

Mark Your Calendars!!!
The 17th Annual World History Association Conference
London, 25-29 June 2008
By Al Andrea

Plans are progressing at a fast pace for the Seventeenth Annual WHA Conference at Queen Mary, the University of London. Founded in 1885, the Queen Mary campus at Mile End in London's vibrant East End is a lovely mix of late Victorian and modern buildings located only 15 minutes away by underground from central London. Persons who desire to learn more about the college are urged to visit its website: www.qmul.ac.uk.

The Call for Papers

The Call for Papers is available on line at http://thewha.org/call_for_papers.php, along with an on-line submission form. In honor of our host city, this year's two conference themes are "Global Cities" and "The Sea: Highway of Change."

Keynoters

Keynote speakers will be Professor Felipe Fernández-Armesto, of Queen Mary and Tufts University, and Professor Leonard Blussé, of Leiden University.

Professor Fernández-Armesto, who will address the theme of "The Sea: Highway of Change," is well known to WHA members. His most recent scholarly book, *Pathfinders: A Global History of Exploration* (W.W. Norton, 2006), was awarded the 2007 WHA Book Prize, and his textbook *The World: A History* (Prentice Hall, 2007), has found a home in many world history classrooms throughout the U. S. and beyond.

Professor Blussé, who will address the theme of "Global Cities," is an equally distinguished world historian. His many studies of the Dutch in East and South Asia include *Strange Company: Chinese Settlers, Mestizo Women, and Dutch in VOC Batavia* (Cellar Book Shop, 1988) and *The Dutch Encounter with Asia, 1600-1950* (B. V. Waanders, 2004).

Why These Dates?

The dates for the conference are Wednesday June 25 through Sunday June 29, 2008. Veteran WHA conference goers know that conference work begins Thursday afternoon with registration, a reception (for the past two years), and meeting of the Executive Council. That schedule will continue in London, but in order to allow for jet-lag recovery, the Conferences Committee is offering a five-day accommodation package commencing on Wednesday the 25th. The Committee hopes, but cannot promise, to offer optional activities for persons arriving early.

The Persistent Question: How Much?

Persons who have been to London in the recent past know what an expensive city it is, especially for U.S. visitors, given the weakness of the dollar vis-à-vis the pound (a bit more than 2:1 at the moment). Thus, it is with great pleasure that the Conferences Committee announces that it has been able to negotiate four-and five-day accommodation packages in housing on the Queen Mary campus. Each room is a single (some doubles are available but the price per person is the same for a double or a single) with private bath. This reporter

toured the facilities several years ago and found them quite comfortable-looking and totally modern in appurtenances. Each package includes daily breakfast and lunch in the Queen Mary restaurant.

The Committee chair decided not to include dinner in the package because undoubtedly most conferees will want to sample London's restaurants, pubs, theatres, and night life. There are a number of good places to eat nearby, and dinners can also be purchased on campus for those who are too tired or busy to ramble around the West End or elsewhere. Queen Mary also has a pub on campus and an excellent outdoor picnicking area alongside a canal, for those who want to dine *al fresco*. Never one to leave anything to chance, this reporter sampled the campus restaurant's cuisine and found it excellent.

Each package also includes the conference fee, which brings with it three receptions and, more importantly, the conference's intellectual fare.

The five-day package covers the nights of 25-29 June, departing the 30th after breakfast. The four-day package covers the nights 26-29 June, departing the 30th. Package quotes are listed for single or double occupancy rooms. Individuals sharing a double room are eligible for a reduced package rate, but please note that both guests must purchase a full accommodations package and provide the name of their roommate at the time of registration. The WHA cannot be responsible for assigning roommates. All package fees are paid directly to the WHA when registering. The registration form is downloadable at http://thewha.org/files/conference_registration_form_2008.pdf. Registration and package fees can also be paid online.

Persons who wish to arrange one or two additional nights before and/or after these dates must contact the Queen Mary Conference and Groups Manager directly at conference@qmul.ac.uk. Fees for the extended dates will run around £40 per person per night for bed and breakfast, are to be paid directly to Queen Mary.

The university has about 1500 rooms on campus, so we will have room for everyone who wishes to stay on campus. However, for those who wish to spend more, please consult the list of nearby hotels, with descriptions and contact information. Persons must contact the hotel of their choice directly and make their own arrangements. A hotels listing is also available at www.thewha.org.

The prices quoted below for the two packages might seem high by recent conference standards, but conferees should keep several facts in mind. First, as noted, London is very expensive, and these rates are far below hotel and restaurant prices. Second, each package includes the conference fee, which means three receptions, daily refreshment breaks, and all associated conference costs. Third, we have made every effort to keep the price affordable while ensuring that all bills will be paid.

Five-Night Package (Single Room Accommodations)

WHA Members	\$800
Student WHA Members (with ID)	\$640
Non-WHA Members	\$865
Student Non-WHA Members (with ID)	\$670

Four-Night Package (Single Room Accommodations)

WHA Members	\$710
Student WHA Members (with ID)	\$550
Non-WHA Members	\$775
Student Non-WHA Members (with ID)	\$580

Five-Night Package (Double Room Accommodations)

WHA Members	\$635
Student WHA Members (with ID)	\$560
Non-WHA Members	\$695
Student Non-WHA Members (with ID)	\$590

Four-Night Package (Double Room Accommodations)

WHA Members	\$525
Student WHA Members (with ID)	\$450
Non-WHA Members	\$585
Student Non-WHA Members (with ID)	\$480

Conference Fee Only (for persons not staying at QMUL)

WHA Members	\$130
Student WHA Members (with ID)	\$40
Non-Members	\$195
Student Non-WHA Members (with ID)	\$70

One-Day Pass (Friday or Saturday; Sunday gratis with a previous day's badge)

WHA Members	\$70
All Students (with ID)	\$20
Non-WHA Members	\$100

Please note that it is more cost-effective for non-members to join the WHA, thereby receiving both the benefits of membership and the reduced registration fee. Joining the WHA is easy: go to http://thewha.org/join_wha.php and either pay online or print and mail a membership form.

Guest badges for accompanying spouse/partner to attend only the receptions are available for \$10. Please note that any spouse or partner taking accommodations at QMUL pays the full package price and receives a conference badge and assorted conference materials, regardless of whether or not the person attends the conference sessions.

Conference Extras

Thanks to the gracious generosity of our sponsors, the WHA will hold three receptions. On Thursday afternoon June 26, ABC-Clio will offer hospitality to registrants, as it has at our conferences for the past two years. On Friday evening June 27, Pearson Publishing will host a reception at its corporate headquarters at 80 Strand in the heart of the West End. Conferees will have to make their way there on their own, but as noted, it is a short ride by the tube. On Saturday afternoon June 28, AP World History will also host a reception. These three social events are courtesy of three special friends of the WHA: Ron Boehm, CEO of ABC-Clio; Charles Cavaliere, Senior History Editor at Pearson Prentice Hall; and Allison Clark, Director, History Content and Curriculum Development, Advanced Placement.

Several publishers have already expressed their desire to exhibit at the conference, and we expect to have a full exhibition of pedagogical and academic books, music, maps, and other materials.

And A Few More Words

Keep your eyes on the WHA website and H-World for periodic conference updates.

As soon as we receive official invitations, the WHA Committee will announce the sites for our 2009 and 2010 conferences in the U.S. and our 2011 conference abroad. As always, every third WHA conference takes place in a site outside of the United States to better serve our global mission.