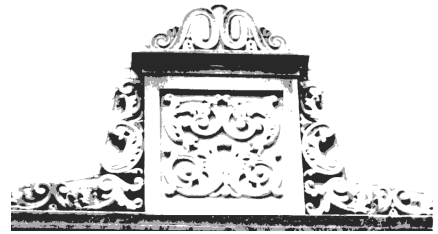


# NEWS



## of the History Department at Boston University

December 2010

### Eugenio Menegon wins Humanities Foundation senior fellowship

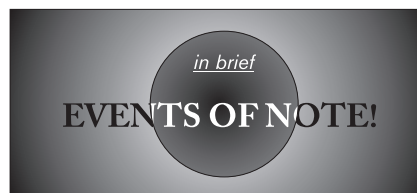
**P**rofessor Eugenio Menegon (photo inset), who was promoted to the rank of associate professor earlier this academic year, has



learned from the Boston University Humanities Foundation that he has won a Henderson Senior Humanities Fellowship for

2011-12. His project and the subject of his research during this time, entitled "*Amicitia Palatina: Court Networks and the Europeans in Imperial Beijing, 1601-1820*," will focus on the relationship that China's Qing dynastic household developed with its closest servants within the palace and the capital city, from the establishment of the dynasty in Beijing in 1644 to the early nineteenth century. He aims to demonstrate the importance of the informal dimension of Chinese political culture as an intermediate and connecting space between monarchical autocracy and imperial bureaucratic institutions. His goal is to link his work to more general scholarship of the last two decades focusing on early modern state-building which has resuscitated the importance of the royal court and of the ruler's household at the heart of the dynastic state. "Finally," he says, "I hope that

this study will offer to students of comparative court cultures materials and interpretations to continue challenging past modernization narratives that relegated 'oriental despots' to the dustbin of history, showing instead the dynamism and complexity of Asian monarchies in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries."



Professor **Houchang Chehabi** published "Li Kulli Fir'awn Musa: The Myth of Moses and Pharaoh in the Iranian Revolution in Comparative Perspective," *Crown Paper* No. 4, October 2010.... He also started his two-year term as president of the International Society for Iranian Studies.

On November 12 Professor **Nina Silber** participated in a panel discussion, along with historians Eric Foner and Charles Bryan, examining various questions related to the coming of, and developments during, the US Civil War. The discussion, sponsored by the History Channel and timed to coincide with the Civil War sesquicentennial, will appear on the History Channel's website in March 2011.

Professor **Arianne Chernock's** article on "Feminism in the Provinces: T. S. Norgate and the 'Rights of Woman' in Norwich" will appear in a special edition of the journal *Enlightenment and Dissent*, organized around the sub-

ject of "Intellectual Exchanges: Women and Rational Dissent."...Her research is featured this fall in BU's online *Research Magazine* ([www.bu.edu/research/highlights/magazine/features/family-matters/](http://www.bu.edu/research/highlights/magazine/features/family-matters/)).

On November 4 Professor **Allison Blakely** presented a lecture entitled "The Black European Response to the Election of Barack Obama," as featured lecturer for the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Robert D. Clark Honors College, University of Oregon, in his capacity as recipient of the Honors College 2010 Alumni Achievement Award.

In November Professor **Betty Anderson** gave the paper "Liberal Education and the Nature of Authority: The Case of the American University of Beirut (AUB)" at the History of Education Society conference in Cambridge, Mass.... Also in November she was the discussant for the panel "Approaches to the Cultural History of Education in Mandatory Palestine" for the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Conference in San Diego, California.... She published the article "The SPC Man" for *MainGate*, the alumni magazine of the American University of Beirut.

Professor **John Thornton's** article "Angola e as origines de Palmares" was published in Flavio Gomes, ed., *Mocambos de Palmares: histórias e fontes (seculos XVI-XIX)* (Rio de Janeiro: Letras, 2010). Thornton gave a department seminar a couple of years ago on an article on this same community that was subsequently published in *Annales* in French. This article, in Portuguese, is a different work with a

different angle from the earlier one. Anyone who is interested but who cannot read these languages may request Professor Thornton's original English versions as a Word file.

Professor **James McCann** has learned that his most recent book, *Stirring the Pot: A History of African Cuisine* (Ohio University Press), has been named by the online *Library Journal* second on the list of "best sellers in African history" (appearing just after a recent biography of Nelson Mandela).

