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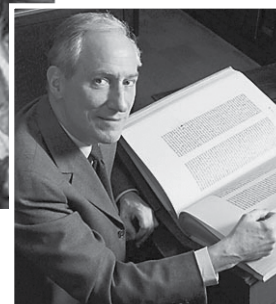
Harvard historian Robert Darnton to discuss slander and intrigue in 18th-century France

The impolite and often intentionally destructive political and social discourse that is so pervasive in today's media—including print newspapers, talk radio, cable television programs, books on the *New York Times* bestseller list, blogs and YouTube—is, unfortunately, nothing new. Some such “news” accounts are simply slanted; others border on being slanderous. As historian **Robert Darnton** will demonstrate in the **2009-10 Kritikos Lecture**, the art of attempting to destroy reputations, delegitimize regimes, and bring down governments has a very long history. Darnton maintains that the art of slander may have reached its peak in 18th-century France, when a ragtag group of literary libelers flooded the market with works that purported to expose the wicked behavior of the great. These libels often



mixed scandal with detailed accounts of history and current politics. While largely forgotten today, many of these salacious, seditious, outrageous, and often hilarious books and pamphlets sold as well as or even better than some of the most famous works of the Enlightenment.

Robert Darnton will weave this tale of intrigue and nastiness in his slide-lecture entitled, “**The Devil in the Holy Water or the Art of Slander in 18th-Century France**,” on **Thursday, November 12, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.** in **175 Knight Law Center**. As part of the OHC's **Year of the Book** series, Darn-



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Trio to present an all-Mendelssohn concert

The Oregon Humanities Center's **Endowment for Public Outreach in the Arts, Sciences, and Humanities** is pleased to present the **Benvenue Fortepiano Trio** in a concert of music by Felix Mendelssohn on **Sunday, October 18, at 7:30 p.m.** in **Beall Concert Hall**.

The members of the Benvenue Fortepiano Trio are **Monica Huggett**, violin; **Tanya Tomkins**, cello; and **Eric Zivian**, fortepiano. Mr. Zivian will be playing a rarely heard fortepiano made by Franz Rausch in Vienna in 1841. The program will include selections from Mendelssohn's “Lieder



Monica Huggett, Eric Zivian, and Tanya Tomkins

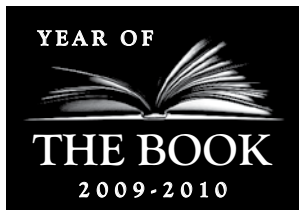
ohne Wörter” for solo fortepiano, the Sonata for Cello and Fortepiano in D Major, op. 58, and the Piano Trio in C Minor, op. 66.

English conductor and violinist Monica Huggett has an international reputation as one of the foremost baroque violinists of our time. Ms. Huggett enjoys an active international career as

a soloist, director, and chamber musician. She is the Artistic Director of the Portland Baroque orchestra, and founder/director of the Ensemble

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The Year of the Book: A celebration of print culture and beyond



Over several centuries, very few human creations have shaped and reflected the course of history and

culture as powerfully as has “the book” in its many and varied forms.

What began more than a year ago as an idea for a three-day symposium on “the future of the book” has blossomed into “The Year of the Book,” a campus-wide series of lectures, workshops, exhibits, and performances based on the book, past, present, and future. Organized by the Oregon Humanities Center in conjunction with the Knight Library, this year-long celebration of the book will involve many individual scholars and departments on campus including the UO Bookstore, the

Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, Theatre Arts, History, Creative Writing, English, and others.

“The plan is to reach as deep and broad a slice of campus as we can manage, and to appeal to the larger community, as well,” says OHC Director Barbara Altmann. We have designed a logo that will go on all events tied to the theme, and there will be several events per term. The Oregon Humanities Center hopes to encourage participation in the “Year of the Book” by providing financial co-sponsorships to departments who wish to host related events, and by helping to publicize all Year of the Book events.

The OHC has planned many of its 2009-10 lectures to coincide with the Year of the Book theme. Kritikos Professor Robert Darnton will kick off the fall term with his November 12th lecture entitled

“The Devil in the Holy Water or the Art of Slander in 18th-Century France” (see story, page 1).

Other fall term events include the “Understanding Superheroes” symposium on October 23 and 24, and the related JSMA exhibits. (See story below.) Theatre Arts is devoting their entire 2009-10 season to plays based on book adaptations. Their fall production, “Big River,” which runs Nov. 6-21, is a musical based on *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. Creative Writing is hosting readings by authors and poets throughout the year, and the UO Bookstore is organizing a film series based on book adaptations. Look for events in the coming months from the Knight Library, JSMA, Clark Honors College, and community partners. Bookmark <http://ohc.uoregon.edu> for a complete and ever-growing list of Year of the Book events!

