

Editors' Introduction

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As a new field of historical inquiry that is defined by its theoretical, topical, and methodological approaches and debates, transatlantic history is quickly developing as a space in which scholars from multiple backgrounds converge and engage in transcending the boundaries of traditional national histories. A sub-set of world history, transatlantic history recognizes the interconnectedness of peoples and places, and attempts to place historical phenomena within a regional-global context. *Traversea* exists to serve as one forum for emerging scholars to intervene into these debates, and the articles presented in this issue address some of the prevailing themes in transatlantic history. Prominent topics presented here include new approaches to understanding both the slave trade and abolitionism, recasting imperial mercenaries as migrant workers, changing relationships between natives and the environment in a colonial settler context, and the construction of national identities through narratives of the "other." In addition, this issue of *Traversea* includes one contribution to transatlantic pedagogy.

Several essays published here originated as paper presentations at the Fifteenth Annual International Graduate Student Conference on Transatlantic History. This conference was held on September 19th and 20th, 2014, and featured paper presentations from North America, the Caribbean, and Europe, covering a wide variety of topics in Transatlantic History. Panels covered themes such as abolition, drugs in the modern Atlantic, the role of ships and privateers, the circulation of ideas, indigenous peoples, and migrant networks. This conference featured two keynote speakers. Jeremy Popkin, T. Marshall Hahn Professor of History at the University of Kentucky, gave a talk on "Colonial Violence in the French Revolution," which focused on the successful slave revolt in Saint-Domingue. Toyin Falola, Jacob & Frances Sanger Mossiker Chair in the Humanities at the University of Texas at Austin, presented "Encounters and Otherness: the Meaning of Blackness in the Atlantic World," which examined the mutability of race in an Atlantic context.

This volume of *Traversea* reflects the diversity of the field of transatlantic history. **Robert Manuel Ojeda's** article, "Enseñanza de la Historia trasatlántica del siglo XVIII en la educación secundaria. Relato de un Naufragio y El Taller del Conquistador," places transatlantic methodology within a pedagogical framework, namely the act of writing research and conducting workshops. Ojeda demonstrates that through the use of primary sources relating to shipwrecks and piracy, educators can more fully engage students in "historically distant worlds." In "Neptune's Trident: The Rhetoric of Johann Aldenburgk, a German Mercenary in the Service of the Dutch West-India Company 1623-1626," **David Anthony Beeler** examines the dual--and sometimes conflicting--role that foreign mercenaries played in the Dutch national psyche in the seventeenth century. Examining these individuals as migrant laborers who were essential to realizing Dutch colonial goals, Beeler argues that even though their precarious position within society made them vulnerable to attacks from polemicists, the writings of individual mercenaries such as Johann Aldenburgk show us that their actions and the personal associations they kept were important to their survival. With "La presse, acteur clé des relations transatlantiques: les

liens culturels, politiques et économiques entre le quotidien français *Le Matin* et les Etats-Unis (1884-1940),” **Dominique Pinsolle** explores the transatlantic links that become evident through investigation of an American-styled and founded newspaper in Paris, with links to the Americas well into the mid-twentieth century. These links, coupled with the paper’s popularity in France, proved strong to win *Le Matin*’s owners influence in high places in America.

Lydia Towns’ article “English Privateers, Pirates and the Transatlantic Slave Trade” investigates a historiographical gap at the intersections of piracy and the slave trade. Arguing that pirates and privateers were vital to transatlantic slavery, Towns points to some directions where historians of slavery and piracy might head for further understanding of their respective fields. In “Long Ago/Buffalo/They Killed Them: The Impact of Spanish Colonialism on the Bison Economy of the Lipan Apache, 1718-1772,” **Neal McDonald Hampton** argues that after Spanish colonialism disrupted the traditional Lipan Apache reliance upon buffalo, this native people were left with few choices outside incorporation into the Spanish colonial settler economy. In “‘Oppression’s Fallen and Slavery is No More!’: Women, Abolitionism, and Poetry in the Transatlantic World, 1770s-1840s,” **Kathleen Devor Campbell** looks into the poetry of both American and British abolitionist women to draw out the transatlantic nature of the movement. Campbell argues that these writers were important in gaining popular support for the movement because of poetry’s unique ability to express emotion and create sentiment in support of abolitionism. **Luna Najera**’s article “Early Modern Expressions of Nationhood in French and Dutch Translations of Bartolomé de Las Casas’ *Brevísima relación*” re-examines the creation of the “Black Legend” from another perspective. Analyzing French and Dutch translations of Las Casas’ *Brevísima relación de la destrucción de las Indias*, Najera argues that Spain’s rivals much to gain from alternative interpretations of Las Casas’ work in the quest for colonial hegemony.

This volume is also the first to feature book reviews, and for those we wish to thank Robert Caldwell and Lydia Towns. The editors owe a great deal of thanks to the sponsors of the annual THSO International Graduate Student Conference: the UTA History Department, the UTA Student Congress, the UTA College of Liberal Arts, and the Barksdale Lecture Series. Special thanks also go to Kenyon Zimmer, THSO advisor, for his support and advice in THSO’s annual activities. We also offer thanks to the editorial team for this volume of *Traversea*: section editors Gina Bennett, Robert Caldwell, Dan Degges, Jacob Jones, Nicole Léopoldie, and Stephanie Sulik, Lydia Towns as well as copy editors Bryan Garret, Jay Goldin, and Isabelle Rispler.

It is clear from the papers included in this volume that transatlantic history is providing fertile ground for new lines of inquiry, new perspectives, and new approaches to the study of history. The increasing level of interest in both this journal and the THSO conference of which it is partly a product is clear. It is our hope at *Traversea* that this and future volumes of our journal will prove to be significant contributions in an exciting and emergent field.