

# The Folger Institute

## 1984-85 PROGRAM



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## 1984-85 Seminar Program

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## John Guy POLITICAL THOUGHT IN THE HENRICIAN AGE, 1500-1550

As the first of six NEH-funded seminars in the ongoing program of the Folger Institute Center for the History of British Political Thought, "Political Thought in the Henrician Age" will investigate the language and content of political thought in the first half of the sixteenth century. The Thursday seminar sessions will emphasize not the supposed "major" texts of that period, but such issues and problems as the Medieval and European influences upon Tudor thought, the links between theology and political thought, the conflict of laws, the theory of royal supremacy, the concept of limited monarchy, the role of the courtier, the use of ideas as propaganda, the ideal of the "commonwealth," the idioms and techniques of political discourse, and contemporary perceptions of statecraft. The Friday workshops will address differing perceptions of political thought in relation to such contexts as those defined by students of government, religion, administration, literature, and law. And the concluding meetings will focus on problems of current research. Among the distinguished guest lecturers who will participate in the seminar are Geoffrey Elton (University of Cambridge), Alistair Fox (University of Otago and New Zealand), Richard Marius (Harvard University), Arthur J. Slavin (University of Louisville), and David Starkey (University of London).

John Guy, Reader in British History at the University of Bristol, is author of *The Cardinal's Court: The Impact of Thomas Wolsey in Star Chamber* (1977) and *The Public Career of Sir Thomas More* (1980). He has recently completed a study of Christopher St. German for the Selden Society, and he has provided the introduction and commentary for the Yale Edition of Sir Thomas More's *Debellation of Salem and Bizance*. The author of several major articles on Tudor and early-Stuart political and juristic topics, Dr. Guy is currently exploring the impact of Henrician policy on the English provinces.

This seminar will meet on Thursdays and Fridays at 1:00 p.m. from September 13 through December 7, except November 22 and 23.

## S. K. Heninger, Jr. SIDNEY'S PROGRAM FOR POETRY

In a revisionist mood Sidney claimed that "poetry is an art of imitation." This seminar will consider Sidney's position in the evolution of literary theory, especially his concept of poetical imitation. It will first derive a poetics from *The Defence of Poesie* and then read Sidney's major works in the light of this poetics. There will also be readings in Plato, Aristotle, Cicero, Horace, and Plutarch (all in translation), as well as in Renaissance theorists. Since poetry is not the only "art of imitation," there will be opportunities to consider poetry in the constellation of other imitative arts in the Renaissance, particularly music and painting.

S.K. Heninger, Jr. is University Distinguished Professor of English at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is the author of numerous studies in Renaissance culture, including *Touchees of Sweet Harmony: Pythagorean Cosmology and Renaissance Poetics* (1974) and *The Cosmographical Glass* (1977). He is completing a book on Sidney and Spenser in the cultural milieu of the sixteenth century.

This seminar will meet on Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. from September 15 through December 8, except November 24.

## Bruce W. Wardropper GENRES IN THE SPANISH COMEDIA OF THE GOLDEN AGE

This seminar will seek to establish a new standard for discriminating among the various kinds of drama in seventeenth-century Spain. The classifications currently used, legacies from the late nineteenth century, are unsatisfactory: they are imprecise and are based on disparate criteria of form and content. Starting from Bances Candamo's broad distinction between "amatory plays" and "historical plays," participants will attempt to construct a more complex system based on rigorous criteria. The sessions will be conducted in English.

Bruce W. Wardropper is William Hane Wannamaker Professor of Romance Languages at Duke University and President of the Cervantes Society of America. Among his studies on the Spanish drama are *Introducción al teatro religioso español: La evolución del auto sacramental* (1953) and *La comedia española del Siglo de Oro* (1978). He has edited Volume Three, *Siglos de Oro: Barroco* (1983), in the series *Historia y crítica de la literatura española*.

This seminar will meet on Mondays at 1:00 p.m. from September 17 through December 10, except November 12.

