

The background of the entire page is a close-up photograph of the American flag, showing the red and white stripes and the blue field with white stars. The flag is draped and slightly wrinkled, creating a sense of movement and texture.

# HISTORICAL STUDENT TIMES

DISPLAY

COPY

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# MEET THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT

## CLAIRE FREESTON MEETS IONA MCCLEERY TO TALK ABOUT SOME OF HISTORY'S MORE INTRIGUING WOMEN, WHALES AND THE VIEW OUT OF THE OFFICE'S WINDOW...

### Why History?

I was introduced to it from a very young age. From when I was about five my father used to tell bedtime stories based on historical characters like Florence Nightingale which I loved. I was also taken round many castles and stately homes when I was younger; my parents used to have to drag me away from all the paintings and art.

### What period do you specialise in?

Medieval! This year, I'm giving some of the lectures for the first year 'Medieval and Renaissance' module and a Historical Skills one centred on the Black Death. In second year I teach 'Patient Voices' and 'Queenship'. And in third year, I teach the 'Before Columbus' special subject. My favourite is 'Patient Voices' as that's closest to my personal research area but all the topics are different and the range is broad; I have too many interests really.



### Why Leeds?

The job fitted exactly what I wanted. I was brought up in Yorkshire, though I was actually born in East Africa, so it did feel like coming home when I started working here. Other attractions were the fantastic library as well as the chance to work closely with the renowned Institute for Medieval Studies.

### Can you give us a brief summary of your career since University?

I studied at St Andrews and then had short teaching contracts at both Durham and Edinburgh Universities before settling in Leeds in Autumn 2007. I'm looking forward to settling down and very glad not to have to move house so often; I've moved four times in the last five years!

### Have you had any work published?

Yes, several articles and I'm currently working on my book which will be about medicine in late medieval Portugal. I spent the summer in Portugal writing and researching and I work on it when I'm not busy teaching. There's a void in translated Portuguese history which is a shame so when I'm over there I buy as many books as I can and I try to go to conferences too to hear about cutting-edge research – those events are also a great opportunity to network with publishers.

**If you could have three historical dinner party guests, who would they be?** Well, first would be Florence

Nightingale as she was apparently very argumentative and spent the last years of her life as a recluse so she would be interesting to talk to. Second would be Blanche of Castile, a thirteenth century queen and regent of Louis IX. Again, she was very opinionated and interesting although those two women would definitely clash so I'd invite William of Rubruck to keep the peace! He was a Franciscan missionary who travelled to China in the thirteenth century. For the record, I would never invite Columbus; he was far too arrogant!

### If you could be one historical figure for one day, who would you be and when would you be them?

As much as I teach about the medieval period, I wouldn't want to live in it, especially as a woman! I think the best way to do it would be a wealthy, independent widow as the poorer classes had quite a miserable existence. On the male side, I reckon the Popes lived pretty well so I wouldn't mind being Pope Innocent III...

### What's your favourite place to go out in Leeds?

I love going to the cinema and have done since I was small – the first film I ever saw was Disney's *Cinderella* when I was six and I don't think I've ever got over the awe of that experience! When I eat out, I love going to 'Fuji Hiro' near 'Morrisons' which is a lovely Japanese restaurant – I'd recommend it as the food is consistently good. And if anyone has a cold or a blocked nose, the chilli beef ramen will definitely sort you out...

### Do you have any amusing anecdotes from your time as a tutor at Leeds?

Well, us new staff have revolutionised the department recently; we get chocolate cake in Staff Meetings these days! Also, me and my female colleagues have dinner together about once a semester; it's nice to have a bit of female solidarity as the department is quite male-dominated. We have a bit of rivalry between us in the Parkinson Building and those who have offices in Michael Sadler too which is fun. Speaking of, I like my office and I'm particularly attached to my view... [Editor's Note: we considered the view out of the window and I can concur that it is quite acceptable.]

**Complete this sentence: "During my History lectures, I want to..."** ...know what people are saying when they're whispering!

### Any as of yet unfilled ambitions?

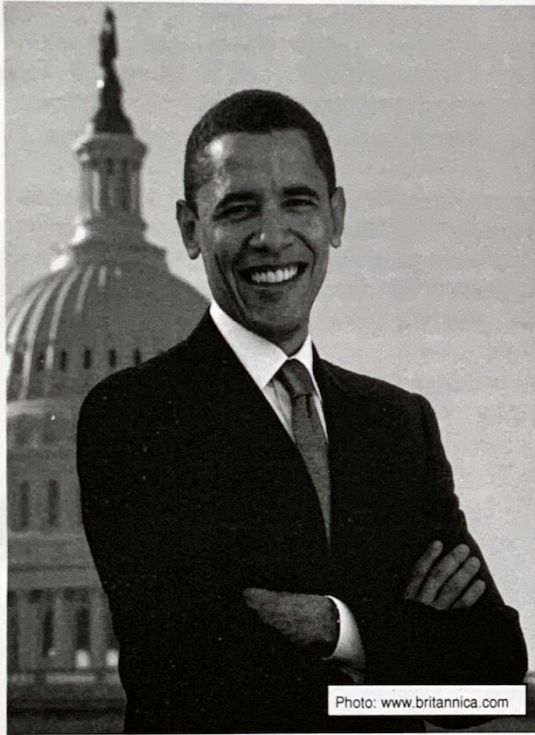
I'd love to do some travelling and would like to see Peru. Oddly, I'd also like to see a whale as I struggle to imagine the size of them so being in a boat next to one would be an amazing experience. Then of course there's my book to finish. I've had enough of moving around really – there's plenty here in Leeds to keep me busy.





# THE SIGNIFICANCE OF OBAMA'S ELECTION

JEMMA THOMPSON INVESTIGATES WHAT THE RECENT ELECTION MEANS FOR THE AMERICAN NATION



In the words of the President Elect himself, "change has come to America."

On November 4<sup>th</sup> 2008, Barack Obama made history when he was elected the first black President of America. Not so long ago, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 saw African Americans gaining the vote in America and for many it was almost unimaginable that one of their number would ever be elected president. If there is one word that has been used more than any other to describe this election it is "historic." The spontaneous celebrations that erupted throughout America revealed just how important this election was and because of that significance, I think it is important that we take some time to look at why this victory was so well received and what it means for the American nation.

It almost goes without saying that for African Americans, the election of Barack Obama is a hugely symbolic victory after more than a century of resistance and struggle for equality. Initially after the Civil War, as newly freed slaves, African Americans made significant progress when they were provided civil and political rights. For the first time in American politics, African Americans served in Congress and were elected to state and local offices in the South. However, in 1877 following the end of Reconstruction,

African Americans were gradually deprived of these gains

previously made as racial bitterness against them greatly increased. This culminated in 1896 as the Supreme Court made a landmark decision in making racial segregation constitutional with the passing of *Plessy v. Ferguson*. This paved the way for the repressive Jim Crow laws in the Southern states in which public institutions, generally of inferior quality, were designated for blacks and led to future decades of struggle for African Americans as they fought to regain the rights previously been taken from them. The 1960s, the decade of the Civil Rights Movement and Black Power, is often viewed as the period of most success with the passage of both the Voting Rights Act and the Civil Rights Act, specifically prohibiting racial discrimination in voting, education, and the use of public facilities. However, this could be set to change, as 2008 may become the year that African Americans believe true redemption was finally achieved.