Professor **Marilyn Halter** was an invited speaker on the subject "Beyond the Bodega—from Local to Global" at the Statewide Conference on Immigrant Entrepreneurship sponsored by The Immigrant Learning Center, Inc., and Babson College (November 17)... She was also the designated discussant for a presentation at BU's Center for the Study of Asia entitled "From Cultural Anxiety to Social Mobilization: The Making of a Chinese American Community in Boston, 1840s-1930s" (November 15)... Finally she led two workshops this fall on tracing migratory roots for students involved in BU's Family History Project initiative co-sponsored by the New England Historical Genealogical Society (September 29 and November 3).

See *EVENTS OF NOTE*, page 8

## NEWS

### of the History Department at Boston University

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*Items of interest for publication and changes of address should be sent to the editor.*

## Revision of undergraduate history major approved

After three years of experience with the concentration in history approved in 2007 (which offers five tracks strictly within history—general, American, European, world/regional, intellectual/cultural, plus three interdisciplinary options—history and art history, history and religion, history and international relations), department faculty have decided to simplify dramatically the requirements for the major.

In faculty deliberations last spring, Director of Undergraduate Studies Jonathan Zatlín pointed out that "The tracks were not uniform in their requirements [one required 10 courses, four required 11, three required 12], which not only introduced serious administrative loopholes into our curriculum but also sowed confusion about the major among students and faculty." The new major establishes 12 as the number of classes required of all concentrators. "Raising the required number of courses to 12," Professor Zatlín continued, "sends a signal about the intellectual rigor of the History major. The new requirement has the virtue of permitting History faculty more opportunities to work with undergraduates by eliminating the possibility that students can take a mere seven courses in our department (by applying three AP courses to the General track, which requires 10 courses). At the same time, History faculty do not believe that 12 is too onerous for students. It is worth pointing out that even the 12 required courses for the interdisciplinary tracks have not prevented many students from double-majoring in History and another discipline, and that most students complete our requirements without too many problems." Most majors in CAS require 12 (or even more) courses.

The three most popular tracks in the post-2007 major have proved to be (1) general, (2) American, and (3) History and International Relations. The new major is composed of a

general track, but students who prefer to specialize in a certain field may select optional tracks; thus the emphases offered by the current "Option B" (the specialty tracks) may still be selected, but the tracks will not need to be declared officially in CAS. A student desiring one of these tracks will meet with an advisor to select courses that are appropriate; in addition, the departmental website will include guides to these tracks—those in American, European, intellectual/cultural, and international history are in the process of being written, and new tracks in Asian and African are already complete.

Restrictions on the levels of courses are being changed. At present students may take no more than four courses below the 300 level; in the revised major, they may take no more than three classes *below the 200 level*. This change was necessitated by the fact that courses at the 200 and 300 levels are being renumbered; as of fall 2011, the span of classes between HI 201 and HI 399 is to be considered a single range of lecture courses, divided only by topic, not by degree of difficulty. Thus HI 333 (French Revolution), taken before fall 2011, is the same course as HI 266 (its new number as of next fall). This change will take some getting used to (on everyone's part), but it was necessitated by the ever-growing

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**"The intellectual exchange that occurs in small classrooms, where close proximity to professors is possible and class discussion is promoted, constitutes the centerpiece of our major."**

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See *REVISED MAJOR*, page 5



# History News from Mugar

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BY DONALD ALTSCHILLER  
HISTORY BIBLIOGRAPHER

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The number of electronic databases in the BU libraries seems to grow exponentially. Although most of these 312 databases offer specialized subject information (*Contemporary World Music*, *Education Full-Text*, etc.), a growing number provide interdisciplinary coverage of academic journals (*Academic OneFile*, *FRANCIS*, *JSTOR*, etc.). The following databases may be of particular interest to history faculty and both undergraduate and graduate students. The easiest way to access these history-related databases is to go to the BU main library webpage ([www.bu.edu/library](http://www.bu.edu/library)) and click on the "Databases" link, then scroll down the alphabetical list for the following resources. If you have any questions about these or other databases or want any other information about the library, feel free to contact me ([donaltsc@bu.edu](mailto:donaltsc@bu.edu)). Please note: Most of our journals are still available in print (some titles are *only* in print) or microfilm, so faculty should inform students about these multiple journal formats, which are noted in the BU library catalog.

