

**LETITIA UFFORD DESCRIBES
DIPLOMATIC INTRIGUE IN THE
OTTOMAN EMPIRE**

*Reported by Linda Arntzenius, PRF Newsletter
Editor, with considerable help from Letitia Ufford*

Letitia Ufford, chair of the PRF history study group, previewed her paper “Mustafa Reshid Pasha and Lord Ponsonby: Reform or Stability” at a work-in-progress session hosted by Terry Grabar on Tuesday, November 8, 2011. The paper describes the role of the British Ambassador at Istanbul in bringing about the fall of Turkey’s first great reform minister.



Donn Mitchell (left) and Eric Hockings at Letitia Ufford’s Work-in-Progress in November.

From 1839 until 1841, Mustafa Reshid Pasha was Foreign Minister to Abdul Mejid, Sultan of the Ottoman Empire (1839-1856). Reshid served during a “great international crisis” when under attack from Egypt (see Letitia’s book *The Pasha: How Mehemet Ali Defied the West, 1839-1841* [McFarland & Company, Inc., Jefferson, North Carolina and London, 2007]) the Ottoman Empire could have fallen, setting off a European war over its corpse.

Lord Ponsonby, the British ambassador, like his superior, the British Foreign Secretary, Lord Palmerston, assumed that Reshid Pasha, by far the most enlightened of the Sultan’s officials, would be a cooperative tool of British policy. In fact, he was of immense service in furthering the military campaign against Mehemet Ali. But only a few months after taking office his apparent reluctance to depose the anti-British Greek Patriarch caused Lord Ponsonby to distrust him and to seek another, more compliant, instrument. As Reshid Pasha seemed increasingly to work with the more moderate and Turkish-speaking Austrian ambassador, Lord Ponsonby, living in isolation up the Bosphorus, became dependent on the influence of two unusual figures. These were first, Estefanaki Vogorides, a member of the remaining Greek elite at the capital and passionately opposed to the Patriarch and his party. The second was the young Sultan’s chamberlain, the ignorant but sly Riza Pasha.

These two men, apparently cooperating, had great influence over the Sultan, flattering him that the Ottoman victory over Mehemet Ali was due to his “star” and that Reshid’s planned reforms were for representative government based on the revolutionary French model. In this they were at one with Lord Ponsonby who described the Frenchmen around Reshid Pasha as “stinking flies.” Using Vogorides and Riza Pasha Lord Ponsonby worked to stack the Sultan’s Council with enemies of Reshid Pasha. As that reforming minister’s position became increasingly insecure, the three men planned on a way to get rid of him without upsetting the diplomatic community, giving him a large sum of money, praise, a special decoration and the job of carrying a thank you message and the Sultan’s portrait to Queen Victoria.

From the Ponsonby Papers at Durham University Library, Letitia read a note from Vogorides to Lord Ponsonby, forwarding a request by Riza Pasha for the ambassador’s protection should Reshid return to

office. This is perhaps one of the most powerful proofs of the determinative role played by foreign powers in the internal affairs of the Ottoman Empire at this period. Yet, as Letitia pointed out in the question period, none of the leading European nations was willing to provide Reshid with a requested financial advisor or to promote the international conference he requested as a way to support reforms.

In the lively discussion that followed Letitia's presentation, topics ranged from the historical to the contemporary, including Turkey's inclusion in the European Union and the diplomacy of nation-building, with reference to Afghanistan.

The research for the paper, part of that undertaken for her book, took Letitia to archives in Britain, Austria, France, and Egypt as well as sites in Turkey. Her paper was presented as part of a panel on 19th century Ottoman governance at the annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association in Washington, D.C. in early December--one of 15 panels given in the last slot of the fourth day of meetings that involved 2300 scholars and many panels on the Arab Spring. She has been corresponding with one of the panelists on the parameters of diplomatic influence since then.

