



**THE CONSOLATIONS OF SCHOLARSHIP — MORE REFLECTIONS ON OUR LIVES IN THE PANDEMIC**

**Scholars Rush in Where Viruses Fear to Tread – COVID-19: Getting Through with Wit and Grit**

PRF members, **Lara Freidenfelds**, **Linda Holt**, and **Ashwini Mokashi**, are among the forty contributors to the San Diego Independent Scholars collection: COVID-19: Getting Through with Wit and Grit (2021). You can see all the book’s essays, poems, and photographs at the SDIS website, <https://sdscholars.org/covid-19/>.

Dorothy Parker, the SDIS President and editor of the collection, described the project in a “Commentary” piece for the San Diego Union Tribune and concluded: “Working on a meaningful project, especially if it is shared with others, keeps life interesting. Human cultures muddle along and make many mistakes, but humankind persists and even thrives.” <https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/opinion/commentary/story/2021-01-21/commentary-senior-scholars-journal-pandemic>

**Two Poems by Winifred Spar Hughes**

*Winnie, who chairs PRF’s Poetry Group shares two poems from her pandemic year’s collection-in-progress, “A Shapeless Grey Garment.”*

LOCKDOWN

Lockdown world through a blistered frame hanging midway up the wall—leafed out limb

for perspective, clouds for depth, diffuse wash of daybreak. Someone hung it there so we

wouldn’t forget, someone fit it in the frame. But the resemblance seems less and less.

We wouldn’t really miss it. If we renovated, would we put up a clean blank wall?

WAS

Was it Balzac who knitted himself into a shapeless grey garment

when the publisher’s deadline loomed so he wouldn’t be able to leave

his room until a certain consignment of words was forthcoming?

Now we are all in that room wearing  
that garment, all of us shapeless

with shapeless desires we can't write  
our way out of, grey with sameness,

with encroaching ennui, not even  
a deadline to provoke us.

### "Back Story with Joan Goldstein" Addresses the Pandemic

PRF's **Joan Goldstein**, the Host/Producer of "Back Story with Joan Goldstein" on Princeton TV30, has put her skills as interviewer and sociologist to bear on the pandemic. Her two recent Zoom shows with experts from the Fox Chase Cancer Center in Philadelphia help the public understand virus in general, the Corona virus in particular, and especially the new vaccines to protect against the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Dr. Anne Skalka, virologist, on the story of viruses: <https://vimeo.com/488606002>
- Dr. Glenn Rall, biologist, on vaccinations for the Corona virus:

<https://vimeo.com/492539998>

Joan's interview with Dr. Skalka got a plug via listener letter from **Karen Reeds** to the podcast, *This Week in Virology* (TWiV #728 <https://www.microbe.tv/twiv/twiv-728-letters/> ).

### How COVID, Techies, and Fortuitous Foresight Helped My Book Along – and Then Offered a Scam

Connie Goddard

Thanks to Linda Holt and Karen Reeds for soliciting responses to the question as to

whether COVID quarantines have been a boon or a bane for research and writing projects — and for giving us a deadline to commit thoughts to words. The dogs and I talked about it on a recent walk and decided the former — getting something positive out of a pandemic. A few other things, related and not, led to that conclusion. And then to another educational experience.

For one, my book project — about three distinctive progressive era manual training schools — has been brewing for several years, or decades, depending on where to begin. In the mid-1970s, when I started studying education history while working at Teachers College would be one. That was a time of books and papers, and despite a few moves across the country, I hung on to my collection of those by and about John Dewey and his time, the progressive era. Ditto, while working in Chicago and investigating the city's fascinating development, particularly the innovations in education it spawned, much of that material I'd hung onto as well. I had file drawers full of information I would need to write the Chicago part of my book.

That might be called hoarding rather than fortuitous foresight, but definitely in the latter category are all the materials I gathered about the school in Bordentown, New Jersey, that was a major impetus for this project. An example: in late February, I was invited to attend one of the PRF's monthly luncheons in Princeton. Living on the other side of the state, I feel my drives along routes 33 or 195 always have to serve more than one purpose — and the state library in Trenton had a copy of a 1911 report on industrial education that I wanted to read. So, I arrived at the library when it

opened in the morning, began taking notes and pictures of important pages, took a break for the luncheon, and went back to the library.

Given what we all know happened just a few weeks later, that was indeed fortuitous. I didn't actually use information from that book until two months later, but I had it, it was extremely valuable — not only for its coverage of programs in New Jersey, but of those in several other states as well — and it would still be unavailable to me had I not read it back in February.

And this gets to our debt to techies — the phone, with which I can easily take pictures of needed pages, return home and download them on to my computer, then read them as necessary. But even more essential has been the internet and all the people who have kept it going all these months. The Monmouth County Library — top notch, by the way — may be closed, but some of its research staff kept working remotely. There's an article I needed from some obscure journal; I had difficulty locating it myself — so off goes an email to a researcher there and, voila, working from her home, she's able to download it and send it to me. Another debt to technology (and to those who know how to use it) are two delightful experiences made possible by a combination of Zoom and the PRF. One was a Work in Progress session held in late July — about 20 people in New Jersey and Washington, DC were all able to tune in and offer valuable comments. The second was a "Back Story" interview with PRF founder Joan Goldstein, which was recorded via Zoom, broadcast by the Princeton Community Television channel, and then made available worldwide via Vimeo (<https://vimeo.com/454039388>).

On the downside is the prevalence of electronic scams — my appearance at one or another of these events led to an "invitation" to join the editorial board for the "International Journal of Education, Culture, and Society," a periodical from the Science Publishing Group. Although the invitation appeared to have come from an academic of some note, further investigation revealed that this is the type of a journal one should stay away from. And for that, I have Wikipedia to thank— here's its entry on the sponsoring organization for the journal:

"Science Publishing Group (SPG) is an open-access publisher of academic journals and books established in 2012. It has an address in New York City but is actually based in Pakistan. The company has been criticized for predatory publishing practices. As of 2019, it publishes 430 journals in various fields. SPG uses a Gold open-access model of publishing which charges the authors. The company claims that articles are peer reviewed by scientific experts before publication."

Thank you very much for that invitation, but I think it's one I'll decline. I'll stick with my gratitude to the Monmouth County Library, Zoom, the PRF — and the file drawers full of information I've hauled around with me for several decades. And by the end of the year, I'm going to have this ms completed.

