prf Princeton Research Forum

Newsletter – Spring 2015

PRF and NCIS Events this Summer!

President's Message by Ashwini Mokashi

As my time here in Germany winds down, this will be my last transatlantic message to the PRF community. Let me take this opportunity to thank the PRF board members for their support throughout this year as well as their flexibility and openness in allowing me to contribute from a distance! As the 2014-2015 PRF academic year is drawing to a close for the summer, please note the important summer events and mark your calendars accordingly!

The annual Potluck and board meeting will be held on Saturday, July 11, 4-6 pm at the house of Elizabeth Ettinghausen. I am very thankful to the PRF board for holding the event a month later than usual to enable me to attend the meeting and reconvene with PRF in person. My sincere thanks go to Elizabeth Ettinghausen for her gracious offer of hosting and to Terri McNichol for coordinating the event. To assist Terri with preparations, please email her at t.mcnichol.1@alumni.nyu.edu.

Deborah Greenhut, chair of the Nominating Committee will announce the 2015-2016 slate of candidates for the PRF board at this time. Your support and vote to elect the next slate of nominees for board membership is very crucial, so I

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The Greenberg Collections: Orchards and Art

hope you will join us. There are still some open slots available. If you would like to nominate someone, please contact Deborah at <u>Deborah.greenhut@gmail.com</u>

NCIS Conference and PRF Participation

The National Coalition of Independent Scholars was founded 25 years ago! NCIS is celebrating at the <u>National Coalition of Independent Scholars 2015 conference</u>, June 18-21, on the Yale University campus in New Haven, Connecticut.

PRF member and Vice President Terri McNichol, a historian of Chinese art and a former museum director, will participate in an Issues Forum, "Digital Humanities: Managing, Teaching, and Learning," with Ruth Barnes, the Curator of Indo-Pacific Art, Yale University Art Gallery, and Will Hochman, who teaches writing at Southern Connecticut State University, to discuss new digital educational tools.

Terri will share her experience of a grand tour led by two of the world's leading China scholars, Peter Bol and Bill Kirby—all without ever leaving home—via ChinaX, Harvard University's inaugural MOOC (Massive Online Open Course). Covering over 6000 years of

Chinese history, the 54-week course included lectures and classroom discussions led by fourteen of Harvard's renowned China specialists. In addition to "field trips" on various locations in China, Terri also gained access to Harvard museum's storage collections. She will describe how Internet conversations and assessments augmented the ten modules. Of particular interest to independent scholars will be her summary of the course's emphasis on reading and analyzing primary sources within their historical context.

NCIS Conference

Traditions and Transitions: Independent Scholars and the Digital Landscape

National Coalition of Independent Scholars

Thursday-Sunday, June 18-21, 2015

Yale University, New Haven, CT

NCIS will celebrate 25 years of independent inquiry at its 16th conference! The conference's theme, *Traditions and Transitions: Independent Scholars and the Digital Landscape*, will be addressed by Lawrence K. Grossman, former president of PBS and NBC News, in his keynote speech: "A Personal Journey Through the New Digital Media Landscape (Without Footnotes)."

Mr. Grossman currently serves as Vice Chair and co-founder of the increasingly influential "Digital Promise," the National Center for Research in Advanced Information and Digital Technologies, launched by President Barack Obama in 2008. Digital Promise (<u>http://www.digitalpromise.org/</u>) has taken a leading role in transforming American education, lifelong learning, and skills training for the digital age.

The conference also features talks, panels, and workshops on technological innovations that affect scholarly communication, publishing, and access to digital resources. The presentations will offer practical guidance to independent scholars in applying new digital technologies to their scholarship.

Conference participants can also take advantage of tours of Yale University's campus, libraries, and collections, the concurrent International Festival of Arts & Ideas, and free concerts on the New Haven Green.

To register: <u>http://ncis.org/registration</u>. When you register, be certain to enter the code **NCISAFFILIATE** to receive your affiliate member discount. The sooner you register the better the rate.

Potluck Dinner and Meeting: July 11

Our annual potluck dinner and meeting will be on July 11, from 4 – 6 p.m. We're holding the dinner one month later so Ashwini can be with us. We'll provide the venue in a separate announcement. <u>Terri McNichol</u> is coordinating the event, and will welcome your assistance.