## 📖 Academic OneFile

An interdisciplinary database offering a large number of full-text articles. This resource provides access to more than 200 historical journals.

## 📖 American Newspapers, Series 1, 1690-1876

Offers fully searchable issues from more than 700 historical newspapers published in 23 states and the District of Columbia. These newspapers were scanned from the collections located at the American Antiquarian Society, the Boston Athenaeum, and the Library Company of Philadelphia, in addition to a few other archives and libraries.

## 📖 America: History and Life

The pre-eminent resource for finding journal articles (a growing number are full-text), book and media reviews, and dissertations on the history and culture of the US and Canada.

## 📖 American National Biography

A successor to the *Dictionary of American Biography*, this database provides almost 19,000 biographies of notable American women and men.

## 📖 British History Online (BHO)

Created by the Institute of Historical Research and the History of Parliament Trust, BHO is the digital library of core printed primary and secondary sources for the medieval and early modern history of Britain.

## 📖 Eighteenth Century Collections Online

An extraordinary resource for source materials in history, social sciences, religion, philosophy, and many other subject areas. The history collection offers a wide variety of full-text primary sources, including Hume's *History of England* and Burke's *Reflections on the Revolution in France*, in addition to dozens of other major and minor works. The database is especially useful for researching English social history, travel accounts, fashion, recreational activities, and other cultural and political history during this time period.

## 📖 Harper's Weekly (1857-1912)

Considered the pre-eminent US 19th- and early 20th-century newspaper, with both national and international distribution, this digitized publication provides superb replication of all its articles, illustrations, cartoons, maps, and other features.

## 📖 Historical Abstracts

Complementing *America: History and Life* (see above), this database is the major source for finding the contents of international history periodicals (except for the US and Canada) from 1450 to the present.

## 📖 Humanities Full-Text

Despite its name, this interdisciplinary database has a large number of full-text articles, but it still provides mostly summaries and citations. Since the database includes many non-historical journals which publish history-related articles, this resource is an excellent supplementary source to *America: History and Life* and *Historical Abstracts*.

## 📖 International Medieval Bibliography

Founded in 1967 with the support of the Medieval Academy of America, this resource provides the most comprehensive and current bibliography of medieval history articles published in journals and miscellany volumes worldwide.



### 📖 JSTOR

This database provides full-text coverage for over one thousand academic journals in the humanities, social sciences, and sciences. Almost 250 history titles are included, and the database provides complete retrospective access to each journal since it began publication. Previously, the content of the most recent issues was not available due to copyright issues, but beginning in 2011, some current journal issues will be available.

### 📖 New York Times Historical (1851-2006)

This remarkable database can be searched for every word that was published in the “newspaper of record” (including advertisements and death notices) since it began publication in the mid-19th century. The article is displayed in its original format, and users can also see a total page view when it appeared. [The *Boston Globe Historical* (1872+) and the *Chicago Tribune Historical* (1849+) are also alphabetically arranged on the Databases page.]

### 📖 Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

Contains biographical portraits of more than 57,000 people who “shaped the history of the British Isles and beyond” from the 4th century BCE to the 21st century.

### 📖 Oxford Reference Online

This aggregated database brings together a wide variety of Oxford University Press reference works—formerly available only in book form—in the humanities, social sciences, and sciences. The history collection is wide-ranging including *The Oxford Companion to American Military History*, *The Oxford Companion to British History*, etc. Please note: These works are general ready-reference sources mostly useful for providing a good overview of a topic and especially helpful for students considering a research topic.

### 📖 Project Muse

Started in 1993 by the Johns Hopkins

University Press to make the JHU journals more accessible to readers, *Project Muse* has greatly expanded its collection to include a wide variety of university press and other academic journals. This database has some overlapping coverage with JSTOR but also provides unique access to many humanities publications, including history journals.

### 📖 WorldCat

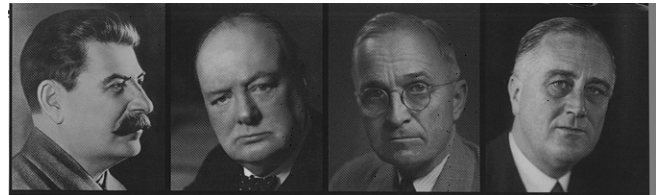
Although there is no comprehensive national library catalog that lists all the books and other items held in American libraries, this database is the best currently available resource to find library holdings. Continuously updated, this database offers many superb features: BU-owned books are highlighted and users can perform searches by keyword, language, and/or format (including websites, videos, etc.).