**WORK-IN-PROGRESS, MARCH 31, 2021, 4:00PM: Terri McNichol on "Visualizing Wisdom: The Mindful Brush of Confucian Moral Artistry"**

**Terri McNichol** writes: "I have been invited to give a zoom presentation in April for the Kedge Business School, Paris, along with

the deans of the finance and marketing departments. My paper is a Humanities topic that was published in the *Organizational Aesthetics* journal, vol. 9, January 2, 2020. (Download PDF at: [oa.journals.publicknowledgeproject.org/index.php/oa/article/view/156](http://oa.journals.publicknowledgeproject.org/index.php/oa/article/view/156).) I plan to show slides of Chinese art to convey the Chinese philosophy of the topic 'Visualizing Wisdom.' I want to see if I can convey the main themes through the images of Chinese art without reading the paper." Watch for the email with the Zoom registration link and mark your calendar now for March 31, 4pm. For questions, email **Ellen Gilbert**, WIP Chair.



Meanwhile, enjoy an engaging video about the work on one of the artists Terri will discuss:

<https://www.comuseum.com/painting/master/s/zhao-mengfu/autumn-colors-on-the-que-and-hua-mountains/>

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## PRF WELCOMES THREE MEMBERS

*The Membership Committee and the Executive Board are pleased to welcome three new PRF members: Grayson Barber, Rich Corbett, and Hua Ze.*

**Grayson Barber** is a retired attorney. As a First Amendment litigator and privacy advocate, she worked for civil liberties groups like the [ACLU](#), the [Electronic Frontier Foundation](#), the [Electronic Privacy Information Center](#), and the [American Library Association](#).

She served on the New Jersey Privacy Study Commission, the state Supreme Court Special Committee on Public Access to Court Records, and the Individual Rights Section of the New Jersey State Bar Association. In 2013 she received the Intellectual Freedom Award bestowed by the New Jersey Library Association. At Princeton University, Grayson was a Fellow at Princeton's [Center for Information Technology Policy](#) and taught as a preceptor in the Politics Department. Her papers and amicus briefs have addressed individual privacy rights, public libraries, civil rights, and drones.

Since retiring from the practice of law, Grayson has pursued writing, music and physical exercise. She facilitates a memoir group that has met once a week for the last five years. Her current project is a narrative about being a graduate student working in one of Princeton's 'monkey labs' in the late 1970s, when women were still considered a novelty, especially in the sciences.



**Richard T. Corbett**, a long-time resident of Plainsboro, spent the majority of his legal career at the nonpartisan Office of Legislative Services (OLS), a state agency that provides legal and research services to the New Jersey Legislature. He contributed to the work of the Legislature by providing research memorandums, bill drafts, legal opinions, and background reports, in the areas of health care, insurance, banking, real estate, and nonprofit organizations.

When Rich retired from OLS last year, he began a new career as a freelance researcher and writer in order to pursue new areas of interest. He is currently writing a historical novel that takes the Spanish Civil War as its setting. Since an understanding of the historical events and the complex and dramatic issues relating to the war is crucial to the narrative, he is researching numerous aspects of the war by consulting histories, biographies, memoirs, novels, movies, videos, and contemporary newspaper accounts. He also traveled to Spain to visit various sites related to the war.

Rich is also interested in the history and culture of Ireland and especially the area

where his father was raised--around the boundaries between southern County Mayo and northern County Galway, bordering the eastern shores of Lough Corrib. His father was raised on a farm in a small village in this area, and his many relatives still live there. He has traveled extensively in Ireland on seven separate occasions.

Working with a committee of his cousins, Rich wrote a report on the history of the Corbett family in this area, including an extensive genealogy. Building on the vast research materials that the committee accumulated in preparing the Corbett history, and the wealth of historical and genealogical information that has become available since the report was issued in January, 2000, Rich is developing future research and writing projects about the culture and history of this part of Ireland. Most recently, Rich served as co-editor of a biography of a Revolutionary War soldier: *John Haslet's World: An Ardent Patriot, the Delaware Blues, and the Spirit of 1776*, by David Price (Nashville: Knox Press, 2020; available on Amazon). Colonel John Haslet, an immigrant from Ireland, was the leader of the Delaware Blues regiment in George Washington's army. He fought at the Battle of Trenton and the Battle of Assunpink Creek, and he died fighting at the Battle of Princeton.

**Hua Ze** *introduces herself to PRF:*

My name is Hua Ze and I am a former documentary director for China Central Television. In 2009, I quit my job and got involved in the human rights cause in China, and in 2010 I suffered an enforced



disappearance and 55 days of secret detention by the Chinese police. When I was released, I was invited by Columbia University to come to the United States as a visiting scholar for two years. During this time, I wrote a book exposing the state violence used by the Chinese police against human rights workers, and as a result, my Chinese passport was revoked and I was unable to return to China, forcing me to become an exile.

While a visiting scholar at Columbia University, I began researching nonviolent movements around the world and their successes, and used my findings to train Chinese activists. In 2013, after my visiting scholar program at Columbia ended, I founded a nonprofit organization that works through a network to provide a variety of assistance to human rights activists in China.

I moved to East Windsor in 2014, and since my work was web-based and I worked with Chinese speakers, I had little social interaction and no opportunity to communicate with English speakers, so my English speaking and listening skills have not improved. After Terri's introduction, I knew about your organization and I would love to be a part of it so that I can have more opportunities to learn more about America

and share my unique experiences with you, as well as to improve my English skills.

*Hua Ze's 2011 account of her kidnapping and detention: "The Ordeal of Fragrant Soul," English transl. Ming Xia, and accompanying videos, in Chinese, can be read on the Human Rights in China (HRIC) website:*

<https://www.hrichina.org/en/crf/article/5512>

*For access to the 2011 documentary about Hua Ze, "Broken Harmony: Chinese Dissidents," produced by Risa Morimoto, see <http://www.sidewaysfilm.com/broken-harmony/>*

**Books written or edited by Hua Ze include:**

*Close Encounters with the Chinese PSB*, Xu Youyu and Hua Ze, Chinese eds. (Hong Kong: Open Books, 2012)

*In the Shadow of the Rising Dragon: Stories of Repression in the New China*, Xu Youyu and Hua Ze, Chinese eds. English trans. by Stacy Mosher (New York: Palgrave Macmillan Press, 2013)

*To be a citizen: a free China*, by Xu Zhiyong, Teng Biao and Hua Ze, Chinese eds. (Hong Kong: New Century Press, 2014)

*Jasmine Revolution in China: Suppression and Persecution*, 2 vols (Taiwan, 2015)

*To Build a Free China: A Citizen's Journey*, Chinese ed., English trans. Joshua Rosenzweig and Yaxue Cao (Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner, 2017)

## PRF CONGRATULATES KAIRY KOSHOEVA ON WINNING INTERNATIONAL MUSIC COMPETITION

PRF's **Kairy Koshoeva** received first prize in the piano solo category in the 2020 *Musica Classica Competition*.