ON AN IRISH ISLAND: UPCOMING BOOK TALK BY ROBERT KANIGEL

by Linda Arntzenius

Award-winning science writer and author of the acclaimed biography *The Man Who Knew Infinity: A Life of the Genius Ramanujan*, Robert Kanigel, came to the subject of his latest book in 2005 while visiting the tiny sea-facing town of Dún Chaoin at the most westerly tip of the Dingle Peninsula in County Kerry, south west Ireland. Some three miles off shore from the mainland lies Great Blasket Island, the largest of a group of seven small islands. On a visit to the town's Blasket Centre, Kanigel learned of the island's unique history.

As he tells it in the prologue to *On an Irish Island*, due to be published by Alfred A. Knopf in February, he became "wholly absorbed" by the story of an island peopled by fisher folk and the literary visitors who found community there in the first half of the 20th century. "The Blaskets had gotten under my skin," writes Kanigel, who is a professor of science writing in the Program in Writing and Humanistic

Studies at MIT and a member of the Princeton Research Forum's Advisory Board.



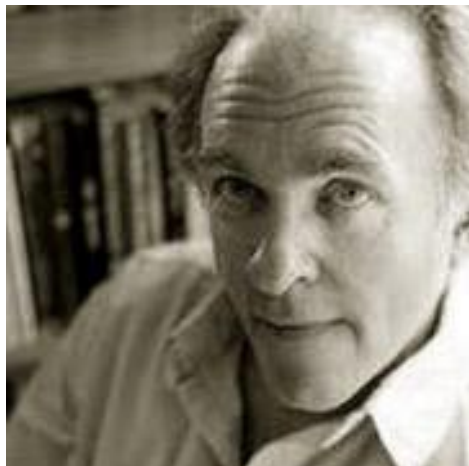
Great Blasket Island viewed from the mainland of Ireland

Today, most of the houses on Great Blasket Island are ruins, having been abandoned in 1953, but in 1907 when the 19 year-old George Thomson traveled there to study the Irish language, the island was home to a vibrant fishing community. Islanders were known for the unadulterated Irish spoken there. Thomson, a Cambridge-educated classicist, was charmed by the island and its inhabitants. Even by the standards of the early twentieth century rural Ireland, island life was basic. There was no electricity, no plumbing, no priests, no shops, and no tavern. And while most residents were illiterate, they manifest a vibrancy that was "like an antidote to modern life," says Kanigel. Islanders entertained themselves with music, dancing, and storytelling.

Besides Thomson's story, Kanigel describes the experiences of other scholars, linguists, and writers who came to the island to study the Irish language and culture in its native form, most notably J.M. Synge, author of *Playboy of the Western World*. He writes of the medievalist and poet Robin Flower, who worked at the British Museum, of Norwegian linguist Carl Marstrand, and of the French linguist Marie-Louise Sjoestedt, as well as of the islanders who were encouraged to become authors themselves.

But Kanigel's book is not just a retelling of the island's story, it is about "how we live now, what we've left behind, and at what cost." He says: "I've long been preoccupied with the pace of modern life and what it does to us." And while recognizing that life on the island was one of hardship, he hopes that the Great Blasket Island story will prompt a conversation on the pace of life in the twenty-first century. "If my readers came away stopping to think

about these issues and reflect on their own lives, I'd be pleased," he says.



Robert Kanigel

Kanigel will discuss his book, *On an Irish Island*, at Labyrinth Books in Princeton on Friday, March 30, at 6 p.m. The event is co-sponsored by Labyrinth and the Princeton Research Forum. For more information, visit: <http://www.robertkanigel.com/>