In his Concession Speech, Senator John McCain highlighted the historic significance of Barack Obama's presidential campaign. He described the event of 16th October 1901 during which Booker T. Washington, the founder of the Tuskegee Institute, a school of higher education for African Americans, attended the White House for dinner with President Roosevelt. McCain stated that contemporaries viewed this with outrage and highly disapproved. Comparing this to the events of 4th November 2008, McCain said, "America today is a world away from the cruel and frightful bigotry of that time. There is no better evidence of this than the election of an African-American to the presidency of the United States," and then went on to praise, "We never hide from history. We make history."

While this election constitutes a huge significance for African Americans, it is also a symbolic victory for all American citizens as it signifies the end of the Bush Administration. These past years have provoked huge dissatisfaction with the previous regime as American and global views maintain that Bush's responses to Hurricane Katrina, the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts and the current economic crisis have been poor. The historian Eric Foner stated, "Obama's victory arises from a powerful popular desire for change after one of the most disastrous administrations in American history." Barack Obama was elected by a large number of people, black and white, young and old and it is because of this that the significance of this election is particularly great. So, as America looks to the future it seems that this election is hugely important for all Americans. And when the President Elect said that "change has come to America," they truly hoped it had.





# WHO DO YOU THINK THEY ARE?

FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE SUCCESSFUL BBC SERIES AND THE SUBSEQUENT RISE OF GENEALOGY AS A HOBBY, DORINDA GEAR DELVES INTO THE HERITAGE OF SOME OF THE SCHOOL OF HISTORY'S STAFF, EXAMINING JUST SOME OF THEIR ANCESTRY. THIS MONTH'S SPOTLIGHT IS ON:

## SIMON HALL

Recent political events across the water have made America's social and economic state a subject of popular debate across international media. The country, once under fire for its enthusiasm for invading Iraq is now under scrutiny for its financial sector's mis-management; being the alleged catalyst for the 'credit crunch' and a detrimental domino-style collapse of the banking sector on a worldwide scale. But in spite of this, there is a renewed sense of hope gripping many American citizens, after the election of the country's first black president, Barack Obama.



Simon Hall is the School of History's Senior Lecturer in the history of the United States; specialising in the history of the American South, the Civil Rights Movement and post-1945 social and political history. For him, the current social and political debates opened up by Obama's success will make the here and now a particularly interesting period in history, but do not mark an end to the Civil Rights struggle. "The election of an elite figure like Obama alone is not an end to all of the problems that Blacks face in America. The goal was never merely to elect a black president. The vision of the Civil Rights Movement included much wider issues, like economic justice and social

equality."

History is a subject Barack Obama cannot afford to ignore as he begins his presidency; and it is already being brought to the fore in the debates on race, economy, and American domestic finances. Simon echoes some of the media references to past presidents when he says "the real test of Barack Obama's presidency will be what changes he makes for ordinary citizens. The two big themes that Obama has brought together are what relation his appointment has to the Civil Rights Movement, and the way the current economic climate draws focus to Roosevelt's election in the 1930's; and whether Obama will be, or should be as prolific as FDR was in the first 100 days of his presidency."

Citing the increase in recent times of A-Level studies of American History as another source of heightened awareness of events, he is quick to point out that American history "has been popular for a long time, and current events haven't really changed the level of that popularity; except that maybe now it seems a more glamorous subject somehow than British history." With the historical reflections of many media reports, one of the many advantages for a lecturer in American History is that, "now students can have a better understanding, hopefully of events, and I can refer them to an article in the *Times* or the *Guardian* and that can make the history leading up to them seem more accessible."

Simon's own interest in American History was not sparked until the final year of his undergraduate degree at the University of Sheffield. Excited by the Civil Rights Movement, and the fact that it was, "ordinary people [who were] coming together to make a difference," he pursued an MA in American History before spending time at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and the prestigious Yale. It was after a short spell at another prestigious university on home shores; Cambridge, that Simon finally came to Leeds. The nod to a certain football team on the school's website biography is a dead giveaway to his roots in Cheltenham, deepest Gloucestershire. Cheltenham Spa bills itself as England's 'most complete Regency town,' and proudly boasts of its Regency houses, historic Promenade and 'cosmopolitan ambience.' Charles Dickens regularly visited his actor-manager friend William Charles Macready, who had retired to live in Cheltenham's Wellington Square during the 1860s, and a legion of historical figures have been





associated with the town; from Daniel Defoe, to Gustav Holst, to early Rolling Stones guitarist Brian Jones.

Many of Simon Hall's family worked in civil defence in the Cheltenham area, having settled there when the company was moved from Dorset for safety during the Second World War. Hailing mainly from Weymouth and Portland, where many people worked for the same civil defence company, his family was historically a military one, on maternal and paternal lines. Simon's father was a Senior Aircraftsman in the RAF before joining his mother at the civil service. Both his grandfathers were army men. His maternal grandfather was a career officer in the Royal Signals Corp. serving in Palestine and Cyprus just after the Second World War and also later joined the ranks of the civil service, a common move for demobbed officers at the time. He had met his future wife while working as a supervisor in a torpedo factory and it was only later that the couple discovered they had both been in the same bombing raid in Dorset in 1940, from which they had been lucky to escape.



Dorset was a favoured target area for German bombers during the Second World War, particularly the Weymouth and Portland areas where Simon's family hailed from. The towns were close to ports, airfields and supply dumps and suffered repeated raids from May onwards of that year. It's thought that tens of thousands of bombs were dropped by the Luftwaffe during the Dorset Blitz, including more than four thousand heavy high explosives, and thirty thousand smaller 'incendiary' devices.

The line of family members in military service also includes both of Simon's maternal great uncles; one being a career officer in the Royal Navy and another who, having emigrated to Canada during the Great Depression; the massive economic slide of the 1930s, joined the Royal Canadian Navy. While assured employment with the forces, he would have found Canada a bleak environment at the time. In the early thirties Canadian industrial production fell lower than almost any other nation's, and national income fell to almost half it's level in previous years.

On the other side of the family tree, Simon's paternal grandfather served in the British Army, on lengthy tours

with the Royal Engineers Corp. He saw action in the deserts of North Africa, jungles of Burma and mountainous terrain of Italy during World War II. The Engineers were essentially the maintenance men of the army; equipped with special skills that saw them constructing bases and bridges, maintaining utilities, repairing lines of transport, and deactivating minefields, as well as overseeing the logistical demands of moving huge numbers of men and supplies.