New Member – Pamela Sheehan

Pam joined PRF this spring, and has become an active participant in our Science Group.

She received her Ph.D. in environmental science from Rutgers University in 2014. She was awarded master's degrees in environmental engineering and biologymicrobiology from Clarkson University and Adelphi University, respectively, and a bachelor's degree in

biology-ecology from the College of Mt. St. Vincent.



Pam Sheehan (on the left) and Snarlee Jane

Pam is an engineer with the U.S. Army, currently

researching energetic compound biodegradation, enzyme encapsulation, and renewable energy.

Her other service affiliations include the Amy Research Development Engineering Center, where she participates in the Rutgers Junior Science and Humanitarian Symposium, Women in Defense, and Sigma Xi.

PRF Board Vacancies

The nominating committee has received nominations for all board positions except the Program Chair and Website Coordinator. Both of these positions are great places to learn more about PRF.

Please send names to <u>Deborah.greenhut@gmail.com</u>. Self-nominations for any position are welcome. Deborah will announce the nominations at the Potluck Dinner.

PRF Officers

President: Ashwini Mokashi Vice-President: Terri McNichol Members-at-Large: Joan Goldstein and Joyce Irwin

Committee Chairs

Calendar: Linda Holt Grants: Karen Reeds Web: Ann Morgan Library Access: Eva Bodanszky Newsletter: Don Benjamin Work-in-Progress: Lara Freidenfelds Membership: Ludmilla Popova-Wightman Publicity: Winnie Hughes Program: (open)

Maureen Mulvihill Organizes Presentation of Schoenberg Manuscripts

PRF member Maureen E. Mulvihill (Brooklyn, New York and Sarasota, Florida) initiated and organized an important event at the University of Tampa Library, April 19, 2015, on the recent Sarasota exhibition of the famous Schoenberg Collection of Pre-Modern

Manuscripts. Sixty-five items were selected for the Sarasota show from the collection's approximately 300 rarities. Guest speakers were Laura Avery (Selby Gallery, Ringling College of Art & Design, Sarasota) and Sarah Tew (Schoenberg cataloguer and docent, New College Florida, Sarasota). The event included the speakers' digital tour of the Sarasota show, as well as a roundtable discussion, moderated by Maureen, and a table display of classic books for Medieval Studies research. The event was broadly publicized (See: Fine Books & Collections magazine blog). Two copies of Maureen's large-format, laminated poster for the event are preserved in the Schoenberg archives.



The miniature shown here is the traditional illustration for the Seven Penitential Psalms: King David, his crown humbly resting at his feet, kneels penitently in prayer.

The Schoenberg Collection, which includes a Babylonian cuneiform tablet, is valued at approximately \$20-million, and is a 2011 gift from "Big Data" visionary Lawrence J. Schoenberg (AGS Computers, Inc.) to his alma mater, the University of Pennsylvania. (Collection curator: Dr. Lynn Ransom, <u>Schoenberg Institute for Manuscript Studies</u>, University of Pennsylvania.) The image displayed above is from a precious Book of Hours (Utrecht, c. 1475), text in Latin, notes in Dutch. This particular opening typifies the beauty of these illuminated texts. For more detail on the collection, visit <u>Bibliotheca</u> <u>Schoenbergensis</u> and <u>this overview</u>.

Maureen is also the Vice President of the Florida Bibliophile Society.

Joyce Irwin Presents Paper at Society for Christian Scholarship in Music

In February Joyce attended the annual meeting of the <u>Society for Christian Scholarship in</u> <u>Music</u> in Atlanta, where she presented a paper entitled "Hebrew Temple or Apostolic Community as a Model for Post-Reformation Church Music?" The paper was based on writings of seventeenth and eighteenth-century Dutch and German theologians debating the appropriate use of instrumental music in worship.

Abstract

J. S. Bach, in one of his biblical annotations, indicates that I Chronicles 25, which describes the musical duties of the Levites, is the "true foundation of all God-pleasing church music." Michael Praetorius had described temple worship at the time of Kings David and Solomon as "glorious and ornamental" and believed that David brought in great and glorious organs. Other Lutherans followed Praetorius in regarding Hebrew temple music as the model by which music of their time should be judged. Reformed thinkers and German pietists, on the other hand, took New Testament worship as the model. Calvin, following early church fathers, believed that the grandeur of temple music was a concession to the Jews in their immature faith and that the fullness of revelation in Jesus made such sensory attractions unnecessary. In a similar vein, German pietists looked to the New Testament, which says nothing about musical instruments, for their model of Christian community.

