Congress meets, and an EC subcommittee then has a month to work with the resolution's authors to improve the language and establish adequate documentation. Although the EC is supposed to act as a gatekeeper, in fact there is too little time and little inclination to do so. The EC rarely rejects proposed resolutions.

Under the current system, the EC reviews resolutions when it meets the day before the Congress. Members receive copies of draft resolutions when they arrive at the business meeting. There is no time for them to inform themselves or prepare for the discussion. This usually produces a perfunctory debate or, as in the case of the proposed resolution condemning the Cuban government for its violations of human rights at the last Congress, a highly charged political confrontation.

One suggestion is to have the deadline for submission the date of the interim EC meeting (that is, nine months before the Congress) to allow a more substantive EC review. Another proposal is that resolutions be submitted early enough to be published in the *Forum* (ideally with commentary, pro and con), so that members come to the meeting prepared to discuss the issues—though a long lead time could make some resolutions irrelevant. A third is to adopt some version of the committee approach outlined in the next section.

Locus of discussion and debate

Several letters suggest that a special committee on resolutions be established to develop and debate resolutions (or that the EC could take on this role). A committee approach could improve the quality of resolutions; in its more ambitious versions, the committee would propose resolutions (in addition to working with those submitted by members), draw on input from task forces and other members, and could respond to

events as they happen, rather than every eighteen months. A committee could be "strategic" about choosing its battles, focusing on salient issues or issues on which LASA could have an impact.

On the other hand, as Ron Chilcote argues, reforms that shift the debate and decision process away from the open meeting run the risk of being more bureaucratic and less democratic.

Voting

The current system requires that resolutions be voted four times: by the EC subcommittees, by the full EC, by a quorum of at least 10 percent of those members who register for the Congress, and by mail ballot of the members. Those who favor the committee approach suggest several different voting options: the committee could send out resolutions on its own vote, or on approval of the EC, or committee-approved resolutions could go directly to a mail ballot, accompanied by brief statements pro and con.

Some criticize the current system, arguing for reforms that call the quorum (as mandated by the current bylaws but not always enforced), and allow only those members registered at the Congress to vote in the business meeting. A different suggestion, to improve voting participation, is to set up a "voting booth" at the Congress; this could be combined with an open debate fairly early in the Congress schedule to allow members to debate the issues.

Impact

Finally, on the question of *impact*, the feedback we received was quite critical. Most feel that LASA resolutions are ineffective and a substantial group argue that they do more harm than good. One immediately practical suggestion is that all proposed resolutions be required to include a list of those to whom the resolution should

be sent, with correct names and fax numbers, to insure that the resolutions process doesn't simply deteriorate into an in-house exercise. The Association could seek ways to enhance the impact of resolutions, reporting on who received them and doing some follow up, which would have the added advantage of showing that the Association is serious about its resolutions. (This, of course, would take time and commitment, and might appropriately be the task of the group proposing the resolution). Many who favor the committee approach do so precisely because they think that a committee would be better able to produce quality resolutions and to follow through. Taking a very different tack, one member argues that LASA would get more mileage out of an occasional "well-written op-ed" than it now does out of a flurry of "hastily-voted" resolutions every eighteen months.

I want to thank those of you who have taken the time to respond to our call for comments and ideas, and encourage more of you to share your views with us. Please send your views by fax, letter or e-mail, and let us know if we may put them on the Web. We ask you to read the letters from Ron Chilcote and Bill LeoGrande to stimulate your thinking, and we look forward to hearing from you on this important issue.

* * *

I close this column by noting with sorrow the death of two outstanding Latin Americanists who have had long associations with LASA. E. Bradford Burns, Professor of History at UCLA, whose love of Latin American history, deep concern for its future, and humane engagement with students and colleagues inspired those of us who knew him; and James N. Goodsell, a Ph.D. in history, who was chief Latin American correspondent for the Christian Science Monitor from 1964 to 1985 and then director of the Cabot Prizes, distinguished awards in international journalism, as well as a professor at the University of Miami. They will be sorely missed.

CONTINUING CALL FOR RECOMMENDATIONS ON LASA RESOLUTIONS AND BUSINESS MEETING

At its September 27 meeting, the LASA Executive Council formed a subcommittee to reexamine LASA's resolutions procedures and the structure and format of the LASA business meeting. The subcommittee welcomes your suggestions. Send them to one of the members of the subcommittee: Jane Jaquette, LASA President, Department of Politics, Occidental College, 1600 Campus Road, Los Angeles CA 90041; Cynthia McClintock, LASA Immediate Past President, Department of Political Science, George Washington University, Washington DC 20052; Charles Hale, c/o CIRMA A-0022, P.O. Box 669004, Miami Spring FL 33266; or Gilbert Merkx, Editor, Latin American Research Review, Latin American Institute, 801 Yale NW, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque NM 87131.

Perspectives on the LASA Resolutions Process

by Ronald H. Chilcote University of California, Riverside

I am responding to [LASA President Jane Jaquette's] initiative to look at the LASA resolutions process. I am hopeful that the LASA leadership will seriously examine the following ideas and begin a dialogue over how to more effectively deal with the process.

The problem of the resolutions process is not, as a few have suggested, a lack of professionalism within LASA. Indeed professional organizations in most disciplines and areas transcended that concern years ago. Nor is the problem due to polarization and ineffectiveness. For example, the membership votes at March 11, 1994, were overwhelming (507 to 28 on Chiapas and 523 to 26 on the Cuban embargo); that does not strike me as reflecting polarization. At our September meeting in Washington, DC I encountered several members who were lobbying Congress and government agencies over issues relevant to all of us, and they reported that often they were asked where LASA stands on certain issues. While most of us, including myself, do not get much involved in policy questions, most of us are deeply concerned and wish to have a voice about policy that impacts negatively on Latin America.

Over the years various LASA presidents and executive councils have taken on the question of resolutions, and gradually they seem to have tightened the process, making it more complicated and bureaucratic. The pressure seems to come from those in policy making positions, whether in academia or in government. I recall in my graduate student days being with academics who were associated with the State Department or other agencies and who were reluctant to speak out on important issues. This was particularly true of political scientists, many of whom had past associations with State Department or CIA. I felt many of these persons were irrelevant, a sentiment that, of course, reflected the 1960s in general.

I have been a member of LASA since its founding, and I have attended all its meetings except one in Washington that represented a turn in the direction of a more vital and active LASA. The meeting was preceded by the Dominican invasion of 1965 which most of us objected to strongly. A letter of protest published in the New York Times was significant at that time because those who signed included many of those same political scientists and others who had cooperated with and shaped U.S. policy but who stood opposed to the Dominican intrusion. I also recall that the first LASA meeting in New York was limited to a handful of panels controlled by a few figureheads of our profession who were surprised when a substantial majority of those in the business meeting adopted a series of resolutions that led to a more democratic association. It seems that most of us have tried conscientiously to build LASA and keep it alive and relevant. I must confess, however, that the past two meetings have been relatively boring; panel papers tended to lean toward descriptive content, devoid of theoretical implications, and oriented often to case studies.

I am worried about where we are headed. Surely we are more sophisticated today than in the past, as Richard Fagen reminded us recently, but that does not ensure that we are always alive to the issues, responsive to new theoretical considerations, and being just responsible academic citizens in trying to join in making Latin America better—socially, economically, and politically.

Finally, while many LASA resolutions deal with the foreign policy of one country or another, most of them also reflect deep-rooted social and economic conditions. In one way or another most LASA members have become sensitized to these conditions through personal experiences. We care about the plight of Latin Americans and often realize that rather than addressing their problems, our academic endeavors instead tend to be oriented to our own careers and how peers view our scholarship and writing.

Any reformation of the resolution process should lean in a direction of making LASA more democratic, interesting, and relevant and not just evolving into another bureaucratic professional organization that caters to thousands of people while turning them off to the issues of the day. So in that spirit I enclose some suggestions for consideration:

- 1) Encourage existing LASA Task forces to delve into issues relating to their area of concern, prepare reports for the membership, and guide the membership in taking positions on questions related to questionable aspects of foreign policy and its impact on Latin America, its regions and countries. Material generated by the task forces in the form of a report supporting a particular resolution could be published in the LASA Forum just prior to congresses or after them, as has been past practice. Serious reports and resolutions thus will be taken conscientiously by the LASA membership.
- 2) Encourage the LASA membership to express itself responsibly on issues of concern. Resolutions serve the purpose of encouraging democratic debate and political education among the members. The resolution process can be reformed and facilitated as follows:

LASA business meetings shall be scheduled at a convenient time that does not conflict with panels, films, dinner or other activities.

The meeting should be brief, limited to 45 minutes to one hour of reports and awards and roughly 45 to an hour of debate over resolutions presented by task forces and others.

The resolutions must be submitted within 30 days of meetings and should be concise and clearly stated. The Executive Council or its representatives may edit resolutions to ensure clarity and brevity and to eliminate ambiguity without altering content and will work with authors to achieve agreement on wording. At the outset of each congress, resolution(s) will be available to those in attendance.

A quorum of one hundred members shall be in force in order for a business meeting to proceed and once a quorum is established all resolutions shall be considered. Votes on

resolutions will represent a sense of those in attendance and vote may be by voice, counting of hands, or secret ballot. Each approved resolution shall be sent to the entire membership for vote by mail ballot.

All resolutions and the vote at the business meeting and

the membership at large shall be published in the LASA Forum and identified in the table of contents. Copies of all approved resolutions shall be sent to the U.S. President, Department of State, Congress, and relevant agencies of government and to the same entities of countries affected by the resolutions.

Getting Down to Business by William M. LeoGrande American University

The controversy surrounding LASA's business meetings is long-standing. When I served on the Executive Council ten years ago, we endeavored to make the business meeting less chaotic by requiring that all policy resolutions be presented to the Executive Council in advance. In this way, the committee sought to work with sponsors to consolidate multiple resolutions on the same issue, and to polish resolutions that were poorly crafted.

These reforms succeeded, after a fashion. The quality of resolutions did improve, and LASA presidents became more procedurally adept at managing the meetings. But the excitement attendant upon the prospect that the business meeting might explode in chaos and recrimination has been replaced by the boredom of sitting through interminable, usually uninspiring debates and time-consuming votes. Thanks to the wisdom of LASA's recent leadership, the Congresses are invariably held in cities that offer much more entertaining ways to pass the time. And so attendance at the business meetings has waned. This is, as Jane Jaquette rightly notes, bad for the health of the association, since other important business needs to get done at the business meeting.

The current procedure for considering resolutions poses additional problems. The tendentious cast of some resolutions (less now than in the past, admittedly) has given LASA an undeserved reputation for ideological bias, which may discourage members or potential members from full participation in the association. I take it as a given that this is a bad thing for an association whose core function is to promote scholarship and broad intellectual exchange.

Many current LASA members have the perception, accurate or not, that because the resolutions are adopted by such a small cadre of stalwart business-meeting-goers, and the abstention rate on mail ballots is so high, the resolutions do not really reflect the views of a majority of association members.

Finally, since the resolutions are almost never based upon any prior study or investigation (which might give them intellectual weight), and there is never any practical follow-through (which might give them political weight), they have no discernable policy impact whatsoever.

Some LASA members, including a few past presidents (after especially rough business meetings), have argued that we ought to scrap the resolutions process entirely. Others rejoin that the membership has a right to express itself on policy issues. Especially on matters of direct concern to scholars (academic

freedom, the right to travel, etc.), my guess is that most of the membership would want to have some means available to express its sentiments.

Rather than abolish the resolutions process entirely, our aim should be to reform it so that the declarations: 1) are based on fuller and more informed debate; 2) clearly represent the views of a majority of LASA members; and 3) place less of a procedural burden on the business meeting.

We should begin by completely separating the resolutions process from the business meeting. Obviously, fuller debate cannot take place in that forum, and passage there certainly does not represent endorsement by most LASA members. The business meeting merely serves as a gatekeeper; a resolution must pass there in order to be sent out for mail ballot. Other gatekeeping mechanisms could be used. A Resolutions Subcommittee of the Executive Council could be created to decide which resolutions merit mail balloting. As elected officials, the Executive Council is arguably more representative than self-selected business-meeting-goers. If this smacks too much of elitism, another option is to hold a separate Resolutions Plenary at the Congress.

We ought to make use of LASA's web site to facilitate broader debate on resolutions. If drafts were submitted several months in advance of the Congress, newsgroups could be established for each resolution so that any interested party could join the dialogue, or the cacophony, as the case may be. Synopses of the strongest arguments pro and con might even be included along with any subsequent mail ballot.

Finally, to assure that resolutions really do reflect the views of the membership, there should be some minimum rate of mail ballot response required for resolutions to be approved. Policymakers are not likely to be impressed by our solemn declarations when only 30 percent or 40 percent of the membership bothers to vote, no matter how lopsided the margin of victory.

Above all, we should keep this debate over resolutions in proper perspective. I certainly believe that scholars have a special responsibility as citizens to bring their expertise to bear in the policy process. Passing a LASA resolution is not the most efficacious way to discharge that responsibility. Those of us who hope to influence public policy should keep in mind that our efforts need to be exerted primarily in the policy arena, not the LASA business meeting.

Remembering LASA

New Orleans, Moscow, and Pittsburgh by Cole Blasier

Georgetown University and the North-South Center

[The following is the second in a series of personal recollections by LASA's past presidents which the LASA Forum plans to publish during its 30th birthday year. These recollections constitute an important contribution to a narrative history of LASA as seen through the eyes of its chief elected leaders. See the Winter 1996 issue of the Forum for Henry Landsberger's inaugural piece in this series.

In this article, former LASA President Cole Blasier (July 1986 to December 1987) recalls key moments in LASA's history: its founding in 1966; the LASA-USSR exchange with Moscow's Institute of Latin America in the 1980s, and the transfer of the LASA Secretariat to the University of Pittsburgh in 1986. Professor Blasier then reflects on the future of LASA in an era in which the relevance of area studies is being reexamined by institutions that traditionally have been supportive. Such institutions include universities as well as foundations and importantly, the federal government, now that the Cold War is over. See a related article in this issue by Kenneth Prewitt, President of the Social Science Research Council.]

Founding LASA

In the early 1960s Jack Harrison, a former adviser to the Rockefeller Foundation, and Richard Schaedel of the University of Texas at Austin, took the first step towards building a national association by starting the *Latin American Research Review*. In 1965 they held a meeting in Austin, Texas, attended by representatives from ten universities, John Martz and I among them, to consider institutional sponsors. The *Review* under Schaedel's editorship initially gave heavy emphasis to reporting research in progress, but gradually moved toward its present format.

Meanwhile, Latin American Studies was admitted to the Title VI program of federally-supported areas studies centers and fellowships. We heads of Latin American studies programs supported by Title VI met at Cornell University in 1965 for an exchange of views. One theme of our discussion was the widely shared hope of establishing a national association of professional Latin Americanists based on college and university faculty. Defining membership was critical, since an earlier association, the Association for Latin American Studies (ALAS), had foundered on divisions between university faculty and high school teachers of Spanish and Portuguese, among other conflicts. At Cornell we agreed to set up an ad hoc committee to bring the new association into being. The members of this committee were Richard Adams (anthropology), John Augelli (geography), Norman Sacks

(literature), and myself (political science), with Richard Morse (history) as Chair.