Simon Hall's family history can be traced back almost to the Jurassic period, or at least to a connection with it; his maternal great-grandfather was a one-time baker and sometime quarryman, who worked in a Dorset quarry renowned, as are many others in the area for the production of Portland Stone. On the Dorset coast, Thomas Hardy once described Portland as; "Carved by time out of a single stone." At one time, over eighty quarries existed on the 'Isle of Portland'. These days only eight quarries remain, and the conception of Portland stone is largely shaped by the artistic endeavours of the Portland Sculpture & Quarry Trust, as well as their preservation of the masonry skills used by the old quarry gangs little more than thirty years ago. For a more local example of the qualities of the stone, and its use in the construction of public buildings, students need only to skip the bus for a day and take a walk to Leeds University via Millennium Square. Leeds Civic Hall, one of Leeds' most noted and most elegantly designed public buildings was built using stone from the Portland quarries.



As we return to the present day, there can be no doubt that the next American president has left a lasting impression on the history books before his inauguration in January 2009. While the next chapter in his career and its affect on American History is uncertain, the history of the department's Senior Lecturer in that field can certainly be described as set in stone...

In our next issues, Dorinda Gear will review a behind-the-scenes tour of the National Archives...





# THE DEBATE: SHOULD THE WONDERS OF HISTORY BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC?

MIKE HARRIS AND MICHAEL BIRD MAKE THE MONUMENTAL DECISION

**Michael Bird:** We need to assess the balance between being able to enjoy, experience and learn from a historical place, monument or artefact, and the need to preserve it as a piece of history, national heritage and culture in a more clinical way. Some good examples of contentious items of historical interest are places like Pompeii, the Egyptian 'Valley of the Kings' and Stonehenge, all of which open to the public most of the year round and important cultural images to the countries in which they are to be found.

The benefits of having these intriguing insights into the past open to the masses are numerous. Primarily, the astounding nature of these places and monuments has the potential to inspire visitors of all ages to take a much larger interest in history, something which is obviously important to cultural awareness and cannot necessarily be learned from reading a stale, dusty book in a stuffy library. This can also work the other way round however, providing huge enjoyment to someone that has read the history of a place and then gets to go and experience a piece of it physically. Along with this, the prospective ability for any piece of interesting physical history to inspire art, (in terms of books, paintings or music,) cannot be discounted; one just has to look at the numerous classic films and books based around Roman civilisations, or as a more recent but arguably less creditable example, blockbuster films like 'The Mummy'.

Another important advantage of opening places like Pompeii or Herculaneum to the public is the huge increase in tourism and interest that they bring to their countries of origin. This is obviously healthy for the economies and employment levels of the countries in question, who benefit financially and can use these places as a way to project a sense of their cultural identity globally, as well as gaining a sense of cultural history to attach themselves to.

To clarify my argument however, it should be noted that although I believe all aspects of history should be publically accessible, they should be policed and maintained, in order to preserve them for as long as possible whilst still allowing people to get involved with them. This is where a delicate balance is needed, after all, if all places, monuments and artefacts were to be hidden from the public in order to preserve them forever, their true beauty, purpose and benefits, as described previously, would be lost and they may as well not exist. However, if free access is to be granted, then important pieces of history would be undoubtedly be destroyed very quickly, falling victim to weather, looting and human erosion and their benefits again

gone; Hadrian's wall being a great example of this. Thus, items of historical importance should be exhibited freely, but maintained and preserved with as little interference as possible, to conserve their true historical nature and helpful benefits to society.

**Mike Harris:** Monuments are a remnant of our past that we should strive to protect and should be respected. It is inexcusable that we do not have enough protection on such historic sights such as Stonehenge or Kirkstall Abbey which readily allow people to walk amongst them and experience their aura. Whilst this appears acceptable, it is a worrying possibility that as history is taken more and more for granted by the current generation, we will show an increasing disregard for our heritage and forget what has taken place in a country with arguably the most established and best historical remnants relevant to the current age. Therefore, we should take pride in these monuments that remind us of our past and keep people from potentially spoiling such reminders of great achievements that would otherwise be in danger of falling into historical obscurity.

A recent example of mis-care of monuments is the severe damaging of the Cutty Sark on the 21<sup>st</sup> May 2007, which was the victim of an arson attack whilst undergoing restoration work. The cause of the fire was suspected arson, and a full investigation was launched by Scotland Yard only to find results inconclusive. Whilst never proven, the sheer ignorance of those responsible for such an historic ship is a cause for concern, and a reminder that we need to take more care with these monuments. A more low key example of historical relics being damaged would be Silsbury Hill. 4,700 years old and manmade, it has been damaged severely by visiting tourists; so much so, that in 2004, attempts were made for it to be reclassified as a building in order to protect it.

Children must be taught to respect their historical past and I believe a sense of national pride should be injected into the young in order to respect their culture. The only option in preserving such sites is to cut out potentially damaging public access that will eventually erode historical memory. Other such treasured sites are under as much threat as Silsbury Hill, such as Hadrian's Wall and Stonehenge, and I believe they are taken for granted for what they represent to people today. Therefore, these monuments should only be allowed to be visited for restricted viewing as opposed to full public access. Through education, it is getting increasingly tough for people to fully appreciate the depth and breadth of world history, and because of this it should be our ultimate priority to preserve these treasured monuments of the past.





# A HISTORY OF CHILD WELFARE

## AFTER THE RECENT TRAGIC DEATH OF BABY P, SIAN BALLETT INVESTIGATES WHAT LESSONS SHOULD BE LEARNED FROM LOOKING TO THE PAST

Recently there has been a very high profile case concerning child welfare in the media; that of the tragic case of Baby P, killed by abuse at just seventeen months. This story shocked the nation. Baby P was on the "at risk register" and had had over sixty visits from social and health workers in his short life. Four reviews, including a nationwide one, are to be conducted in an effort to discover how this travesty was allowed to occur. The doctor who failed to notice Baby P's injuries has been suspended, his mother has pleaded guilty to causing his death and her boyfriend and lodger have been found guilty of causing the death of Baby P.

This type of event happens all too often. In 2000, the death of eight year old Victoria Climbié became public knowledge. This little girl died of 128 injuries, inflicted upon her by her guardians, even though her case and potential plight was made known to four social services departments. Similarly, Baby P's mother has been accused of "sacrificing" her son for a new life. Sharon Shoemith, Head of Haringey Children's Services stated that, "The very sad fact is that we can't stop people who are determined to kill children." This shocking statement indicates that despite reviews and reforms being introduced to prevent this occurring, this type of tragic incident threatens to be a repeated theme in the future.

Historically too, this idea can be traced back as far as ancient Carthage where urns, dating from 400-200 BC have been found which contain the bones of children who were sacrificed by their parents. Similarly, as late as the end of the nineteenth century men who were brought into the Old Bailey accused of rape were often acquitted as it was believed that intercourse with virgins could cure venereal disease. These are just two examples from a seemingly long, but equally gruesome history of child abuse; a sad legacy that, remembering Baby P's suffering which ended just weeks ago, does not quite seem to have left society even today.

The evolution of parent-child relations were seen as a source of historical change for child welfare. Lloyd de-Mause found that, "If the parent – the mother, for most of history – is given even the most minimal support by society, the evolution of childhood progresses, new variations in historical perspective are formed, and history begins to move in new, innovative directions." Social services have long believed that more support for families is the answer however, it is difficult to see how an over-stretched social worker can offer the required amount of support needed by these desperate parents. Also, support can only be given to and will only be welcomed by those who are willing to co-operate.