The differing positions reveal the struggle of early Protestants to define the church in relation to both Jewish and Catholic practice. The treatise on organs by Gisbert Voetius, a prominent seventeenth-century Dutch Reformed theologian, is an important source not only for the Reformed position but for the wealth of references to other writers. A key theological question is whether instrumental music was a component of ceremonial law that is abrogated with the coming of Christ or existed prior to the giving of the law and thus will endure into eternity.

"Back Story" with Joan Goldstein

Joan has hosted "Back Story with Joan Goldstein" since the fall of 2009, when Princeton TV30 Public Access invited her to produce a public forum on social issues that would reflect both national and local concerns.

You can "stream" Joan's programs from <u>Vimeo</u>. Her <u>recent interview with</u> <u>forensic psychologist Gianni Pirelli</u> on gun violence is especially timely and merits viewing.

Princeton Community TV can be viewed on cable Channel 30 throughout the municipality of Princeton on the Comcast cable system and on Channel 45 of



Joan Goldstein on her Back Story set at Princeton Community TV.

Verizon's FiOS system. Princeton TV can be viewed online and is now available on Roku.

Linda Holt Reviews Two Classic Symphonies

The Broad Street Review, a Philadelphia-based arts and culture commentary Web site, published two Philadelphia Symphony concert reviews by Linda Holt.

- 1. <u>Cristian Măcelaru conducts Beethoven's Sixth ("Pastoral") Symphony</u>.
- 2. <u>Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg conducts Gustav Holst's Planets</u>.

Lectures on The Brownings

By Liz Socolow

On April 8, the National Arts Club hosted Liz Socolow's lecture, "The Brownings and Their Work: Popularity, Celebrity, and Reputation."

She read Robert Browning's poem, "Popularity," noting that this poem is not reader-friendly and shows perfectly why Browning was not a popular poet as it is so learned and off-putting, wry, satirical, and Horace-like.

Browning makes fun of people, their cheap tastes, how they follow fads, and their desire to know the smallest details about celebrities: Shallow, shallow, shallow, he says to his audience, not exactly ingratiating. But his reputation among poets has always been high, and today he is held in high regard.

XII.

And there's the extract, flasked and fine, And priced and saleable at last! And Hobbs, Nobbs, Stokes and Nokes combine

To paint the future from the past, Put blue into their line.

XIII.

Hobbs hints blue, —Straight he turtle eats: Nobbs prints blue,—claret crowns his cup: Nokes outdares Stokes in azure feats, — Both gorge. Who fished the murex up? What porridge had John Keats?

Last two stanzas of Robert Browning's "Popularity"

Galway Kinnell, a modern Irish American poet who died last year, took the last line of Popularity, "What porridge had John Keats?" and wrote a poem called "Oatmeal," gentle and genial as Browning's was crusty. Kinnell's "Oatmeal" imagines a breakfast with John Keats in which they both eat porridge (oatmeal) and Keats waxes eloquent on exactly how he wrote "Ode to a Nightingale." So she read that poem as well and talked about strategies of writing, the "anxiety of influence," the many ways poets influence each other, all with reference to the celebrity of the Brownings as a couple living in remarkable "equality" at home and the great popularity they enjoyed during their lifetimes.

The <u>New York Browning Society</u> was founded in 1907 and meets at the National Arts Club, 15 Gramercy Park South, in New York City the second Wednesday of every month.

Recent Staff Additions at Princeton University

Eric White Moves to Princeton University Library

On September 1, 2015, Eric White joins the staff of the Princeton University Library as Curator of Rare Books (a two-year term). He comes to Princeton from Southern Methodist University, where he has been Curator of Special Collections, Bridwell Library of the Perkins School of Theology, since 1997. He is widely known for his expertise in fifteenth– century European printed books; and he has worked closely with Scheide Librarian Paul Needham on collaborative projects for a number of years.