These were years of great expansion in Latin American studies and there were many conferences, planning meetings and the like in Mexico and the United States. I especially remember the collaboration of senior Latin Americanists like Bryce Wood of the Social Science Research Council, Charles Wagley from Columbia, Federico Gil of North Carolina and John Johnson of Stanford.

Several months later, the ad hoc committee met in New Orleans to draft a constitution. It had several themes. Individuals, not organizations, were to be members (though the centers for Latin American studies could join together in a separate unit within LASA). Membership was to be restricted to qualified Latin Americanists. Since members of LASA also belonged to disciplinary associations that held meetings annually, it was decided to keep conference burdens reasonable by meeting every eighteen months. To provide continuity, each elected leader would serve successive terms as vicepresident, president and past president. It was intended that much of LASA's work would be done by committees of volunteers for regional and country studies, and for topical issues like human rights, scholarly resources, and women in Latin American studies. I vividly remember typing the draft Constitution until 1:00 am in the hotel's accounting department.

The next step was to convoke a constituent assembly. Howard Cline, then chief of the Hispanic Division of the Library of Congress, agreed to host the event. The ad hoc committee prepared a list of names of leading Latin Americanists to act on our draft. We met in the Whittal Pavilion of the Library, a venerable old room overlooking the Library's inner court. The delegates, perhaps 50 in number, approved the constitution with few changes. They elected Kalman Silvert, of Dartmouth, President, and Richard Adams, of the University of Texas, Vice-President, to succeed to the presidency. Soon after, Kal became an advisor to the Ford Foundation for Latin America.

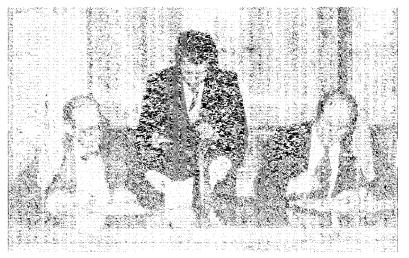
Howard Cline offered the Hispanic Division of the Library of Congress as the temporary seat of the new organization and sponsored Taylor Peck, a retired naval officer, as the first Executive Director. Recognizing that they should work together, LASA and the *Review* negotiated their relationship with the result that the *Review*, with editorial autonomy, became the official journal of the Latin American Studies Association.

The US-USSR Exchange

I dropped out of an active role in LASA for nearly 15 years after its founding in order to work on building the Pittsburgh Center from scratch. There I had the help of very capable colleagues and staff including Carmelo Mesa-Lago, who developed one of the first strong centers for Cuban studies in the country (with the help of Kal Silvert and the Ford Foundation); James Malloy who promoted studies of revolutionary movements; and Eduardo Lozano who built one of the best and most accessible collections on 20th century Latin America at the Hillman Library. Under the Directorship of Frederick Hetzel of the University of Pittsburgh Press I also edited the Pitt Latin American series; together we were able to publish 75 books on Latin American topics.

By the early 1970s I had become interested in two relatively unexplored research topics: U.S. responses to social revolution in Latin America and, later, Soviet-Latin American relations.

LASA would eventually benefit from efforts that I and others would make area. the latter particularly. I resigned Director Pittsburgh's Center for Latin American Studies in 1974, but earlier work done there on social revolutions and on Soviet activities in the region led naturally to the idea of a US-USSR exchange Latin American studies. In the late 1970s I visited Poland in connection with Pitt's East European Center which had an exchange program with the



Cole Blasier (l.) And Victor V. Vol'skii (r.), Director of the Soviet Institute of Latin America, signing an agreement in the US/USSR Exchange in Latin American Studies, Moscow, October 1982.

Institute of International Affairs in Warsaw. On one of those visits I made my first trip to Moscow since a diplomatic assignment there in 1958. Allen Kassof of the International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX) convinced me that, although conditions were difficult, it was possible to do research in the USSR.

I received an IREX research fellowship and spent the winter of 1978-79 in Moscow, working on Soviet relations with Latin America at the Institute of Latin America, directed by Victor Vol'skii to whom Howard Cline had introduced me in 1966. With the support of William Glade, who was then President of LASA, Vol'skii and I agreed to form the US/USSR Exchange in Latin American Studies. It was sponsored on our side by a LASA Task Force and financed by IREX.

The exchange lasted five years. We had conferences at Pushino near Moscow, at Erevan in Soviet Armenia, and in

Leningrad. The U.S. conferences took place in Pittsburgh and at Hilton Head. Among the most active collaborators in this project were Alejandro Portes, Richard Newfarmer, and Michael Meyer, with the participation of many specialists in the field from the United States and the Soviet Union.

Personal contact with Soviet specialists on the area gave participants a cooler and more realistic understanding of Soviet intentions and activities generally, and specifically with respect to Latin America and communist parties in the region. First hand impressions about the level and efficiency of the Soviet economy and peculiar aspects of Soviet psychology and manners gave these specialists a broader world view. The exchange made it possible for us to have glimpses inside a Soviet think tank and learn about its purposes, organization, personnel, and operations in a way that had not been possible heretofore in almost any Soviet institution.

A LASA Cliffhanger

because experience with the Soviet exchange, I was nominated then elected Vice-President of LASA, to assume the presidency in July 1986. That date coincided with the end of the University of Texas' contract to house the LASA Secretariat, then under the directorship of Richard Sinkin. LASA looked forward to continuing at Texas, but shortly before the termination of the first contract on June 30, 1986, the University announced its withdrawal.

Only months away from the date when I was to begin serving as President, LASA had few funds, no staff, and no place to operate during my term. Preliminary soundings indicated that Pitt had little interest in assuming the obligations that LASA's host universities take on. Moreover, there was some opposition among the Pitt faculty.

Meanwhile, Charles Stansifer had indicated his interest in having the LASA Secretariat relocate to the University of Kansas. I shall be ever grateful to Stansifer for his willingness to compete. At one point it looked as though LASA would go to Kansas but with road blocks removed, the Pitt administration agreed to submit a bid. But our problems were not over. The individual to be named Executive Director dropped out, and we had only a few weeks to search for a qualified Pitt faculty member who was ready for this particular challenge and who would be able to be partially released from teaching with only a few weeks to go.

Reid Reading, a part time member of the Pittsburgh political science faculty and Assistant Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, was not considered in the first round since he appeared to be headed for a career in university administration. The more we examined his credentials, the better he looked. Thinking we had a winner, we persuaded him to accept the nomination and inserted his name in our proposal only days before the Executive Council met and selected Pitt as the new LASA headquarters. During these delicate negotiations, Wayne Cornelius, then President of LASA, was a dedicated and supportive colleague.

LASA's stay in Pittsburgh has been blessed by the support and cooperation of my successors as Center Director: Carmelo Mesa-Lago, Mitchell Seligson, and Billie R. Dewalt, supported by an excellent staff. When the contract just negotiated in 1995 ends in 2001, LASA will have been at Pitt for 15 of its 35 years.

Thoughts about LASA and Area Studies

Just as knowledge and life itself are not divided into air-tight compartments, so it is with the disciplines in the university—and this is more obvious now than ever. In science, many of the great advances of our age have been made through the marriage of the disciplines; note biochemistry and astrophysics in this regard. To the study of society many of our most influential thinkers, like Max Weber or Albert Hirschman, bring to bear on their work a combination of disciplines like politics and economics, and history and sociology. Disciplinary boundaries do not, and will not, detain the enterprise.

Multidisciplinary studies take a variety of forms. Area studies, however, has pride of place. Human effort does not occur in a vacuum—it has to occur somewhere. The human activity that is the focus of the research enterprise must be understood in context. Area studies recognizes and acts on this elemental truth.

The United States needs area specialists, partly because of its own relative geographic and linguistic isolation, and because of its heavy international commitments. Except in the case of a few select private universities, in this country most of higher

LASA95 PAPERS

More than 900 panel and workshop papers from the Washington Congress are still available from the Secretariat.

See the Fall 1995 and Winter 1996 issues of the *LASA Forum* for the base list, additions, and for order information.

education is administered locally—by states, municipalities and churches. The fact that higher education in the U.S. is on the whole a local, and not a national, enterprise seriously limits the civic commitment to international training and area studies. That is why federal funding for area studies has been so important since its inception nearly forty years ago.

The dollar amounts of federal support have been but a small fraction of what is needed, but such support serves as a symbol of the national interest and gives local scholars leverage in raising additional funds from their own institutions and from foundations. So, in this period of overwrought curtailment, when members of Congress are reaching out desperately and indiscriminately for ways to cut the national budget, the nation's hard-won investment in area studies is in jeopardy. Gilbert Merkx's editorials in the Latin American Research Review provide authoritative reports of national developments on this and related matters.

Area studies has prospered partly because of strong personal and professional ties among specialists, and LASA is responsible for creating and maintaining many such ties. LASA connects not just to the Americas, but to countries in all the major world regions. As a global forum for multidisciplinary discourse, LASA has created synergies difficult to achieve in any other way.

A living example of how strong common interests and attachments of area specialists can be, LASA was put together by individual scholars on their own time and at their own expense. Its officers, chairs, and members devote enormous amounts of time to the association in addition to their teaching, research, and administrative responsibilities at their home institutions.

The relevance of area studies is under close scrutiny at present, and how scholars and practitioners in the international arena are trained and funded may well be modified over the coming years. Those of us who have seen the benefits of the area studies approach will insist on incorporating the best of its traditions into whatever new structures emerge. In the meantime, we note with pride that the 1966 ad hoc committee's constitutional recommendations have stood the test of time—and LASA as an organization has never been stronger.

A **NEW**LASA PROGRAM DIRECTORY HAS JUST BEEN PUBLISHED

See page 39 for details about
Latin American Studies in
North America
1995-1996

SSRC, ACLS, and the Reexamination of Area Studies

by Kenneth Prewitt

Social Science Research Council

[In an ongoing attempt to keep LASA members apprised of the issues surrounding the present "great debate" about the future of area studies, the Forum obtained permission to reprint the following, from the March 1996 edition of Items, published by the Social Science Research Council. Kenneth Prewitt is current president of the Council. We thought that Prewitt's formulation of various aspects of the issue were thought-provoking and found his discussion of the local-global dichotomy to be particularly appropriate in light of the theme of the upcoming Guadalajara meeting. The Forum invites responses.]

Many readers will know that the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) and the Social Science Research Council (SSRC) jointly sponsor a number of regionally defined scholarly committees, familiarly known as the "the joint committees." These committees collectively cover a large part of the world's regions: Africa, Asia (five committees), Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, Latin America, Near and Middle East, and Western Europe. In some instances dating to the 1950s, these committees have long taken responsibility for advancing scholarship on the world areas, a task which has involved the administration of fellowship programs, language institutes, summer workshops, commissioned studies, research planning conferences, publications, institutional partnerships, and much more. In the earlier years the primary focus was on informing the U.S. about foreign places; in more recent periods, there has also been an emphasis on working with scholars from these regions—approximately 40 percent of the joint committee members today reside outside the United States.

The enterprise of academic training and promotion of scholarship organized through area studies (of course not just the joint committees) has been impressively successful in the terms set forth in the 1950s and then elaborated in subsequent decades. This accomplishment is well-known and need not be detailed in this brief note. Suffice it to say that the United States is today vastly more informed about the world beyond its borders than it was a half-century ago—and this is so whether our referent is the foreign policy apparatus, the research universities, commercial enterprise, nongovernmental organizations, or the reading public.

From the narrower perspective of the humanities and the social sciences, area studies has successfully brought together language and literature, history, philosophy, geography, anthropology, sociology, political science, economics, psychology, and other relevant scholarly traditions to provide a comprehensive interpretation of a bounded geographic area. Area studies holds area constant and invites the participation of multiple disciplines, in contrast to traditional comparative studies which held discipline constant and involved multiple areas. Area studies, consequently, has been the most successful, large-scale interdisciplinary project ever in the humanities and the social sciences.

The many accomplishments of area studies notwithstanding, most readers will know that area studies as commonly understood is being freshly examined, even questioned, on a number of campuses, among funders, and, not surprisingly, by the ACLS and the SSRC. In this self-examination the academic community is hardly alone. From United Nations agencies to international corporations, from nongovernmental organizations to the State Department, the traditional region-by-region organization is found to be poorly aligned with the tasks and opportunities of the contemporary world.

For the ACLS and the SSRC, two central considerations drive the reexamination of area studies. These considerations are the foundation for a new international program the Councils will jointly propose this year. One consideration derives from changes in world conditions and the other from changes in world scholarship.

World conditions

One of the frequently remarked consequences of the globalization accelerated by new information technologies and post-1989 market forces is that "areas" are more porous, less bounded, less fixed than we previously assumed. Diasporas lead to continuous redefinition of who belongs to what place, and thus confuse the very notion of place as a marker of social identity. Area studies traditionally had a fairly clear grasp of what was meant by "here" and what was meant by "there." But when areas, from remote villages to entire continents, are caught up in processes which link them to events that, though geographically distant, are culturally, economically, politically, strategically, and ecologically quite near, the distinction between "here" and "there" breaks down. To learn more and more about social conditions in a particular area, then, means to learn more and more about how that area is situated in events going on beyond its geographic borders-but not thereby outside its economy or ecology or culture.

And, self-evidently, the obverse holds as well. Globalization does not render the specifics of place inconsequential. Whatever may be meant by the term "globalization," the phenomenon to which it points is clearly constructed from dozens to thousands of separate places, not all marching in some lock-step pattern. Misplaced "global village" metaphors notwithstanding, globalization does not inevitably lead to homogenization. It produces winners and losers, the included and the excluded. And the way in which these winners and losers respond to new opportunities, and fresh defeats, is no less conditioned by their separate histories and unique cultural perspectives today than it was in times past.

In short, the global-local notion is not a methodological metaphor invented by social theorists; it is the lived experience of billions of people. And it is being lived today in ways unanticipated even a decade ago.

This raises not just new scholarly questions but a host of new practical problems. These problems weigh heavily on those who are working toward a world less inequitable, less insecure, less inhumane, less unjust than the one we presently experience. The social sciences came into existence toward the end of the last century in response to what were then viewed as the urgent problems of the day. And for a century the results of quality scholarship have found users among persons working to make the world more equitable and secure and humane and just.

The practical challenges are being thought through anew, as globalization shows evidence of presenting new perversities and plagues, different ways to kill and impoverish, unexpected instabilities and insecurities. That the 21st century will require its own coping mechanisms, policy instrumentalities and social

formations appropriate to new problems is not in doubt, though what those will be and how well they will work certainly is.

In this effort to cope and renew and invent, there will be a searching for insights and theories of the sort that only disciplined analysis can generate. Our question must be whether the humanities and the social sciences are preparing themselves to provide those insights and theories.

