



Terra Cognita

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF DISCOVERIES

No. 16 • SUMMER 2021

2021 Annual Meeting In New Orleans November 19-20, 2021

Plans for our 2020 New Orleans Conference had to be cancelled and the conference moved to a virtual format. Despite the still-present uncertainty surrounding the pandemic, we plan to hold our annual meeting in New Orleans as a live meeting, hoping that the epidemiological situation will allow us to travel. The theme of this meeting is *“Changing Tides: Native Americans, Europeans, and Africans on the Gulf Coast”* and the Call for Papers is still open (please contact Anne Good!). The SHD program will be held on Friday and Saturday with an optional tour on Sunday.

The conference will take place at the Williams Research Center of the Historic New Orleans Collection, which is located at the very heart of the French Quarter. (<https://www.hnoc.org/research>). In addition to serving us as the venue of our meeting, a selection from their collections’ holdings will be offered for viewing in a guided tour. Their collections reflect aspects of the history and culture of the Gulf South, such as colonial Louisiana, the Louisiana Purchase, the Battle of New Orleans, the Civil War, Mississippi River life, cartography, transportation, plantations, urban development, Louisiana artists and writers, architecture, the French Quarter, jazz and other forms of early New Orleans music, historic preservation, as well as Mardi Gras.

To accommodate the participants, we have at our disposal a number of excellent hotels of different categories and for everyone’s taste. Due to the attractiveness of the location of New Orleans’ French Quarter, we suggest early booking (with

the possibility of cancellation without penalty). Here are some of the hotels in walking distance from the conference venue:

- **Wyndham New Orleans French Quarter**
<https://www.wyndhamfrenchquarter.com/>
- **Courtyard by Marriott New Orleans French Quarter/Iberville**
<https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/msyci-courtyard-new-orleans-french-quarter-iberville/>
- **Holiday Inn Hotel French Quarter-Chateau Lemoyne, an IHG Hotel**
<https://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/us/en/new-orleans/msycl/hoteldetail>
- **Dauphine Orleans Hotel**
<https://www.dauphineorleans.com/>
- **Hotel Le Marais**
<https://www.hotellemarais.com/>
- **Place D’Armes Hotel**
<https://www.placedarmes.com/>
- **Wyndham Garden Baronne Plaza**
<https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/wyndham-garden/new-orleans-louisiana/wyndham-garden-baronne-plaza-new-orleans/overview>
- **Andrew Jackson Hotel French Quarter**
<https://www.andrewjacksonhotel.com/>

For further information on the annual meeting, please check our monthly notices and our website.



Williams Research Center in New Orleans

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Behind us is another pandemic year marked by the impossibility of personal contacts and live meetings. Numerous restrictions that have fundamentally changed our personal and professional lives have had a strong impact on SHD and all our activities. The impossibility of traveling, personal meetings, working remotely, and, especially, the closure of libraries and archives, have completely changed the way we have lived and worked for the past year and a half. Although the situation has improved significantly in recent months, we are optimistic with caution. We hope that the fall will bring us a more significant easing of measures and a return to life as we knew it before. In that sense, we also are planning our annual meeting in November as a live meeting that should take place in New Orleans. However, taught by the experience of a sharp worsening of the epidemiological situation from the fall of 2020, we are also ready for other options and, with the help of digital technologies, to which we have all become accustomed in the meantime, for continuing our activities virtually. While we hope to hold our annual meetings live, some activities

like the Occasional Virtual Lectures Series, which we launched due to the pandemic, have proven to be a very successful way of communication and we hope to keep it as an ongoing activity.

I want to thank the Council for its dedication and for its work and support in these unprecedented times. Finally, thanks to you, our members, for continuing to support the Society, for taking part in our activities, for renewing your membership, which includes a subscription to our wonderful journal, *Terrae Incognitae*, as well as for attending our annual meetings. It has been a pleasure serving you for the past two years as your president.

I wish you and your families a pleasant and safe summer. Hope to see you all in New Orleans!