Symposium examines superheroes, comics, and culture



Who hasn't taken secret delight in the fantasy world of comic books at some point in their lives? Superheroes such as Superman, Wonder Woman, and Batman helped us believe that good would always conquer evil. English

professor Ben Saunders has created an exceptional opportunity to explore the superhero genre in some depth through “Understanding Superheroes.” This interdisciplinary symposium, which will take place at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art on **October 23 and 24, 2009**, will offer multifaceted insights into the genre of the superhero for novice and aficionado alike.

Keynote speakers include: **Danny Fingerroth**, “Disguised as Clark Kent: Jews, Comics, and the Creation of the Superhero”; **Charles Hatfield**, “What Jack Kerby Did to the Superhero”; and **Henry Jenkins**, “‘The Man Without Fear’: David Mack and the Formal Limits of the Superhero Genre.”

Accompanying the conference is an exhibit at the JSMA curated by Ben Saunders entitled, “**Faster Than a Speeding**

Bullet: The Art of the Superhero.” The exhibition, which runs through January 3, 2010, focuses on Superman, Wonder Woman, and Batman, and features some original comic book art. For information about the exhibit and related events, please visit <http://uoma.uoregon.edu/superheroes.html>

The “Understanding Superheroes” symposium is made possible by the generous support of the Oregon Humanities Center as part of **The Year of the Book**. Additional funding comes from: CAS; Arts

and Administration; Art History; Comparative Literature; Creative Writing; CSWS; English; Judaic Studies; Knight Library Special Collections; the VP for Research; and the JSMA.

Pre-registration is required for the symposium. For information and symposium program, see <http://uoma.uoregon.edu/understandingsuperheroes.html>



Benvenue *continued from front page*

Sonnerie, which tours extensively in Europe and the U.S. In addition, she is a professor of baroque violin at the Royal Academy of Music in London.

Tanya Tomkins has toured and recorded extensively as a chamber musician, both in the U.S. and in Europe. She is equally at home on baroque and modern instruments. She is currently one of the principal cellists with both Philharmonia Baroque and Portland Baroque, and has performed as a soloist with both orchestras. She also performs regularly with the American Bach Soloists, the Oregon Bach Festival, and a number of other chamber music festivals in the western U.S.

Eric Zivian has performed extensively throughout the U.S., often on original instruments, presenting solo recitals in Toronto, New York, Philadelphia, and the Bay Area. Mr. Zivian's compositions have been performed widely throughout the U.S. and in Tokyo, Japan.

The concert, which is co-sponsored by the Department of German and Scandinavian, is being offered in collaboration with the UO School of Music and Dance. There is an admission fee of \$8 for students and seniors, \$10 general. Tickets will be available at the Beall Hall box office before the concert. For information, call (541) 346-5678.

2010-2011 OHC Fellowship Applications

Find out about the new guidelines and download the applications at ohc.uoregon.edu

Deadlines:

- Monday, October 19, 2009 for CAS faculty
- Monday, October 26, 2009 for all other faculty
- Monday, February 8, 2010 for graduate students

Research Fellowships for Faculty

- a term free of teaching to focus on research

Teaching Fellowships for Faculty

- \$3,000 summer stipend to develop a humanities course
- up to \$1,000 for course enrichment

Coleman-Guitteau Teaching Professorship in the Humanities (new guidelines!)

- Team-teaching course proposals encouraged
- \$3,000 summer stipend to develop a humanities course
- up to \$4,000 for course enrichment

Robert F. and Evelyn Nelson Wulf Professorship in the Humanities

- \$3,000 summer stipend to develop a humanities course
- up to \$4,000 for course enrichment

Graduate Dissertation Fellowships (new guidelines!)

- Offered in collaboration with the UO Graduate School
- \$5,000 non-service stipend
- one-term tuition waiver
- up to \$500 for dissertation support

Graduate Research Support Fellowships (new guidelines!)

- up to \$1,000 for dissertation support

Welcome Lindsey Henriksen



This fall we are happy to introduce our new Office Specialist, Lindsey Henriksen. Lindsey is currently finishing her PhD in Musicology at the UO School of Music. In addition, she holds Bachelors and Masters degrees in Organ Performance and remains active as an assistant organist at Central Lutheran Church. Please join us in welcoming her!