The Councils believe that a number of discrete and separated "area committees," each focused on a single world region, is not the optimum structure for providing new insights and theories suitable for a world in which the geographic units of analysis are neither static nor straightforward. The Councils believe as well that if scholarship is not rooted in place-specific histories and cultures, it will miss, widely, the nuances that allow us to make sense of such phenomena as international labor flows, conflicting perspectives on human rights, alternative paths to democratization, violent responses to perceived territorial threats, and differing visions of the relationship between humans and nature. As we reflect, then, on a world shaken loose from its familiar moorings, we have no choice but to ask if there might not be better ways to advance international research and to prepare the next generation of scholars.

World scholarship

When area studies (American style) was being launched a half-century ago, the ACLS and the SSRC took for granted

that the disciplines to be involved in area scholarship would be propelled largely by developments in the U.S. academic community. This was not merely myopia or arrogance speaking. It was an assessment of the comparative resources held by the United States. And this resource advantage—the depth of the humanistic and social science disciplines, the organizational know-how of U.S. academics, the vast postwar expansion of higher education, and generous funding by private foundations and, following Sputnik, by the federal government—did give the U.S. scholar off to Kampala or Santiago or Delhi or Hong Kong a near monopolistic advantage.

Under these circumstances it was understandable that the reference point and audience for the area scholar were those fellow Americans hard at work on a different but equally fascinating feature of Uganda or Chile or India or China. From this, of course, emerged university-based area centers, as young Ph.D. candidates returning from the field gravitated to colleagues, of whatever discipline, with whom insights could profitably be compared. University administrators cooperated,

especially when Title VI funds became available. In the maturation of area studies, the joint committees were central actors. They helped to shape the research agenda, allocated training fellowships and travel funds, and worked to establish national organizations and journals dedicated to advancing knowledge on the different world regions.

Though this U.S.-centric version of the story slights the important role of British, Canadian, German, and

French scholars, neither these countries nor any other created, or is now likely to, the extensive array of programs and institutions that collectively define area studies in the United States. This near-monopoly on studying foreign places gave way first, of course, in Europe, then in Latin America, and gradually across nearly every world region. If not universally so, certainly scholarship of the kind practiced by area studies in the United States is now internationally produced.

This has far-reaching implications. In the first instance, one's colleague in the study of Uganda, Chile, India, or China is as likely to be a scholar from that country—or from Europe or from elsewhere in Africa, Latin America, Asia—as to be from the U.S. Moreover, those colleagues will not view themselves as "area specialists." The Ugandan historian, Chilean sociologist, Indian economist, or Chinese linguist—whether they study their own or some other part of the world—take as their peer community historians, sociologists, economists, or linguists. The international production of knowledge is now largely discipline-based.

This in turn is pulling more non-area U.S. scholars into the international arena. There has always been comparative

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politics, comparative sociology, comparative literature—drawing from but not limited to area studies. Scholars of international economics and security have at times come out of area studies, but that has been the exception rather than the rule. Historians not of a place but of a phenomenon—of art, of war, of revolution—roam across borders and boundaries. More recently cultural psychology has emerged as a sub-field bridging anthropology and psychology and, in some instances, bringing in the new biocultural specialties.

These exceptions notwithstanding, discipline—based scholarship in the United States has been U.S.-centered. This inward focus—parochialism one might say—is in rapid retreat. Partly this comes from what was earlier mentioned: good colleagues in the disciplines are to be found all around the world. To be current in econometric modeling, gerontology, sociolinguistics, or cultural analysis requires more than knowing what one's U.S. colleagues are doing. Moreover, as U.S. universities seek new ways to internationalize, they are involving units from across the campus—from professional schools to physics, from ethnic studies to economics-in cross-national efforts of student recruitment, visiting scholars, exchange programs, and collaborative research.

Probably most significant in the gradual (though certainly not completed) de-parochialization of the disciplines is the array of fresh research questions that draw their theoretical excitement or methodological challenge from the variations presented by examining them in non-American settings. The commonplace observation with which we started, local variations in the context of strong tendencies toward globalization, comes into play at this point. Name your topic—child-parent bonding, identity politics, transitions to market economies, energy consumption—and chances are high that the comparisons that will most matter cross area and cultural boundaries.

Changes in how scholarship is and increasingly will be practiced require changes as well in how international

scholarship is advanced, at least for the ACLS and the SSRC.

A new structure for the Councils

The issue of how best to organize international research and training at the Councils has benefited from the attention of the officers and the boards of both the SSRC and the ACLS, as well as from exchanges with officers of the Ford and Mellon Foundations (without whose core support the international program would shrink to a set of activities hardly justifying the label "program").

And, of course, the community of interested scholars has actively engaged the issues. There have been lively discussions with members of the present joint committees, as well as a flood of memos and letters representing the views of close to 200 scholars. These discussions and commentaries have been substantively rich, thoughtfully constructive (in nearly every case), and, for this reader, instructive. The new structure is being shaped by these exchanges, but is not likely to please everyone or to be viewed as fully responsive to specific (and often contradictory) advice.

As we try to take into account and be responsive to the changes in world conditions and in world scholarship noted in these cursory comments, we will also be mindful of why we have an ACLS and an SSRC and why the two Councils find merit in working together. Scholarly insularity is an ever present tendency within the humanities and social sciences. It occurs when scholars from one discipline don't talk to those from other disciplines, when scholars in one part of the world (or who study one part of the world) don't know what is going on in other parts and don't talk to those who do, when globalists construct research projects that float free of history and place, and when scholars talk only to other scholars. The Councils have been and will continue to be a counterforce to parochialism and to insularity.

Attention LASA Members:

For questions regarding delivery of the *Latin American Research Review*, including missed or delayed issues, please contact Nita Daly, Subscription Manager, *LARR*, Latin American Institute, 801 Yale NE, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131. Telephone: (505) 277-7043.

Questions regarding delivery of the *Journal of Latin American Studies* should be directed to Joseph Hranek, Journals Fulfillment Manager, Cambridge University Press, 110 Midland Ave., Post Chester, NY 10573-4930.

To inquire about delivery of the *Bulletin of Latin American Research* please contact Carol Bagnall, Circulation Manager, Journal Circulation Dept., Elsevier Science Ltd., The Blvd. Langford Lane, Kidlington Oxford OX5 1GB, ENGLAND.

Please direct all other inquiries, including questions about the LASA Forum, to the Secretariat.

The Tyranny of Distance Latin American Studies in Australasia

by Barry Carr, La Trobe University; Jim Levy, University of New South Wales; Matthew O'Meagher, University of Auckland; and Martin J. Scurrah, Flinders University

Despite the fact that Australasia and Latin America are two regions bordering the same Pacific Ocean, share the same southern hemisphere, have predominantly European cultures and are in large part the product of colonial rule, the levels of interaction between them have been notoriously low. For most of their history they have lived in mutual ignorance of each other. It is therefore hardly surprising to learn that Latin American Studies was not established in Australian universities until the mid 1960s or that at the beginning of 1996 there were only three universities with programs in Australia, and one in New Zealand.

With Portuguese explorers entering the Pacific around the southern tip of Africa and across the Indian Ocean and Spanish explorers around Cape Horn and from the west coast of South America, it is rather surprising that Australia and New Zealand ended up as a colonies of the British rather than being divided between the Portuguese and the Spaniards along the Tordesillas line which apportioned the Portuguese and Spanish worlds along the western border of New South Wales. However, such was not to be, despite the voyages of Quiroz and Malespina and the Spanish annexation of The Philippines and the Portuguese acquisition of Macau.

AUSTRALIA'S RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICA

During the first century after British settlement in 1788 there was more interaction between Australia and Latin America than in the subsequent one. The British pirate, William Dampier, who had landed on the north west coast of Australia in 1688 was subsequently the pilot on the ship that rescued Alexander Selkirk from Juan Fernández Island in 1708; the first governor of the colony of New South Wales, Admiral Arthur Phillip, had served in the British navy in South America; and the first Labor Prime Minister of Australia (in 1904) was born in Valparaiso and one of Australia's earliest and best known novelists, Mary Gilmour, was born in Argentina.

From the 1820s till the 1850s, there was regular trade between Valparaiso and Sydney as Chilean farmers supplied wheat and flour to the young Australian colonies and after gold was discovered in Victoria in the 1850s some Chilean adventurers joined in the gold rush. After the shearers' strike in the early 1890s William Lane led a group of Australian utopianists to establish the community "New Australia" in Paraguay, some of whose descendants are still living in Paraguay today.

However, after the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 and the Panama Canal in 1914, trans-Pacific contacts declined as the Australian colonies became self-sufficient and eventually major food exporters and the pattern of North-South relations was reinforced on both continents.

This situation of mutual indifference persisted until the 1970s when a newly elected Labor Government in Australia played an active role in accepting political refugees after the 1973 coup in Chile. The *autogolpe* in Uruguay, turmoil in Argentina and a bilateral program with the Government of El Salvador also brought thousands of refugees to Australia. This coincided with a period when the Australian Government was widening the source countries for immigrants to Southern Europe and the Middle East and for a time migrants from Latin America, especially females, were offered subsidised passages to Australia. By the early 1990s the Spanish and Portuguese-speaking population of Australia had topped the 100,000 mark.

Unfortunately, government interest in Latin America was not sustained and the region threatened to disappear beyond the horizon of Australian perceptions until when in 1991 the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade undertook an inquiry into Australia's relations with Latin America, presenting its report the following year.

The Senate inquiry seems to have been a watershed in the relations between the two regions. The number of official visits and trade missions between Australia and Latin America has increased dramatically in the past five years. The Australian Government now has embassies in five Latin American countries (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico and Venezuela), consulates in a further four countries (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Uruguay) and Trade Commissions in four (Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Mexico). For their part, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela have embassies in Canberra and there is a Cuban consulate in Sydney.

Although less than two percent of Australia's external trade is with Latin America it is growing rapidly and is expected to continue to do so into the next century. Australia is the third largest foreign investor in Chile, where over thirty Australian companies have opened offices, and Australian mining investments are growing rapidly there and in other countries of the region. In late 1995 the Australian and Chilean Governments formed a Strategic Alliance whereby the Government of Chile offers its services to Australian companies as a platform for expansion into Latin America and the Australian Government offers its services to Chilean companies wishing to expand within Asia. By early 1996 there existed an Australia Latin America Business Council, Australia-Argentina Chamber of Commerce, Australia-Brazil Chamber of Commerce and an Australia-Chile Chamber of Commerce, the last three with counterpart organisations in Latin America.

NEW ZEALAND'S RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICA

As in Australia, so too in New Zealand a clear, rapid and welcome expansion of ties with Latin America has taken place in

recent years. Up to a few decades ago, Latin America was marginal to New Zealanders' view of the world in spite of the shared historical experience of colonization and indigenous resistance. The fact that New Zealand and many Latin American nations occupied similar niches in the global economy, and suffered similar fates as that economy rose and fell did not change the fact that they lived in a "state of mutual ignorance and indifference." New Zealand's exports to Latin America have certainly been historically small and volatile, and its diplomatic posts in the region few.

In the 1960s and 1970s, nevertheless, an economic relationship began to be established through the exceptional trade and investment performances of the New Zealand Dairy Board and through two large forestry-based New Zealand companies. Today, moreover, these three actors have been joined by a growing number of New Zealand companies which had taken note of new opportunities opening up with Latin America's Neo-Liberal turn. As a result of their efforts, New Zealand's exports to Latin America have more than doubled in the last decade—an important statistic for a nation as devoted to trade as New Zealand is—while several Latin American countries are presently in the list of New Zealand's fastest growing markets. Chile is particularly important for New Zealand: not only is more New Zealand capital invested in Chile than anywhere else in the world except Australia—the two countries have even discussed a free trade accord.

To support the efforts of this small but growing body of New Zealanders aware of the importance of Latin America, in 1995 New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade prepared a special review on the implications for New Zealand of the recent economic and political shifts in Latin America, which recommended that the government consolidate broader relationships with that region.

Admittedly, New Zealand trade promoters currently emphasise the Southern Cone (in which they include Southern Brazil) more than any other region, in the wake of the Mexican crisis. In 1996, nevertheless, the New Zealand government is preparing to raise public awareness of the continent and is even talking of a Prime Ministerial visit to Latin America.

Individual Latin American countries—Chile in particular—are already making inroads into some of New Zealand's most promising export markets. At the moment, too, most New Zealanders still know little about Latin America or its complexity, and seem reluctant to recognise any Latin American country instinctively as part of the Pacific region with which New Zealand identifies so strongly. The growing trade mentioned above, for example, is still smaller than with the considerably less endowed South Pacific.

Perhaps the best future prospects for links between New Zealand and its Latin neighbours to the East are to be found in the growing cultural relationships being established. The Latin American immigrant community, while much smaller than in Australia, is beginning to organise itself in cities like Auckland. As was the case in Australia, immigration to New Zealand was particularly notable from Chile after 1973, and Corelatina, the

Commission on Refugees from Latin America has worked to sponsor and ease settlement in New Zealand, particularly for Peruvians, Bolivians and Salvadoreans.

In essence, the relationship between New Zealand and Latin America is perhaps newer than is the Australian-Latin American relationship. Nevertheless, it is in excellent health, and possibly will soon grow exponentially.

LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES IN AUSTRALASIA

In the universities, the 1990s have seen the establishment of a growing number of agreements for the exchange of staff and students between universities in Latin America and Australia. Thus, the University of New South Wales has agreements with the Universidad de Buenos Aires and the Universidad de Costa Rica; Newcastle University has an agreement with the Universidad Metropolitana in Santiago; and Flinders University has one with the Universidad de Belgrano in Buenos Aires.

The Institute of Latin American Studies at La Trobe University

It is within this context that Latin American Studies programs have been established in three Australian universities. The first such program was established in La Trobe University where the study of Latin American cultures and societies was integrated into the foundational structure of the new university built on the northern outskirts of Melbourne. The Latin American Program was anchored in three departments: History and Sociology (where the foundation professors, neither of them Latin Americanists by training, hired specialist faculty to build first year courses around the study of Mexico and Brazil) and Spanish and Portuguese where the Jamaican and Colombian connections of the first head of department shaped the development of faculty hiring and course development.

Although a major in Latin American Studies was introduced in 1970, La Trobe's commitment to Latin America received a major boost with the founding of an Institute of Latin American Studies (ILAS) in 1975. Generously supported in its early years by the Myer Foundation, ILAS has undertaken a variety of activities including the organizing of national and international conferences (twelve to date), the publication of an Occasional Paper Series and the coordination of visits to La Trobe by distinguished Latin Americanist scholars from the Americas and Europe.

The Borchardt Library has been at the centre of La Trobe's commitment to Latin American Studies. Thanks to the enthusiasm of the first Chief Librarian, Dietrich Borchardt, and his staff the library has built an impressive teaching and research collection. In recent years these resources have been strengthened with the long-term deposit at La Trobe of the Latin American holdings of the National Library of Australia. Of particular interest are three special collections with a regional focus: Mexico (Tabasco), Brazil (Paraná) and the Platine area.