Warm regards,

–*Mirela Altić*



Mirela Altić

FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

This has been an eventful year for me. I started a new job as assistant curator of the James Ford Bell Library at the University of Minnesota in July 2020. However, because of the limitations imposed by the pandemic, I worked remotely from my kitchen table in Cartersville, Georgia, for the entire year. Like so many of us, I had ample time to think about the blessings and curses of our technologized lives. It was especially fascinating to get to know three-hundred-year-old maps from the Bell Library in electronic form before ever seeing them in person. If you are interested, you can get a taste of the Bell's digitized materials on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/BellLibraryUMN>. As I write this, I am in the midst (chaos!) of finally moving to Minneapolis, MN, and I'm looking forward to new opportunities and challenges there.

I have been grateful to Mirela for keeping the Society connected with the occasional lecture series via Zoom this year. It has been great to hear about the interesting research that our members have been doing, and to see familiar faces – even if just in tiny rectangles. I am hopeful that the

pandemic will continue to recede and we will be able to see one another in person in New Orleans in November 2021 for the annual conference. Please note that the deadline for paper proposals has been extended to 15 August, so there is still ample time to have your work included in the program.

As the vaccines continue to roll out this year and we regain confidence in holding in person conferences, we are also moving forward with discussions for the next meetings. I am not yet ready to make an announcement about the venues for 2022 and 2023, but some great places are in the works, and I am looking forward to sharing more details with you as we reach final decisions. Please stay tuned for updates in the next couple of months!

–*Dr. Anne Good*



Dr. Anne Good

A NOTE FROM THE SECRETARY

The past year has definitely been interesting, to say the least; between lockdowns, learning virtual platforms, and closed libraries and archives, it sometimes feels like we are living in an alternate reality. Despite all of the challenges that we have experienced over the past year and a half, the Society has continued to grow and serve as a stimulating community for like-minded scholars. We have been able to take advantage of the virtual world to which we are all adapting to increase the Society's visibility through virtual presentations and advertising in an ever-widening virtual arena. This has benefited the Society; there is more and more interest in the Society, in what we do, and our virtual presentations. Our monthly Announcements have served to keep our community informed, not only of what the Society is doing, but also of opportunities that might be

of interest to our members. These Announcements have been a huge success and a credit to our ability to press on in this virtual world. A lot of the Society's successes and ability to continue to thrive during this time is due to your continued support, feedback, news items, and attendance. For that we want to say thank you! I will continue to work hard to keep you informed and hope that you will do the same for me! I hope that I will get to see many, if not most, of you at our conference in New Orleans this fall.



Lydia Towns

—*Lydia Towns*

FROM THE WEBMASTER

Web Site Improvements on the Horizon

We're now a couple of years into the new web site and have a better idea of what's working, what's not, and the sort of functionality that members prefer. I am working with our tech consultant to reduce the amount of scrolling, streamline the visuals, foreground events, and to upload additional, historical content. We also are investigating new membership management software. Our intrepid treasurer, Wes Brown, and Don McGuirk before him, both deserve huge thanks for dealing with all of the problems members have been having renewing online. And thanks to our membership for sticking with us as we work to resolve these issues. Thank you all for your loyalty and for your patience.

—*Marguerite Ragnow*



Marguerite Ragnow



2021 Treasurer's Note

Membership in SHD has recently been increasing with active/current membership (including Life and Fellow members) of 189, up from 177 eighteen months ago. The society continues to be modestly profitable and our balance sheet continues to strengthen.

—*Wes Brown*

FROM THE *TI* EDITOR

Terra Incognitae: 2021 Updates

Last year (2020) stood out because we published three special thematic issues. Even if we haven't published special issues in 2021, this year has been similar in the sense that each issue produced thus far has had a thematic focus. Another similarity is that in both 2020 and 2021 we have published pieces that have made significant contributions to the field, including articles that have charted new paths and articles that have revisited long-standing debates. Volume 53.1, which appeared in April 2021, featured three engaging articles (by Lauren Beck, Emily Sessions, and Charles Withers) that examined exploration history and identity construction: Beck studied explorers' place naming practices in North America, Sessions examined representations of post-Emancipation Jamaica in travelogues, and Withers, focusing on explorers' utilization of disguise, examined the way explorers fashioned their own identities. Volume 53.2, which has just been produced and will appear in August 2021 (some articles are already available online), has three interesting articles on the theme of exploration history and the circulation of knowledge: Paolo Chiesa examines the circulation of geographic knowledge about America in the Mediterranean region in the fourteenth century, Mirela Altic studies the dissemination of Jesuits' cartographic knowledge about North America in Europe, and Thomas Gidney examines the exchange of knowledge between Japan and Europe during the Edo period (1603-1837). Turning to the matter of who has contributed an article thus far this year, we have had a good balance in terms of gender (three article by women and three articles by men),