## Philip H. Highfill, Jr. and Shirley Strum Kenny RESTORATION AND EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY DRAMA

This seminar will make use of the Folger's extensive collection of Restoration and eighteenth-century theatrical materials—early editions of the plays, manuscript account books of the theatres, promptbooks, playbills, and other memorabilia—to promote intensive study of a number of plays that might be considered representative of the period 1660-1780. Students will have the opportunity to study multiple aspects of selected plays—such as theatrical history, costuming, staging, music, acting styles, and literary interpretation—and to conduct extensive original research in the Folger collection on a play of their choice.

Philip H. Highfill, Jr. is Professor of English Literature at George Washington University and author of the ongoing multi-volume *Dictionary of Actors, Actresses, Musicians, Dancers, Managers, and Other Stage Personnel in London 1660-1800* (1973-).

Shirley Strum Kenny is Provost of Arts and Humanities at the University of Maryland, College Park. Among a number of publications on Restoration and eighteenth-century drama, her editions of *The Plays of Richard Steele* (1971) and *The Works of George Farquhar* (in press) are noteworthy.

This seminar will meet on Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. from September 26 through December 12.

## Lionel Gossman FROM RHETORIC TO POETIC: TRANSFORMATIONS OF HISTORY

Topically, the focus of this seminar will be on the changing social and political role of the historian; the relation between historiography and fictional narrative; the question of authorization in historical writing; and the interplay of literary form, rhetoric, ideology, and politics in the historiographical text. Diachronically, participants will consider the competing currents of rhetorical history and historical erudition in the seventeenth century; the Enlightenment practice of history as a crucial activity in the struggle against traditional legitimizing stories; the post-Revolutionary Romantic attempt to construct a new history reconciling science and religion, criticism and myth, as a legitimization of the national state; and the retreat, after 1848, to a chastened view of history as positive knowledge in opposition to philosophical and religious speculation. Seminar members will also examine the evolution of the persona of the historian from the rhetorician—whose task is to rewrite familiar narratives, the authority of which is grounded in tradition—to the *philosophe*—whose authority is grounded in critical reason—to the poet and prophet—whose authority is grounded in poetic insight or speculative reason—and finally to the professor and research scholar—whose authority is founded in "science."

Lionel Gossman teaches seventeenth-, eighteenth-, and nineteenth-century French literature as Moses Taylor Pyne Professor in the Department of Romance Languages at Princeton University. Among his works on the teaching and writing of history and on literary criticism are *Medievalism and the Ideologies of the Enlightenment: The World and Work of La Carme de Sainte-Palaye* (1968), *Augustine Thierry and Liberal Historiography* (1976), *The Empire Unpossessed: An Essay on Gibbon* (1981), and *Orpheus Philologus: Bachofen versus Mommsen on the Study of Antiquity* (1983).

This seminar will meet on Fridays at 1:00 p.m. from September 28 through November 30.

William A. Banner

### EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY ENGLISH MORALISTS: SENTIMENT AND REASON IN THE MORAL LIFE

This workshop will review Shaftesbury, Butler, Hutcheson, Hume, Smith, and Price on the moral life, focusing on whether that life rests upon inclination (sentiment or some other disposition) or upon rational insight (intuition or discourse). Lectures and discussions will concentrate on patterns and conflicts in theory and argument, with particular reference to such issues as the ground of moral estimation and the springs of moral action. Moralists of the seventeenth century, including Hobbes, the Cambridge Platonists, Cumberland, Clarke, and Locke, will be considered insofar as their views provide a background for understanding the thought of the eighteenth century.

William A. Banner is Graduate Professor of Philosophy at Howard University and former Chairman of that department. The author of *Ethics: An Introduction to Moral Philosophy* (1968) and *Moral Norms and Moral Order: The Philosophy of Human Affairs* (1981), he is completing a book on the moral philosophy of St. Augustine.

This workshop will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. from October 9 through October 25.