Apart from the ILAS Occasional Papers series, La Trobe (together with the University of Auckland) has produced a significant international journal— Antipodas—and a mainly La Trobe-based team is now in charge of editing the Journal of Iberian and Latin American Studies, the first journal of the new Association of Iberian and Latin American Studies of Australasia (AILASA). Contributions to this new refereed journal should be sent to Dr Barry Carr, History Department, La Trobe University, Bundoora, Victoria 3083, Australia.

The Department of Spanish and Latin American Studies at the University of New South Wales

The teaching of Spanish at the University of New South Wales began in 1962 within a School of Western European Languages. The Department of Spanish became a separate School of Spanish in 1967 and added Latin American Studies to its title in 1972 when it was decided to appoint an historian to teach subjects outside the traditional language and literature subjects. That person took up the position in 1973; subsequently, a second historian was appointed in 1978 bringing the total number of staff in the School from six to eight. In the last year the School once again has become a Department within a large School of Modern Language Studies.

The Department now offers courses including language instruction, literature, film, history (including pre-Columbian courses), and art history. In fact, the appointment of the historians committed the Department to the principle that language is taught for a purpose and even the introductory language students receive an hour lecture each week on issues in contemporary Latin America and Spain. Thus, the Department has considered itself a conduit in Sydney of Hispanic and Latin American culture which explains why the historians have remained within the Department rather than joining the School of History.

The academic focus has shifted from Spain to Latin America, although the literature, film, art and history of the former continue to be taught. Consequently, the library has built the collection to the point where it now receives all the major English language periodicals dealing with Spain and Latin America; many of the monographs; materials in Spanish including literature and criticism; and minor specialized collections involving Argentina, Uruguay, Ecuador and pre-Columbian America.

Two major Latin American crises since 1973—the overthrow of the Allende government and the Central American struggles—have had a major effect on the Department and its activities. Many (but by no means all) of the staff involved themselves in solidarity activities which brought them into close contact with sections of the Latin American community in Sydney. Most of these activities occurred off campus with the cooperation of the trade unions, migrant groups, church-related organizations and so on.

The Department has also organized major conferences around such issues as the impact of transnational corporations in Latin America; the crisis in Central America; the indigenous peoples of

Latin America; and the impact of American silver on the world between the 16th and 19th centuries. The School also organized the inaugural conference of the Association of Iberian and Latin American Studies of Australasia (AILASA) in 1993.

The School undertook a major initiative in 1992 with the publication of a journal, ANALES. Appearing twice each year, ANALES was intended primarily to publish the work of scholars in the Australasian community. Since then, three volumes or six issues have appeared. In 1995, it was agreed to transform ANALES into the official journal of AILASA and it is now called *The Journal of Iberian and Latin American Studies*.

The Latin American Studies Program at Flinders University

When Flinders University was created on the outskirts of the City of Adelaide in 1966, Spanish was one of the founding languages; when Mr WAR Richardson was appointed, Portuguese was also taught until his retirement in 1987. However, enrollments were modest until the late 1980s when Spanish became the largest language department in the university and the Department began to offer a full major in Spanish at the University of Adelaide. This reflected an Australia-wide trend towards increased enrollments in Spanish in comparison with the more traditional European languages, such as French and German. From 1995, Flinders was one of only two Australian universities offering courses in Portuguese.

Although Latin American history had been taught within the History Department since the university's foundation, it was not until 1991 that an interdisciplinary Latin American Studies Program was created through the combined efforts of the Spanish and Portuguese, History and Politics Departments and involving the contributions of six staff members. The Program works closely with the University's Centre for Development Studies and has organised several forums and seminars for the business community, some in collaboration with the University's Pan Pacific Institute.

As of 1996 an undergraduate major in Latin American Studies was offered within the Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of International Studies degrees and a major was planned for inclusion in the Bachelor of International Business degree as from 1997. Students could also do an honours degree in Latin American Studies. [For further information consult the home page at http://wwwsol.hum.flinders.edu.au/Sch_of_Languages.html.]

La Trobe, University of New South Wales and Flinders are the only universities with multidisciplinary programs of Latin American Studies. However, on a more limited scale, Latin American culture, history and language, particularly the latter, are taught at an increasing number of institutions. Spanish has been taught at Monash University in Melbourne since the 1960s and more recently it has become part of the curriculum at Victoria University of Technology, the University of Canberra, the University of Western Sydney, the University of Queensland and Edith Cowan University. Lone scholars carry the flag of Latin

American Studies at (to cite just a few examples), the University of Western Australia (history), Macquarie (sociology) and at the Australian National University (archaeology).

Spanish and Latin American Studies at the University of Auckland, New Zealand

Spanish is the most commonly-taught European language at the University of Auckland, the only university in New Zealand that offers a full range of programmes in Spanish up to the PhD. Spanish language and literature courses were introduced in 1965 and were part of the Romance Languages Department until 1995 when it became the Department of Spanish within the School of European Languages and Literatures. The success of the Spanish programme has derived in part from the significant support from the Spanish government, as evidenced in the creation of the Prince of Asturias Chair in 1991, along with two Spanish faculty members provided by the Spanish Ministry of Education. Latin American literature has been integrated into the programme since its inception, and the increasing importance of the region has been institutionalized this year with the introduction of the Latin American Studies major and minor, an interdisciplinary programme with contributions from the Departments of History, Film Studies, Political Studies, and Spanish, soon to include Anthropology, Economics and Commerce.

THE ASSOCIATION OF IBERIAN AND LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES OF AUSTRALASIA (AILASA)

Several attempts to form a Latin American studies association in Australia were made in the middle 1970s but little success was achieved. These early experiments, all of them Melbourne-based, foundered because they were never able to achieve a genuinely national membership (and New Zealand was never included) and did little to involve teachers and researchers whose primary interest was in Spain and Portugal. Both these problems were addressed by the scholars who met twice at La Trobe in 1991 and 1992 to review plans for a new organizational drive. From these meetings AILASA emerged in 1992.

The new organization committed itself to serving the needs of both Iberianists and Latin Americanists, in language and literature as well as the social sciences, and equipped itself with a structure and constitution which maximized opportunities for involvement by members scattered throughout a large area, including, for the first time, New Zealand.

There were a number of achievements in AILASA's first year. A newsletter was instituted to circulate news of Iberian and Latin American developments, and seminars were held to discuss the work and recommendations of the Senate Committee on Australia's relationship with Latin America. AILASA's foundation during a time of heightened government interest in Latin America also yielded a very welcome bonus in the form of a financial grant to the new organization from the budget of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. These funds were employed to help finance the preparation of AILASA's founding conference in Sydney in late September 1993, the first of a series of biennial

events which were to be the core element of AILASA's institutional life. But perhaps the most important achievement celebrated by members gathering on the University of New South Wales campus in that warm Spring of 1993 was the fact that the new Association had survived its first difficult year not only intact but with a membership that was enthusiastic about AILASA's future.

The second President of AILASA identified two major objectives: to consolidate the administration of the Association and to develop its activities, especially with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. It seemed important to establish a habit of consultation with the Coordinating Committee given the far-flung nature of its membership. This was achieved and the role of the Coordinating Committee and the importance of its active participation was assured. Other habits which it was hoped to establish were the biennial conference of AILASA and the periodic publication of the Newsletter.

AILASA took responsibility for the publication of ANALES which in 1995 became the official scholarly journal of the organization and was renamed *The Journal of Iberian and Latin American Studies*. It is currently edited by an academic committee located at La Trobe University.

At the second conference of AILASA held at the University of Queensland in Brisbane in July, 1995, a new Executive Committee was elected to be located at Flinders University and it was agreed that the following conference would be organised by the University of Auckland in New Zealand in July, 1997.

One of the responsibilities of the current Executive Committee is to bring AILASA into the electronic age and an AILASA home page has now been established at http://www.ssn.flinders.edu.au/Politics/ailasa.html. An AILASA discussion group has also been established and interested persons can subscribe by sending an email message to majordomo@cltr.uq.oz.au and including in the body of the message: subscribe ailasa-l your name. The twice yearly AILASA Newsletter will be posted to this group. In the course of 1996 home pages will be established for the Association's journal and for the next conference to be held in New Zealand.

The Association is also keen to strengthen its ties with similar organisations in other countries and regions of the world. Thus, a meeting was held between representations of AILASA and representatives of the Canadian, Netherlands and US Latin American Studies Associations at the LASA Congress in Washington, DC, in 1995. In 1996 the Association plans to establish a data base with information about persons with knowledge and expertise on Iberia and Latin America as a resource which might be useful for business, government and academic organisations.

Latin American Studies is a new field within Australian and New Zealand academia. However, if the twenty first century is "the century of the Pacific", as many predict, the medium and long term prospects for Latin American Studies in Australia and New Zealand look encouraging.

The 1995 Haitian Presidential Election

An Observer's Perspective by Michele Zebich-Knos

Kennesaw State College, University System of Georgia

Haiti's Second Most Memorable Election

December 17, 1995 marked Haiti's second most memorable presidential election in post-Duvalier Haiti. The first was on December 16, 1990 when 67 percent of Haiti's electorate voted for Jean-Bertrand Aristide. On that day, enthusiastic masses anxiously awaited the official announcement that the people's priest had indeed won the presidency. No such atmosphere surrounded the December 1995 presidential election. This was a more somber occasion, in which the Haitian electorate appeared preoccupied with the harshness and cruel reality of everyday life.

Haiti is a country with 70-75 percent illiteracy, a per capita income of approximately \$300, massive unemployment problems, and considerable infrastructure shortcomings. These problems coupled with an increasingly high cost of living (vie chere), are the main concerns of most Haitians. Unfortunately, the restoration of President Aristide to power did not resolve the grave economic problems facing most Haitians. As a result, Haitian electoral euphoria of 1990 gave way to resigned acceptance to the fact that no president, even Aristide, could effect real change in such a short time. It was in this atmosphere that the 1995 presidential election occurred. However, that the election was free from any major problems was of great importance.

As an observer with the Organization of American States (OAS) Electoral Mission, I was given a very well-defined plan of action by that organization. Observation procedures

for OAS observers were outlined extensively in a 180 page OAS Observers' Manual.1 All OAS received detailed observers briefings not only on our election day duties, but also on the peacekeeping tasks of the United Mission in Haiti Nations (UNMIH). I was in the Pakistani UNMIH sector and their armed

presence was visible at the communal electoral office (Bureau Electoral Communal). While the Pakistani soldiers spoke only Urdu, their presence was well understood and meant to deter election-related disorder.² Since I had also observed the 1990 Haitian election under OAS auspices, I could not help but compare the two elections. From an observer's standpoint, the 1995 election was clearly more organized. The Haitian Electoral Council, or Conseil Electoral Provisoire (CEP), managed to get election materials distributed throughout the country with only minor

failings. These shortcomings were evidenced by incomplete ballot lots and missing forms which were generally considered unintended oversights rather than intentional fraud.

For the most part, basic electoral materials such as indelible ink, ballots and voting boxes, or *urnes de vote*, were not lacking. Unlike in Guatemala, the Haitians were not caught off guard by unanticipated electrical failures.³ Lack of power was taken for granted and all polling stations were allotted two candles as part of their electoral materials. Poll workers also brought their own flashlights as did OAS observers. This greatly facilitated the ballot counting process after polls closed.

December 17, 1995: Election Observations

Confusion about the actual voting process which I observed in 1990 was largely absent in 1995. The validity of many ballots was contested in 1990 since voters did not always succeed in placing the X neatly within the circle under the emblem of their candidate. I observed no such difficulty in 1995 even though I was in rural conditions similar to those experienced in 1990.⁴

I was assigned to the Department du Nord and on election day my French Canadian partner and I were to cover polling stations in the village of Limbe and other outlying rural areas. Our visit to the *Bureaux d'Inscription et de Vote*, or

BIVs as polling stations are called, began at 5:30 am. The five electoral officers were all present and prepared for the opening of the polling stations. They proceeded to set up the voting booths, or *isoloirs*, arrange the room, prepare the opening declaration form (*proces verbal*) and verify whether there

were indeed 400 blank ballots. Polls opened at 6:00 am and no major irregularities were observed. Several BIVs were located in adjoining buildings so observing them as well for the 6:00 am opening was also possible.

The atmosphere was relatively open with polling station personnel seemingly oblivious of our presence. In fact, most such individuals insisted that we note the regularity of the process. Problems were largely of a logistical nature. For example, the blank ballot count in one BIV revealed

Although there were fourteen presidential

candidates on the ballot, Aristide's Lavalas

Party choice, Rene Preval, won an easy

victory with 80 percent of the vote.

that the number to be five ballots short of the required 400. Several BIVs were missing the *proces verbal* form, but polling officials simply reproduced the form in longhand and moved on to other polling station business. The polling stations seemed quite prepared to handle a large influx of voters. This however did not materialize. In fact, voter turnout throughout Haiti was extremely low—around 30 percent of registered voters. At our designated rural "quick count" location we observed that the BIV closed exactly at 6:00 pm and ballots were rapidly counted since there were so few of them.⁶

Low Voter Turnout and its Impact

Low voter turnout in December 1995 is attributed to the fact that Haitians had grown tired of elections, having just voted in legislative elections in June 1995. Also, time was short between campaigning and the election—campaigning began one month before the election and was limited in scope. The great number of campaign posters and banners of 1990 were absent. Instead, I saw only a few Creole language banners with *Preval Pou Prezidan* (Preval for President) hung across streets in Port-au-Prince.

A third factor which may have kept people from the polls was the increase in violence during the month of November. The murder of Jean-Hubert Feuille, a pro-Aristide deputy who was shot early that month sparked fear among Lavalas supporters. Independent presidential candidate and a cousin to Aristide, Leon Jeune, was also the object of an armed assault on December 12. Jeune managed to escape unharmed. Pre-election violence reinforced fears of election day violence especially since several BIVs were set ablaze during the June legislative election.

Although there were fourteen presidential candidates on the ballot, Aristide's Lavalas Party choice, Rene Preval, won an easy victory with 80 percent of the vote.

On the Road to Stable Democracy?

Haiti has now experienced its first presidential election since restoration of democracy to that country. We are reminded that, although President Aristide left power on February 7, an equally significant date was February 29 when the United Nations peacekeeping mandate expired. To preserve Haiti's fragile democracy, Preval formally requested that the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) be extended. However, stalling tactics by China in the UN Security Council nearly derailed UNMIH's extension. Angered at Haiti's rapprochement with Taiwan and the U.S. for its criticism of Chinese military maneuvers near Taiwan, China threatened to veto the plan to maintain 2,000 peacekeepers and police officers in Haiti for six months. A last minute compromise was reached and 1,200 soldiers and 300 civilian police will remain for only four months.7

Until a viable and professionally trained police force is in place, many students of Haiti see no other choice but to have UNMIH's mandate extended. Yet, we must question whether 1,200 peacekeepers are sufficient to accomplish the daunting task of maintaining order in a country where many anti-democratic sympathizers are still armed.