The Oregon Humanities Center is striving to save postage expenses and paper, and to communicate more effectively with our community. Please consider subscribing to our e-mail list to receive news and announcements about Humanities Center events and developments. We will not share your name or e-mail address with anyone. **To subscribe go to our web site: ohc.uoregon.edu**

OHC welcomes eight new Advisory Board members

The Oregon Humanities Center is pleased to introduce eight new members of the Faculty Advisory Board. The new members are (pictured in order): **Shaul Cohen**, Geography; **James Harper**, Art History; **Nathalie Hester**, Romance Languages; **Katya Hokanson**, Comparative Literature and REESC; **Julianne Newton**, Journalism; **Helen Southworth**, Honors College; **Mark Unno**, Religious Studies; and **Lisa Wolverton**, History. The new board members will be serving a three-year term beginning Fall term 2009.

Outgoing Advisory Board members are: **Jeffrey Librett**, German and Scandinavian; **Deb Morrison**, Journalism; **Craig Parsons**, Political Science; **Jenifer Presto**, Russian and REESC; **Ellen Rees**, German and Scandinavian; **Lizzie Reis**, Women's and Gender Studies; **John Schmor**, Theatre Arts; and **Ying Tan**, Art. We extend our sincere thanks to all outgoing members for their service.

The Faculty Advisory Board is vital to the effective functioning of the Center. Board members assist the director and associate director with several important functions, including reviewing fellowship applications, advising on policy issues affecting the Center, suggesting lecturers and conference topics, and helping disseminate information and announcements to other humanities faculty and graduate students. We seek nominations for the board each year in early May. We encourage faculty to nominate colleagues or consider serving on the board themselves. (Self-nominations are accepted.) For more information about the OHC Advisory Board, please contact Julia Heydon at 346-1001.



Darnton *continued from front page*

ton's talk will reveal much about the nature of authorship and the book trade and the shaping of public opinion.

Robert Darnton, who began his professional life as a journalist for the *New York Times* and later went on to earn a doctorate in history at Oxford University, is Carl H. Pforzheimer University Professor and Director of the Harvard University Library. He is the winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award for his *Forbidden Best-Sellers of Pre-Revolutionary France*. The lecture is free and open to the public. For more information, call (541) 346-3934.



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Call 541-346-3934 or send an e-mail to: lhenrik2@uoregon.edu.

Upcoming W.I.P.s

We continue our series of **work-in-progress** talks by OHC faculty and graduate research fellows on their current or recent work on **Fridays at noon** in the Humanities Center Conference Room, **159 PLC**. Brown-bag lunches are welcome!

October 9

Nicolino Applauso, Graduate Dissertation Fellow, Romance Languages, "Curses and Laughter: The Ethics of Political Invective in the Comic Poetry of High and Late Medieval Italy and Iberia"

November 6

Stephen Shoemaker, Religious Studies, "The Earliest Life of the Virgin: The First English Translation from the Old Georgian"

November 13

David Luebke, History, "Hometown Religion: Conflict and Coexistence among the Christian Religions of Germany, 1553-1660"

December 4

Shari Huhndorf, English, "Indigeneity and the Politics of Space"

All faculty and graduate students are encouraged to attend. The conference room seats twenty-seven; early arrival is recommended.

The University of Oregon is an equal opportunity, affirmative action institution committed to cultural diversity and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. To arrange disability accommodations for Humanities Center events or to obtain this newsletter in an alternative format, call 541-346-3934.

"Occasions and Localities for the Lyric" topic of conference

The Society for Renaissance and Baroque Hispanic Poetry will hold its Ninth Biennial meeting on the UO campus on November 5-7, 2009. The conference, sponsored by Romance Languages, the OHC, the College of Arts and Sciences, the Office of the VP for Research, and Comparative Literature, is open to the public.

The SRBHP is the key international organization in the field of sixteenth- and seventeenth-century Spanish and Hispanophone poetry. The special topic for this year's meeting is "Occasions and Localities for the Lyric."

Keynote speakers will include Professor Andrew Schulz (Art History, UO), "Imagining Spain's Islamic Past: Revisiting Al-Andalus in the Early Modern Lyric and the Visual Arts," on Thursday, November 5, 4:45 p.m.-6 p.m., JSMA; and Stephanie Merrim (Royce Professor of Comparative Literature and Hispanic Studies, Brown University), "'Yo no sé hacer mundos abreviados'. The New World Baroque, Bernardo de Balbuena, and Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz," on Friday, November 6, 4:15-6 p.m., in Gerlinger Alumni Lounge.

Co-sponsored by Latin American Studies, CSWS, and Art History. For more information, contact Leah Middlebrook (middlebr@uoregon.edu).