and have included pieces by junior scholars as well as well-established academics from a variety of countries around the globe (even if not from all world regions). The contents of issue 53.3, which will appear in December, hasn't been finalized yet. Another thing that is in the works is expanding our social media presence, even if no concrete steps have been taken yet.



Richard Weiner

This past year, I have had some fruitful dialogues with SHD members about potential contributions to the journal. I encourage you to send me your ideas for possible articles, review essays, reviews, and thematic issues. Indeed, I would be happy to discuss potential pieces with you while they are still in the development stage. I also encourage you to send me your completed submissions (send to: weinerr@pfw.edu) on a wide range of topics related to exploration and discovery. As you know, *TI*, which covers any period up to the mid-twentieth century and examines all aspects of exploration, discovery, and encounter, publishes articles (approximately 8,000-12,000 words), shorter articles (approximately 5,000 words), review essays, and book reviews.

Visit *Terra Incognitae* online at:
<https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/ytin20/current>

—Richard Weiner

The Student Prize

The SHD Student Prize Competition attracted twelve excellent and original submissions on a variety of topics. The selection committee (Anne Good, Marguerite Ragnow, and Lydia Towns) had difficulty selecting a winner, and would like to extend its appreciation to all those who submitted their work. This year's winner in the graduate student category is **Stephen Hay**, a Ph.D. Candidate in the History Department at the University of British Columbia. His paper, "Politics by Other Means: Maritime Communication in Massachusetts and Labrador" is based on extensive archival research and makes an original argument about communications networks in the north Atlantic in the eighteenth century. The committee also decided to award an Honorable Mention in the graduate student category to **Elizabeth Nielsen**, a second year PhD student in History at Brown University. Her essay, "'This Dismal Country' Voyaging and Space in the HMS Dolphin, 1766-1767," is a fascinating examination of the "sailors' embodied and environmental experiences." New this year is a prize category for undergraduate students. We are pleased to announce that our first winner is **Michaela Sapielak**, an Honors Student in the History Department at the University of Fraser Valley. Her excellent paper is entitled: "Sir John Franklin: More Than an Arctic Mystery." *Congratulations!*

2020 Annual Meeting Recap: Celebrating the 60th Anniversary Virtually

The year 2020 was unprecedented in our lives and thus in the activities of SHD as well. Our annual meeting marking the 60th anniversary, instead of in New Orleans, was held virtually. The first online annual meeting in the long history of SHD was held in a good atmosphere and also was well attended by both the membership and other enthusiasts. In line with our tradition, the annual meeting consisted of a two-day program titled, “*New Orleans and the Mississippi Delta: Cultural Crossroads,*” with 19 papers presented and followed by lively academic discussion. The keynote speaker was Jason Wiese, the Deputy Director of the Historic New Orleans Collection (Louisiana). He delivered a fascinating talk entitled “This Vast Country of Louisiana: Cartographic Treasures at the Historic New Orleans Collection.” On the occasion of the 2020 Annual Meeting, SHD also proudly named **Marguerite Ragnow** a Fellow of the Society. Maggie has permanently indebted SHD with her dedication, first as long-time editor of *Terrae Incognitae*, then as president, and currently as our webmaster.

Occasional Virtual Lecture Series: New Activity of SHD Successfully Launched

In the impossibility of personal meetings and direct contacts through our annual meetings, since the beginning of 2021, SHD has launched a new type of activity: Occasional Virtual Lecture Series. Exciting presentations by prominent lecturers, scheduled every two months, and which are available to everyone free of charge, offer the possibility of academic exchange of knowledge and discussion that keep us in constant contact with research topics of the Society as well as with our membership. Lectures were held via the user-friendly Zoom Meeting platform, with mandatory registration on SHD’s website. So far, three invited lectures have been held:

- “*Monopolizing Commerce and Colonization: The Uses and Abuses of French Royal Commercial Companies*” by Professor Gayle K. Brunelle (12 February 2021)
- “*The Origin of the Mythical Island of Brazil on Early Nautical Charts*” by Chet Van Duzer (April 20, 2021)
- “*Hiram Bingham in the footsteps of Simón Bolívar, from Caracas to Bogota, 1906–1907*” by Professor Jordana Dym (June 17, 2021)

After the summer break, SHD will continue this practice, which has proven to be very successful and well attended.