John Locke's *Some Thoughts Concerning Education*, (which was published in 1693), was extremely popular in the Enlightenment period and highlights the increasing contemporary perception that education was important for children so that they may one day become a successful parent themselves. However, we must ask ourselves if all well-educated people are good parents? Pre-Enlightenment, the idea that children were born lumbered with original sin was prevalent but even later as this idea became less popular, the basic ideas have remained and the issue is applicable to current situations. The idea of a child or abuse of a child as the manifestation of a parent's guilt is central to many abuse cases today.

Child abuse is a relatively new concept and so it follows that most child protection measures are too. Child abuse gained its modern understanding by the American medical establishment as 'battered-child syndrome' in 1962. What is defined as childhood throughout history has changed greatly, and what is deemed acceptable in relation to this has also altered. In 1778, the British Parliament passed legislation to protect chimney sweeps. It was as late as 1885, when an age of consent for sex was finally imposed in England due to a London journalist's shocking revelations that, "A Child of Thirteen Bought for Five Pounds". As Britain progressed into the nineteenth century we then see the emergence of various Factory Acts and the limitation of child labour in conjunction with the Industrial Revolution. However, it is obvious that protection for children against this long history of exploitation was far from forthcoming and it leads us to question whether the British government is simply reactionary in combating child abuse and whether this is still the case today.





# WILL OBAMA KEEP HIS PROMISES?

## MARISHKA VAN STEENBERGEN DISCUSSES OBAMA'S PRESIDENTIAL RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AND THEIR CAMPAIGNS TO STOP HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES

Few will disagree that the election of a black African American president as commander in chief of the biggest superpower on earth, is a momentous achievement. It signals how far the world, or at least America, has progressed since the fight for the abolition of slavery and equality between races. Yet, whilst America provides a shining example for the rest of the world; there are still many basic human rights issues that need to be dealt with. On the 11 November 2008 an Amnesty International report claimed that "After a week of international attention on the election of Barack Obama, the human rights organisation is warning that 'it's business as usual on Death Row USA', with seven executions scheduled in the United States in the next 10 days alone." Whilst most of Europe and the world celebrate Barack Obama's victory, Amnesty International has lost no time in urging Obama to "set a precedent for human rights reforms at this early stage of his term."

Amnesty International is an independent and democratic organisation who stand up for human rights. Their purpose is to protect individuals wherever justice, fairness, freedom and truth are denied. They claim that at the heart of their work is "the belief that ordinary people can take action to right the wrongs done to individuals anywhere in the world." The director of Amnesty International UK recognised the victory of President-Elect Obama as confirmation of the "simple belief in the collective power of individual voices." But Amnesty are not the only ones counting on Obama to fulfil his promises. On the day of his victory, West Midlands Liberal Democrat MEP Liz Lynne welcomed the historic triumph and said that she hoped that Mr. Obama's election would turn the tide on the eight years of neglect for fundamental human rights overseen by the Bush administration.

Obama has a history of campaigning for human rights. Since 2005, as U.S. Senator for Illinois, he helped raise awareness about Darfur and called on the administration to do more to reduce global poverty. In March 2007, he introduced a resolution to condemn the Zimbabwean government for repressive and violent actions against its people. Out of the many promises made during his campaign, there were those which looked to the restoration of human rights in America. Obama vowed to close the prison at Guantánamo Bay, end the practice of rendition, and renounce torture as an interrogation tactic. In order to ensure he does carry out these promises, Amnesty International has decided to call on

President-Elect Obama to take immediate action in the first 100 days of his new administration. They are urging him to do three things: announce a plan and date to close the prison at

Guantánamo Bay, issue an executive order banning the use of torture and other cruel, inhuman treatment and call for the creation of an independent commission of inquiry to investigate abuses that have been committed by the U.S. in the "war on terror."

President-Elect Obama has already begun fulfilling these promises when he announced on the 11th of November, that he intends to uphold his campaign pledge of closing Guantanamo Bay prison as one of his first acts upon being sworn in as President. Liz Lynne expressed her pleasure at this news, claiming that "Since 2002 the detention centre has been a heavy cloud over the human right's landscape. It is illegal, immoral and irresponsible. Shutting it down will be a clear sign that the USA under Mr Obama will be a place where fundamental human rights and International Law are respected once more."

However, is it realistic to expect a president to carry out the promises he makes during a campaign? Aren't these promises simply ploys to gain votes? Ashley Johnson claims in her article 'Promises to Keep' (*National Journal Magazine*, July 2008) that "If history is any guide, the next president will attempt to follow through on the vast majority of pledges made on the campaign trail." Johnson shows that politicians take their public statements seriously and know that they are going to be held accountable by the media and opposition. Jeff Fishel, a professor of government at American University, studied presidential performance in the 1985 book *Presidents & Promises*. Fishel tracked campaign pledges from John F. Kennedy through Ronald Reagan and determined that presidents followed through about 66 percent of the time. Obviously we have to take into account the unknown events and factors which occur outside of the president's control. In his campaign for a third term in 1940, Roosevelt repeatedly pledged, "Your boys are not going to be sent into any foreign wars." Yet, the U.S. entered World War II immediately after Japan bombed Pearl Harbor in 1941. The unpredictable future will also influence whether we actually want the President to stick to some promises, as seen in the recent economic crises. However, when it comes to human rights, no unforeseen circumstances can change the need for every country to respect and maintain the principles laid out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948). If history shows that presidents do follow through on their promises, Amnesty International is entirely justified in urging President-Elect Obama to carry out the promises he made during his campaign. Obama's election showed that when everyone fights for one thing, it can be achieved. As individuals the Americans were able to play a part in 'making history', it is now up to the individuals of the world to continue to 'make history' by urging President-Elect Obama to fulfil his promises on human rights.





# OBAMA'S ARRIVAL

## JOSH BLACK DISCUSSES THE NEW PRESIDENT'S PLACE IN HISTORY

Barack Obama was last month elected President of the United States of America. Everywhere it is proclaimed that this election has made history. Yet, despite the obvious symbolism alluded to in Obama's own acceptance speech, "let no-one doubt that in America all things are possible", unless one believes the destiny of the USA to have been the election of a black man, history is instead poised to unravel before us. Obama takes office in January faced with a society divided by a war perceived as destructive and wholly disenchanted by the partisanship of Washington. In addition, his cabinet will have to deal with an economic crisis and live up to promises no less grandiose than the large offerings of 'change' and 'hope.'