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## HarperCollins issues new book from Robert Dallek

Former BU faculty member Robert Dallek has authored *The Lost Peace: Leadership in a Time of Horror and Hope, 1945-1953*. “This is a book,” Dallek begins, “about the generation of leaders in the years of upheaval between the close of World War II and the early Cold War. It is not a comprehensive history about why and how the Cold War began. Rather, it is an attempt to underscore the misjudgments and unwise actions that caused so much continuing strife and suffering, and suggest alternatives that might have made for greater international harmony. While I

highlight the failings of the notable men who dominated the scene during this time, I am not intent on denying them their due, or in the case of the greatest villains of the day, revising their reputations for wrongdoing. My greatest interest is in revisiting the decision making and events of the period as a cautionary tale—a reprise of what went wrong as a call for future improvement in world affairs, or an educator’s lesson of what might have been done to avoid the difficulties that beset strong and weak nations around the globe.”



ROBERT DALLEK

# THE LOST PEACE

LEADERSHIP IN A TIME OF  
HORROR AND HOPE, 1945–1953

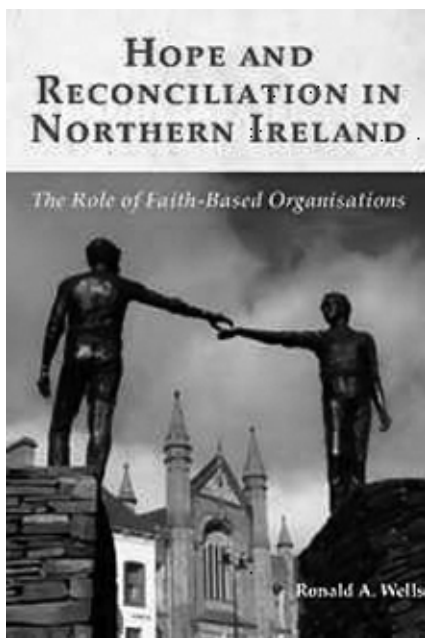




## ALUMNI NEWS

Two very active alumni have recently sent us updates on their scholarly activities:

**Ronald A. Wells** (CLA 1963, GRS 1964 & 1967), Professor of History Emeritus at Calvin College, Michigan, published his new book, *Hope and Reconciliation in Northern Ireland* (Dublin: The Liffey Press, 2010). Professor Wells attended, and spoke at, the Irish book launch at the Ulster Museum in Belfast on October 30 and the English launch at Coventry Cathedral on November 3. The book is being published in Ireland, not North America, by the terms of the grant Wells received from the Joseph Kennedy Foundation, which supports projects for the common good in Ireland and Britain. It is available in North America through Amazon.com (see photo of cover below).



**Douglas Wheeler** (MA in 1960; PhD in 1963; Visiting Assistant Professor of African History, 1969 and 1972; and member of several PhD orals and dissertation committees) writes: Here is news of three new books of mine which were published this year: Co-author with R. Pelissier of *História de Angola* (published by Tinta da China, Lisbon, 2009) an updated, expanded edition in Portuguese of our *Angola* (1971, 1977); 3rd edition of my *Historical Dictionary of Portugal* (Scarecrow Press, 2010), with new co-author, Walter Opello; and *História Política de Portugal, 1910-1926*, published in Lisbon by Europa-America, Lda, the 2nd ed. in Portuguese, with new bibliography and preface—first ed. published 1985 by same publisher, from English version, *Republican Portugal* (Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 1978).

Though I retired from full-time classroom work at the University of New Hampshire in 2002, I continue to lecture on history, especially history of intelligence and espionage, to audiences in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Maine, and will teach a course on that topic again this winter term at UNH's adult learner division, Granite State College, at Rochester, N.H.

### South Asian search cancelled

To the dismay of department faculty, the search for a new assistant professor of south Asian history was cancelled by the College a few days before the search deadline.

Inevitably departments submit more proposals for new faculty than can be funded; those that make the initial cut (such as the south Asia one) are allowed to advertise “pending budgetary approval.” Unfortunately this year the History Department was on the wrong side of the final divide.

The department received 60 applications for the position.