The competition, established in 2005, is held annually under the patronage of two leading Russian conservatories. Performers from all over the world are judged by an international jury.

In 2020, the pandemic forced the competition to be held online, with each competitor sending in twenty minutes of live, unedited video recordings. Kairy submitted performances of Liszt's *Spanish Rhapsody* and two classic Kyrgyz melodies by A. Ogombaev, arranged for piano by Kairy's teacher, Mikhail Burshtin: "Mash-Botoi" ("Horse Race") and "Esimbe" ("I Remember").



The Laureate Diploma for Kairy Koshoeva's *Musica Classica* Award

Kairy was interviewed at length about the competition, her teachers, and her career, by Alexander Barshai for *Evreiskii Mir/Jewish World* (an American newspaper for Russian speakers):

<https://evreimir.com/194737/muzyka-pobezhdaet/> (Click the Google Translate pop-up button for an English translation.)

In the interview, Kairy recalls that she first learned to play the virtuoso "Horse Race" piece with her beloved teacher, the late Faina Kharmats (M. Burshtin's wife) when she was ten years old in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Now, at the New School for Music Study in Kingston, Kairy herself carries on the tradition of inspiring young musicians. In 2019 and again in 2021, her students at the New School for Music Study won top honors in the Elite International Music Competition, and Kairy received the title of "Teacher of the Year" from Toronto's Royal Conservatory of Music.

Enjoy this video of Kairy playing "Mash-Botoi" ("Horse Race") at Merkin Concert Hall in 2017:

[https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipNnoWr2v9XtBS2jKFZKULGJZK0om\\_MwqYOCgPw6Xzx\\_9Kq5\\_QG9q8icA0zqW\\_LIQ/photo/AF1QipMo2pK8273GquvrAMtlZbdO6wisI7R11ofu2iJk?key=d0pBZnJzVVI5QUNZdTJIYm0tZ1JDeDdyNjdzZ3N3](https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipNnoWr2v9XtBS2jKFZKULGJZK0om_MwqYOCgPw6Xzx_9Kq5_QG9q8icA0zqW_LIQ/photo/AF1QipMo2pK8273GquvrAMtlZbdO6wisI7R11ofu2iJk?key=d0pBZnJzVVI5QUNZdTJIYm0tZ1JDeDdyNjdzZ3N3)

or

<https://www.facebook.com/nsmspiano/videos/758284778435584>

**Mark your calendars:** Coming up on Friday, April 9, 2021, 8pm EST: Kairy will perform Bach's *Goldberg Variations* in the concert series, Piano Stories on Stage: Emerging Artists, sponsored by the Frances Clark Center and *Piano Magazine/Clavier Companion*. Marvin Blickenstaff, her

eminent colleague at the New School for Music Study in Kingston, will provide a commentary. (Kairy describes Marvin as “the best storyteller I know.”) For a ticket (\$10) and a Demio link, register now at: <https://claviercompanion.com/piano-stories?fbclid=IwAR0AD4BsbAEnpU29dI02V5t1A1hXkyTVo0MEzCU1euJS2wg52YxsU6hpjiM>



## LINDA HOLT APPEARS IN DOCUMENTARY VIDEO

PRF President **Linda Holt** has long explored inner visions of nature and spiritual quests as expressed in the arts and thought of both Asian and Western cultures. Recently she has seen recognition of her work on both fronts.

Ten years ago at a PRF Work-in-Progress Linda reflected on “The Zen Drawings of H.D. Thoreau” and noted Thoreau’s own interest in Chinese Confucian classics that were just making their way in translation to New England. Linda’s project bore fruit in an article, “The Ch’an Drawings of H.D. Thoreau,” published in the *Qi Journal*,

Summer 2015. (The Japanese word Zen was changed to its Chinese equivalent Ch’an for the Chinese-oriented *Qi Journal*.) Now, Linda’s work has been cited in a new paper published by three Northeastern University scholars in *The Concord Saunterer, a Journal of Thoreau Studies*, Volume 28, 2020. The Northeastern paper, by Kathleen Coyne Kelly, Matt Hardy, and Greg Palermo, is titled, “An Inexhaustible (Digital) Landscape: Reading Thoreau’s Journal Drawings.” You can read Linda’s article, without illustrations, on one of her websites:

<http://www.religiousscholar.com/the-zen-drawings-of-hdthoreau/>

Linda’s ability as a scholar and music critic to explain such intercultural connections reached a global audience this past year. Her review, “Classical Music in Today’s China,” describing the Chinese Central Conservatory of Music’s United States debut concert, appeared in *New York Classical Review* (December 14, 2019). **Terri McNichol**, who was also lucky enough to attend the concert, commented:

This is a most sensitive response by the reviewer to the far-reaching range of the sounds of nature interpreted through western classical instruments blended with Chinese traditional instruments as the pipa, sheng, and bamboo flutes.

The sheng concerto brought to mind the poem of the pre-Tang multi-faceted artist Gu Kaizhi that recounts how the skies burst forth in thunderous noise and fierce lightening in a grand crescendo and almost as swiftly retreat into silence, like a scroll painting being rolled up

and put back away. Guoping Jia's "Ling Lai [*Listen to the Sounds of Nature*]" was so intimate it felt as if it was directed to the listener as an audience of one.

Linda's review in turn led to an invitation for her to appear as an American commentator in the documentary video about the concert, "Listening to the Future," which is streaming on the Violin Channel, VC LIVE. Here are links to her review and to the documentary:

- <https://newyorkclassicalreview.com/2019/12/beijing-conservatory-orchestra-provides-a-sampler-of-contemporary-chinese-music-in-u-s-debut/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mv2zjKS6IYk> (The video is subtitled in English. Linda appears at counter-mark 16:40 – 22:00.)