Marcel Gutwirth

### MOLIERE AND SHAKESPEARE AS COMIC POETS

Critics whose outlooks are shaped by matters French—as, for example, Henri Bergson—tend to take Molière's art and practice as implicit models in considerations of the nature of comedy and its connection with laughter. Anglo-Saxon critics—among whom Northrop Frye may be numbered—are apt instead to view these matters with reference to Shakespeare's formidable career. This seminar will attempt to disentangle the main lines of the quite different approaches of these two poets, ranging as they do from Molière's farce to *grande comédie*, and from Shakespearean wordplay to the discomfiture of Malvolio and the short-lived triumph of Caliban. Participants will explore the interrelationship of theory and exemplary practice by detailed consideration of the plays that exhibit that practice either simply (as do *L'École des femmes* and *As You Like It*) or problematically (as do *Don Juan* and *Measure for Measure*).

Marcel Gutwirth holds the Jaan and John Whitehead Chair in the Humanities at Haverford College. His publications include *Molière ou l'invention comique* (1966), *Jean Racine: un itinéraire poétique* (1970), *Stendhal* (1971), and *Michel de Montaigne ou le pari d'exemplarité* (1977). He has been a fellow of the American Council of Learned Societies and a Guggenheim fellow, and he has held a Fulbright postdoctoral scholarship.

This seminar will meet on Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. from January 24 through May 2, except February 21, March 21, and April 18.

Charles H. Shattuck

### SHAKESPEARE AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF TASTE IN OUR TIME

This seminar will examine the revolutionary changes in attitudes about Shakespeare—especially in stage production, but in literary and critical approaches as well—that have taken place between the Edwardian age and our own. It will thus, to some extent, continue the work of Professor Joseph G. Price's Fall 1983 seminar on "Shakespeare and the History of Taste." Participants will conduct research in newspaper and magazine reports of famous modern productions, consider the rising significance of the director, explore the impact of advances in theatre theory and technology, and discuss major critical re-evaluations of the plays.

Charles H. Shattuck, Professor Emeritus of English at the University of Illinois and former Associate Director of the University of Illinois Theatre, has edited selected Shakespeare promptbooks of William Charles Macready and all those of John Philip Kemble. He is the author of *The Shakespeare Promptbooks: A Descriptive Catalogue* (1965), *The Hamlet of Edwin Booth* (1969), and *Shakespeare on the American Stage: From the Hallams to Edwin Booth* (1976). He wrote the survey of Shakespeare in Performance for *The Riverside Shakespeare* (1974), and his second study of *Shakespeare on the American Stage*, ranging from the 1880s to the end of World War I, is scheduled for publication in early 1985.

This seminar will meet on Fridays at 1:00 p.m. from January 25 through April 12.

Donald R. Kelley

### POLITICAL THOUGHT IN THE ELIZABETHAN AGE, 1558-1603

This seminar, the second in a series of six being offered by the Folger Institute's newly established Center for the History of British Political Thought, will examine the language and content and some texts and contexts of political discourse in the age of Shakespeare. Among the topics to be considered are the Medieval foundations of political thought, the views of authority in the common law, the Elizabethan conception of the "state," dissimulation in politics, civil lawyers in England, and the work of Richard Hooker, Francis Bacon, Shakespeare, and others. A series of distinguished scholars will offer guest lectures, including Charles Gray (University of Chicago), J. H. Hexter (Washington University), Louis Knafla (University of Calgary), Brian Levack (University of Texas at Austin), and Brian Tierney (Cornell University).

Donald R. Kelley, Professor of History at the University of Rochester, is the author of *Foundations of Modern Historical Scholarship* (1970) and *The Beginning of Ideology: Consciousness and Society in the French Reformation* (1981). He has written on law for the forthcoming *Cambridge History of Political Thought (1450-1700)* and on history for the forthcoming *Cambridge History of Renaissance Philosophy*.

This seminar will meet on Thursdays and Fridays at 1:00 p.m. from January 31 through April 19.

