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Note from the Editor

Dear Colleagues,

The Colonia/Colônia team is happy to welcome Haley Schroer as our newest graduate editorial assistant. Haley is a graduate student at the University of Texas-Austin, where her research interest include race in visual and material culture and colonial literature. As part of our editorial team, she will be helping Chloe Ireton put together the lists of sessions relevant to our field at major conferences throughout the year.

Comments and suggestions are always welcome; you may send them to me at Pablo.Garcia[ar]mail.wvu.edu

Sincerely,

Pablo García Loaeza

Honors, Awards, and Promotions

Karen B. Graubart (History and Romance Languages and Literatures, University of Notre Dame) was recently awarded a year-long fellowship from the NEH (2017-2018) for her book project “Republics of Difference: Racial and Religious Self-Governance in the Iberian Atlantic.”

Member Publications

This feature showcases the work of section members and serves to keep the community abreast of the latest published research on field-related topics. For guidelines, see the final section of this newsletter.


Painted Words presents a facsimile, decipherment, and analysis of a seventeenth-century pictographic catechism from colonial Mexico, preserved as Fonds Mexicain 399 at the Bibliothèque Nationale de France. Such works have long been understood as a product of the experimental techniques of early evangelization, but this study shows that they are better understood as indigenous expressions of devotional knowledge. The combined pictorial and alphabetic expressions form an example of how colonial pictographers created innovative text genres, through which they reimagined pre-Columbian writing and early evangelization—and ultimately articulated newly emerging assertions of indigenous identity and memorialized native history. More information.


*This book examines the origin of the study of colonial art in Mexico as a symptom of the development of modern museum practice in nineteenth-century Mexico City. Also an intellectual history, this study recognizes the role of nationalism in the initiation of art historical practice in what is understood today more broadly as Latin America. Drawing upon archival research, this volume touches upon the role of politics on the formation of the first gallery of Mexican painting in the Academy of San Carlos and the first comprehensive historical treatment of the material in the form of a dialogue.* [More information.](#)


*Front Lines* documents the literary practices of imperial Spain’s common soldiers who produced, distributed, and consumed a remarkably innovative set of works on war that have been almost completely neglected in literary and historical scholarship. Martínez asserts that these writing soldiers played a key role in the shaping of Renaissance literary culture. Soldierly writing often voiced criticism of established hierarchies and exploitative working conditions, forging solidarities among the troops that often led to mutiny and massive desertion. This soldiers’ perspective grounds *Front Lines*, a cultural history of Spain’s imperial wars as told by the common men who fought them. [More information.](#)


*Few English-speaking readers are familiar with the sixteenth-century Franciscan chronicler Luis Jerónimo de Oré and his* Relación, *about the early Spanish presence in territories now part of the United States. His account of La Florida reflects the desire of the Spanish Crown and various religious orders to explore and to establish a presence in the region. This edition of Oré’s work presents readers with a new introduction and an annotated translation that place the text in the broader context of international politics. The narrative develops our understanding of the early Spanish presence in the continental United States while documenting frontier life and the contacts with Native Americans in the South and along the Eastern Seaboard.* [More information.](#)


Starting from the discursive analysis of the petitions of nobility by the Uchu Túpac Yupanqui family of Perú (1544-1800), this book examines the identities of the descendants of Inca kings in eighteenth-century Mexico. Written and visual documents depict the twelve-year legal and social journey of Doña María Joaquina Uchu Inca in colonial notaries and viceregal offices. Doña María Joaquina and her ancestors displayed what the author calls “oscillating identities” to describe the back-and-forth motion of their identifying features. The characterization of the Uchu Túpac Yupanqui as “Nobles on Paper” denotes the lack of full acknowledgment of their rights by the colonial authorities since their Inca nobility was only enacted in legal documents. More information.


This book traces the linked history of Mexico and the United States from the 1770s to the 1860s. It highlights the common challenges facing both countries in their early decades of independence by exploring the creation of coin money. The authors examine how each nation instituted its own currency, designed coins to represent its national ideals, and spent decades trying to legitimate their money. The book shows how the creation of U.S. dollars and Mexican pesos paralleled these countries’ efforts to establish enduring political and economic systems, illustrating why these nations closed the nineteenth century on very different historical trajectories. More information.


While there are differences between cultures in different places and times, colonial representations of indigenous peoples generally suggest they are not capable of literature nor are they worthy of being represented as nations. Colonial representations of indigenous people continue on into the independence era and can still be detected in our time. The thesis of this book is that there are various ways to decolonize the representation of Amerindian peoples. Each chapter has its own decolonial thesis which it then resolves.