## MEMBER NEWS

Start the Presses! PRF Vice President **Linda Arntzenius** has just launched her latest venture, Province Line Press, with the publication of the 128-page memoir, *Way Opens: Recollections from an Activist's Life*, by William D. Strong, edited by Linda.

This is the first of a series of titles currently in the works from this small publishing enterprise, which has been created to publish books of history, memoir, and poetry. The press's name is inspired by the historic dividing line between East and West Jersey that dates to colonial times.

Province Line Press

In January, Linda celebrated 12 years with the Institute for Advanced Study's oral history project and saw the publication of the fifth issue of the Center of Theological Inquiry's publication *Fresh Thinking*, for which she serves as consulting editor. This issue features her article titled "Religion and the Built Environment: Developing Global Perspectives" (pages 8-14):

<https://www.ctinquiry.org/magazine>

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's loss is independent scholarship's gain. Last fall **Bob Craig** told his friends in the New Jersey history community about his retirement from the DEP's Historic Preservation Office:

Transitioning...

After long reflection, I have concluded that the time has come for me to retire from the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office. All good things must come to an end, and I feel strongly that now is the time to move on. For more than thirty years I have been privileged to work in and then to coordinate the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places Program here in DEP, and together with all of our stakeholders, we have been able to reshape how historic buildings are studied and to lift up the standards by which they are documented. This past winter I was honored with the news that I was named a co-winner of the Paul E. Buchanan Award by the Vernacular Architecture Forum, a high honor for any architectural historian. For me, that helped

cement a realization that the projects that I now feel driven to accomplish can only be done in a private capacity. I'm anxious to focus on that work. [H-New-Jersey, October 19, 2020 <https://networks.h-net.org/h-new-jersey>]

Bob added an update at the March 2021 PRF Zoom social hour: he is now hard at work on at least two books.

Mark your calendar for an upcoming Zoom talk by **Connie Goddard** on Tuesday, May 4, 2021, under the auspices of the Pennington Public Library. In “*Ironsides*”: *A Ship, a School, and Some Unique Personalities*, Connie will trace the unexpected ties linking: the commander of “Old Ironsides”; the Irish nationalist, Charles Stewart Parnell; his mother Delia Stewart Parnell; Bordentown’s iconic Manual Training and Industrial School; and a remarkable group of Black educators and intellectuals. (See Connie’s piece, above.) Watch for the email with the Zoom registration link.

PRF’s Secretary, **Roger V. Moseley**, reached a wide audience for his arguments about neuroscience and the evolutionary aspects of morality through his “Perspective” essay, “Morality and the Brain,” for the general-interest magazine *Natural History*, March 2020. The piece is an adaptation of the neuroscience chapter in his recent book, *Morality: A Natural History* <https://books.friesenpress.com/store/title/119734000075450536/Roger-V.-Moseley-Morality%3A-A-Natural-History> .

Literary historians, women’s historians, and rare book collectors often find themselves in debt to the expertise of **Maureen Mulvihill**. On the Renaissance and eighteenth-century studies listserves, *Ficino-L* and *c18-L*, Maureen regularly supplies the answers to fellow subscribers’ arcane queries. Recently, for the UK Frances Burney Society’s new logo, Maureen facilitated the Society’s authorized access to John Bogle’s miniature of Burney (formerly Peyraud Collection, NY; presently, Prudence Carlson Collection, NY):

<https://ilab.org/articles/literary-property-changing-hands-peyraud-collection>;  
<https://www.mcgill.ca/burneycentre/files/burneycentre/mulvihill-bedazzled.pdf>.

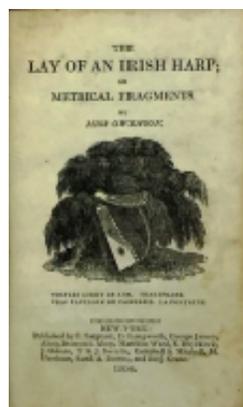
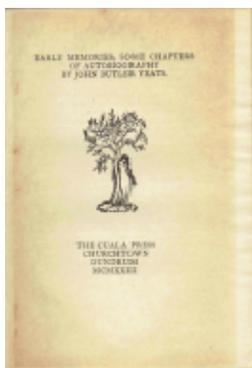


She also assisted the website redesign of The Orlando Project, the authoritative digital database on women writers (<https://www.artsrn.ualberta.ca/orlando/>; founder, Isobel Grundy) by providing seven detailed captions and digital images of portraits and title-pages from the Mulvihill

Collection. Here, for example, is the biographer and poet, Lucy Hutchison, holding a laurel wreath, with son.



For Irish studies, Maureen has added to the Mulvihill Collection *The Lay Of An Irish Harp* by Sydney (Owenson) Lady Morgan, first American edition, and the *Memories* of portraitist John Butler Yeats, father of William Butler Yeats (Cuala Press imprint, with famous harp logo, founded and operated by 'Lily' and 'Lolly' Yeats). Maureen's recent *Irish Literary Supplement* essay on the Anglo-Irish writer, Mary Tighe, is now online: <https://newspapers.bc.edu/?a=d&d=irishliterary20200301-01.1.15&>.



## FINAL WORDS FROM FANNIE PECZENIK (1947-2018)

*In 2018, our colleague Don McNeill shared the sad news of the death of Fannie Peczenik, his wife and long-time PRF member, and meditated on his loss in his Newsletter piece last year (Summer/Fall 2020). Don has since edited Fannie's last essay and published it in The Independent Scholar, the online journal of the National Coalition of Independent Scholars (NCIS). To tantalize you into reading the whole essay, here is Don's prefatory note, followed by a brief extract (sans footnotes), in Fannie's wonderfully wry, generous voice.*

"Winning the Wager: What Faust could have learned from Physics" is a personal reflection by Fannie Peczenik on a physics course for non-physics students given at the University of Pittsburgh at about the time of the centenary of Max Planck's proposal of the quantum hypothesis in December 1900. Planck was attempting to explain the (black body) spectrum of light from heated objects, a long-standing puzzle of nineteenth-century physical experiment and theory on which he had worked for many years. The NCIS preprint of Fannie's essay is now online (<http://www.ncis.org/sites/default/files/TIS%20PECZENIK%20PREPRINT.pdf>) and will appear in *The Independent Scholar* this spring.