Americans cherish their history as they cherish their providence. They venerate those who lead their country to greater things and they rarely forgive those who cause it embarrassment. Obama is the first Democrat to gain more than 50% of the popular vote since 1976. Jimmy Carter's presidency was not auspicious – four years later he was crushed by Reagan for daring to suggest that the American Dream could become a nightmare if the United States did not take the environment seriously. The 2008 election was unusual, in that both candidates were pessimistic about the chances of the economy. McCain wished to paint himself as a man of experience and technical ability, while Obama preferred to hammer away at the mess caused by Bush's tax cuts. The economy is the area where Obama will most have to deliver in the next four years – for the sake of his re-election, as well as his legacy. The three most radical presidents in the history of the United States; Jackson, Lincoln and FD Roosevelt all enacted dramatic economic reform; the first by vetoing the extension of the federal bank's tenure, the second by abolishing slavery and giving full reign to the industrial expansion of the North, and the third with his attempt to stimulate America out of depression by creating public works and welfare.

One of Obama's major promises, and the contents of what is probably the best section of his book, *The Audacity of Hope*, is an end to the partisanship that divides Washington. That partisanship is a product of the 'conservative revolution' that was a reaction to the liberalism and Democratic dominance of the Sixties and Seventies. Obama's prospects look fairly dim. His office is so far staffed with the same people who worked for Clinton between 1993 and 2001. Touching contentious issues will do him no favours with a Republican Party that, far from adapting, appears to be digging its heels in ideologically. Obama has not earned a great deal of trust from his fellow politicians; breaking a promise to accept only federal election funding when he realised he could out-spend McCain.

To be able to reach out and attempt to rebuild his bridges,

Obama has to be sure of having his own party behind him. Being an admirer of Lincoln, he will no doubt be aware of Doris Kearns Goodwin's book *Team of Rivals*, in which she traces the political genius of the Great Emancipator in reconciling all three of his rivals for the Republican nomination into a functioning cabinet. His prospective appointment of Hilary Clinton as Secretary of State is clearly an attempt to emulate that success, but she will need close supervision to prevent her using the office for her own ends.



The example that is more commonly followed in American politics is that of Andrew Jackson. Jackson's election in 1832 is notable for several reasons; it brought the spoils system to Washington, (rewarding support with offices,) and his election promise of bringing an end to corruption was a victim of its own success – by promoting change, it was almost impossible to meet the expectations aroused, something which Obama acknowledged in his distinctly sober victory speech. But more significantly, Jackson's election greatly improved the responsibilities of the presidency. He famously proclaimed that it was the "duty of every citizen to interpret the constitution, as he understands it." That claim seemed scandalous at the time, and began the process by which states began to assert their rights. Today, that danger is still real – while the Union may be secure, Obama cannot afford to govern solely in the interests of the Northern states if he is to usher in a new epoch in American politics.

Jemma Thompson has already written an excellent article on the symbolism of Obama's victory which appears in this issue. I just want to add that there is an undercurrent that sits uncomfortably in African-American thought – that it is not enough to be a descendent of Africans, but that it is the descendents of slaves that are the true African-Americans. I do not deny Obama his triumph, nor his supporters' happiness but if his presidency is not an indisputable success, expect to see that small minority become more vocal. The history of Obama's office will be written by people with an interest in its fruits. So it is therefore in another of Obama's favourite terms – 'Unity' that his fate lies.





## IN THIS MONTH...

### GRACE PERRETT DIVES INTO HISTORY TO DISCOVER WHAT HAPPENED 53 YEARS AGO



"She sat down in order that we all might stand up..."

In December 1955, in Montgomery, Alabama, Rosa Parks, an African-American civil rights activist, chose to fight against the laws of racial segregation that dominated everyday life in America, by refusing to give up her seat on a bus to a white man. Her actions proved to be the spark which led to the Montgomery Bus boycott and the beginning of the Civil Rights Movement in America.

After 1876, post civil war 'Reconstruction' saw state-sanctioned racial discrimination and oppression

reign supreme in the Southern United States. 'Jim Crow Laws' had established the ironic "separate but equal" status of all public places, including restaurants, public transport and even drinking fountains. All buses were divided into black and white seating and if all seats were filled, black passengers were expected to give up their seats to white passengers. Parks' defiance led to her arrest and trial for disobeying the established laws on segregation and this drew together fifty African-American leaders who, inspired by her courage, initiated the Montgomery bus boycott. This was organised by Martin Luther King, who was at that time a little-known Baptist minister. For 381 days the majority of the African-Americans in Montgomery refused to use the public buses, reducing bus revenue by 80% and forcing the authorities to de-segregate all buses in Montgomery. There was a significant backlash from the segregationist, white community; black churches were burned and Martin Luther King's home was bombed in January 1956, yet civil rights campaigning continued with strength and vivacity.

Rosa Parks' actions are still celebrated and led, ultimately, to the Supreme Court declaring segregated buses illegal; many subsequent protests followed, and Martin Luther King was propelled to the head of the Civil Rights Movement. King then went on to protest against racial discrimination until it was outlawed in the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

## CAREER SEARCHING?

### JOCELYN PAYNE SPEAKS TO LEEDS UNIVERSITY ALUMNI TO DISCOVER WHAT THEY ARE DOING NOW...

#### Bob Ross – Chief Inspector in Nottinghamshire Police Force

Bob attended Leeds University in the years 1977-1980, graduating with BA Hons Economics, 2:1. He says "In October 1980 I commenced a temporary job as a driver with the area health authority. This took me through to April 1981 when I joined Nottinghamshire Constabulary. I have stayed with the Police from then on." From 1981, Mr Ross was a Police Constable until his promotion to Sergeant in 1990. Five years later, he was again promoted, through the opportunities presented to him via the Police Force, to the rank of Inspector. A subsequent promotion in 2004 brought Bob to his current position as Chief Inspector.

#### Andy Lister – Sales and Marketing Director

Andy attended Leeds University for his Post-Graduate studies. In 1983 Andy attained a Post Graduate Diploma in Health Education, and followed this with the achievement of a Masters in Education in 1987. He says, "Since leaving Leeds, I've had quite a varied career. Initially I worked for the NHS in Health Promotion, then after this I worked in the Pharmaceutical Industry in various Sales, Marketing and Training positions, for companies including 'Glaxo', 'Astra-Zeneca', and 'Sankyo'. I was eventually promoted to National Sales Manager." In 1998, Andy moved into telecoms, and was employed by 'NTL' and 'COLT Telecoms' in Business Management roles. Later, in 2003 Andy took a job as a Director of a Government Broadband agency in Yorkshire. He said, "In this role I helped set up a Public Sector led Broadband Company, called 'NYnet Ltd', and I was made Sales & Marketing Director, which is what I still do."

#### Not sure what you want to do yet?

Join the History Portal Career Groups to find out about important events, receive information and ask your own questions about how to get into a range of History-suited careers.

[Search in for History in the 'Groups' on the top, right hand corner of the Portal homepage]





# A CULTURAL FEAST IN EAST EUROPE?

JOSH BLACK CRACKS THE MYSTERIES OF KRAKOW...