Dr. White earned his Ph.D. in Art History from Boston University (1995) and MLS from the University of North Texas (2002). While at Bridwell, Dr. White published many respected articles in the *Gutenberg-Jahrbuch, The Book Collector, Quaerendo,* and the *Transactions of the Cambridge Bibliographical Society*. He also curated numerous exhibitions. His printed catalog for "Peter Schoeffer: Printer of Mainz" (2003 show) is regarded as a learned

contribution to incunabula studies. A valued lecturer and conference presenter, Dr. White recently attended the Renaissance Society of America meeting, March 2015, in Berlin, where he spoke on "The Beginnings of Printed Binding Waste." His CV and downloads of selected publications are available at https://smu.academia.edu/EricMarshallWhite.

Clair Wills, Fall 2015 Milberg Fellow, Joins Princeton's English Department

Clair Wills, a respected Irish Studies scholar (Ph.D., Oxford; faculty, St. Mary's College, University of London), will join Princeton University's English Department this fall as a Leonard Milberg Fellow. (See <u>"Board Approves Four Appointments to Princeton Faculty"</u>.)

Maureen Mulvihill met Dr. Wills at New York University's Ireland House for the U.S. launch of the *Field Day Anthology of...Irishwomen Writers and Traditions*, IV and V (2002). Here is Maureen's <u>review</u> of those two hefty groundbreaking volumes.

Information contributed by Maureen E. Mulvihill, PRF Member.

Essay – PRF True Friends

By Joan Goldstein

I've been with PRF from the very beginning, from the days when a small group of women scholars banded together to help each other share work and ideas. I thought of each member as a friend, and as a mentor for research and support; but what I hadn't yet realized is that PRF is also the source of "true friends." All right, now what do I mean by that?

In the bitter month of March this year, when I was suddenly offered the chance to move to a center for community housing on Elm Road in Princeton, I found that I had barely one month to "downsize" books, papers, art work, furniture, clothing and even

to sell a few things. Naturally, I was overwhelmed. As a lifelong artist, a Ph.D. scholar of sociology and literature, an author of books and many articles, I have accumulated papers and the many tapes from my nearly seven years as Host/Producer of Princeton TV30's public affairs show, "Back Story with Joan Goldstein." My new place was not only smaller, but lacked any kind of storage space. The most wonderful offers of help came first from my three PRF friends who happen to be part of our History of Science Book Group. Karen Reeds appeared first at my doorway one day to assess the situation and suggest a system of dismembering the chaos. Next to my doorway came the amazing Liz Socolow (known as Elizabeth Anne), fully armed with boxes, markers, garbage bags, and a plan for action. She announced that she had moved at least 17 times and understood the process of downsizing better than most. And she was underestimating her talents. (See her following companion essay, "Pointers on Moving.") Liz came many times in the next few weeks at exactly the times she offered, and boxed and bagged as she called to me, "Do you want to keep this?"



And then there was Evelyn Wilkin, who phoned me often to see how I was doing and if she could help in any way. Finally, on Easter Sunday, my monster move just in action, Evelyn invited me to brunch at our favorite Main Street cafe. There we sat for hours and talked

about our lives. That was probably the first time I had sat anywhere during the entire stressful month. In the course of a few short weeks, I had searched, found, and called in dealers, haulers, and movers, and managed to sell a few Chinese art works left to me suddenly when my mother passed away. The new place was smaller, and I had to consider where to locate everything. Not to worry. Liz returned to help set up the kitchen so at least I could prepare some healthy meals. (This time Liz brought delicately designed shelving paper to line the kitchen

"I thought of each member as a friend, and as a mentor for research and support; but what I hadn't yet realized is that PRF is also the source of 'true friends.""

shelves and drawers.) She has called me since and offered to return soon to continue the process of unpacking.

Another long-time friend, Ruth Schulman phoned me to suggest a storage space she had learned of that was just then offering an extra free month with a coupon. With the urging of Liz, I drove up the 206 corridor to store more of my paintings and drawings that were unlikely to find wall space in the new place.

In the meantime, as the exhaustion took its toll, I slept at least 12 hours per night and napped during the days. I woke up in the mornings wondering where I was and trying to understand what this will mean for my life. Fortunately, there are very friendly neighbors here, and I've been invited to book discussion groups, art classes, as well as meditation sessions. I've already been invited to speak at the upcoming memoir meeting to share the story of my life. I'm beginning to think I will be happy here. And as for the PRF friends, they have left a warm glow in my heart for their genuine kindness and help.