[More information.]


**Other News**

**Update on the 2017 Maureen Ahern Doctoral Dissertation Award**

The Awards Committee of the Colonial Section of the Latin American Studies Association is pleased to announce that 12 submissions were received for the 2017 Maureen Ahern Doctoral Dissertation Award in Colonial Latin American Studies. After evaluating the submitted materials, an interdisciplinary jury of respected scholars of Colonial Latin America will review the dissertations provided by the top 5 finalists. The winner will be notified by April 3. The award of $500 and a certificate of recognition will be presented at the 35th LASA Congress Colonial Section Meeting to be held in Lima, Peru in April-May 2017.

For more information, please contact the Chair of the Awards Committee: Dr. Pablo García Loaeza (Pablo.Garcia[ar]mail.wvu.edu).

**The CUNY Dominican Studies Institute at the City College of New York launches website on early Blacks in the Americas**

“First Blacks in the Americas/Los Primeros Negros en las Américas,” the first digital platform in academia to present a comprehensive history of the Americas’ earliest African inhabitants, is now live.
This bilingual archive was developed by the CCNY-based CUNY Dominican Studies Institute led by Ramona Hernández, professor of sociology in City College’s Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership. At the core of this new resource is a collection of 72 document packages from 16th century La Española.

The selected material documents in various ways the presence of the black-African population and their descendants that lived in the island-colony during the first 100 years of colonization. It is the first platform to make this kind of collection of sources available on the internet to the general public.

Altogether, the platform includes 383 pages of manuscripts, 379 pages of transcriptions, 291 bibliographic entries, 131 glossary definitions, 111 embedded images, 98 pages of translations, 76 pages of English comments, 75 pages of Spanish comments, 53 old maps, 28 links to other entities on blackness, 20 pages of summaries, and 10 pages of description of the website.

Hernández headed the team of researchers and paleographers that developed the platform. It included Anthony Stevens-Acevedo, DSI assistant director and an historian, and Sarah Aponte, DSI chief librarian, who coordinated the team. Undergraduate, graduate and post-doctoral researchers from CCNY and The Graduate Center, CUNY, also participated in the project. More information.

Opportunities and Calls for Papers

Lexington Books Announces New Series

The series, Latin American Decolonial and Postcolonial Literature, features works that analyze and engage with Latin American decolonial and postcolonial literatures. Recent work by Walter Mignolo, Enrique Dussel, Gustavo Gutiérrez, Aníbal Quijano, and others has shown how colonial elements were instituted during the colonial period and offer mechanisms and methodologies to overcome the persistence of those colonial forms in literature, philosophy, theology, and society during the post-Independence era. This series focuses on the medium of literature. Decolonial can take the form of resistance to the colonial during that period or it can occur after independence trying to overcome the cultural and political heritage of the colonial interval. Some works in the series may depart from the Anglo-American perspective and use its terminology and thus would prefer the term “postcolonial.” Others may depart from the Mediterranean or Latin perspective à la Frantz Fanon and thus use the term “decolonial.” All decolonial or postcolonial perspectives on literatures of Latin American are welcome. More information.

Advisory Board members include Arturo Arias, Javier Sanjinés, Tara Daly, Javier Valiente Núñez, Juan G. Ramos, and Gustavo Verdesio.

Queries can be directed to the series editor, Thomas Ward, at tward[at]loyola.edu
Journal of Colonial Latin American Studies

The *Journal of Colonial Latin American Studies* (JCLAS) is an open access interdisciplinary peer-reviewed journal that publishes original research in the field of colonial Latin American studies. It is the official scholarly publication of the colonial section of LASA. The journal is currently hosted by West Virginia University and benefits from technical support from the University of Minnesota.

JCLAS is an international endeavor that brings together a multidisciplinary network of scholars from Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe, Canada, and the United States. It is open to all scholarly approaches and theoretical perspectives in the humanities and the social sciences, and welcomes articles, review-essays, book reviews, and research notes that reflect the changing perspectives in the field of colonial Latin American studies.

The founding of JCLAS attests to the fact that, in the past few decades, scholarship in colonial Latin American studies has expanded significantly. This field of study has been enriched by an interdisciplinary orientation that has resulted in deeper understanding of cultural production in Latin America during the colonial period, and of the complexities of colonialism in general. Recent work in colonial Latin American studies has been characterized by the crossing of disciplinary boundaries to better analyze a broadening of the range topics, agents, products, and events. Indigenous American authors and women writers of the colonial period, for instance, are now being studied in innovative ways, but much remains to be done in this area. Among the new objects of study are works pertaining to other discursive formations, such as legal texts, scientific documents, material objects, and visual productions, which deserve more attention.