RON HYMAN TO REPRESENT PRF ON BOARD OF NCIS



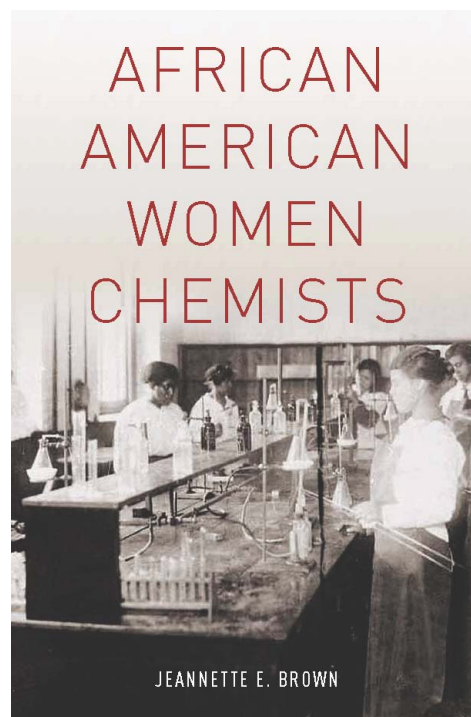
Ron Hyman at a recent PRF Work-in-Progress session

Ron Hyman has been named as the Princeton Research Forum representative on the board of the National Coalition of Independent Scholars (NCIS). NCIS was formed in January 1989 to facilitate the work of independent scholars. For more information, view: www.ncis.org.

MEMBER NEWS

PRF Newsletter Editor **Linda Arntzenius** is featured in a new video documentary by David Kelly Crow, titled "Transplanted Trees." A record of a series of poetry readings in celebration of the Scott and Hella McVay Poetry Trail at the D&R Greenway, the video includes Linda's reading of Paul Muldoon's poem "The Hedgehog" as well as readings by local poets and by Joseph Bruchac. To view the video, visit: <http://drgreenway.org/walks.htm#TransplantedTrees>.

Jeannette E. Brown has published her first book, *African American Women Chemists*, with Oxford University Press. The book is available in most book stores and from Amazon.com, in print form or for Kindle or Nook. Jeannette is currently trying to have the book available as a book-on-tape, especially since she has two cousins who are legally blind, and she would like to have them read it.



"The story of having Oxford University Press as a publisher for this book, is an interesting one," says Jeannette. "I was working as a Fellow at the Chemical Heritage Foundation when I learned that Henry Louis Gates Jr. was looking for writers for his series of books *African National Biography*. I decided to write the brief biographies of five of the women included in the book, and these were accepted for print and published in *African National*

Biography. I e-mailed Dr. Gates, telling him that the biographies he published would be a part of my forthcoming book and asked him to suggest a publisher. Not only did Dr. Gates suggest Oxford University Press, he gave me the name of his editor, who passed my name on to the chemistry editor, who then contacted me indicating interest in the work. Using guidelines I found in a book about publishing, I sent in a book proposal. I later found out that the chemistry editor submitted it to several of friends who were enthusiastic about the book.”

Jeannette is now actively marketing the book together with the help of her Oxford University Press publicist. She has tentative plans for a book signing during a meeting of the African American Book Group at the Barnes and Noble Market Square on Route 1 in Princeton. Scheduled signings include: January 13 at the Minnesota Science Museum in St. Paul MN and at the University of Minnesota Book Store later that week; February 5 at Watchung Booksellers, Watchung Plaza, 54 Fairfield Street, Montclair, NJ 07042; February 18, during the Marian Thompson Wright Lecture at Rutgers, Newark; and March 27 at the American Chemical Society National Meeting San Diego California. Besides these dates, Jeannette is working on other book signings nationwide and would welcome suggestions for venues from other PRF members.

Shelley Frisch has finished work on her Kafka biography translation volume 2 and has just submitted a translation of an excerpt of a debut Austrian novel, *Der lange Nachkrieg (The War Beyond)*, by Erwin Uhrmann, for presentation at the Neue Literatur Festival, which will take place in New York City in February. For information about the festival, visit <http://www.festivalneueliteratur.org/>.

PRF member-at-large **Joan Goldstein** taped her newest “Back Story with Joan Goldstein” TV 30, FIOS 45 and MCTV 25/26 show on the topic of Occupy Wall Street. Her guest was independent film maker Dan Preston, who had filmed up-close scenes of Occupy the Brooklyn Bridge on October 1. Scenes of marchers and ensuing arrests are included in the show as Dr. Goldstein and Mr. Preston explore the implications of this latest social movement. Joan also shares comments and photos taken by local Princeton teenagers visiting New York City’s ‘Occupy’ sites on October 15. View the show on: <http://vimeo.com/32986533> PRF members are invited to share their thoughts with Joan.