So, what does Faust have to do with Planck? Planck was one of the most serious and disciplined men of science. Within 30 years his idea led to the revolution in physics known as quantum mechanics with the contributions of: Einstein, photoelectric effect; Bohr, atomic theory; DeBroglie,

wave nature of electrons; Schroedinger, quantum theory; Heisenberg, quantum theory; etc. Faust's efforts to understand the world are of a pattern from his pre-scientific era and, guided by notions of predictability not followed in nature, he fails at his original purpose. Maybe, like so much of physics in 1900, he needed a quantum hypothesis. The irony of this misunderstanding of nature is central to many differences of method in the sciences over the centuries, from Faust, to Goethe, to Planck, to our times.

The significance of Planck's work is amplified further because in May 2019 the basis of the international system of physical units for mass was redefined in terms of a specified value of Planck's constant (a fundamental constant, or conversion factor, available everywhere), rather than as a piece of platinum-iridium alloy of specified mass located in Paris (as it has been since the kilogram was defined about 200 years ago). This means that mass can be determined formally and with specified precision anywhere, from measurement data. Planck's constant is distinctive physically in that it defines the scale (lengths, energies, etc.) of quantum phenomena and appears in many formulas of quantum mechanics (e.g., Einstein's photoelectric effect, Bohr's atom, Heisenberg's uncertainty relations, etc.)

Fannie discussed her ideas for several years before her death in mid-2018. The reactions of my colleagues to this idea varied widely, but all got rapidly involved in the discussion. One friend said he'd have to go back and review quantum mechanics.

Fannie and I spent the month of August 2017 in Halifax, Nova Scotia, avoiding the

NY heat. Each morning we worked on a paper; she on Planck, from an old undergraduate fascination with Goethe's Faust, and I constructing an analytic (no computers) model of some measurements I had made with lasers (Thomson scattering) on plasmas through much of my early career. The afternoons were spent visiting the usual tourist attractions. We both came home with drafts which we refined through the next spring. Immensely relaxing and satisfying; an independent scholar's delight.

Don McNeill, March 23, 2021

### **“Winning the Wager: What Faust Could Have Learned from Physics”**

Fannie Peczenik

*Our culture is foolish to keep science and poetry separated. They are two tools to open our eyes to the complexity and beauty of the world.*

*Carlo Rovelli, Reality Is Not What It Seems: The Journey to Quantum Gravity*

Some years ago, I took a brief course in quantum mechanics offered by a lifelong learning program. The instructor was highly regarded for his lucid undergraduate lectures, and to suit a class of older, recreational students, he boldly undertook to teach without recourse to mathematics, the normal tool of physics. Words had to carry the full weight of the discussion. The method worked surprisingly well to engage the class. In fact, for me, it opened a long-term entanglement (I use the term cautiously) with Planck's constant.

The universe we inhabit, the instructor explained, is possible only because of Planck's constant; without it, neither we nor our familiar environment could exist. Maybe it was the way he phrased the sentence — I can't remember his exact words — that brought a shock of recognition. Planck's constant was new to me, but I'd heard a description like that before. It echoed lines from Goethe's *Faust*: "*Dass ich erkenne, was die Welt/ Im Innersten zusammenhält*" (translated literally: so that I'll see and know what holds/ the world at its innermost together).

In Act I, we first see Faust at his desk in a dingy, Gothic room cluttered with books and papers. In a long monologue, he laments his intellectual failures and thwarted ambition. Ten years devoted to a thorough study of philosophy, law, medicine, and theology proved to be wasted labor. He learned nothing new, and certainly not what holds the innermost world together, by poring over dusty tomes. Frustrated and bitter, he has now turned to magic, hoping it will reveal the hidden workings of nature to him. With spells and symbols from a manuscript written by the hand of the Renaissance magus Nostradamus, Faust tries to invoke the aid of supernatural spirits. But sorcery fails him, too.

The way is then open for the devil Mephistopheles to arrive and offer Faust, if not the longed-for revelation of nature's secrets, at least the full sensuous human experience that his cloistered, scholarly life has denied him. Skeptical of the devil's promise, Faust wagers on disappointment and dissatisfaction. He makes a deal that if he ever finds a single moment so beautiful that he wishes to prolong it, he will gladly

die and let Mephistopheles take his soul. With that wager, Faust's quest for knowledge becomes a quest for experience. It does not end well; the unhappy consequences of an aging professor trying to make up for lost time are inevitable.

Wasn't it interesting, I thought, that Faust's monumental craving for knowledge would, in real life, end in a mere number, a humble measurement? Conversely, my husband, who's a physicist, was amused that a couple of lines of hypnotically rhymed verse might be an apt footnote to Planck's constant, which he had never considered in need of embellishment. He teased me about writing an essay -- let it enter a time warp and break the boundaries of literary fictions-- on Planck and Goethe. With the aid of several excellent popular books on quantum physics published in the last few years, I can now accept the challenge....

### **IN MEMORIAM: THEODORE ZIOLKOWSKI (1932–2020)**

*PRF joins the larger Princeton community in mourning the death of Theodore Ziolkowski. Professor Ziolkowski was a longtime member of PRF's Advisory Board.*

Theodore "Ted" Ziolkowski, a renowned authority on German and European literature from Romanticism to the present, died on Dec. 5, 2020, in Kirkland Village, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. He was 88.

Ziolkowski, the Class of 1900 Professor of Modern Languages, Emeritus, and professor of Germanic languages and literatures and comparative literature,

emeritus, joined the Princeton faculty in 1964.

He previously taught at Yale University and Columbia University. From 1979 to 1992 he served as Dean of the Graduate School, a 13-year term of service exceeded only by the school's first dean, Andrew Fleming West (1901-1928). In 1978, he received Princeton's Howard T. Behrman Award for Distinguished Achievement in the Humanities. After nearly four decades at Princeton, he transferred to emeritus status in 2001.



Theodore Ziolkowski, 1992  
Photo by Robert Matthews, Office of Communications, Princeton University

His scholarship focused on the history of literary themes, the reception of classical literature, and the interdisciplinary relationships of literature with religion and law. His teaching, which continued during his deanship of the Graduate School, ranged from an undergraduate lecture course

“European Short Fiction from Boccaccio to the Present,” which he taught every spring from 1967 until his retirement, to graduate seminars on such topics as German Romanticism, the German elegy and the modern German novel.