Mapping the Pacific: SHD’s Partnership with the State Library of New South Wales in Marking of the Anniversary of James Cook’s Journey

Due to COVID-19, the State Library of New South Wales has decided to postpone the conference organized on the occasion of the 250th anniversary of James Cook’s voyage to Australia. Originally planned for September 7-9, 2020 (and then for August 25-27, 2021), the conference is now rescheduled for **Feb/March 2022**.

The *Mapping the Pacific* conference will examine the traditional wayfinding knowledge of the Pacific community, European exploration and the mapping of the Pacific from the early modern era through to the 19th century.

The staging of an international conference on the *Mapping of the Pacific* was planned to coincide with the opening of a major exhibition at the Library on Pacific mapping. The prospect of no onsite attendance has influenced the committee’s decision to postpone the conference until Feb/March 2022, when vaccination rates have improved, and border restrictions may be more predictable. The exhibition will be open until April 2022.

The conference is being hosted by the State Library of New South Wales in collaboration with the Australian and New Zealand Map Society, the International Map Collectors’ Society and the Society for the History of Discoveries.



State Library of New South Wales

SHD NEWS OF MEMBERS

Gina Bennett has just accepted a limited term Assistant Professor of History position at Kennesaw State University in Georgia. Gina is also the 2021 recipient of the George Wolfskill Award for Excellence in Doctoral Dissertation in Trans-Atlantic History for her dissertation, "Imperial Women of Darien: Scottish Migration and Gender in the Atlantic World, 1650-1740." Congratulations Gina on a very successful year!

David Buisseret has had an active year despite COVID. With Bernard Barbiche, he produced their fourth volume of the memoirs of the French statesman Sully (1559-1641), published by the Société de l'histoire de France, and with Carl Kupfer published "The maps of Claude Bernou (c. 1638-1716)" in *The Portolan* (109/2020, p. 8-17). For the Chicago Map Society, he compiled "Maptalk 450 BCE-2017," found at <https://www.chicagomapsociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Maptalk.pdf>.

Ron Fritze's new book, *Egyptomania: A History of Fascination, Obsession, and Fantasy* (Reaktion Books/University of Chicago Press) is now available in paperback. Ron will be doing a virtual lecture series on Egyptomania for the 92nd Street Y in Manhattan in July. This link provides more details. <https://www.92y.org/class/egyptomania>

Garry Gitzen

On May 25th, SHD member Garry Gitzen's "Shadows of History" was distributed by the Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer and Tribal Liaison of the California Office of Historic Preservation to the California State Historical Landmark Resources Commission, which will consider it at its July 30th meeting in Sacramento. After 16 years of intense research (reading more than 3000 published works), six books and numerous articles encompassing the international controversy of Sir Francis Drake's 1579 Pacific coast anchorage, Gitzen has identified twenty-one articles, books, and pamphlets primarily responsible for falsely placing the history of Captain Francis Drake in California, contrary to Drake's journal of the voyage, published as the *World Encompassed*. Gitzen contends that Drake anchored in Oregon for five weeks in the summer of 1579.

Gitzen's other books can be used in a pedagogical approach to the entire Pacific coast Drake anchorage topic, encompassing cartography, flora & fauna, navigation, Native culture and language, to name a few areas. The book, *Francis Drake in Nehalem Bay 1579, Setting the Historical Record Straight* (2008/R2010), has been accepted by Thomas Vaughan, Oregon Historian Laureate as factual, and the autobiographical book *Treasure Rocks of Neah-Kah-Nie Mountain* is a personal connection to the history. The book was requested to be written by Harvey Steele, past president of the Oregon Archaeological Society and Robert La Du, Ph.D. Assistant Dean of Classical Literature at Marquette University. In addition, Gitzen also has developed a class, adaptable from 6th grade to undergraduate,

around Francis Drake in Oregon with 21 handouts, including videos, photos and maps.