Donn Mitchell presented a paper, “Rights Recognition Within Religious Communities: A Work-in-Very-Slow-Progress,” at a conference at George Mason University in December. The conference commemorated the 500th anniversary of Antonio de Montesinos’ sermon in Santo Domingo, which sparked the movement for indigenous peoples’ rights in the Spanish Empire. Donn also read a passage from Isaiah at a special commemorative mass at St. Matthew’s Cathedral, which featured a presentation of the sermon and a dramatization of its aftermath. In addition to GMU, the conference was sponsored by Alma College, Georgetown University, the Aquinas Institute, the Washington Theological Consortium, and several other groups. Donn is Editor & Publisher of *The Anglican Examiner*, www.AnglicanExaminer.com.

In December, **Karen Reeds** gave a rerun in Korea of her 2010 PRF publishing seminar talk. The presentation opened Karen’s two-day workshop on scholarly writing at the Science Policy Group at the Korean Advanced Institute for Science and Technology (Korea’s MIT). The workshop included one-to-one consultations with a dozen graduate students and junior faculty about their research projects, which ranged from the roles of international science policy advisors to the politics of a Korean organic food movement to a history of American higher education. (For a summary of Karen’s PRF seminar see the PRF Website, www.princetonresearchforum.org/.../PRF%20publishing%20seminar.)

In addition, Karen is the guest curator of a new exhibition, *Botanica Magnifica: Photographs by Jonathan Singer*, which opens at the New Jersey State Museum, Trenton, on Saturday, January 28. In order to showcase as many of Singer’s extraordinary oversize digital prints of flowers as possible, the show is divided in two parts: Part 1 runs from January 28 to April 15 and Part 2 from April 21 to August 26. Karen suggests that visitors come on at least two occasions. “The exhibition has its roots in PRF collegiality,” says Karen. “Back in 2009, Maureen Mulvihill, knowing of my research in botanical illustration, alerted me to a Smithsonian Magazine article about Singer’s work. When I saw that the photographer lived in New Jersey, I thought the New Jersey State Museum might be interested, hence this exhibit some two and a half years later.” *Botanica Magnifica: Photographs by Jonathan Singer* is at the New Jersey State Museum, 205 W. State Street, Trenton, NJ 08625. Tel: (609) 292-6464 (recorded message); Tuesday-Saturday, 9 a.m. to

4:45 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.; closed Mondays & state holidays; Admission is free. On weekends, free parking is available in the lot behind and adjacent to the Museum; on weekdays, metered street parking is available. Watch for exhibition events at: <http://nj.gov/state/museum/index.html> and <http://njstatemuseum.blogspot.com/>. For a preview of Singer's photographs: <http://www.jonathan-singer-photography.com/>. Karen is a visiting scholar in History and Sociology of Science at the University of Pennsylvania.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

The Independent Scholar (TIS), the quarterly journal of the National Coalition of Independent Scholars, is accepting creative, artistic, and traditional essays on topics of interest to its members as well as those addressing the particular themes of its upcoming issues. Here is a brief list of upcoming issues, deadlines, and themes for next year: May 2012, submissions by 2/15/12, "Getting Published;" August 2012, submissions by 5/15/12, "Scholarship and Creativity;" November, 2012, submissions by 8/15/12, "Blogging and Social Media." Please send manuscripts and questions to the editor, For guidelines, visit: www.ncis.org or contact Ruth Feiertag, at TIS@ncis.org, using "TIS Submission" for the subject line.

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS OPPORTUNITIES

Although PRF is an affiliate of NCIS, PRF members who wish to apply for grants from NCIS must sign up as members of that organization. NCIS offers its members "bare bones" Web sites.

PRF Frances C. Hutner Presentation Grants are available for traveling to a conference to give a talk. The grants pay for such items as registration, travel, and accommodation. In 2010 and 2011 five presentation grants were approved for subjects ranging from Chinese art and music, Thoreau, early American roads, African American women chemists, and 18th century Scottish Studies to Terri McNichol (April 2010), Linda Holt (September 2010), Bob Craig (November 2011) and Jeannette Brown (December 2010) and most recently to Toni Vogel Carey.