The aim of JCLAS is to promote excellence in research, to provide a platform for in-depth analyses of colonial phenomena, and to break new ground by gathering and disseminating fresh insights liable to suggest new directions for the field. We invite full length original articles (max. 9,000 words) and research notes (max. 4,000 words) in English, Spanish, Portuguese, and French. The publication frequency is 2 issues per year.

All submitted manuscripts are subject to evaluation by the Editor, the Associate Editor, the Editorial Board, and to blind peer review by two anonymous independent referees. Previously published material and work under consideration elsewhere will not be considered. All submissions should be sent directly to the editor at rmarrero[at]umn.edu.

Resources

- American Society for Ethnohistory (ASE)
- Asociación Internacional de Literatura y Cultura Femenina Hispánica (AILCFH)
- Asociación para el Fomento de los Estudios Históricos en Centroamérica (AFEHC)
- Association for Documentary Editing (ADE)
- Association for Latin American Art (ALAA)
- América Latina Portal Europeo
- Blog IguAnalista
- College Art Association (CAA)
- Colonial Latin America on the MLA Commons
- Conference on Latin American History (CLAH)
- Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers (CLAG)
- Guatemala Scholars Network, and weekly GSN newsletter
- *Hispanic American Historical Review* Online Community

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About the Colonial Section of LASA and *Colonia/Colônia*

The Colonial Section of LASA is a forum where those who study the colonial period in Latin America come together across disciplinary boundaries to share information and exchange ideas. The section was formed in the fall of 2012 and currently has over 140 active members in the United States and abroad. The 2016-2017 section officers are Mónica Díaz, University of Kentucky (chair); Pablo García Loaeza, West Virginia University (vice-chair and chair of awards committee); Kelly McDonough, University of Texas at Austin (council member and secretary/treasurer); Nathan James Gordon, University of Colorado Boulder (council member); and Raúl Marrero-Fente, University of Minnesota (council member). Caroline Egan, University of Cambridge, is the section’s communications manager. Nathan James Gordon, University of Colorado Boulder, coordinates our use of social media.

*Colonia/Colônia* is the quarterly newsletter of the Colonial Section. The editorial staff consists of Pablo García Loaeza, West Virginia University (editor); Rocío Quispe-Agnoli, Michigan State University (assistant editor); Claudia Berrios, Michigan State University; Chloe Ireton and Haley Schroer, University of Texas at Austin; and Mariana Velázquez, Columbia University (graduate student assistant editors). Issues are published in February, May, August, and November. Submissions are due by the 15th of the month prior to publication.

Members are encouraged to contribute any material that may be of relevance to scholars of the colonial world. In particular, we invite submissions to the following sections:

**Member Publications.** Current members of the Colonial Section are encouraged to send the full citations of material published within the previous calendar year (Chicago author-date style preferred) to Mariana Velázquez, mv2447[~w]columbia.edu. In the case of books, authors may include a brief summary (100-words maximum), a link to further information, and a cover image, to be included at the editors’ discretion and as space allows.

**Colonial Forum.** This section is a space for the expression of ideas and opinions related to our field in the form of “letters to the editor.” Materials should be sent to Pablo.Garcia[~w]mail.wvu.edu.
Spotlight on the Archives highlights repositories with collections of interest to scholars in our field. To suggest institutions to be profiled in future issues, please contact Rocío Quispe-Agnoli, quispeag[＠]msu.edu.

Graduate Student News is a space for sharing information for and about PhD candidates engaged in the study of colonial Latin America from within any discipline. Graduate students are not required to be section members to participate. Material should be sent to Claudia Berríos, berriosc[＠]msu.edu.

All of the abovementioned sections are included on an occasional basis, as determined by member submissions and editorial discretion.

Listings or summaries of conference sessions should be submitted to Chloe Ireton, c.ireton[＠]utexas.edu.

Calls for papers, awards and distinctions, and any other material should be sent to Pablo García Loaeza, Pablo.Garcia[＠]mail.wvu.edu.

Colonia/Colônia does not sell advertising or include general book announcements on behalf of publishers. However, we are always happy to include in “Member Publications” listings for books written or edited by section members.

Previous issues of Colonia/Colônia can be accessed on the Colonial Section website.