The Second World War hangs heavy over Krakow, making it feel like a memorial in some respects. In the city itself, the Jewish quarter of Kazimierz, while not quite morbid is eerily empty. Of the six or seven synagogues, only one is now in use and even that one struggles to find the requisite ten people for a service. The biggest shadow over the Krakow area, however, is Auschwitz. Actually a collection of three camps, of only two survive, Auschwitz is about an hour's drive from Krakow and it is easy to get there by public transport, or with a tour guide. I found Auschwitz to be a place of reflection – to follow the details too closely is to miss the point: that never before, and hopefully never again, should such systematic evil be perpetrated against any group of people. To see the mountains of soiled shoes and bleached hair, to walk around the barracks that held six or more people in each bunk and to step inside of the one surviving gas chamber is to feel something of the million individual tragedies buried in its walls.

There really is something for everyone in Poland. There are many sites of historical interest, which will keep everyone from the medievalist to the modern historian happy. In addition, Krakow is simply a wonderful place to have a good time. If you can make your way through all the bars in this city in a week, let alone a long weekend, you don't deserve your liver—though you might just have some money left in your wallet. Everyone there is always delighted to see you and very hospitable. The guide we had on the first day not only offered to put us in touch with a cheap hostel, (run by Polish nuns,) if we ever wanted to visit Jerusalem, but put her own living space at our disposal if we wanted to return to Poland. English is well

and enthusiastically spoken, so much so that you don't feel too embarrassed by your lack of lingual preparation.

The Krakow area contains two UNESCO World Heritage Sites – the same level accorded to the pyramids at Giza – one in its historic centre and the other at the Wieliczka Salt Mines. Here, as well as it all being pretty interesting, the sight of cavernous cathedrals carved into the rock and the still beauty of the underground lakes are a lasting memory. A few notable points of interest should suffice; St Mary's Cathedral on the main square is so massive and splendid that I know nothing quite approaching it. It also contains an altarpiece of great complexity and beauty – try to Google 'Veit Stoss' to see for yourself. The castle area, Wavel Hill, does more extravagance, archaeology, historical sarcophagi and great pancakes. I can also recommend the Paulite Church on the Rock, which has an unimaginable relief of God emerging from the clouds above the altar.

It only remains for me to say something of the nightlife of Krakow. By virtue of its architecture, Krakow often hides these assets away in courtyards, cellars or backstreets, but always with charm. There are jazz bars, bohemian bars and two Irish pubs. Probably the best bets are 'Singers', in Kazimierz which has sewing machines for tables outside and 'Steel Magnolias' in the Old Town for jazz. For those of a different persuasion, or even as a prelude to an evening, many dormant churches do classical music concerts about £ 5 for an hour. Whether you go specifically for one of its attractions, or as a seasoned traveller, I'll answer for it if you don't have an interesting time in Krakow.



The entrance gate to Auschwitz reads 'Work will make you free.'

.....  
Many more travel reviews coming next issue to help while away the winter...





# CONSIDERING A YEAR OUT?

**JAMES MITRA MANAGES TO DRAG ADAM VULLIAMY AWAY FROM HIS NEW L.A LIFESTYLE LONG ENOUGH TO ANSWER OUR QUESTIONS ABOUT STUDYING HISTORY ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE POND...**

Well, I think we can all agree that there is nothing more depressing than pulling back your curtains to see yet another cold, wet and miserable Northern morning. With dissertations looming, debt increasing and the prospect of entering full-time employment during the worst financial crisis the world has ever seen, you wouldn't be blamed for wanting out... So while we're all sneezing into our books in the Edward Boyle library, some of our peers have decided that sampling higher education over the Atlantic is a more attractive way of spending a third year at Uni. But are these studious few really taking out another loan (or further bankrupting their parents...) all in the name of education? Personally, my cynical, not to mention extremely jealous, mind is not convinced.

Following Barack Obama's unprecedented victory in the US election on November 3<sup>rd</sup> there couldn't be a more interesting time to be living in the land of the free, especially in a University setting where the President-Elect has been credited with rejuvenating the youth of America's interest in politics. One of the lucky few Leeds 3<sup>rd</sup> year historians that have left our number is Adam Vulliamy who decided Los Angeles was the perfect place to study – and I'm sure all those fans of the *The O.C* will certainly appreciate his choice in destination! I managed to remove him from the beach so he could give us a few of his thoughts and observations about his first few months studying in the USA.

## **How is life treating in the US?**

Very well. It is sunny and beautiful here.

## **What are the major differences from studying History in Leeds?**

More exams! There are less seminars and essays and the course is more lecture based. Other than that, it's pretty similar although the tutors don't encourage independent reading or thought as much. You have to come up with your own essay titles and theses though which gives you a different sort of freedom.

## **What periods of history have you been studying?**

Modern Italy, Intellectual American history (from colonisation to civil war), and the American Abroad; mostly 19th/20th century sources.

## **Has it been easy making friends and what interaction have you had with other students studying abroad?**

I joined a fraternity, triathlon club and got a job in the central ticket office so I have met a lot of people and made a couple of close friends. I'm sharing an apartment with two guys who I have a makeshift band with. I have seen other study abroad students sporadically,

although when I hear an English accent I certainly gravitate towards it. I have been going to gigs with a Warwick student which provides an occasional respite from Americans...

## **In what ways do you think you have benefited by this opportunity to study abroad?**

I get to live in LA and experience American culture, which is a lot more different than I thought. It also gives me another year to think about what I want to do with my life! And there's always the opportunity to get into more debt...

## **Leeds is an extremely multi-cultural city and university life over here is known for its liberal attitudes, especially with regards to drinking and sexual promiscuity etc – what are your observations about American students and has it been difficult to adjust to their social practices?**

You can see their Puritan heritage coming through for sure. Drinking after 21 means house parties—woo!—but also a later introduction to drinking which I don't think is good. Sexual prudence is more common as well. Having said this, there is a pretty similar emphasis on partying, I am emphasizing the differences here but we are all students after all... I think the strangest thing is how much the people here react to my accent; they don't seem to be able to get over it which is alternately amusing, useful and tiresome.

## **Can you give us an insight into life on your campus at the time of the election?**

It was frustrating not being able to vote but there was a big buzz and we had a good celebration that night, almost everyone was supporting Obama. Proposition 8 banning gay marriage got passed though so there are big demonstrations about that now because California is supposed to be liberal.

## **From your experiences have you noticed any race related tensions surrounding the build up and climax of this momentous event?**

No, the first time I heard that it was the first African American President was when he had won the election; I think his campaign organizers were playing it down. More generally, race is a big issue here, people cringe when I describe someone as black, which I find strange, and there is a lot of hostility between African-Americans and Mexicans.

## **What are you mostly missing about Leeds?**

The people.







# WHAT IF...

## AMERICA HADN'T DECLARED ITS INDEPENDENCE IN 1776?

MARIA CANNON TAKES US ON A TENTATIVE JOURNEY INTO THE WHAT-MIGHT-HAVE-BEEN'S OF HISTORY

*America – the country with the most important political and cultural influence in the twentieth century. But what if they had never declared their independence and had remained under British control and influence?*

In 1492, Columbus discovered America. The British moved in around 1607 and expanded themselves across the continent and by 1732, British control of the thirteen colonies had been established. The mainly European population of America became increasingly annoyed by their lack of representation in the British government and moved towards gaining their independence. And you can see their point – it probably wasn't fair that they paid taxes but had no influence over what they were spent on. They made their feelings known by dumping tea into the Boston Harbour and later declared themselves independent on July 4th 1776. The British government acknowledged this in 1783 and the rest, as they say, is history. I'm not going to argue that America would have remained similarly under Britain's control right up until the present day if independence had not occurred – most of our colonies were granted independence not long after World War Two. But it is interesting to wonder how different the world would have been if America had been a colony up until the 1950s. Would American culture have developed and taken over the world in the same way? Would a conflict with Russia have been possible from a state only just finding its own feet? Let us journey into this parallel reality and speculate to our heart's content...