Karen Reeds, Chair of the PRF Grants Committee, draws the attention of PRF members to the following opportunities:

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS AT DUKE

Research fellowships are available in diverse subjects: advertising history, women's history, and African American history. To see the range of materials in the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library of Duke University, go to <http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/>.

The John W. Hartman Center for Sales, Advertising & Marketing History, part of the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library of Duke University, announces the availability of grants for researchers whose work would benefit from access to the library's archival and rare printed collections. The Hartman Center holds an extensive collection of over 3,000,000 items--correspondence, publications, advertisements, photographs, slides, films, books and serials--that document the history of advertising, sales, and marketing over the past two centuries. In addition to the J. Walter Thompson (JWT) Company Archives, the most comprehensive historical record of any advertising agency, the Center contains the collections of other key companies and individuals in the dynamic fields of advertising, marketing, and sales.

The grants available through the Hartman Center include general Travel to Collection grants of up to \$750 for the use of any Hartman Center collections. Additionally, up to three JWT Research Fellowships are available. Each Fellow will receive a stipend of \$1000 during his or her stay in Durham. Fellowships are available to researchers planning to spend a minimum of two weeks at Duke doing research that focuses on the JWT Company Archives.

The deadline for application is January 31, 2012. For more information, and the application form, please visit:

<http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/hartman/travel-grants/index.html>

Grant information for the other two centers in the Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Library--the Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture <http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/bingham/index.html> and the John Hope Franklin Collection of African and African-American Documentation <http://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/franklin/index.html> --are also available at the website listed above.

Hartman Center applicants are encouraged to contact the Center's Reference Archivist, Lynn Eaton. Past applications have demonstrated that those who spoke with a staff member about their projects produced stronger applications. Contact information: Lynn E. Eaton, Reference Archivist, Hartman Center for Sales, Advertising & Marketing History, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, 103 Perkins, Duke University, Durham, NC 27708-0185. For more information, call (919) 660-5833, or email lynn.eaton@duke.edu.

ALLEN SMITH VISITING SCHOLARS

The Graduate School of Library & Information Science at Simmons College, Massachusetts, is pleased to invite proposals for participation in a program honoring the memory of distinguished teacher and scholar Allen Smith. Visiting Scholars are expected to be distinguished practitioners, educators, or researchers renowned for their work in reference, oral history, or the study of librarianship and information service in the humanities. Opportunities include semester-long visiting professorships, shorter-term lectureships, or presentation in an annual lecture series. The program provides support for transportation, honorarium, and related expenses depending on the nature of participation, and is open to scholars worldwide. Applications should include a curriculum vitae, a proposed time frame and agenda of activities, and a statement outlining the applicant's qualifications and the benefits the applicant would bring to the Simmons community. There is no deadline, except that proposals for semester-long visiting professorships should be submitted at least a year in advance of the proposed semester. For more information, contact Professor Candy Schwartz, candy.schwartz@simmons.edu. To learn more about Allen Smith, see <http://www.simmons.edu/gslis/news/2008.php#news874> and the wiki "Allen Smith Quotations," http://gslis.simmons.edu/wikis/dwiggins/Allen_Smith_Quotations.

2012-13 WARREN CENTER (HARVARD) FELLOWSHIPS: POLITICS OF EVERYDAY LIFE

Harvard University's Charles Warren Center invites applications from scholars of U.S. cultural history, social history, performance studies, historical sociology and anthropology, and related fields to explore everyday life in the United States (The Textures and Politics of the Ordinary, Persistent and