Hans Aarsleff

### LINGUISTIC THOUGHT FROM THE RENAISSANCE TO ROMANTICISM

"Language and the nature of man" will be the issue addressed in this seminar, which will seek to develop an understanding of how the possibilities for knowledge of things both divine and natural are related to views of the nature and origin of language. Another way of posing the issue would be: Is etymology a sort of epistemology? Participants will be concerned with linguistic thought, not with the professional craft of linguistics, and will be encouraged to approach their own areas of interest and expertise as these relate to the problem of language. The principal methodology will be that of intellectual history, with chief attention to primary texts. After a brief review of the expanding linguistic horizons of the sixteenth century, the seminar will turn to the seventeenth century, when the concept of the Adamic language was countered by the new linguistic epistemology adopted by the Royal Society, an epistemology based on the Lockean premise that language is not divine but man-made. Participants will then proceed to readings in such eighteenth-century writers as Condillac, Rousseau, and Monboddo. The seminar will close with a look at representative nineteenth-century reactions to the Enlightenment view of language.

Hans Aarsleff, Professor of English at Princeton University, is the author of *The Study of Language in England, 1780-1860* (1967). Fourteen of his major essays have been collected in *From Locke to Saussure: Essays on the Study of Language and Intellectual History* (1982). He is a member of the editorial board of the *Journal of the History of Ideas*.

This seminar will meet on Saturdays at 1:30 p.m. from February 2 through April 27.

H. Diane Russell

### OBSERVATION AND CONVENTION IN SEVENTEENTH-CENTURY LANDSCAPE ART

Concentrating on Claude, Poussin, Rubens, Rembrandt, and Ruisdael, this seminar will examine the relative importance of the artist's natural observations and his awareness of and adherence to artistic convention in creating landscape. Participants will be directed to relevant paintings, drawings, and prints in Washington museums, and to such literary texts as Virgil and Ovid, from which these artists drew.

H. Diane Russell is Assistant Head of the Department of Prints and Drawings at the National Gallery of Art. Her publications include *Rare Etchings by G. B. and G. D. Tiepolo* (1972), *Jacques Callot: Prints and Related Drawings* (1975), and *Claude Lorrain 1600-1682* (1982), which received the Alfred H. Barr, Jr. Award from the College Art Association of America. She is currently at work on a study of seventeenth-century Roman landscape drawings.

This seminar will meet on Mondays at 1:00 p.m. from February 4 through April 22.

J. Leeds Barroll, III

### SHAKESPEARE AND THE SOCIAL PRESSURES OF HIS TIME

Shakespeare operated in a milieu subject to a variety of claims. He chose to gain his livelihood not within the four walls of shop or house but as writer and actor in a group making a living through the new medium of the public playhouse. The practical circumstances attending this new form of middle-class and courtly recreation configured Shakespeare's career as dramatist and as author of published poems and plays. This seminar will review and examine such problems as City jurisdiction, Crown prerogatives, and business competition in the matter of playhouses, audience, court-presentation, censorship, plague-closings, personal prestige, play publishing, and peerage involvement as these appear to have affected Shakespeare's production and career.

J. Leeds Barroll, III is Professor of English at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. His many publications on Shakespearean drama include *Artificial Persons* (1974) and *Shakespearean Tragedy* (1984). He is the founding editor of two annuals, *Shakespeare Studies* and *Medieval and Renaissance Drama in England*.

This seminar will meet on Tuesdays at 2:00 p.m. from February 5 through April 23.