“Members of the Department of Comparative Literature are sad to hear news of Professor Ziolkowski's passing,” said Thomas Hare, the William Sauter LaPorte '28 Professor in Regional Studies, professor of comparative literature and department chair. “He was a distinguished scholar in many areas of German and Classical literature. His scholarly reputation will persist most prominently perhaps for his work on Hermann Hesse, but his curiosity and intellectual industry led him to work on the Judeo-Christian tradition, on Romanticism and even as far as the great narrative of Gilgamesh.”

“Ziolkowski played a key role in establishing Princeton's German department as a leader in the field after its founding in 1956,” said Devin Fore, professor of German and department chair. “A prolific scholar, an outstanding teacher and a pillar of Princeton life in general, he will be greatly missed by friends and colleagues alike.”

“Ted Ziolkowski was over several decades one of the true giants of the Princeton faculty,” said John Fleming, the Louis W. Fairchild '24 Professor of English and Comparative Literature, Emeritus. “In him a deep sense of vocation, animated by intellectual integrity and enabled by a seemingly superhuman energy, directed a long career that left its permanent impress on international Germanic studies and on the shape of American graduate education.”

Fleming continued: “He was famous as a graduate teacher, and his highly successful course on ‘Masterworks of European Literature’ introduced a whole generation of undergraduates to the riches of Continental letters. The current health and prestige of the Graduate School are in part the legacies of his very long service as graduate dean. It was a privilege to be his colleague and an honor to be his friend,” he said.

“Not every scholar of Ted’s caliber is a tireless University citizen as well, but Ted’s service first as department chair and then as dean of the Graduate School stand out among his many commitments to Princeton,” said Michael Jennings, the Class of 1900 Professor of Modern Languages and professor of German. “He will be remembered for a scholarship notable for its breadth — it spanned centuries of German and classical literature — and its early interdisciplinary [focus], with studies of law, music and religion in their relation to literature.”

A prolific author, Ziolkowski wrote 35 books — 20 of them after retirement at the pace of one a year for nearly two decades. Jennings said that among Ziolkowski’s many books, three volumes have been particularly influential: *Dimensions of the Modern Novel* (1969), *Fictional Transfigurations of Jesus* (1972) and *German Romanticism and Its Institutions* (1990). The final one, just out in 2020, is entitled *Roman Poets in Modern Guise: The Reception of Roman Poetry since World War I*.

While dean of the Graduate School, Ziolkowski served on the Presidential Task Force for the Arts and Humanities (1981) and appeared frequently before

congressional committees to testify on matters related to higher education. During the 1990s he was a member of the presidential German-American Academic Council (DAAK), which sought to facilitate cooperation between the two countries in science and the humanities.

“Ted was a fierce and constant champion of the Graduate School itself and of graduate education generally, speaking up for it both in councils at the University and to audiences nationally,” said David Redman, who retired in 2012 after 39 years serving as assistant, associate and acting dean of the Graduate School. “He cared deeply for graduate students and spent much of his efforts as dean in creating a better environment for them, financially and socially so that they could do their work with a minimum of distraction, complete their degrees and then join the ranks of teachers, researchers and scholars around the world.”

Redman continued: “Whenever Ted spoke to an audience of graduate students, we on the staff would speculate, with amusement, when he would utter his favorite mantra, a Latin motto carved into the great fireplace in Procter Hall, a motto which speaks not only to his service as Dean of the Graduate School but also to his life: “*Bonus intra, melior exi* — you entered good, you left better.”

Ziolkowski was born on September 30, 1932, in Birmingham, Alabama. His mother, née Cecilia Jankowski, a second-generation Polish-American, taught piano. His father, Mieczysław Ziółkowski, immigrated to the United States from Poland. A composer and concert pianist, he was a music professor at the present-day

University of Montevallo during the Great Depression. He peppered his English with proverbs in Latin, German, Polish and Russian. The lush linguistic texture of the household inspired both his children, Ted and his younger brother and future classicist John, to immerse themselves in languages.

Ziolkowski graduated from Duke University at age 18 in 1951 and married Yetta Goldstein, a fellow Alabamian whose father had also emigrated from what is today Poland. He earned his master's at Duke and his Ph.D. from Yale University in 1957, after studying in Austria on a Fulbright Fellowship.

Alan Keele, a 1972 graduate alumnus in Germanic languages and literatures stayed in close touch with his former professor for nearly a half century up until his death. "I owe to Ted Ziolkowski the entire trajectory of my own research, publishing and teaching efforts: his enormously broadly informed thematic erudition, a complexity he reduced to dazzling clarity, remains today my ideal of how scholarship should be undertaken," said Keele, an emeritus professor of German studies at Brigham Young University.

During his time at Princeton, Keele said that Ziolkowski and his wife Yetta "became almost literally our *Doktoereltern*, surrogate parents who made me (as well as my wife Linda and our three small children at the time) feel like much more than just another of many students: they wholeheartedly accepted us into their lives and into the lives of their own children and grandchildren."

Keele recommended one of his own students at Brigham Young University, Scott Abbott, to Ziolkowski, and Abbott went on to earn

his Ph.D. in German languages and literatures at Princeton in 1979, with Ziolkowski as his dissertation adviser. Now a professor of Integrated Studies, Philosophy and Humanities at Utah Valley University, Abbott said: "Whenever I write a letter of recommendation for a student, I ask myself: What would Ted write? The recommendation he wrote for me as I finished my Ph.D. was lengthy, specific and generous. My work over the decades on Freemasonry in the German novel, on the meanings of barbed wire, and on the standing metaphor has drawn heavily on his methodology for tracing themes, motifs and images in literature."

Maria Tatar, a 1971 graduate alumna in German languages and literatures and the John L. Loeb Research Professor of Germanic Languages and Literatures and of Folklore and Mythology at Harvard University, remembered the "weekly fix" of Ziolkowski's graduate seminars in Firestone Library. The era was tumultuous, she said — students were protesting the presence on campus of recruiters for Dow Chemical, W.H. Auden came to read his poetry and Muhammad Ali came to give a lecture about the Vietnam War.