To me the most striking aspect of my experience in December was not the election itself, but the uncertainty about what will happen when the UN peacekeepers leave. One post-coup election is a small step toward democracy. Now that the UNMIH force has been reduced in size, Haiti must tackle the more challenging business of healing its ailing economy against almost insurmountable odds. Infrastructure is in dire need of improvement: electricity is in very short supply throughout the entire country, roads beg for repair and garbage collection appears non-existent in Port-au-Prince. Nearly 125,000 jobs were lost following the 1991 coup. These jobs have yet to be recreated despite millions of dollars in foreign assistance which is supposed to be flowing into the country. For democracy to truly take hold, economic improvement must become felt by the masses so adversely affected by vie chere.

[The author was in Haiti for the December 17, 1995] presidential election and served as observer with the Organization of American States Electoral Observation Mission (OAS/EOM). Three hundred OAS observers were dispersed to all of Haiti's nine administrative departments. The author's observations were gathered from her work in rural areas of the Department du Nord.]

Notes

¹Organization of American States Electoral Observation Mission. *Manuel de l'Observateur: Elections Presidentielles du 17 Decembre 1995*. Port-au-Prince (December 1995).

²While the Pakistani soldiers spoke only Urdu, their officer-in-charge did speak some English. No Pakistani I encountered spoke Creole or French.

³See John Abell, "Guatemalan Elections '95: On the Path to Peace?" *LASA Forum*, (Volume XXVI No. 4, Winter 1996), pp. 11-16.

⁴This was a problem in the Guatemalan elections. See: John Abell, "Guatemalan Elections '95: On the Path to Peace?"

⁵ For a detailed account of electoral procedure see: "La Loi Electorale du Conseil Electoral Provisoire," *Le Moniteur: Journal Officiel de la Republique d'Haiti* (No. 13), February 14, 1995.

⁶The quick count location was the polling station to which my partner and I were assigned for observing the vote count. These locations were randomly assigned to each OAS observer team.

⁷ "China's Machiavellian Actions Change, Threaten Haiti Mission," Sun Sentinel (Fort Lauderdale), March 7, 1996 (LEXIS/NEXIS, Cutnws file). ■

The Debacle That is Cuba Policy

by Wayne S. Smith Chair, Cuba Task Force

The Cuban Government's February 24 decision to shoot down two small planes of U.S. registry was lamentable. Whether or not the planes were in Cuban airspace is unimportant. They were well out to sea. Warning them was enough; shooting them down violated international norms and led to a reprimand in the United Nations Security Council.

On the other hand, Brothers to the Rescue, the exile group carrying out the flight, had penetrated Cuban airspace on many occasions and in January of this year even overflew downtown Havana to drop leaflets. On that occasion, the Cuban Government, highly irritated, warned that its patience had run out and that the next time the group penetrated Cuban airspace, they would be shot down. For their part, Brothers to the Rescue vowed to continue their missions. From that point forward, this was, as someone quite aptly described it, a tragedy waiting to happen.

And what did the U.S. Government do to prevent the tragedy from happening? On each occasion that Brothers to the Rescue penetrated Cuban airspace, Havana protested to Washington and urged it to take all necessary measures to prevent a reocurrence. What measures did it take? None. It urged the Brothers not to penetrate Cuban airspace, but it made no attempt to stop them. This, despite the fact that the Brothers had consistently filed false flight plans and indeed penetrated the airspace of a neighboring country without authorization. This was enough to begin to lift the licenses of those responsible and even to ground their aircraft. But in fact no licenses were lifted and no one was grounded. The illegal flights continued—until the tragedy of February 24.

And perhaps even beyond, since Brothers to the Rescue vow to continue their "patrols" as before. The next time one of them is shot down, doubtless the Cuban American National Foundation will call for a naval blockade or some other act of war. And next time, the Clinton Administration, which has allowed itself to be maneuvered into this dangerous position, may comply.

U.S. policy, in other words, is now hostage to the most extreme elements of the Cuban-American community. Nothing short of military action to oust Castro will satisfy them. One cannot put the blame for this situation on them, however. They have their agenda and they have been forthright in pushing it. It has been up to the Administration to show some resolve and political aptitude in controlling them. It has shown neither.

And so, the Administration's efforts to appease the right-wing exiles have blown up in its face. In the wake of the February 24 shoot-down, an even more onerous version of the Helms-Burton bill than the original has passed and been signed by the President, who had earlier described the bill as a violation of international law that would cause serious problems with close friends and trading partners such as Canada and the European Community. He was therefore threatening to veto it. But with the February 24

shoot-down, he has done a 180 degree turn and agreed to sign it. This is unfortunate. A strong response to the Cuban action was needed, but to accept Helms-Burton is to shoot ourselves in the foot, for it will harm our relations with Canada, the European Community, Mexico, Russia, and various other countries, who resent its efforts to dictate trading practices to them and to replace their law with our own. Canada has already charged the United States with violating international trade agreements and is threatening to take the case to international tribunals. It has even threatened to retaliate by reducing its imports from the U.S. Other countries will follow suit.

Despite the boasts of Senator Jesse Helms that the bill he has cosponsored will mean the end of Castro, it in fact is not likely to have much effect in Cuba. Other countries are not going to stop trading and investing because we want them to do so. The key sanctions in Helms-Burton, moreover, are of dubious legality and not likely to stand up in court. What they *are* likely to do is to cause chaos and further logjams in our court system.

Perhaps worst of all, the President has virtually handed over to the Congress his own authority to conduct foreign policy toward Cuba. On March 1, he agreed with Congress that henceforth all measures in place against Cuba are transformed from executive orders into law and can only be modified or lifted by an act of Congress. Congress, moreover, prescribes the conditions under which that might be done. The discretionary authority of this President and all future presidents goes out the window. It is truly astonishing. No president in history has so abjectly surrendered his authority.

In this post-Cold War world, Cuba poses no problem to the United States that could possibly outweigh in importance our relations with major trading partners such as Canada and the European Community. But through its inaction and efforts to oppose a small group of right-wing zealots in Miami, the Clinton Administration has allowed the agenda of the latter to replace its own. Since nothing short of a naval blockade or some other act of war is likely to satisfy these single-issue zealots, this is an exceedingly dangerous situation to be in. All of us will pay the consequences.

The one ray of light in this dismal picture is that academic exchanges apparently remain untouched. We can continue our contacts with Cuban colleagues, though the unconstitutional licensing requirements imposed upon us by the Clinton Administration remain in place. Those exchanges and contacts now become of even greater importance, for they are one of the few links left between our two countries. And that we raise our voices to demand a more sensible policy also becomes more important. Given the extremes to which the Cuban-American National Foundation and Senator Jesse Helms wish to go, voices of reason must be heard if the worst is to be avoided.

Guadalajara! Guadalajara! A Note from the LASA97 Program Committee by Victoria Rodríguez and Peter Ward, Co-chairs University of Texas at Austin

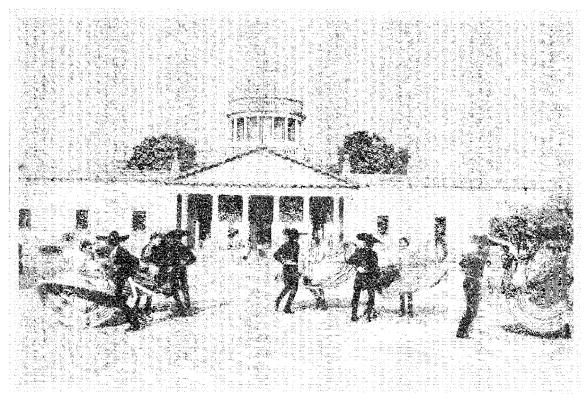
We are now open for business. Former Program Chair Tom Holloway has visited us in Austin to train us in all the hardware and software which he pulled together for the previous Congress. Everyone in LASA owes Tom an enormous vote of thanks for all his hard work in bringing LASA Congress program preparation up to the cusp of the 21st Century—technologically speaking, at least.

Indeed, many of you responded with solid proposals for the 1997 XX Congress of LASA to be held 17-19 April, 1997 in Guadalajara, Mexico. The primary Congress theme is "Latin America Towards the *Fin de Siecle*", and LASA President Jane Jaquette will be inviting some of the plenary speakers to reflect upon this particular *fin de siglo*, coinciding as it does with the end of a millennium. Panel organizers and paper presenters have proposed to address this theme from both issue and disciplinary-oriented perspectives. The secondary theme "The Local in the National in the Global" is also especially appropriate given Guadalajara's status as a major metropolitan regional center and state capital, governed by the opposition National Action Party. We invite accepted paper presenters to explore the significance of their work as it might relate to

upper and lower levels of analysis when developing final versions of their presentations. Of course, they will not be required to "bend" to fit these themes.

We have also received several requests from research groups who wish to organize a subsidiary meeting, fieldclass, seminar or workshop in Guadalajara or elsewhere in the region around the same time. This seems a sensible and exciting way to take maximum advantage of the large number of Latin Americanists who will be in Guadalajara for the Congress. All we would ask is that you do not schedule these activities to encroach upon the conference itself—either a few days before or after the conference would be best. Please use your own local established networks to exchange such information. If you send us details we will seek to include them on a "Bulletin Section" of the Guadalajara Homepage. This will be built up gradually over the next twelve months, and eventually will comprise exciting information about the city and the region, as well as regular updates on the Congress preparation itself.

We look forward to seeing you in Guadalajara in 1997! ■



The patio of Hospicios Cabaña, the largest art and cultural center of Guadalajara.

DISPLAY YOUR BOOKS AT LASA97

should adv LASA97 in	mbers interested in displaying titles at the XX International Congress of the Latin American Studies Ivise Harve Horowitz, LASA's advertising/exhibits representative, of their latest publications for p n Guadalajara, Mexico. Not only is this is a valuable opportunity to bring titles of interest to the atter	oromotion at ntion of your
colleagues,	s, but publishers can benefit from the marketing potential of congress exhibits and program advertising below to alert your publisher to this opportunity or to notify our representative directly.	ng. Use one
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Dear Publ	olisher:	
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TO:	LASA Exhibit Management c/o Exhibit Promotions Plus, Inc. Attention: Harve C. Horowitz 11620 Vixens Path	
	Ellicott City, MD 21042-1539 Telephone, 410-977-0763; Fax: 410-997-0764; in D.C. dial 301-596-3028.	
FROM:	Name	
	Address	
	Phone/Fax	
Please conf	ntact the following publisher(s) concerning recent titles I would like displayed at LASA97:	
Publisher		

CALLING ALL MEMBERS

FINAL CALL FOR BRYCE WOOD BOOK AWARD NOMINATIONS

Deadline: July 15, 1996

At each International Congress, the Latin American Studies Association presents the Bryce Wood Book Award to the outstanding book on Latin America in the social sciences and humanities published in English in the United States. Eligible books for the April 1997 LASA International Congress in Guadalajara, Mexico will be those published between January 1, 1995 and June 30, 1996. Although no book may compete more than once, translations may be considered. Anthologies of selections by several authors or re-editions of works published previously normally are not in contention for the award. Books will be judged on the quality of the research, analysis, and writing, and the significance of their contribution to Latin American studies. Books may be nominated by authors, LASA members, or publishers. Those nominating books are responsible for confirming the publication date and for forwarding one copy directly to each member of the Award Committee, at the expense of the authors or publishers. All books nominated must reach each member of the Award Committee by July 15, 1996. One month before the International Congress, the committee will select a winning book. It may also name an honorable mention. The award will be presented during the LASA97 business meeting or in a special session, and the awardee will be publicly honored. LASA membership is not a requirement to receive the award. The committee is: Daniel H. Levine (chair), Department of Political Science, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109 (Tel: 313-763-4397; Fax: 313-764-3522; E-mail: daniel h levine@um.cc.umich.edu); Ruth Behar, Cuban Research Institute, Florida International University, University Park Campus DM 363, Miami, FL 33199. Tel: 305-348-1991; Fax: 305-348-3593; Scott Mainwaring, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, 1000 Jefferson Dr. SW, Washington, DC 20560. Tel: 202-357-1724; Rebecca Scott, Department of History, 3609 Haven Hall, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109 (Tel: 313-764-6305; Fax: 313-747-4881; E-mail: riscott@umich.edu); and George Yudice, 30 E 10th St. #3S, New York, NY 10003. Tel: 212-982-1066. Fax: 212-614-3114. (At Hunter College/CUNY.) E-mail: gyudice@shiva.hunter.cuny.edu.

FINAL CALL FOR PREMIO IBEROAMERICANO BOOK AWARD NOMINATIONS

Deadline: July 15, 1996

The *Premio Iberoamericano* is presented at each of LASA's international congresses for the outstanding book on Latin America in the social sciences and humanities published in Spanish and Portuguese in any country. Eligible books for this April 1997 award must have been published between December 1, 1994 and June 30, 1996. No book may compete more than once. Normally not in contention for the award are

anthologies of selections by several authors or reprints or reeditions of works published previously. Books will be judged on the quality of the research, analysis, and writing, and the significance of their contribution to Latin American studies. Books may be nominated by authors, LASA members, or Those nominating books are responsible for confirming the publication date and for forwarding one copy directly to each member of the award committee, at the expense of those submitting the books. All books must reach each member of the committee by July 15, 1996. LASA membership is not a requirement for receiving the award. The award will be presented during the LASA97 business meeting or in a special session, and the awardee will be publicly honored. The committee is: Marjorie Agosin (chair), Spanish Department, Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA 02181 (Tel: 617-283-2425; Fax: 617-283-3639; E-mail: magosin@wellesley.edu); Peter Winn, Tufts University, 305 W. 106th St. 10C, New York, NY 10025 (Tel: 617-627-3520; Fax: 212-222-0589; E-mail: pew6@columbia.edu); Ana Pizarro, Instituto de Estudios Avanzados, Universidad de Santiago de Chile, Román Díaz 89, Providencia, Chile (Tel/Fax: 56-2-2358089; E-mail: Santiago, apizarro@lauca.usach.cl); Patricia Rubio, Foreign Languages and Literature, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866 (Tel: 518-584-5000; Fax: 518-581-1859; E-mail: prubio@skidmore.edu).