Culturally, America has spread itself all over the world and you don't seem to be able to get away from it whatever country you happen to find yourself in. Would 'Coca-Cola' and 'McDonalds' still have flourished in a country where British culture and investment was still dominant? I'm not so sure. There's the strong possibility here that 'Wimpy' would be the world's dominant fast food chain! The all-American values and ideas that were spread out across the world through Hollywood movies could not have been the same if America was still being influenced by a different culture. The values they sent out across the world brought people from almost every country to seek a new life there. Would as many people have wanted to move to a country that was still under the control of another? America would be such a different, and less populous, place if it hadn't benefitted from the influx of people from other cultures. On a lighter note, I can't help but think that researching my essays would be a lot easier if British culture had held its own across the English speaking world. The amount of times that I've

realised that the reason I can't find any journal articles on the internet is because I'm searching for "organisation" rather than "organization" infuriates me. The dominance of British over American English would have made my life very slightly easier. Although it's probably not a good enough reason for keeping people under the control of a government that exploits them.

It is probably safe to assume that, in our alternate reality, America would still have been granted its independence after the war like other British colonies such as India. How would the USA have coped at this time as a new country? The majority of the later twentieth century was dominated by the Cold War and tensions between the USA and the Soviet Union but would it have happened with the USA at the beginning of its own nationhood? There is the possibility that history would still have run its course. The US might have chosen to establish itself in the new world order by standing up against the Soviet Union. But it would have been difficult for a struggling new democracy to have achieved this whilst already busy sorting out its own problems. If not, Russia might have come to dominate the world stage on its own since the economies of Britain and France were still in recovery after two devastating World Wars.

Even if Communism hadn't become one of the dominant ideologies of the twentieth century, as a country newly developing its own government and economy, the world today without the dominance of the USA would be a very different place not just because almost every major conflict in the last fifty years has involved America. Human rights and democratic aspiration have combined with a worldwide need for oil and culminated in terrorism and conflicts across the Middle East. It is possible that a newly independent USA would have been involved in these types of war as much as the established one but it would almost have definitely been in a different way, or under different leadership. Barack Obama, as the new President-Elect might not have found that his race was such a barrier; in our "What-If" world, colonialism might have taken the place of racial discrimination. Without the Declaration of Independence, Obama might have been inheriting a country just finding its own feet and establishing its place in the world order. Whatever the main possibilities relating to conflict and Middle Eastern disputes, there is no doubt that the world we've grown up in would be a very different place if the USA had waited to throw off British rule and endured the 20th century as one of our colonies.





# FILM REVIEW

## HISTORICAL BASED FILMS GUARANTEED TO POP YOUR CORN

300'

Director: Zack Snyder

Starring: Gerard Butler, Rodrigo Santoro, Vincent Regan, Andy Tiernan

Based on the Battle of Thermopylae in 480BC, *300* tells the story of how 300 Spartan warriors, led by their king Leonidas (Butler), courageously held the vast Persian army of Xerxes (Santoro), despite being ridiculously outnumbered.

The film starts out well and the opening scenes depicting the Spartan way of life are historically accurate. After this, the emphasis on the strength, pride, and fearlessness of the Spartans rather overshadows the plot; the majority of Leonidas' lines roughly translate to 'Spartans! We are warriors, let's go and get ourselves killed for glory!' to which his army invariably respond 'Oi! Oi! Oi!' Great as a rousing battle-cry, but at the same time it is difficult to shift the image of a University sports team at the start of an Otley Run. This film also has that typical feature of movies with battle scenes, in that the Persians can be killed with just one slash from a Spartan sword, yet the Spartans naturally continue fighting throughout – so what if they've lost an eye? They've got another!

Similarly, the depiction of the 'baddies' is like something out of a fairytale. The wolf slain by Leonidas in his youth actually has fireballs as eyes, and it is impossible to take the Persian war-rhinoceros and elephants seriously. And that's just the animals – the oracle priests may have been inbred, but their portrayal as grotesque, lecherous old men is overkill. Likewise, the Persian elite, the Immortals, are monsters, counting among their numbers giants and strange creatures with blades for arms.

The whole film frequently switches between slow-motion, fast-motion and real-time and this further adds to the unreality, particularly the gobbets of blood suspended in mid-air and graphic dismembering during the battle scenes. Equally, the sex scene – complete with strategic gasping, and serving only to prove that Leonidas isn't swayed by the copious amount of Spartan six-pack on offer – is filmed in the same style. However, this all complies with Snyder's intention of creating a mythological, not a historical representation of the battle, and in this respect, it works well.

On the whole, *300* is great if what you're after is a slightly cheesy action film; or alternatively something to consume a bottle of wine to. But don't use it as a revision aid. You will fail.

# BOOK REVIEW

## WE CRITIQUE THE LATEST LITERARY NOVELTY

### 'The Duchess'

By Amanda Foreman

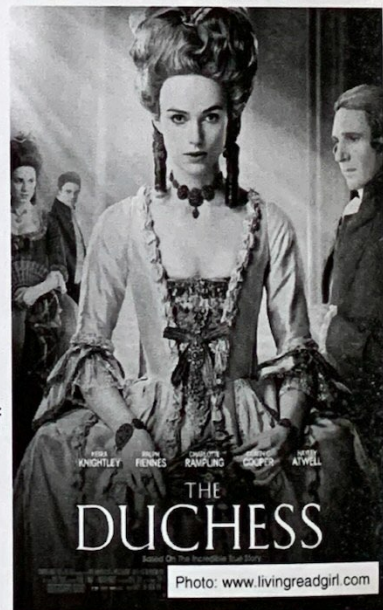
Georgina Duchess of Devonshire undoubtedly led an impressive social and political life but it is Amanda Foreman's narrative that makes it not only a historically accurate and glamorous read but also absolutely engrossing as a novel.

The Duchess of Devonshire was a contemporary of, and is often compared to, Marie Antoinette. Her life was one of luxury, over indulgence, high fashion, high politics and extreme wealth and as with all books about this era, I always enjoy the descriptions of the clothing and tales of the decadent lives led by the elite. However, her privileges were tainted with fertility problems, an adulterous husband, and opium and gambling addictions. Foreman's inclusion of letters to and from Georgiana as well as diary extracts present a more personal insight into the events that

shaped her life and is interesting as they are elements not often explored with reference to women. Having briefly studied the politics of this era and found it

quite dense and difficult to absorb, Foreman provides a clearer insight. Georgiana was a remarkable woman in that she played a significant part in the Whig party considering it was the 18<sup>th</sup> Century; it makes readers reconsider the focus that is put on the movements of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century with regards to women's liberation. During her lifetime, the Duchess was popular with the people, and the attention that she received from the press provided the Whig Party and herself with support.