"We were living in what felt like a time of turmoil, but every week, as graduate students studying German literature, we would eagerly wind our way down the rabbit hole of Firestone's stairs into a cozy seminar room, discovering the wonders of Goethe, Nietzsche, Hesse and Kafka with a professor we affectionately called 'Zilko,' she said. "We were all sure that he had a witty, erudite reclusive *doppelgänger* who wrote all those prize-winning books while he played the trumpet, taught classes [and] mentored students. Every day I count my

lucky stars that some fair wind brought me to Princeton, where Ted Ziolkowski became my role model and *Doktorvater* [Ph.D. adviser], then colleague and friend.”

Ziolkowski served as president of the Modern Language Association in 1985 and the Association of Graduate Schools in 1992. He was a member of the American Philosophical Society and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a past officer of the International Society of Germanists.

His honors include several Fulbrights, a Guggenheim, the James Russell Lowell Prize and the Henry Allen Moe Prize in the Humanities of the American Philosophical Society. Abroad, his awards include the Commander’s Cross of the German Order of Merit, the Jacob-and-Wilhelm-Grimm Prize of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the Gold Medal of the Goethe Institut, among others.

Many of his family members have pursued careers in the academy. He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Yetta, a published translator; brother John, Professor Emeritus of Classics in Residence at The George Washington University; daughter Margaret, a 1973 Princeton alumna and professor of Russian and chair of the Department of German, Russian, Asian, and Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures at Miami University of Ohio, and her husband Robert Thurston; son Jan, a 1977 alumnus and the Arthur Kingsley Porter Professor of Medieval Latin at Harvard University, and his wife Elizabeth, a 1978 alumna; son Eric, the Helen H. P. Manson Professor of Bible and head of the Department of Religious Studies at Lafayette College, and his wife Lee Upton; a grandson and six

granddaughters — including Saskia, a 2001 alumna and an assistant professor of Italian in Romance Studies at Duke University, and Yetta, a 2009 alumna, along with two great-granddaughters and two great-grandsons.

<https://www.princeton.edu/news/2020/12/09/theodore-ziolkowski-renowned-scholar-german-and-european-literature-and-one-true>

## **PRF and NCIS: STRENGTHENING OUR TIES**

*PRF is an affiliate member of NCIS, the National Coalition of Independent Scholars (<http://www.ncis.org/>). The most obvious value of our being a Partner Group is that PRF members can submit manuscripts, book reviews, and our own books for review to NCIS’s open-access, peer-reviewed journal, The Independent Scholar, [www.ncis.org/the-independent-scholar/tis](http://www.ncis.org/the-independent-scholar/tis) - — see, for example, this Newsletter’s item about Fannie Peczenik’s final essay. Address queries to <mailto:tis@ncis.org>.*

*While PRF members are not automatically NCIS members, by joining NCIS as an individual member – as a number of PRF members have done – you benefit as an individual (want a webpage?), as a member of PRF, and as a part of the larger community of independent scholars.*

*Recently, our President, **Linda Holt**, took part in a long discussion with NCIS officers and presidents of other Partner Groups about the future of independent scholarship and the ways our international community of independent scholars can help each other flourish. Here is Linda’s report on their*

*conversation, followed by a message from Amanda Haste, the President of NCIS. Both welcome your feedback and suggestions.*

## **PRF's voice is heard as a Partner Group of the National Coalition of Independent Scholars**

by Linda Holt, PRF President

The presidents of the six Partner Groups (PGs) of the National Coalition of Independent Scholars (NCIS) have been meeting with the NCIS president and PG chair via Zoom to expand communication among our organizations and eventually increase our interaction and sharing of resources, pursue similar goals and seek solutions to common concerns. Princeton Research Forum (PRF) is a long-time PG (affiliate) of NCIS.

The online meetings have been attended not only by the heads of independent scholar groups in the U.S., but also in the UK and Australia. Amanda Haste, NCIS president, resides in the UK and France, while PG Chair B. Williams Ellertson (“Barbara”) lives in North Carolina. For more information about NCIS, please visit their website, <https://www.ncis.org/>

What follows, in no particular order, is a collection of topics of interest to PRF discussed at the two presidents’ meetings in September 2020 and January 2021. Some of these topics may come up in future PRF Board meetings.

1. Publications. A number of PGs are working on or have published scholarly works of interest. The San Diego group, Dorothy Parker, president, has published a collection of insights and artistic expressions by independent scholars in response

to COVID-19. PRF contributed several pieces to this publication. Another book is the history of the Minnesota Independent Scholars’ Forum, by its president, Lucy Brusic: <https://www.amazon.com/Scholars-Without-Walls-Minnesota-Independent/dp/1634891643>. The Institute for Historical Study in San Francisco, Ann Harlow, president, is celebrating their 40th anniversary; their members are in the process of writing a group history. The PG presidents identified several areas relating to publishing that their members are interested in or have concerns about: self-publishing, open access, and blog reviews were at the top of the list.

2. Relationships and Funding. NCIS now refers to Partner Groups, rather than using the previous term, Affiliates. While Partner Groups pay dues to NCIS, we also may apply for funding of special projects, something that PRF may find worth looking into in the years ahead. Partner Groups set their own dues and qualifications, and their individual members do not need to become individual members of NCIS (though some do).
3. H-Scholar. Margaret DeLacy is Editor of H-Scholar, the NCIS resource for independent scholars of the humanities and social sciences: <https://networks.h-net.org/h-scholar>.
4. Defining Scholarship and Reach. NCIS and the Partner Groups continuously explore what it means to be a scholar. PRF is currently pondering whether to keep the organization geographically local or to expand its reach in the age of

- Zoom. It's encouraging to know we can bounce off ideas off our colleagues at the national and international level as well as among the other Partner Groups.
5. Conferences. The Group presidents discussed what conferences will look like this year, next year, and beyond. NCIS is exploring a possible mixture of real-time and virtual conferencing, while others mentioned expanding nature of conferences to include more art, music, and drama: perhaps a scholarly festival!
  6. Works in Progress (WIP). What if a PRF Work in Progress could be attended by independent scholars with particular interests in the topic from other parts of the country and the world? The presidents discussed how this would work and if there could be an exchange program (our members attend another Partner's WIP, then people from that Group attend one of ours).
  7. How to attract young members, future leaders, and hands-on volunteers. The Groups already are exploring these challenges and ready to brainstorm solutions.
  8. Social media. Another area under discussion is the use of social media. Some Groups have Facebook pages, but these are not a good idea for exchanging private or sensitive information. Yet there are many possibilities in social media for attracting new members and expanding the array of resources available to independent scholars. There is potential to expand H-Scholar (<https://networks.h-net.org/h-scholar>) to post announcements and invitations.