FINAL CALL FOR SILVERT AWARD NOMINATIONS

Deadline: May 20, 1996

The Kalman Silvert Award Committee invites LASA members to nominate candidates for the 1997 award, to be made at the XX International Congress in Guadalajara, Mexico. Silvert Award recognizes senior members of the profession who have made distinguished lifetime contributions to the study of Latin America. Past recipients of the Award were John J. Johnson (1983), Federico Gil (1985), Albert O. Hirschman (1986), Charles Wagley (1988), Lewis Hanke (1989), Victor L. Urquidi (1991), George Kubler (1992), Osvaldo Sunkel (1994) and Richard Fagen (1995). The selection committee consists of Cynthia McClintock (chair), immediate past president; Carmen Diana Deere and Lars Schoultz, past presidents; and Gilbert Merkx, editor of LARR. Nominations should be sent to LASA Executive Director Reid Reading at the LASA Secretariat by May 20, 1996. Please include biographic information and a rationale for each nomination.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS LASA MEDIA AWARDS

Deadline: September 15, 1996

The Latin American Studies Association is pleased to announce its competition for the 1997 LASA Media Awards for outstanding media coverage of Latin America. These awards are made every

eighteen months to recognize long-term journalistic contributions to analysis and public debate about Latin America in the United States and in Latin America, as well as for breakthrough journalism. Nominations are invited from LASA members and from journalists. Journalists from both the print and electronic media are eligible. A screening committee from the Award Committee will carefully review each nominee's work and select the top candidates in each category. The entire Award Committee will then vote to determine the winners, who will be honored at the XX International Congress in Guadalajara, Mexico. LASA will invite the awardee to speak at a session and to submit materials for possible publication in the LASA Forum. Recent recipients of the awards have included Horacio Verbitsky of Página 12, Buenos Aires, and David Welna of National Public Radio (1995); Kathy Ellison of the Miami Herald and Caretas. Lima, Peru, Enrique Zileri, editor (1994); Alma Guillermoprieto of the New Yorker (1992); John Dinges of National Public Radio (1991); and Pamela Constable of The Boston Globe (1989). Watch for an announcement in the Spring 1996 issue of the LASA Forum, which will carry the names of the entire committee. To make a nomination, please send one copy of the journalist's portfolio of recent relevant work, by September 15, 1996 to: Kenneth Maxwell, Council on Foreign Relations, 58 East 68th Street, New York, New York 10021. Tel: 212-734-0400. Fax: 212-535-0917.

MELLON FELLOWSHIPS IN LATIN AMERICAN HISTORY

The University of Chicago has been awarded a \$435,000 multi-year grant by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, which shall be used in its entirety to fund graduate study in Latin American history. The new Mellon Fellowships shall be awarded to graduate students of extraordinary talent, beginning in their third year of graduate study at Chicago. Fellowship recipients shall benefit from full support (tuition paid by the University of Chicago and stipend paid by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation) renewable every year for a three year period, subject to satisfactory progress. Funds from the Mellon grant shall also finance dissertation workshops, summer research for graduate students, and travel for Mellon Fellows to professional meetings. The first Mellon Fellowship in Latin American History shall be awarded this spring. This award recognizes the leadership that The University of Chicago has had in training Latin Americanist historians over the years, and it shall contribute substantially to maintaining and furthering this role.

NOMINATIONS INVITED FOR 1997 SLATE FINAL CALL

Deadline: July 1, 1996

LASA members are invited to suggest nominees for Vice President and three members of the Executive Council, for terms beginning May 1, 1997. Criteria for nomination include professional credentials and previous service to LASA. Candidates must have been a member of the Association in good standing for at least one year prior to nomination. Biographic data and the rationale for nomination must be sent by *July 1, 1996* to: Professor Francine Masiello, Chair, Nominations Committee, Department of Spanish and Portuguese, University of California, Berkeley CA 94720. Tel: 510-642-0471. Fax: 510-642-6957. E-mail: frm@uclinkberkeley.edu.

The winning candidate for Vice President will serve in that capacity until October 31, 1998, and as President for an additional eighteen months. Executive Council members will serve a three-year term from May 1, 1997 to April 30, 2000.

Members of the Nominations Committee in addition to Professor Masiello are: Gilbert W. Merkx (as Executive Committee liaison), University of New Mexico; Efraín Barradas, University of Massachusetts at Boston; Michael Coppedge, University of Notre Dame; Margaret E. Crahan, Hunter College/CUNY; and Joanna O'Connell, University of Minnesota.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

LASA receives frequent inquiries regarding whom to contact for information about regional associations of Latin American Studies. We would appreciate receiving contact information on the Pacific Coast Council of Latin American Studies (PCCLAS), the Midwest Association for Latin American Studies (MALAS), and the Southwest Council of Latin American Studies (SCOLAS).

LASA Research Seminar in Nicaragua

As the *Forum* goes to press, there are still some openings for the June 1996 LASA Research Seminar in Nicaragua. See the Winter 1996 issue for the announcement. For details or an application, contact Prof. Thomas Walker, phone 614-593-1339, fax 614-593-0394; or Alice McGrath, phone 805-648-4560, fax 805-653-6359.

NEWS FROM LASA

RESOLUTIONS RATIFIED

The three resolutions passed in the September 29, 1995 business meeting of the Latin American Studies Association (see the Fall 1995 issue of the LASA *Forum*) were ratified by mail ballot of the full LASA membership, as follows:

- I. RESOLUTION ON CHIAPAS
 Affirmative: 1,021; Negative: 73; Abstain: 69
- II. RESOLUTION ON THE U.S. BLOCKADE OF CUBA Affirmative: 1,055; Negative: 79; Abstain 29
- III. RESOLUTION ON CONTROLS ON TRAVEL
 TO CUBA
 Affirmative: 1,081; Negative: 44; Abstain: 29

Nearly 100 percent more ballots were received than for the vote on the 1994 proposed resolutions. See the Fall 1994 issue of the *Forum*, page 14, for specifics. And, thanks to those who took the time to cast a ballot.

CHICAGO CONTRACT SIGNED

LASA is pleased to announce that its XXI International Congress will be held in Chicago, Illinois, September 24-26, 1998. After weeks of negotiations, LASA signed a contract with the Palmer House Hilton of Chicago. We are pleased to have secured rates of \$125 single, \$135 double, \$155 triple and \$170 quadruple. The 1998 single rate, using a three percent inflation factor, is about 22 percent lower than for the Sheraton Washington in 1995, and the double rate is about six percent lower in real dollars. Data from the Sheraton Washington indicate that LASA books about twice the number of singles as doubles.

Chicago, a "first-tier" U.S. city for meeting planners, was a preferred site of the LASA Executive Council in its discussions on the 1998 meeting. We are looking forward to LASA98!

RENEWALS AT ALL-TIME HIGH BUT MORE PROGRESS NEEDED

A significant portion of the LASA membership traditionally has been slow on the uptake where *renewing* is concerned. But give credit where due—we are doing better in 1996 than in previous years. For example, in 1993 and 1994, we had only one-half of our members for calendar 1993 by March. In 1995, however, we achieved that in late February, and moreover, we had a record number of members for that year—4,398. For 1996, we had 2,650 members by the last day of February! We seem to be well on our way toward our member goal of 4,700, but we need to keep working on renewals.

Failure to renew early in the year is expensive for LASA, since we have to make special mailings to send back issues of the *Forum*, and LARR expends considerable funds doing the same with the journal.

What can you do? Nudge gently a colleague who has yet to become a 1996 member. Meanwhile, we are grateful for the improvement we have made—thanks!

ADDITION TO LASA95 PAPER LIST

The following paper presented at the LASA95 Congress in Washington, DC has become available at the Secretariat: "Challenges to Organized Labor in the Post-Industrial World: Argentina, Germany and the U.S." by Peter Ranis. To acquire a copy of this or any other paper, mail your order and payment (\$3 for members within the U.S., \$5 for nonmembers in the U.S., \$5 for members outside the U.S., and \$6 for nonmembers outside the U.S.) to the Secretariat. Payment by check or credit card (MasterCard or Visa) will be accepted.

CORRECTION

In-house editing of Jean Weisman's "LASA and Travel to Cuba," *LASA Forum*, Volume XXVI, Winter 1996, changed an intended meaning of the author in one passage. The edited last sentence of the first paragraph under the subheading Lobbying read "Except for passing resolutions, LASA members were not involved in political action against the embargo prior to 1993." Professor Weisman clarified: "This is not true. Many LASA members have been involved in various forms of political action in opposition to the embargo against Cuba for many years." The *Forum* apologizes for the error. ■

The Forum Gets Results!

Putting your notice in the Forum can be a boon. G. Angela Flemister of the International Women's Health Coalition writes "We just filled the position Friday, March 22. We were very pleased with the response we got from people who saw the ad in the LASA [Forum] newsletter." David Mhyre, Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies, University of California at San Diego told us "I find that the LASA Forum notice generates as many responses...as all my snail and e-mail flyers combined."

The LASA Forum Production Staff is always pleased to receive these kinds of comments. Keep the Forum in mind for your announcements!

LASA ENDOWMENT FUND SUPPORT

We have been gratified by the response to President Jane Jaquette's request for support on behalf of the endowment fund. The request offered a special opportunity to help the Association celebrate its 30th birthday and at the same time contribute to its future through a gift of \$30 or more. Many members have responded generously with gifts ranging from \$10 to \$430! Our most sincere thanks to all. With your help the total endowment fund now stands at over \$400,000! Remember that all outright gifts to the fund are fully tax-deductible, and that in some cases your employer may even match your gift to the LASA Endowment Fund.

These generous donors have given their support to the Humanities Fund since out last report:

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We also gratefully acknowledge the Latin American Studies Program, Princeton University, for its generous support of both funds.

NEW LASA MEMBERS FOR 1996

LASA heartily welcomes the following new members!

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BINDER

To the Editor:

As Congress moves to tighten the existing trade embargo against Cuba, I should like to make the following observations based upon a private visit to Cuba in July and August, 1995, when I observed the appalling and worsening effects of the U.S. embargo. In humanitarian terms, the embargo is statesponsored cruelty against Cuba, while in political and economic terms the embargo endangers the long-term interests of the United States, as well as those of Cuba.

As we watch congressional debates and the domestic political pressures exerted by Cuban exile groups, we see that rational dialogue concerning the future of Cuba and its people is almost impossible, at least in the U.S. We seem lost in the geopolitics of the nineteenth century—the coaling station mentality—or something far worse, something frankly pathological. Why must the U.S. Congress always want to "punish" Cuba?

The pathological nature of U.S.-Cuban relations extending over centuries is absolutely unique. To no other country does the U.S. apply the standard—the double standard—it has applied and is applying to Cuba. Consider, for example, our expanding economic and political relations with Russia, China, Vietnam, and North Korea. Where is Cuba in this scenario?

The answer, like the question, is so pathological, so irrational, that one can only liken U.S.-Cuban relations to the most lurid of relations between lovers, the classic love/hate relationship of those bound by intimate ties imperfectly understood, at once accepted and rejected. Or, to put it another way, U.S.-Cuban relations are some strange convoluted mirror in which Cubans, including Fidel Castro, see not themselves, but the U.S., and the U.S., coaling stations and the Cold War. Has anyone else seen the Cold War lately?

As in the early days of the Castro Revolution, a revolution the U.S. government helped to make possible, the U.S. today has a magnificent chance to aid the Cuban people, this time in the transition to post-Cold War democratic independence and all that implies. Those who have visited Cuba recently know that in this "Special Period" after the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of its Cuban economic assistance, Cuba is undergoing economic hardships, agricultural dislocations, pockets of hunger, medical privations, the decay of urban and rural infrastructure, and the advent of thievery, juvenile begging, and prostitution. U.S. religious and human rights groups and United Nations agencies are doing their utmost to help Cuba, as are other nations, but the Embargo Wall remains.

The longer Cuba continues to be isolated, primarily from the U.S. and unable to earn the foreign exchange—especially dollars—it so vitally needs, the worse these problems will become. Thankfully, other nations are helping Cuba with its

economic development, including Canadian, Spanish, and other European interests, which are reaping a harvest envied by similar interests in the U.S. What, then, is the purpose of the U.S. embargo? Do we now wish to "punish" U.S. interests as well as Cuba?

Through it all, the Cuban people remain their own true selves—hard-working, good-natured, affectionate, long-suffering, in love with Fidel jokes, and eager to extend the hand of friendship to their old friend, and, alas, sometime enemy, the United States. They are doing their best to survive. They are delighted to receive U.S. citizens in Cuba and anxious to discuss future possibilities and probabilities. Even Fidel Castro in his most recent July 26th speech examined the new world economic order, referring to the current "impressive successes" of China and Vietnam and "the elements of capitalism" now present in Cuba, though "at inevitable cost". His later trip to New York confirmed his changing posture. Once again, why not extend the same treatment to Cuba we extend to other socialist states, who are cheerfully combining capitalism and socialism?

As Cuba continues to move into a dollar economy, there will be "inevitable costs". They are already present in increasing social tensions, envy of those with dollars, the rise of dollar enclaves and shops, and the hint of possible corruption. The Revolution and its leaders appear tired, though Cuban youth does not. Like youth everywhere, they are bouncy, energetic, and anxious for the better life they are informed exists. They appear willing to work within the Revolution, but insist that the Revolution must adapt to the new realities, just as I insist must the United States. Inevitably, one asks, how can there be a true embargo when information circulates freely back and forth in the form of telephone service, e-mail, faxes, and the like, not to mention radio, television, and films?

Somehow, in Cuba, history continues to repeat itself with a vengeance—isolation, deflection from goals, thwarted promise, abandonment by erstwhile friends. It is time for the United States to help change this history, if not in Cuba's interest, then in our own. Let's get rid of the embargo, which serves only to antagonize and wound. Let's give Cuba what we profess to give all others: our compassion and our help. Let's give Cuba a chance, the same chance given Cuba by our friends and allies around the world. Finally, and at last, let Cuba be Cuba.

Felicity M. Trueblood Associate Scholar University of Florida February 1, 1996

[Ed. Note: The author was Executive Director of LASA from September 1972 to August 1978.]

OPPORTUNITIES ON-LINE

Chilean Government Publications on the Internet by David Block Cornell University

The emergence of Latin American government sites on the Internet offers scholars access to information that in paper form has been slow to appear and difficult to obtain. But as with any information source, these electronic documents present problems of access and preservation. Where does one find government information on the Internet, today and tomorrow?

This piece on Chile, and others to appear in subsequent issues of the *Forum*, introduces these government sites and summarizes their contents. It also hopes to raise awareness of the need to somehow insure that the information at these sites will remain accessible through hardware and software shifts and the inevitable diminution of paper publishing.

Directory Listings: Printed directory sources, principally Guía Silber and the Santiago telephone book, are now complemented and updated by directory listings posted by government agencies on the Internet. Congressional delegates and senators have biographical information at http://ami.congreso.cl/camara/lista.html and http://ami.congreso.cl/senado/lista.html respectively. The Presidential website also has a brief directory of its ministries and descriptions of the legislative and judicial branches at

http://www.presidencia.cl/presidencia/estructuraindex.html.

Department and Agency Publications: The President's annual message has appeared since 1975 in hard copy as Mensaje presidencial. This source was published until the end of the Alwyn presidency, 1993. President Frei's messages appear on the presidential web site at http://www.presidencia.cl/presidencia/discursos_index.html, and it is not clear if these or subsequent messages will be published in paper form. The national budget appeared until 1993 as Ley de presupuestos del sector público (Ministerio

de Hacienda, Direccion de Presupuestos, 19??-). As with the presidential message, the budget now appears on the Internet at http://www.tmm.cl/msaquel/mh/ mh.htm.

Legislative and Judicial Reporters: The Chilean official gazette is the Diario oficial de la República de Chile. In 1995 the Diario oficial began to solicit subscriptions to an Internet version dating back to 1990 and featuring a full-text index http://200.0. 148.7/ doficial.html. Pending legislation appears on calendars listed in the homepages of the two legislative houses, Cámara de Diputados http://ami.congreso.cl/camara/agenda/html and the Senado http://ami.congreso.cl/senado/asuntos.html. Supreme Court decisions have been published since 1958 as Fallos del mes (Santiago: Corte Suprema de Justicia). This periodical has now been coupled with other reviews, Revista de Derecho v Jurisprudencia, Gaceta Jurídica, and Gaceta de los Tribunales as a for-fee service, "Jurisprudencia," which can be seen and subscribed at http://200.0.148.8/jurisprudencia.html.