Repeated). This seminar seeks to develop new ways to connect the closely-observed textures of small-scale experiences to broad political concerns. How might we understand the expansive stakes in ordinary, persistent, and repeated activities? To explore this question, we seek scholars from diverse disciplines and interdisciplines who will bring to the conversation distinct analytical tools by which to examine everyday life. Scholars of any period or region of the U.S., or the U.S. in transnational context, are welcome. Topics of study may include everyday activities such as work, sex, public/civic engagement, consumption, schooling, religion, parenting, and the management of sickness and health; material culture (including clothing, food, books, vernacular architecture, land, computers, etc.); affect and emotions; and texts or performances that function through repetition or replication (theatre, periodical literature, photography, advertising, film, radio, television, MP3s, YouTube, etc.). Scholars who explore the connections between everyday life and the construction and maintenance of race, gender, sexuality, class, and other categories of analysis are especially welcome. Seminar participants will unite across diverse disciplines and topics through a shared commitment to analyzing the politics of ordinary rituals and behaviors. Fellows will present their work in a seminar led by Robin Bernstein (African and African American Studies and Studies in Women, Gender, and Sexuality) and Lizbeth Cohen (History). Applicants may not be degree candidates and should have a Ph.D. or equivalent. We especially seek applicants who embrace the challenges of forging scholarly conversations across disciplines. Fellows have library privileges and an office which they must use for at least the nine-month academic year. Stipends: individually determined according to fellow needs and Center resources. Application (at <http://warrencenter.fas.harvard.edu/fsprogramfuture12-13.html>) due January 13, 2012; decisions in early March. Emerson Hall 400, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02138; phone: (617) 495.3591; fax: (617) 496.2111.

AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

The 2012 AWP Annual Conference & Bookfair will be held in Chicago February 29 to March 3 at the Hilton Chicago and Palmer House Hilton Hotels. The keynote speaker will be Margaret Atwood. For more information, contact Anne Le, Conference Coordinator, Association of Writers & Writing Programs, conference@awpwriter.org, tel: (703) 993-

4317 or visit:
<http://www.awpwriter.org/conference/2012awpconf.php>.

REMINDERS

PRF members are encouraged visit the **PRF Web site** www.princetonresearchforum.org, for continuing updates and are reminded to mention the organization whenever they give a talk or are otherwise in the public eye. Stephanie Lewis reminds Members that

the PRF **slide projector** is available not only for PRF Works-in-Progress but also for other presentations. Pick up can be arranged by contacting Stephanie Lewis.

PRF welcomes applications from prospective members interested in participating in meetings that take place on the second Thursday of each month.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING MEMBER EVENTS

Visit www.princetonresearchforum.org for continuing updates.

MONDAY, JANUARY 2, at 7:30 p.m., the POETRY GROUP will meet at the home of Hilly Geertz, in Princeton. The group will read the work of William Blake. For further information contact Hilly Geertz.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 12:30 p.m., the HISTORY GROUP will meet in the IAS dining room to discuss Carlo Ginzburg's *The Cheese and the Worms*. For further information contact Letitia Ufford.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, NOON, MEMBERS' LUNCH will take place in the upper-level dining room of the Institute for Advanced Study (IAS), followed by a Board meeting at 1:10 p.m. All PRF members are invited to attend the Board meeting.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, at 12:30 p.m., the SCIENCE GROUP will meet in the IAS dining room to discuss *The Swerve: How the World Became Modern*, by Stephen Greenblatt. For further information contact Evelyn Witkin.

MONDAY, JANUARY 16, at 7:30 p.m., the POETRY GROUP will meet at the home of Hilly Geertz, in Princeton. The group will read the work of William Blake. For further information contact Hilly Geertz.

LOOKING AHEAD TO FEBRUARY & BEYOND

MEMBERS' LUNCHES: After January 2012, the schedule of lunches will be as follows, all on Thursdays: February 9, March 8, April 12, and May 10. The March and May lunches will be followed by Board meetings at 1:10 p.m.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, at 7:30 p.m., the POETRY GROUP will meet at the home of Hilly Geertz, in Princeton. For further information contact Hilly Geertz.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, at 7:30 p.m., the POETRY GROUP will meet at the home of Hilly Geertz, in Princeton. For further information contact Hilly Geertz.

Please send all calendar items to Linda Holt.

Princeton Research Forum Officers 2011-2012

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