Reviewed by Katy Durrans





# MEET THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT

MIKE HARRIS SPEAKS WITH DR MATTHEW FRANK ABOUT HIS EXTENSIVE TRAVELLING EXPERIENCES, A MEMORABLE DISSERTATION FAUX PAS AND HIS PENCHANT FOR TINA TURNER...

## Why History?

Initially it was due to a love of narrative, which sparked the imagination when I was younger. As I got older and more politically engaged, I wanted to find out the truth behind the stories I read about and find out why things were the way they were.

## What period do you specialise in?

I specialise in mid Twentieth Century European History

## Why did you choose to teach at Leeds?

Well I love Leeds as a city and the University was attractive to me due to its quality. But also the History department itself impressed me as it's so vibrant and varied, as is the student community. The history students here are a great bunch.

## Where are you from originally?

I'm from South West London

## Can you give us a short summary of your career since University?

Well, after graduating I travelled for a year in Latin America and the former Soviet Union. I then became an English Language teacher for 4 years in Dresden, Germany before going to Oxford to complete a PHD. After this, I went to Sheffield Hallam to do a post-doctoral before finally coming to Leeds.

## What books or articles have you had published?

Just the one – hot off the press! It's called "Expelling the Germans".

## If you could have three historical dinner party guests, who would they be?

(Thinks long and hard.) Firstly, Stalin for the jokes and his love of banquets; Ike and Tina Turner (they can count as one), circa 1969 for song and dance; and Willy Brandt the former Chancellor of West Germany for his good humour and familiarity with drinks cabinets.

## If you could be one historical figure for one day, who would you be and when would you be them?

I really wouldn't want to be a politician, so it would have to be any member of Dylan's backing group, The Band, on his 1966 tour of the UK.

## Any hobbies?

I am a great fan of outdoor activities. Specifically I enjoy back country hiking and kayaking.

## What's your favourite drink?

You will have to picture the scene; a warm sunny day in May in the countryside, sitting outside a pub after a long bike ride, drinking a nice cold pint of Scrumpy Jack.

## What is your favourite place to go out in Leeds?

Well having just moved here I haven't really been to many places yet, although I was very impressed with the restaurant Salvo's in Headingley when I went there – it definitely comes recommended!

## Complete this sentence: "During my History lectures, I want to...."

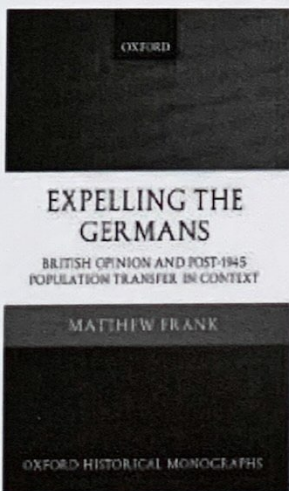
...Sympathise with my students...

## Do you have any amusing anecdotes from your time as a teacher of History?

Not really, although there is one story that sticks out that is rather embarrassing for one student. When handing in his final dissertation, he clearly did not proof read it; not only had his footnotes been wrong in places, but in one particular instance he had simply put "MAKE THIS FOOTNOTE UP" where the reference should be, clearly forgetting to follow his own advice. So not only did he not proof read it, he pretty much admitted to not researching properly, which inevitably had consequences. A lesson that should be learned by all history students!

## Do you have any as of yet unfulfilled ambitions?

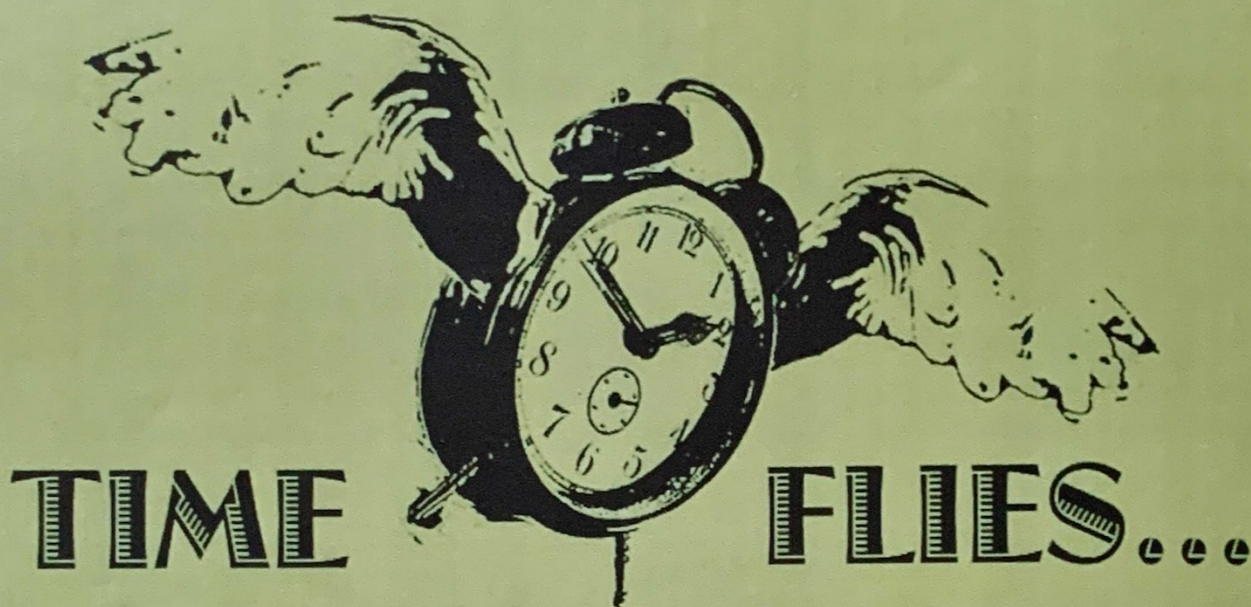
I want to travel more, specifically Argentina and other areas of South America.



The History Student Times is always on the lookout for writers so it's not too late to join. Please email the Editor [hy06cf@leeds.ac.uk] to join the mailing list and come along to the Issue Three meeting at the beginning of next term.







Despite my computer not recognizing the name 'Obama' and kindly offering to replace it with 'Osama', we hope that you have enjoyed this, the second issue of the History Student Times. Again, thanks to all who contributed and particularly to the School for funding the printing again. If you want to leave the writing team any feedback, please contact the Editor.

I would like to give special thanks to Anthony Zupnik for reinventing the HST's design and for sharing his technical expertise, Helen Burne for her support and cups of tea, Michael Bird for his seemingly endless supply of puns and Emily Hughes; Proof Reader Extraordinaire!

Claire Freeston  
Editor 2008/09  
(Email: [hy06cf@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:hy06cf@leeds.ac.uk))

**The next issue will be  
published in February.**

**Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy 2009.**