Statistical Sources: To date the Chilean statistical bureau, Instituto Nacional de Estadísticas (INE), has not established an Internet presence. However, the Ministerio de Agricultura which has published its Estadísticas agropecuarias since 1977 now presents some of the most important series as "Banco de Datos Básico" [sic] at http://dalila.minagri.gob.cl/minagri /cuadros/cuagif/tablas.html. Economic and finanical statistics also appear chiefly in paper. But some of the most prominent of these publications, such as the Banco Central de Chile's Memoria anual have ceased in the past decade. Filling some of the gap created by cessations, the Ministerio de Hacienda now places a data set, "Estadísticas de las Finanzas Públicas 1990-1994" at http://www.tmm.cl/msaquel/mh/mh0002.htm.

HANDBOOK OF LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES (HLAS) COMING SOON TO THE WORLD WIDE WEB!

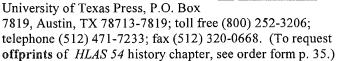
The Hispanic Division of the Library of Congress is currently working to provide a more user-friendly Internet version of the *Handbook*. Once completed, this project will provide a *Handbook* home page on the **World Wide Web** which will enable cumulative searches of all existing *HLAS* data, both current and retrospective. **We are currently seeking beta-**

testers for the *Handbook's* home page. If you have a basic understanding of your own computer's configuration and its access to the Web, and would like to volunteer, please contact Tracy North at tnor@loc.gov. This project, generously supported by the family of Lewis U. Hanke, the *Handbook's* late founder, is expected to be completed by May 1996. Tax-

deductible donations are being accepted by the Hispanic Division to help defray additional costs of development. The *Handbook* is currently available in a variety of other formats:

A new CD-ROM containing all Handbook volumes published to date (volumes 1-53, dating from 1936-1994) is now available for \$150. This one-disc title contains approximately 20 million words in 250,000 records—corresponding to all annotated bibliographic entries and scholars' introductory essays in the print edition of the Handbook. Published by the Fundación MAPFRE América (Madrid), with additional financial support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the HLAS/CD features contextsensitive help in both English and Spanish, as well as both novice and expert search capabilities. Full-text searches may be conducted on any combination of fields (author, title, description, annotation, subject, etc.) and may also be restricted to type of record (bibliographic citations, introductory essays, or both). The HLAS/CD interface uses the BRS Search engine which allows users to select from eight Boolean and proximity operators. Search results may be saved or printed for later use, and the HLAS/CD may be installed on an institution's local network at no extra cost. The minimum requirements for using the

HLAS/CD are a 386 personal computer (486 highly recommended) with 4 MB of RAM (8 MB recommended), DOS 5.0 or higher, Windows 3.1 or higher, a hard drive with at least 1 MB of free disk space and a CD-ROM drive. Both the HLAS/CD and the print volumes may be purchased from The University of Texas Press, P.O. Box



The Handbook of Latin American Studies (HLAS) is also available from the Library of Congress catalog on the Internet. This working file contains bibliographic records corresponding to HLAS vols. 50 and forward, in various stages of the editorial process. The Handbook data are contained in the Library of Congress's Generalized Bibliographies (GenBib) file, a shared file available via the Internet by telnetting to locis.loc.gov. Once you are connected, select the "Library of Congress Catalog" and then select "Books Cataloged since 1968" (i.e., the LOCI file). Type in your search, being sure to append ;f=gb at the end of each search string. (Without this file qualifier, you will be searching in the general LC books catalog.)

For further information on searching HLAS Online, please see the "LOCIS Quick Search Guide" for the Handbook of Latin American Studies which can be accessed by pointing your gopher client to marvel.loc.gov, port=70. Select "Library of Congress Online System," then "LOCIS Search Guides," and then select the guide for the Handbook of Latin American Studies. Note: Due to security concerns, in October 1995 the

Library of Congress eliminated public telnet access to LC MARVEL.

If you have difficulty accessing LOCIS, please contact your system administrator. If you are still unable to access *HLAS Online*, please contact Sue Mundell at **smun@loc.gov**. Be sure to include your platform type (DOS, Windows, OS/2, or Mac?) and type of telnet emulation (3270, VT100, etc.?).

CRL HOMEPAGE ACCESS TO FOREIGN NEWSPAPERS

The Center for Research Libraries' Foreign Newspaper Project is a bibliographic access project funded by the U.S. Department of Education Higher Education Act Title II-C through March 1996. In addition to cataloging over 5,800 newspaper titles, the project has established a web page to increase title and geographic access to the Center's foreign newspaper holdings. The Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the project is:

http://wwwcrl.uchicago.edu/~paper/Foreign_newspapers.h tmlFrom this homepage (which is under construction), it is possible to access lists of foreign newspapers held by the Center; newspapers currently received; currently filmed; and newspapers held by the five Center-administered area studies microform projects: the Cooperative Africana Microform Project (CAMP), the Latin American Microform Project (LAMP), the Middle East Microform Project (MEMP), the South Asia Microform Project (SAMP), and the Southeast Asia Microform Project (SEAM). [Reprinted from FOCUS, September 1995-February 1996.]

NEW ADDRESS FOR LASA TASK FORCE

The home page for the LASA Task Force on Gay and Lesbian Issues has moved, and now may be accessed at the following address:

http://spgr.sppt.tulane.edu/Span+Port/LASA.html.
Communications for the home page should be addressed to
Daniel Balderston at danb@mailhost.tcs.tulane.edu.

SHARE A MEMBERSHIP FORM WITH A COLLEAGUE!

The Association can grow even faster if more members discuss LASA with others in our profession.

This issue contains an institutional membership form on page 38 and an individual form on page 39. Please make them available to potential new members.

翻 RESEARCH AND STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign/University of Chicago Joint Center for Latin American Studies announces its Summer Visiting Scholars Program for faculty from non-research U.S. universities and colleges. Visiting Scholars research and write on a Latin American topic for one month at either the Urbana-Champaign and/or Chicago campus. Awards include \$2,500 for living expenses and up to \$500 for travel. Submit letter of application, vitae, letter of reference, and project proposal (max. 500 words) to the Center for Latin American Studies, 5854 S. University Ave., Chicago, IL 60637. Tel: 312-702-8420. Fax: 312-702-1755 by April 30.

Fulbright Awards for lecturing or advanced research in over 135 countries are available to college and university faculty and professionals outside academe for 1997-98. U.S. citizenship and the Ph.D. or comparable professional qualifications are required. For lecturing awards, university or college teaching experience is expected. Foreign language skills are needed for some countries, but most lecturing assignments are in English. The deadline for lecturing or research grants for 1997-98 is August 1, 1996. Other deadlines are in place for special programs: distinguished Fulbright chairs in Western Europe and Canada (May 1) and Fulbright seminars for international education and academic administrator (November 1). Contact the USIA Fulbright Senior Scholar Program, Council for International Exchange of Scholars, 3007 Tilden Street NW, Suite 5M. Box GNEWS, Washington, DC 20008-3009. Tel: 202-686-7877. Web page (on-line materials): http://www.cies.org. E-mail: cies1@ciesnet.cies.org (requests for mailing of application materials only).

The Institute of Latin American Studies at the University of London (ILAS) is launching a new one-year M.A. in Brazilian Studies in September 1996. This is the first Masters programme in Europe, in the humanities and social sciences, to concentrate on the study of Brazil. It reflects the enhancement of study of Brazil in the University of London and will involve teachers in a number of Colleges of

the University as well as the Institute. The programme is based on a core course: The Formation of Modern Brazil. The focus on Brazil is supported by a range of course options: The History and Politics of Brazil since Independence; The Economic Development of Brazil; Anthropology, Human Ecology and Development in Brazilian Amazonia; Ecology and Land Development in Amazonia; Brazilian Poetry and Popular Music; Culture and Identity in Brazil, as well as other courses on Latin America. The Institute will be glad to send information to interested faculty and students. Please contact the Masters Coordinator, Institute of Latin American Studies, 31 Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9HA, UK. E-mail: ilas@sas.ac.uk. Fax: 44-171 388-5024. Tel: 44-171 387-5671.

NEH provides opportunities for individuals to pursue advanced work in disciplines of the humanities. Projects proposed for support may contribute to scholarly knowledge or to the general public's understanding of the humanities, and they may address broad topics or consist of research and study in a single field. NEH Summer Stipends support two months of full-time work on projects that will make a significant contribution to the humanities. In most cases, faculty members of colleges and universities in the United States must be nominated by their institutions for the Summer Stipends competition, and each of these institutions may nominate two applicants. Prospective applicants who will require nomination should acquaint themselves with their institution's nomination procedures well before the October 1 application deadline. Individuals employed in nonteaching capacities in colleges and universities and individuals not affiliated with colleges and universities do not require nomination and may apply directly to the program. Application deadline: October 1, 1996. Tenure must cover two full and uninterrupted months and will normally be held between May 1, 1997 and September 30, 1997. The stipend amounts to \$4,000. Inquiries can be made by phone at 202-606-8551 or by E-mail at stipends@neh.fed.us. B

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES

The forty-first Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials (SALALM) will be held in New York City from June 1 to June 5, 1996. New York University's Division of Libraries and the New York Public Library, in cooperation with the NYU/Columbia Consortium for Latin American Studies, will host the conference. "SALALM in the Age of Multimedia: Technological

Challenge and Social Change" will be the conference theme. Multimedia is used to describe and incorporate the widest possible spectrum of media employed to transmit information, from physical materials such as print, microforms, CD-ROMs, audio and video tape and film, to electronic media transmitted through computer networks. Speakers include librarians, scholars, producers, and

managers of computer networks. The majority of meetings and the book exhibits will take place on the campus of New York University located in the heart of Greenwich Village in downtown Manhattan. One afternoon and evening will be devoted to a panel discussion on the performing arts and a reception at the New York Public Library's landmark 42nd Street Building. Information on the content of the program can be obtained from Peter A. Stern, President, SALALM, Alexander Library, Rutgers University, 169 College Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ, 08903. Tel: 908-932-8270. Fax: 908-932-1101. E-Mail:

pstern@zodiac.rutgers.edu. Details concerning local arrangements are available from Angela Carreno, Chair, Local Arrangements for SALALM XLI, Elmer H. Bobst Library, New York University, 70 Washington Square South, New York, NY 10012. Tel: 212-998-2606. Fax: 212-995-4070. E-Mail: carreno@is.nyu.edu. For general information about SALALM, contact Laura Gutiérrez-Witt, Executive Secretary, SALALM Secretariat, Benson Latin American Collection, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX 78713-7330. Tel: 512-495-4471. Fax: 512-495-4488. E-Mail: lauragw@mail.utexas.edu.

The North Central Council of Latin Americanists (NCCLA) is issuing a Call for Papers for an interdisciplinary conference titled "Child, Family, Community and State in Latin America," to be held October 4-5, 1996 at Ripon College in Ripon, Wisconsin. Those interested in chairing sessions are invited to contact the Program Chair. Graduate student and advanced undergraduate student participation is encouraged. Up to six student travel grants of \$80 are available. Apply with abstract. Conference presenters are eligible for NCCLA Research and Teaching Awards. Contact the Program Chair for further information. Send abstracts and proposals by July 15, 1996 to Dereka Rushbrook, Program Chair (NCCLA), Department of Economics, P.O. Box 248, Ripon College, Ripon, WI 54971. Tel: 414-748-8391.

Con el objetivo de proporcionar una plataforma europea que posibilite el encuentro, debate, coordinación e información entre los investigadores, profesores y alumnos estudiosos de América Latina, el Consejo Europeo de Investigaciones Sociales sobre América Latina (CEISAL) y el Consejo Español de Estudios Iberoamericanos (CEEIB), organizan el Primer Congreso Europeo de Latinoamericanistas, "América Latina: realidades y perspectivas," en el Instituto de Estudios de Iberoamérica y Portugal, durante los días 26, 27, 28 y 29 de junio de 1996. El Congreso debe servir para generar una infraestructura de periodicidad bianual para el encuentro entre latinoamericanistas, al estilo de ICA o de LASA, y se constituye en punto de partida de la reorientación epistemológica dentro del contexto de estudios latinoamericanos en Europa y de estudios europeos en América Latina. Asimismo, el Congreso es un foro para la actuación de los Grupos de Trabajo del CEISAL y sus comisiones regionales, llevándose a cabo en este ámbito,

reuniones del Consejo de Estudios Latinoamericanos en Europa Centro-Oriental (CRELECO). Durante el Congreso se celebrarán la Asamblea General anual del CEISAL, y las Asambleas Generales de la Asociación Europea para la Investigación sobre Centroamérica y El Caribe (ASERCCA), y de la Red Intereuropea de Postgrado de Estudios Latinoamericanos (RIPELA). Asimismo está previsto la organización de una semana de cine latinoamericano y de diferentes encuentros temáticos. Cada uno de los días 26, 27 y 28 de junio habrá una conferencia magistral a las 19.30 h. Para información e inscripciones: Instituto de Estudios de Iberoamérica y Portugal, Universidad de Salamanca, C/ San Pablo (Torre de Abrantes), 37001 Salamanca, España. Tel: 34-923-294636. Fax: 34-923-294637. E-mail: iberoame@gugu.usal.es.

The Institute of Early American History and Culture and the American Studies Program at the University of Haifa will hold a conference at the University of Haifa in 1998 on the values and ideas of enslaved Africans and their descendants during the period of the forced dispersion of Africans that began in the mid-sixteenth century and the establishment of a black diaspora. The meeting, "More than Cool Reason: Black Responses to Enslavement, Exile and Resettlement," will focus on transformations in black perceptions of self and society in response to enslavement. exile and resettlement. Scholars in all disciplines, including European, African, and Latin American history, anthropology, literature, and cultural studies, are invited to submit proposals describing the substance of their subject. Submissions of 10 to 12 pages in English and accompanied by a short form c.v. should be sent to Ronald Hoffman, Director, Institute of Early American History and Culture, P.O. Box 8781, Williamsburg, VA 23187-8781, by February 1, 1997. The Institute intends to create a publication based on the papers presented at the conference. For further information, contact Ronald Hoffman. Tel: 804-221-1133. Fax: 804-221-1047; E-mail: ieahc1@facstaff.wm.edu.