Essay – Pointers on Moving

By Liz Socolow

Details first

I once counted that I have moved 17 times from the time I was 22, left college, and went to my own first apartment. I do not swear that number is exact and nothing about moving or about what I write here is exact except what the movers charge, which has a formulaic calculation: weight, number of boxes, how much of their labor you employ to help you pack,

hours required for the move on both ends, and the transport in the middle.

Packing takes time to do well, and it is worth paying for if you are not (like me) expert. I had plenty of opportunity to watch the professionals do it, and now, when I have the energy, I can do most of it myself—more or less.

A very important part of packing on your own is knowing what you need and loading the materials into your house so that they are always on hand. Most moving companies (and even



relatively small moving outfits that operate only locally) will supply wardrobe boxes which you can set up fairly easily and put all hangable clothes into, enabling an easy transfer from closet to box, and from box to closet at both ends, good to have on hand at least three weeks before a move.

You also need plenty of sturdy cardboard cartons, and the right kind of sturdy, wide tape to seal the cartons. (Lightweight, strong plastic tape is best, not heavy, expensive duct tape.) You need several pairs of really good scissors, too.



You need lots of newspaper, bubble wrap (sold in rolls), and purchased, unprinted newsprint paper for wrapping fragile items like lamps, glassware, and china. All these packing material are available for purchase at Staples and Home Depot, but if you start early, you can collect hundreds of usable cartons from the supermarkets, and especially from the liquor stores.

I advise, in fact, that you let the professionals pack the lamps every time, as well as the shades, but you should remove the shades from the lamps, and bulbs from their sockets. Make sure you screw in the gadgets (finials) at the top of the lamps that hold the shades tightly in place or they will get lost.

Principles at the heart of it

It is useful to start with the details because they are preparatory, easy to manage and remember, and in no way a matter of habit.

The real heart of moving is knowing how to live—having the right anti-hoarding habits. But most of us are undeliberate hoarders. We let things accumulate and that means moving becomes really problematic.



Accordingly, before you think about packing...

Go through your clothes, and give away anything that is an everyday kind of garment you have not worn in a year.

Try on any special-occasion type of garment—tuxes, ball gowns, fur stoles, silver shoes—

anything you wear only once in five years. Give away anything that does not fit, is not an heirloom, or that looks shabby, ratty, or unwearable.



Go through papers every week. Keep nothing except what is essential—financial statements, bills, legal documents—and file them at least once a month. Keep your official papers in boxes with file folders labelled by subject, month, and year and try to use no more than two cartons a year for your official papers. Almost everything except property items (sales of homes, boats, cars) can be thrown away (or shredded) after seven years. If you have lived that way all along, moving official papers is relatively simple. You may have ten such boxes that need storage in your new place, and this is true whether you are downsizing or not. If you are a writer, as I am, the cartons of papers are ten times that. I do have in my garage about 100 boxes, 90 of which are not financial.



The next principle is STORAGE, STORAGE, STORAGE. Whether you are downsizing or not, but especially if you are, your every thought must be WHERE AM I GOING TO PUT THIS IN THE NEW PLACE? And your every care once you start to fill boxes is LABEL, LABEL, LABEL. Using a heavy black marker, label what is in the box and where it goes (what room), and, if possible, what storage area in that room. If you know ahead of time that your storage is exceedingly limited,

inquire about storage bins where you are moving. As a New Yorker, I was amazed to find that only NYC provides a storage locker, a place some 6 by 6 by 6 feet, where one can keep ten boxes of official papers, bicycles, and out-of-season clothes (no place EVER has enough closet space).

Having winnowed your clothes, papers (AND BOOKS AND TAPES AND CDS, DVDS and the like), it is important to investigate renting storage area in a commercial space. This can be very inexpensive if you shop around and can make a move feasible in the long run.

It is useful to begin to pack ROOM BY ROOM, boxing all items you do not need for a month. Keep two towels per person in your household and pack the rest. Ditto for bathmats, extra toiletries, and so forth. Keep a seven-day change of clothes and box the rest of the non-hanging clothes.



In the last week, you can take all pictures and hangings from the walls, writing down where you will put each thing that goes on the wall or in your storage locker (for those items that you have no wall space to hang up.)