REVISED MAJOR (cont. from page 2)

number of courses offered in the department and by the fact that International Programs courses require numbers within the History listing—the department was literally running out of numbers.

There are no changes in the revised major in the basic required courses (HI 200 and two seminars—formerly called colloquia). The department faculty continue to see these courses as the core of the concentration: As Professor Zatlín pointed out, “The intellectual exchange that occurs in small classrooms, where close proximity to professors is possible and class discussion is promoted, constitutes the centerpiece of our major. It is often the hallmark of the student’s educational experience.”

To summarize the History concentration as of fall 2011:

- There are no official tracks—just a single “concentration in history.”
- 12 courses are required of all students.
- The basic distribution requirement remains the same: one course each in American, European, world, pre-modern.
- HI 200 is required of all students—and must be taken at BU.
- Two seminars (formerly called colloquia) are required of all students—and must be taken at BU or in a BU abroad program.
- No more than three courses below 200 may be counted toward the major.
- Students may select optional tracks (American, European, intellectual/cultural, African, Asian, international history—with others to be developed); refer to information on the website and consult with a faculty advisor to choose a track.

Current majors may continue in the tracks they have already selected (they are “grandfathered in”) until

graduation, and the department will support them with advising as usual. As of fall 2011 only the revised major will be available for new History concentrators. One word of caution: Current students who have not declared a track within the current major (this problem affects a substantial number) run the risk of having to switch to the new major and thus being subject to the 12-course requirement; they should declare a track (in CAS B3) immediately.

The department will have a guide to the major on the website by next spring's registration period. ♦

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## Eugenio Menegon guides HI 175 Silk Road Project

**A**fter a week-long preparation, the 53 students in Professor Eugenio Menegon and Teaching Fellow Kallie Szczepanski's course "World History to 1500" (HI 175) presented in class a series of skits, PowerPoint presentations, a short movie, and poetic and musical performances on life along the Silk Road. The topics selected by students included social and gender relations, arts, religions, trade, ecology, and empires along this far-flung network of commercial and cultural routes extending from China through Central Asia, Persia, and India all the way to the Mediterranean, between the 3rd and 10th centuries CE. With images from Buddhist sites, Central Asian music and costumes, monks' robes and other props, students imaginatively interpreted the biographies of several Silk Road social types during the 8th-9th centuries, based on Susan Whitfield's *Life Along the Silk Road* (Univ. of California Press, 1999). Four projects were selected as winners in two categories ("Best Researched" and "Most Creative") and received gift card prizes provided by the CAS Aca-

demic Enhancement Fund. Below are samples of the students' work from several projects:

### **Silk Road Newscast (Jade Anderson, Avery Churchwell, Hallie Fischberg, Webster McEvoy, and Christina Rencis, director)**

These students produced a short newscast, with footage shot both indoors and on the Boston Common. The show began: "Good evening and welcome to 7:00 evening news on Silk Road TV, your number one source for all things Eastern Eurasia. I'm Webster and this is my cohost, Hallie. Tonight: Panic hits China as the Black Death sweeps across the nation into Europe and Southeast Asia. Reports confirm that the plague is being carried along the caravans of the Silk Road." In the scene below, anchors Hallie Fischberg and Webster McEvoy announce from the studios of EMTV [see the logo at the bottom of the screen below—we weren't previously aware that the course instructor owned a TV network] the outbreak of disease along the Silk Road. Webster has just discovered strange black dots on his arms, a sign that pestilence has struck him too. He will show more symptoms soon (better not to describe them!) and later pass out in front of the camera.

On the following pages are some poetic renderings of the life of a Buddhist artist and of a long-distance merchant:

### **Rap: The artist at the Buddhist caves of Dunhuang (Melissa D'Anna)**

Hey my name is Dong Baode  
I'm a pretty big deal on the Silk Road  
I'm an artist baby can't you see  
The king and everybody love me  
You may think an artist is pretty low class  
But ya you have that wrong cuz I've got pretty big tasks  
You know that ginormous statue of Buddha in Tibet  
Along with all those crazy Chinese silken silhouettes  
Yea that was thanks to me  
The Nuns and those religious Buddhists pay thee

*See HI 175, page 7*







Students in the “Jews in the Modern World” class (clockwise from left): Sun Je Kim, David Smigen-Rothkopf, Chelsea Elkaim, and Lizzie Bassett.