Jean H. Hagstrum

### LOVE IN THE WESTERN WORLD

This seminar will begin with readings in Denis de Rougemont's *Love in the Western World*, Lawrence Stone's *The Family, Sex and Marriage in England, 1500-1800*, and Professor Hagstrum's own *Sex and Sensibility*. De Rougemont finds passionate love inextricably involved with death and hence incompatible with marriage. Stone regards "affective individualism" as an achievement of the eighteenth-century, a phenomenon that was seldom if ever anticipated in earlier periods. Hagstrum emphasizes the importance both of heterosexual friendship and of a union of fine ardor and respect in marriage. Seminar participants will address such questions as the following: Is the eighteenth-century synthesis of sex and sensibility unique? If not, when and how was it anticipated? Is de Rougemont's melancholy separation of ardent, romantic love from marital commitment warranted by the Western cultural heritage? To try to answer these questions, participants will be directed to texts that can be related to the union of ideal and erotic love in the English Enlightenment, texts by such authors as Aristotle, Plutarch, Terence, Aquinas, Chaucer, Montaigne, Spenser, Shakespeare, Hume, Pope, William and Mary Wordsworth, and Byron.

Jean H. Hagstrum is John C. Shaffer Professor Emeritus of English and the Humanities at Northwestern University. In addition to *Sex and Sensibility: Ideal and Erotic Love from Milton to Mozart* (1980), he has written *Samuel Johnson's Literary Criticism* (1952), *William Blake: Poet and Painter* (1964), and a pioneering exploration of the relationship between the literary and visual arts, *The Sister Arts* (1958).

This seminar will meet on Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. from March 6 through May 22.

Alden T. Vaughan and  
Jackson C. Boswell

**ENGLAND AND THE DISCOVERY  
OF AMERICA, 1511-1660:  
HISTORICAL AND LITERARY  
ASPECTS OF EARLY ENGLISH  
COLONIZATION**

Participants in this seminar will investigate the Folger's holdings of works by the imperialists, explorers, and settlers who launched England's colonial venture in the New World. Major emphases will include: Continental sources of information about the New World; early English exploration literature; England's unsuccessful efforts at colonization in Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, and Roanoke; successful colonial outposts in Virginia, Bermuda, New England, and Maryland; seventeenth-century English promotional literature; early perceptions and treatment of the American Indian; the origins of African slavery in British America; and the emergence of a fledgling American literature.

Alden T. Vaughan, Professor of History at Columbia University, is the author and editor of numerous books and articles on colonial America, including *New England Frontier: Puritans and Indians, 1620-1675* (1979) and *American Genesis: Captain John Smith and the Founding of Virginia* (1975).

Jackson C. Boswell, Professor of English Studies at the University of the District of Columbia, is the author of *Milton's Library* (1975) and of numerous articles on seventeenth-century English literature. He is currently compiling the STC Index Americana.

This seminar will meet on Mondays and  
Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. from June 24 through July 31.

**The Folger Institute  
Evening Colloquium Series  
1984-85**

**WOMEN IN THE RENAISSANCE**

This year the Folger Institute Evening Colloquium Series will be devoted to a single topic, "Women in the Renaissance." Scholars whose research interests center on this topic—on such areas as women's political, social, economic, or religious history; on works by women writers, painters, or other artists; on representations of women in the literary or visual arts; or on ideas about women current in the Renaissance—will meet at the Folger Shakespeare Library once each month from September through April. In the early sessions, members of the colloquium will consider theoretical issues and explore the resources available at the Folger; in later meetings, discussions will turn to historical, literary, or artistic problems of interest to individual members. The precise focus of investigation will be determined by the expertise and research plans of the participants.

The meetings will be coordinated by Elizabeth H. Hageman, Associate Professor of English at the University of New Hampshire. Professor Hageman's bibliography of "Recent Studies in Women Writers in the English Renaissance" will appear in *English Literary Renaissance* in Autumn 1984. She is currently at work on "A Study of *Lucretia Romana* in the Literary and Visual Arts of the Renaissance."

The colloquium will meet when the Library closes for the day, at 5:00 p.m., on one Thursday each month beginning September 20. Subsequent dates will depend upon the schedules of those who apply. Interested scholars at universities affiliated with the Folger should contact their representative to the Institute's Central Executive Committee (see pages 22 and 23) for application forms; others should write or call the Folger Institute offices.

**The Folger Institute  
Central Executive Committee**

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