March 2017 Issue

If you have newsletter material, questions, or suggestions don't hesitate to e-mail your dedicated and selfless editorial staff: Mary Cayton cayton.14@osu.edu or Daniel Rivers rivers.91@osu.edu

Upcoming Events
March 1: Film Screening: The Pirogue, Dir. Moussa Toure (2012), 7pm, Wexner Ctr for the Arts

A Global Mobility Project Event. For more information on the Global Mobility Project, go to: http://u.osu.edu/globalmobility/

March 2: History Career Night, 7pm, 168 Dulles Hall
March 9: Matt Goldish, "Magic & Witchcraft At The Dawn of Modernity - Why Then & What Now?," 7-9pm, Columbus Museum of Art, The Forum, 480 Broad St., Columbus

Presented by the Clio Society. For more information on the Clio Society go to: http://clio.osu.edu/

March 10: Julie Mujic, "Would Cotton or Corn Rule?: Southern Perspectives on their Importance to the Midwestern Economy," 4:30-6pm, Dulles 235
March 24: Leslie Peirce, "Family and Sovereignty Among the Ottomans: The Case of Hürrem Sultan, Slave, Lover, Mother, Queen," 11:30-1pm, Dulles 168

This Lecture is part of the 2015-2017 Center for Historical Research program. For more information on the CHR, go to: http://chr.osu.edu/

March 27: Thomas Childers, "Soldier From the War Returning," 3:30-5pm, Dulles 168

This lecture is sponsored by the Department of History, the Military History Program, and the Undergraduate Program in the Trans-National Study of WWII.

This is the first event associated with the 2017-19 Center for Historical Research Program, "You Say You Want A Revolution? Revolutions in Historical Perspective." For more information on the CHR, go to: http://chr.osu.edu/

March 31: Stephen Warren, "Ethnographically-Informed History and Rediscovery of the Early American Midwest," 4:30-6pm, Dulles 235

The Ohio Academy of History Annual Meeting will be hosted by the History Department here in Columbus this year! The events will take place from March 31st to April 1st. For a complete schedule and other meeting information, go to: https://ohioacademyofhistory.wordpress.com/
Kudos! History Student Achievements

Tom Wisbith (History, Anthropology minor, 18') has been awarded a Wolfe Study Abroad Scholarship from the Office of International Affairs.

Michelle Roman (History, English and Education minors, 17'), has been accepted to Teach for America and will be in NYC.

Important Dates in March

• March 2 – 7 week session 2 begins
• March 20 – Registration windows open for Autumn 2017
• March 24 – Last day to withdraw and receive a “W”
This month's book recommendation comes from Professor Birgitte Soland. Professor Soland's areas of expertise include Modern European History and the histories of Women, Gender, and Sexuality.

Graema Macrae Burnet: *His Bloody Project: Documents Relating to the Case of Roderick Macrae* (Glasgow, Scotland: Saraband, 2015)

I became a historian because I wanted to understand how power works, and how social change has been achieved. Along with historical studies, I have always read fiction – a lot of it! – because good literature offers an opportunity to ‘walk in other peoples’ shoes’ and understand their world and actions with empathy. If you have the same interests, I strongly recommend *His Bloody Project: Documents Relating to the Case of Roderick Macrae*. 
A work of historical fiction, the story is set in rural Scotland in the 1860s. The core of the book consists of the (fictional) memoir of the 18-year-old Roderick Macrae, who is imprisoned and waiting to stand trial for several murders to which he has already confessed. The son of a poor crofter in a small village, Roderick tells his life story, including the events that led him to his brutal deed. While the reader only slowly realizes whom he has murdered, his story reveals a great deal about the social conditions associated with land tenancy, the poverty of rural life, the humiliations and abuses tenants encountered, and the limited options they had. Yet, not all is bleak: Roderick’s story also includes delightful depictions of budding romances in the countryside and the thrills of county fairs for country youth.

For historians, used to working with contradictory evidence, the book offers yet another intriguing element: It includes testimonies from residents of the community about the Macrae family; medical reports from the coroners examining the bodies of the murder victims; the report from a medical anthropologist after examining Roderick Macrae; as well of the court transcript. All these pieces of (fictional) evidence asks the reader to make up her/his own mind about Roderick Macrae’s guilt and the potential extenuating circumstances that may influence the court’s judgement.

The book is a great read; a sort of ‘reversed mystery’ where you know the murderer from the start, but not his victims; an intriguing puzzle of contradictory ‘evidence’; and an amazingly insightful story about poverty and hardships. Put it on your list of Spring Break reading. It is well worth your time!
Spotlight on history interns!

Haley Ritzert, Senior

**Internship Location:** Special Collections, Thompson Library

**Supervisors:** Professor Nena Couch, Special Collections Curator; Cate Putirskis, Special Collections Processing Manager

**Studied abroad** in Austria, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Lithuania

**Languages:** German, Czech, and Yiddish

**Senior Thesis:** "Diplomatic Relations Between Austria-Hungary and Bulgaria During the Balkan Wars, 1912-1913"

"My internship in Special Collections involves transferring collection items from one database (PastPerfect) to another (Archivists’ Toolkit), as well as writing blog posts about Central European theatre artists whose work will be featured at Columbus Museum of Art for the Theatre Research Institute’s blog. Later in the semester, I will also be writing finding aids for the items in our collection."

Haley also meets with Czech visitors who come through Special Collections as part of their visit to the Columbus Museum of Art's exhibit "Shakespeare in Prague: Imagining the Bard in the Heart of Europe."