## Class on “Jews in the Modern World” visits Lower East Side

Our class “Jews in the Modern World” recently took a day trip down to New York City. The idea was to add substance to our class discussions about Jewish migration to the United States and the changes (and continuities) in Jewish employment, politics, living conditions, and family life that this substantive demographic shift precipitated.

Since we had just a day, we focused our touring in the Lower East Side, the section of New York that absorbed many generations of immigrants and in the late nineteenth century became the locus of east European Jewish immigration to the United States. If the Lower East Side were a city, by World War I it would have had the largest Jewish population in the world. Jews didn’t just live

on the Lower East Side, they worked there too, and in its shops and factories produced much of the women’s garments sold in the United States.

We took a walking tour of the neighborhood and visited a number of landmarks such as the former Yiddish *Daily Forward* building, the Jarmulowsky Bank building, and the Eldridge Street Synagogue. We also took a guided tour of the Tenement Museum ([www.tenement.org](http://www.tenement.org)) that took us to the reconstructed apartments of two Jewish families working in the garment trade (see photo below). Perhaps most importantly, we ate pastrami at Katz’s (photo above), a Lower East Side deli that opened in 1888. The trip was paid for by the CAS Student Academic Enhancement Fund.

*Simon Rabinovitch*  
*Assistant Professor of History*



During their trip to Manhattan’s Lower East Side, Professor Simon Rabinovitch’s class visited the Tenement Museum and did the “Piecing It Together” tour, which takes one through the reconstructed apartments of two Jewish families working in the textile trade.

Photo by Lizzie Bassett (a member of the class) of the back of an old tenement building.

HI 175 (cont. from page 6)

Cuz yea I’m a pretty hot commodity  
I’ve got my patrons like King Cao and  
Lady Zhai  
But also the monks and nuns wanna  
see my dye  
So thanks to my amazing works of art  
and monuments  
The future can discover the Silk Road  
settlements.  
So now it’s time to hand over my  
makeshift mic  
So you can hear from my commis-  
sioning nun  
Get Psyched

**Poem: Forever a Merchant (Javier Bonilla)**

A Turk, a Chinese, or an Arab I could  
be

See HI 175, page 8



Department of History  
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HI 175 (cont. from page 7)

Their languages I can speak  
My grandfather, my father, his brothers, his cousins were all like me  
Merchants on the Silk Road we were meant to be.

We travel thousands of miles across arid deserts  
In caravans with camels humped and tall  
Complain of the scorching heat these beasts of burden won't  
Drink tons of water they don't.

We brave the blinding sandstorms to glimpse the pot of gold at the end of the  
road  
Endure the blazing torrid sun to refresh our pockets with riyals and liras  
From selling our wares of Turkish wool and Chinese silk  
Dazzling gems and exotic jade  
Weather the freezing and biting cold to bask in cozy pleasure  
That riches will assure.

Be warned, my wise old man said  
Steer clear of hot spots where Arab and Chinese armies clash  
Offer coins to border guards to let you go  
Don't cross paths with ruthless bandits  
Lest you lose those precious carats of stone and coveted satin clothes  
Fight those greedy creatures to keep their hands off your cash  
And the gifts of sparkling jewels for your dotting wives  
The bright-colored woolen furs for your darling babes.

We've got grit and guts, we've got glory,  
Jesus Christ, Allah, Buddha, bless me,  
A merchant I will forever be.

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EVENTS OF NOTE (cont. from page 2)

Professor **Eugenio Menegon** was one of the organizers and presenters at the "Leisure and the State in Eurasia" Workshop, held at the Institute on Culture, Religion, and World Affairs at Boston University, on November 5-6. This was the first workshop in a series organized in the multi-year research project at BU entitled "Leisure and Social Change Across Asia," supported by the BU Humanities Foundation in alliance with the Cluster of Excellence "Asia and Europe in a Global Context" at the University of Heidelberg (Germany). The workshop's four panels (12 presenters) focused on the relationship between leisure activities and the state in pre-modern and modern Eurasia, from Turkey to South Asia to East Asia, and dealt with courtly life, aristocratic and literary networks, and leisure; urban life, the state, and leisure; leisure as source of tension as well as symbolic and political capital for the modern state in nation-building and societal control. Among the presenters was Professor **Suzanne O'Brien** of the History Department. ◆ ◆