Gregory McIntosh, "Conventional Wisdom and the Date of the Kunstmann I Chart," *Cartographica: The International Journal for Geographic Information and Geovisualization* 55 (no. 2, Summer 2020): 85-98.

Luis Robles gave a talk at the 15th ICA Conference last month on two unusual maps: two Ottoman portolan charts that have full grids of parallels and meridians drawn on them.

Abstract:

Two unusual Ottoman maps of the Mediterranean, one kept at the Sylvia Ioannou Foundation and the other sold at Christie's to an unidentified buyer, have become known to historians of cartography only since 2009. Both are large anonymous manuscript maps, probably from the 17th century, drawn on paper but otherwise consistent with the style of the portolan chart tradition. Their most outstanding feature is that they include complete grids of latitude and longitude, something extremely rare on contemporary portolan charts.

This paper studies those grids in detail, comparing each of them with the geographical information contained in the underlying charts. Hypotheses are formulated about how each chart was drawn, as well as the sources that may have been used to locate their parallels and meridians.

The findings of the study suggest that the two analyzed artefacts are the results of experiments with different approaches to reconcile the Mediterranean tradition of nautical charting with the astronomical-mathematical cartography of Ptolemaic inspiration that at the time was increasingly dominant in Europe, a problem that hitherto had had no satisfactory theoretical or empirical solution. These experiments also represent one noteworthy achievement in the long process of Ottoman interpretation, assimilation and adaptation of Western cartography.

The talk was recorded and can be watched at http://terkeptar.elte.hu/ch/2021/4/3_Robles_Macias.mp4

Thomas Sander, FSHD, retired after 24 years as editor of *The Portolan*, the journal of the Washington Map Society.

Lydia Towns will be starting a full-time position as Lecturer at Stephen F. Austin State University in Texas.

Carol Urness

My book of nature essays will be published shortly under the title, *Critters, Creeks, Neighbors, and Woods: A Natural History of Isanti County*. Most of the essays are set in Minnesota. To explain the title: Think of the song by Bill Staines, "All God's Critters got a place in the choir." Our creek was named for

Continued on page 6

Daniel Stanchfield, a nineteenth century business/logging man. The creek runs into the Rum River, mis-named by Jonathan Carver after being told by Indians living on its banks that it was “The River of Spirits.” Neighbors are: “A person, animal, or thing located near some other person, animal, or thing.” When I think of “Woods” a few lines from a hymn by William P. Rowan; words by Mary Louise Bringle comes to mind: “The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands gush with springs; The hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!” I think of trees in communities now, much more than I ever have before. In truth, we are all bound together in a living community that we need to cherish, honor, and protect. I hope to inspire readers to have their own experiences of natural history. Thanks to a grant and help from donors the price of the book is \$25 (we think).

Chet van Duzer

Took advantage of the stay-at-home orders due to the pandemic to make progress on a book about cartouches, which he just finished. A couple of his publications that came out in the

past year are available for free download, including his article “Urbano Monte’s World Maps: Sources and Development,” *Imago temporis* 14 (2020), pp. 415-435, available at <https://repositori.udl.cat/handle/10459.1/69314>, and his book *Martin Waldseemüller’s Carta marina of 1516: Study and Transcription of the Long Legends* (New York: Springer, 2020), available at <https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-030-22703-6>. Chet also notes that “This past April I had the pleasure of giving a talk titled “The Origin of the Mythical Island of Brasil on Early Nautical Charts” in SHD’s Virtual Lecture Series—thanks again for the opportunity!”

Jorge Zevallos-Quiñones Pita published an article in the *American Review* based on the research he presented at SHD’s 2019 conference in Gainesville, Florida. “Three Newly Discovered New World Letters: The Vision of the Conquistador Juan Navarro de Virués and the Attempted Capture of Dominica Island, 1511-1512,” *Manuscripts*, vol. 73, No 2 (Spring 2021) Saludos

In Memoriam



Donald Wyndom Perkins (1931-2021)



Edward (Ed) Redmond (1962-2021)



Roy Bridges (1932-2020)



Norman J. Thrower (1919-2020)



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