The most delicate job for packing is your precious, sentimental items. In your mind these need to be divided between breakable and non-breakable. Some of the items, like diplomas,



are in glass, as are some family photos, but a lot of photo albums are not breakable. Wrap fragile seashells from trips to beaches and glass items from Italy or Germany in bubble wrap and UNPRINTED newsprint paper (you do not want ink smudges and a big job washing and drying at the other end). But also consider your display space for knickknacks and gadgets. Again make sure there is room to display what is most significant. PUT THE REST in a few boxes and take them to the storage locker, or sell them to dealers or give them away.

At our age, many people choose to divest themselves of things they cannot use or display and this includes sets of china, silver, jewelry, and things of some value. It is wise to get rid of what you don't need as soon as possible because often one discovers that one's imagined heirs do not want to be burdened with the luxuries of the past. You can find dealers who will purchase these valuables. THIS IS NOT A GOOD THING TO BE TRYING TO DO WHILE PACKING AND MOVING and IT IS UNWISE TO TAKE SUCH UNWANTED, UNNEEDED LUXURIES TO A NEW SPACE.

Finally, what you are REALLY hiring the movers for is to lift heavy furniture. Take as little as possible. If you have a grand dining room table and no dining room where you are going, you must get rid of the old and often beloved items. TAKE ONLY WHAT FITS COMFORTABLY. If you have eight-foot bookcases and seven-foot ceilings where you are going, you must get rid of the book cases. When you make the decision to move, build in a steely willingness to part with what cannot make it into the new space.

You will be happier and "thinned down" only if you resign yourself to the reasonableness of the change ahead of time. The motto in my

family about everything (except each other) was always IT'S ONLY A MATERIAL THING. A good adage for living well, especially when moving, and most especially when downsizing.

Good luck!

The Greenberg Collections: Orchids and Art

Orchids

Roslynn Greenberg is currently growing several hundred orchid plants in her greenhouse. She is a member of the <u>Central Jersey Orchid Society</u> and has served as President and program chair. Roslynn began showing plants at the <u>Philadelphia Horticultural Society</u>, which sponsors the Philadelphia Flower Show, about fifteen years ago. She won several awards for excellence at each of the shows. One year



Phragmipedium

she won 17! She has written for the Journal of the <u>American Orchid Society</u> and participated in the orchid judging at the annual International Orchid Society meeting held in Taiwan in



Paphiopedilum

2007. In addition to receiving many AOS awards, she has had several plants named in her honor. She has taught courses about orchid culture as part of the Princeton Adult Education Program.

This March, Roslynn again entered her orchids at the Philadelphia Flower Show, where her phragmipedium and phiopedilum were in competition with orchids submitted by both large and small growers. The judges at the Show



were American Orchid Society judges, who train for more than ten years and are then tested for their knowledge and abilities before they are able to judge any orchid plants. This year Roslynn submitted nine different plants for the judged competitions and received awards ranging from "first" through "honorable mention "for seven of her plants.

Japanese Art

Joel Greenberg, a collector of Japanese antique art, a retired management consultant, and currently a docent at the Princeton University Art Museum, recently taught a course entitled *Japanese Art [Lacquer, Woodblock Prints, Netsuke & Ingo, Okimono and Painting]* as part of the Princeton Adult Education Program. The course included 4 two-hour lectures relating to 1. Japanese woodblock prints, 2. Japanese lacquer techniques, 3. Japanese inro/netsuke, and 4. Japanese okimono and paintings. Each session started with the historical context of the subject, including the political, technological and economic forces that propelled the art



Meijie period elephant ivory okimono of a Samurai

form, and the technical process used to create the resulting art form. Numerous examples were used to illustrate the range of art forms within each of the discussed areas. These examples included both projected images as well as actual demonstration objects. Since many of the images used to illustrate the art forms relate to historical events or mythology, the significance of the illustrated art was discussed in terms of pertinent myths and history. Similar courses were previously presented as part of Princeton's Evergreen Forum and Monroe Township adult education programs.



Meijie period elephant ivory Okimono



Meijie period hanging scroll



Lacquer/Shibayama inro and Netsuke Suite



Meijie period boxwood and ivory okimono of Samurai fighting a dragon



Gold lacquer Meijie period kodansu