El Programa FLACSO-Cuba, convoca al IV Taller Internacional Agenda Latinoamericana Siglo XXI, bajo la temática general "América Latina en un mundo cambiante," el cual se efectuará en la Ciudad de La Habana entre los días tres al cinco del julio de 1996. El Taller se desarrollará mediante conferencias magistrales y especiales, presentación y debate de ponencias y mesas redondas con los temas generales: América Latina en el Nuevo Orden Mundial; Ciencia, Tecnología y Desarrollo; Educación y Desarrollo; Derechos Humanos y Desarrollo; Género y Poder. Auspiciadores: Programa FLACSO-Cuba; SODEPAZ (España); Sede FLACSO-CHILE; Universidad de La Habana; y el Centro de Estudios sobre el Desarrollo (DES). Los temas de las Conferencias Magistrales son los siguientes: Identidad, Integración y Desarrollo en América Latina; Desafíos de las Ciencias Sociales en América Latina y el Caribe en los umbrales del Siglo XXI. Para más

información, dirigirse a José Bell Lara, FLACSO-Cuba, Universidad de La Habana, San Lázaro y L, La Habana, Cuba. Tel/Fax: 537-335-772. E-mail: flacsocu@ceniai.cu.

Proposals for individual papers, complete panels, session chairs and commentators in all fields of study are sought for the Third Interdisciplinary Conference on Belize, to be held February 28 to March 2, 1997 in Belize City, Belize. The deadline for submissions is September 27, 1996. Send proposals to one of the following Conference Coordinators: Tom Leonard, International Studies Program, University of North Florida, Jacksonville, FL 32224, Tel: 904-646-2886; or Ismail Bin Yahya, University College of Belize, P.O. Box 900, Belize City, Belize, Central America, Tel: 2-32732.

Casa de las Américas will host the IV Seminar on Afroamerican Culture, devoted to the study of orality and literature in its many facets, to be held August 19-23 in Havana, Cuba. Individuals are invited to participate in the Seminar's International Panels by presenting twentyminute papers on one of the following topics: vernacular language, diglossie and literary creation; oral tradition and identity; testimonial writing and oral history; ethnobiography and narrative discourse; Afroamerican folklore, language and literature; transformation of the African oral discourse in the American diaspora; voice and rhythm in Afroamerican poetry: from the griot to the performance poet; the hegemonic written discourse and the marginated word: orality vs. the literate city; secondary orality, technologization of the word and the written discourse. Simultaneous interpretation into English and Spanish will be provided in all the work sessions. The registration fee for this 40-hour Seminar is \$280 for professionals and \$140 for students; it will be paid personally at Casa de las Américas. Attendance should be ratified before May 30, 1996. To register or request more information, please contact Emilio Jorge Rodríguez, Director, Center of Caribbean Studies, 3ra y G, El Vedado, La Habana, Cuba. Tel: 32-3587/88/89. Telex: 511019 CAMER CU. Fax: 537-33-4554/32 7272. E-mail: casa@tinored.cu.

The Society for Ethnomusicology is scheduled to hold its 41st annual meeting from October 30-November 2, 1996, at the Westbury Hotel in Toronto, Canada. The event will be a joint meeting with the Canadian Society for Traditional Music. For more information, contact Beverley Diamond, Music Department, York University, 4700 Keele St., North York, Ontario, Canada, M3J 1P3. E-mail: bdiamond@yorku.ca.

The 19th Annual Field Museum Spring Systematics Symposium, entitled "The Andes: Dynamics of Biotic, Human and Geologic Patterns Through Time" will be held Saturday, May 11, 1996 at The Field Museum in Chicago. The symposium is being organized by John J.

Flynn and Barry Chernoff of The Field Museum. For more information write to the Andes Symposium, Dept. Of Geology, The Field Museum, Roosevelt Road at Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60605-2496, or e-mail symposia@fmnh.org.

The Association of Iberian and Latin American Studies of Australasia (AILASA) will hold its third conference at the University of Auckland, in Auckland, New Zealand, from July 9-11, 1997, entitled "Contested Spaces: Spain, Portugal and the Americas." As the twentieth century comes to a close and we move toward

1998, we remember Latin America's last colonial war 100 years ago. Contests for space have always existed in the Americas, however, and continue today in the cultural, racial, social, environmental, religious, political and commercial arenas. This conference

will look at these struggles over past, present and future geographies, and the colonial, post-colonial and neocolonial issues they raise and represent. Papers are invited from scholars and students interested in the study of the boundaries established in the Americas before and after the arrival of the Spanish and Portuguese. While panels will be primarily based around the disciplines of literature and cultural studies, history, politics, geography, and economics, contributions by anthropologists and members of interdisciplinary fields such as media studies are welcomed. Closing date for papers is January 15, 1997. For more information contact the Coordinator for Latin American Studies, University of Auckland, Private Bag 92019, Auckland, New Zealand. Tel: 64-9-373-7599, ext. 6651 or 5263. Fax: 64-9-373-7000. E-mail: k.lehman@auckland.ac.nz.

The Mexican Studies Program at the University of Chicago announces its Spring Quarter conference schedule. From April 26-28, leading scholars from Mexico and the U.S. will explore the cultural construction of politics in Mexico in a seminar entitled "Political Culture in Mexico." Panelists will present research from various disciplines in an effort to advance a theoretical understanding of what political culture is. New historical research on the revolutionary movements in Chihuahua and Durango will be the focus of the conference "Revolution of the Vanquished," to be held May 10-12. Topics to be discussed include the social and political conditions which led to greater popular involvement and radicalism in Chihuahua and Durango; Maderismo and Orozquismo in both states; the impact of Villismo and the imposition of Carrancismo; and, the short and long-term effects of the revolution on the history of Chihuahua, Durango and Mexico as a whole. Both events are free and open to the public. For further information, call 312-702-8420 or write lguare@midway.uchicago.edu.

The Center for Agricultural History and the Women's Studies Program of Iowa State University invite proposals for the Sixth National Conference on American Rural and Farm Women in Historical Perspective, to be held September 18-21, 1997. The program committee seeks full panel proposals, but will consider separate papers. Proposals for literary, musical and dramatic presentations are invited. Cross-disciplinary and cultural diversity perspectives and sessions on current issues affecting rural and agricultural women (including

leaders and activists) are encouraged, as are mixed panels of grassroots women and academics. Proposals should be no more than one page in length and can be sent by email to rdhurt@iastate.edu or in triplicate to Deborah Fink, Program Chair, c/o Center for Agricultural History, 618 Ross Hall, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011 by August 1, 1996. Selected papers will be published in the Henry A. Wallace Series on Agricultural History and Rural Life by Iowa State University Press.

PUBLICATIONS

CartaCuba is a new English-language annual published at the University of Havana, Cuba, by the FLACSO-CUBA program. The first volume, 1995 (65pp), contains five articles that provide a solid overview of the crisis in Cuban socialism provoked by the collapse of the Eastern Bloc, the pervasive effects of U.S. policies upon Cuban society, the manner in which the Cuban economy has adapted to the crisis, the new Cuban brands of technology, which constitute real economic possibilities for the island, and emerging scenarios for Cuba's transition from a survival economy to a new brand of tropical socialism. Contact Richard A. Dello Buono, Sociology Department, Rosary College, 7900 W. Division St., River Forest, IL 60305 USA. Fax: 708-366-5360. E-mail: rosary@igc.apc.org. Further inquiries can be made directly to Programa FLACSO-CUBA, Edificio Varona, Universidad de la Habana, San Lázaro y L, Habana 4, Cuba. Tel: 537-70-1315. Fax: 537-335772. E-mail:

flacso@comuh.uh.cu.

Call for Papers—"Strange Pilgrimages: Travel, Exile and Foreign Residency in the Creation of Latin American Identity 1800-1939" will be an interdisciplinary anthology of scholarly articles examining the significant experiences of Latin American individuals, communities or phenomena in seven foreign countries—the United States, Great Britain, France, Germany, Russia, Spain and Italy. Subject areas of fashion, material culture, music and literature are especially desirable. Please send requests for information or application materials (a c.v. and brief abstract, to be sent as soon as possible) to Karen Racine, Department of History, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA 70118 (kracine@mailhost.tcs.tulane.edu), or Ingrid Fey, University of California—Los Angeles, 10750 Missouri Ave. #8, Los Angeles, CA 9025 (ifey@ucla.edu).

The Centro de Estudios de Población (CEPAR), Quito, Ecuador and the Division of Reproductive Health of the Centers for Disease Control, Atlanta, GA, announce the publication of the final report of the 1994 Ecuador Reproductive Health Survey (only available in Spanish). Single copies are available at no cost from the Behavioral Epidemiology and Demographic Research Branch, Division of Reproductive Health, MS K-35, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA 30333.

The editorial board of the journal Cuban Studies and the University of Pittsburgh Press announce a request for proposals to edit articles for Cuban Studies commencing on January 1, 1998, at the conclusion of the editing of the journal's twenty-eighth volume. The new Editor would be responsible for the articles due to the publisher in early January 1999, and would serve as liaison with the publisher throughout the production process.

At present, the responsibility of Editor rotates among four scholars. This arrangement will terminate on January 1, 1998. The University of Pittsburgh Press owns the journal and will continue to do so; it will remain responsible for the production, promotion, mailing, and related business activities of the journal. All revenues accrue to the Press. The Editorial Board would also remain, with staggered terms for its members. The new Editor would appoint Editorial Board members as the terms of incumbents end. The new contract to edit Cuban Studies should be for a five-year period, although the Editorial Board and the Press reserve the right to award a contract for a different duration. Completed proposals must be received by July 1, 1996, and should be directed to Dr. Jorge Pérez-López, 5881 6th Street, Falls Church, VA 22041. A completed proposal will include a short statement of the proposed editorial direction of the journal, feature a commitment to publish across disciplinary fields, identify the proposed new Editor and describe this person's scholarly qualifications, specify the nature and extent of the support provided by the host institution, and contain a letter from the president of that institution formally committing the resources and personnel of the institution as specified in the proposal. The bid may take three forms: 1) The bidding institution will assume full

responsibility for the articles, liaison with the publisher, bibliography, and book review sections. The minimum staff required for this bid is the Editor, a staff support person, a Book Review Editor, and a Bibliography Editor; 2) The bidding institution will assume full responsibility for the same tasks as in 1), except for the book review section that would remain under the responsibility of the current Book Review Editor: 3)The bidding institution will assume full responsibility for the articles and liaison with the publisher (which require an editor and a staff person) and it will subcontract the bibliography and book review sections to persons at other institutions. In this case, the bid must include full information about the subcontractors: qualifications, a statement about plans for the respective sections, and nature and extent of support from host institution. Applicants may contact Dr. Pérez-López for more information about journal operating requirements and procedures.

ABC-CLIO seeks scholars interested in contributing assigned essays for inclusion in its planned *Historical Encyclopedia of*

World Slavery. This two-volume reference work, targeted for publication in early 1998, will offer a comprehensive assessment of the complex institution of slavery across cultures and throughout time. Unparalleled in scope, this project promises to produce a reference set that stands alone as the best resource available for an encyclopedic survey of slavery in world history. This project will cover the history of slavery and the slave trade from antiquity to the present. Entries will consist of specific peoples, kingdoms, settlements, nations, tribes, political entities, armies, campaigns, individuals, charters, decrees, slave-trade routes, historical events, laws, and practices. Additional entries will explore the nature of antislavery thought and will highlight leaders in the worldwide abolitionist movement. If you are interested in writing for this project and would like to receive a topics list, please submit a letter of inquiry and a curriculum vitae to Junius P. Rodríguez, General Editor, Historical Encyclopedia of World Slavery, Eureka College, 300 East College Avenue, Eureka, IL 61530. Should you prefer, you may fax this material to 309-467-6386, or you may send it by e-mail to jrodrig@eureka.edu.

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GENERAI

The UCLA Latin American Center announces the Call for Entries in the competition for the UCLA Prize in Latin American Literature. The 1996 prize will be awarded in the narrative genre. Unpublished novels and short story collections, in Spanish or Portuguese, will be accepted. The competition is open to any resident or citizen of the United States or a Latin American country who identifies with literary expression in Spanish or Portuguese. The author of the selected manuscript will receive a monetary award of \$3,000. A co-edition of the winning work will be published by the UCLA Latin American

Center and Siglo XXI Editores, Mexico City. The panel of jurors includes José Donoso (Chile), Ricardo Piglia (Argentina), Nélida Piñón (Brazil), Ricardo Pozas Horcasitas (Mexico), Guadalupe Ortiz Elguea (Siglo XXI Editores), Rolando Hinojosa (University of Texas at Austin), and, representing UCLA, Adriana Bergero, Verónica Cortínez, Héctor Calderón, Randal Johnson, Efraín Kristal, and Carlos Alberto Torres (ex officio). For a copy of the Call for Entries, contact the UCLA Latin American Center. Tel: (310) 825-4571. Fax: 310-206-6859. E-mail: latinametr@others.sscnet.ucla.edu.

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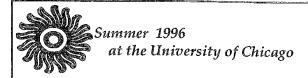
The Handbook of Latin American Studies was launched in 1936 by Lewis Hanke, its first editor. Since that time it has continued to provide annotated bibliographies of the most significant publications on Latin America in the social sciences and humanities. Authors have appreciated its authoritative comments on their publications as well as access the Handbook provides to other specialists and their research.

In the interest of making information in the Handbook more broadly accessible, the Latin American Studies Association has agreed to a request by the Library of Congress and the University of Texas Press, publishers of the Handbook, that LASA offer photocopies of the largest section of Volume 54-the history entry-to scholars who would like to own their own desk copies.

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The LASA Employment Bulletin Board on the Worldwide Web is always in search of employment listings to post. This site contains announcements of positions involving Latin America, both in and out of academia. To contribute, simply send, fax, or e-mail your advertisement to the Secretariat, including a deadline for applications. This listing is free of charge, and accessible to all LASA members at this address:

http://www.pitt.edu/~lasa/empl.html.

A New Doctoral Training Program in the History of Latin America

The Mellon Fellowship in Latin American History at Yale University

Yale has received a major grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to enhance doctoral training in Latin American history and support its Program in Latin American Studies. The grant is primarily intended to attract superior students into research and teaching careers in Latin American history and enrich the training they receive. Fellows will be accepted into the program on a competitive basis and receive Yale's most generous aid package in their first and second years. Pending satisfactory progress, they will then receive Mellon awards of \$15,000 in their third and fourth years (i.e., \$12,000 stipends for the academic year and \$3,000 of summer funds), and \$12,000 in their fifth year. Yale is prepared to fund a sixth year of dissertation write-up, if necessary. Tuition fellowships will be granted for all years in which full tuition is due. Thus, the Mellon fellowship program now makes it possible for Yale to provide outstanding students with support for up to six years. Mellon Fellows are guaranteed generous assistance for their field work outside the United States (prior to and during the dissertation phase), as well as support for participation at research symposia in the U.S. and abroad. The new program will also fund several visiting appointments by senior Latin American scholars, who will lead innovative thematic seminars for the Mellon Fellows. Finally, in conjunction with visiting scholars and regular Yale faculty, Mellon Fellows will plan and host a national graduate student symposium in Latin American history. Applicants for graduate study in Latin American history need not apply specifically for the Mellon Fellowship, but in their letters of application they should indicate their interest in pursuing the program. For further information about the program and graduate study in history at Yale, please write to Professor Gilbert M. Joseph, Department of History, Yale University, P.O. Box 208324, New Haven, CT 06520-8324.



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