9. Keeping up with technology. When I asked the other presidents for their views on storage and other technical issues, I was offered an array of suggestions, ideas, and recommendations that are invaluable. This is a great example of how independent scholars in different organizations around the world can come together to pursue mutual goals.

The NCIS and Partner Groups presidents will continue to meet quarterly to discuss progress and new ideas. PRF members' thoughts and questions are welcome.

### **A message for NCIS members and Partner groups**

Dear Colleagues,

*If you find it in your heart to care for somebody else, you will have succeeded.*

Maya Angelou

The Executive Committee and Board of Directors of NCIS want each and every one of our members to know that we do indeed care for each of you in these months of stress, trial, and loss. We have members who are dealing with deadly coronavirus, wildfires, hurricanes, job losses, as well as other personal challenges that are beyond what any of us can comprehend.

We are a sincere and serious organization. We accept responsibility for academic excellence and integrity. We also will never forget that we are an organization of individual members who honor us with their loyalty and trust. Each of you belongs to our

family. As such, please be assured that we uphold you in this time of collective challenge.

We are a diverse group, representing members from all over the world. If we are to succeed as an organization or as individual scholars, we must also care. Thanks to each of you who support our organization and every individual who has found a home here. Our best wishes are with you all.

Warmest regards,

Amanda Haste, Ph.D.  
President, NCIS  
<http://president@ncis.org>

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **PRF Nominating Committee to present slate of candidates at 2021 Annual Meeting**

As provided in PRF's Bylaws, elections for Executive Board and Standing Committee Chairs will take place at the 2021 Annual Meeting, traditionally in June. Although the date for the 2021 meeting has not yet been set, this year's Nominating Committee has proposed a slate of candidates. All terms run for two years: 2021/2022 and 2022/2023. The candidates are:

President: Linda Holt  
Vice-President: Donn Mitchell  
Treasurer: Joyce Irwin  
Secretary: Roger Moseley  
Members-at-Large: Joan Goldstein  
and Ludmilla Popova-Wightman

Calendar: Connie Goddard  
Grants Officer & NCIS Liaison:  
Karen Reeds  
Library Access: Jamie Gerber  
Membership: Terri McNichol  
Newsletter: Karen Reeds  
Program: Pamela Sheehan  
Publicity: Winifred Hughes  
Webmaster: Lina Genovesi  
Work in Progress/Presentation  
Seminars: Ellen Gilbert

The Board thanks each and every one of these committed members for their continuing support, especially Connie Goddard who is new to the Forum. The Board would also like to thank Grayson Barber and Jamie Gerber for stepping into two new volunteer positions as Newsletter Associate Editor and Digital Resources Support, respectively.

The Board also thanks the Nominating Committee chair, Linda Arntzenius, and committee members, Joan Goldstein, Winnie Hughes, Pam Sheehan, and Linda Holt *ex officio* for their efforts drawing up this slate.

## MAILING ADDRESS & WEBSITE

PRF's mailing address is:  
Princeton Research Forum, P.O. Box 264,  
Kingston, NJ 08528-0264. Our website is:  
[www.princetonresearchforum.org](http://www.princetonresearchforum.org). For  
inquiries: [info@princetonresearchforum.org](mailto:info@princetonresearchforum.org).

## WORK-IN-PROGRESS

To arrange for a work-in-progress or presentation, please contact WIP Chair Ellen Gilbert.

## **DUES REMINDER**

PRF observes the academic year from September 1 through August 31. Annual dues for an individual are \$40; the bargain price for a couple is \$60. A lifetime membership is \$400. The official deadline for receipt of dues for 2020-2021 will be December 31, 2020. But it's not too late to mail checks for 2020-2021 (nor too early for 2021-2022) to:

**Princeton Research Forum  
PO Box 264,  
Kingston, NJ 08528-0264.**

## **PRF PRESENTATION GRANTS**

Giving a talk at a meeting? Save your receipts and apply for a PRF Presentation Grant when you get home. The grants help our members cover some of the costs of registration, travel, and accommodation. The first five grants awarded in a given year are named in honor of our late colleague, Frankie Hutner (1918–2014), a founding member of PRF whose generosity continues to fund these grants.

Grants are awarded on a rolling basis, with no annual deadline. To be eligible,

applicants must be PRF members in good standing for at least one year, must be an independent scholar, must incur presentation-related expenses in excess of \$300 that are not fully reimbursed by any other grant or institution, and must not have received more than one Presentation Grant within the previous five years.

If you meet the criteria, please send your documentation as soon as you have given a presentation to: Karen Reeds, PRF Grants Committee. Grant recipients are asked to write a short item about the presentation and conference for the PRF Newsletter.

**Pandemic note** If your presentation was or will be online, talk to Karen about ways a PRF Presentation Grant might apply to costs you've incurred.

## **NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE**

**Summer/Fall Issue:** *deadline* mid-late September for publication October 15.

**Winter Issue:** *deadline* mid-late January for publication February 15.

**Spring Issue:** *deadline* mid-late April for publication May 15.

## **PRINCETON RESEARCH FORUM OFFICERS 2019-2021**

President: Linda Holt

Vice-President: Linda Arntzenius

Treasurer: Joyce Irwin

Secretary: Roger Moseley

### **Members-at-Large:**

Joan Goldstein

Ludmilla Popova-Wightman

### **Committee Heads:**

Calendar: Pat Hyatt; *pro tem* Terri McNichol

Grants Officer & NCIS Liaison: Karen Reeds

Library Access: Jamileh Gerber

Membership: Terri McNichol

Newsletter: Karen Reeds

Program: Pamela Sheehan

Publicity: Winifred Hughes

Webmaster: Lina Genovesi

Work in Progress/Presentation Seminars:

Ellen Gilbert

### **Chairs of Study Groups:**

Humanities: Ashwini Mokashi

Poetry: Winifred Hughes

Science/Science History: Boris Katz