Drew-Monmouth Agreement Signed

An exciting new opportunity for graduate history students at Monmouth who wish to go on to a doctoral program was recently initiated. On July 28, 1999, Monmouth University announced the signing of an agreement with Drew University’s Ph.D. program in modern history and literature which will enable qualified graduates of the Monmouth M.A. program in history to receive advanced standing at Drew following admission.

President Rebecca Stafford said, “This cooperative partnership is an outstanding opportunity to enhance and expand Monmouth University’s graduate degree programs. It will empower students by allowing them to tap the resources of two leading institutions and achieve a heightened learning experience in history and literature.”

Located in Madison, New Jersey, Drew University offers a Ph.D. in modern history and literature (MHL) which focuses on the eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth centuries. The emphasis of the course of study is intellectual history and students explore the traditions of both America and Europe. In addition to the required emphasis in either American or European history (with a minor in the non-major field), students develop an interdisciplinary field of study based on their particular interest.

The agreement signed by University Provost, Dr. Thomas Pearson, and Dean James H. Pain of the Casperson Graduate School of Drew University allows graduates of the

Message from Graduate Program Director

Julius O. Adekunle, Ph.D.

As the new Director of the Graduate Program, I welcome all students to a busy semester and an academically rewarding program. The purpose of this Graduate Newsletter is to provide information that will be of interest to students. It is also to involve them in writing short articles, book or article reviews. It is meant to be a forum to express or exchange ideas. We hope that as you participate this Newsletter will reach out to prospective students and bring them into our program.

Many of you know that the department is trying to help you to achieve your academic goals but without your cooperation, this cannot go well. The Graduate Program is expanding, numbers are growing, and new courses are being introduced. Your ideas are important to us. If you inform us of courses that you want us to offer, your suggestions will be taken into consideration.

We are proud of our Graduate Program. Most recently, David Bramhall, a graduate of our program, made us proud by obtaining his doctorate degree from Drew University. He is at present a professor in the department. In addition, three other graduates are doing their doctoral program. Our success is a joint effort of faculty and students.

Have a wonderful semester!

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ARTICLE REVIEW

Planned Decolonization And Its Failure In British Africa,, By John Flint African Affairs, July, 1983

John Flint's article has an ambitious thesis that the British initiated the decolonization movement in British Africa, from London beginning in 1938, before World War II forced the issue, and that this "planned" decolonization ultimately failed. This thesis is supported by the sound and concise organization of Flint's text. It is an article that is well written and remained close to the author's proposed goals while also delivering information gleaned from specified sources. Flint stated, "In this article I propose to examine how the decolonization movement originated as a movement for colonial reform in British Africa; what the theoretical assumptions behind this movement were; and how the British proposed, from London, to plan African evolution to self-government. My sources will be, almost entirely, the Colonial Office files for the period after 1938..." The scope of his article concerns the planned decolonization in British Africa, but it is in need of comparative documentation to support the central thesis that planned decolonization evolved within British policy making.

Although ambitious and well supported by these files, Flint's thesis takes on the veneer of a report based a priori on the notion that decolonization in Africa was a product solely of British invention without the comparative evidence of the movement for decolonization in places such as France, Portugal, and Belgium. He seemingly expects his readers to accept this as fact without crucial comparative evidence derived from the Colonial Files of other regimes. This leads the reader to wonder if before the British Official stated "indirect rule has failed," had the French already come to the same conclusions about assimilation and adopted the policy of association which can be labeled colonial reform or the beginning of decolonization. Flint clings tenaciously to the statements of a few British policy makers and officials, particularly to those made by Malcolm McDonald, adhering to his self-imposed "specified" narrow field of evidence.

Flint does accomplish his intent within this scope of specific evidence [British Colonial Office Files] concerning the failure of planned decolonization in British Africa. Flint suggests that the planned decolonization of British Africa was over-ambitious and cites his reasons to be the aura of imperialism within the "planning," the "tabula rasa attitudes" towards the humanity of Africa, and the human reactions to planned change. The author is astutely correct on these points concerning planned decolonization in Africa. Flint's outline of goals for his article to prove the origination of the decolonization movement in British Africa, the theories behind it, and the "planning" that went into it, along with the eventual failure, as adhered to by the

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evidence of the British Colonial Files after 1938 were followed through. The author accomplishes what he set out to do within the format of his article, but can he convince the reader to support his thesis without the crucial comparative evidence of the Colonial Policies of Contemporary and competing Colonial powers within Africa? Before one can accept that planned decolonization in Africa was initiated by the British, one must first be cognizant of the nature of decolonization within other countries involved with Africa. The element of African resistance, how great or how little, in toppling colonial rule must also be given careful consideration as well; Flint virtually dismisses this. Of course, the subject of the article was "Planned Decolonization and its Failure in British Africa" which ultimately cannot be accepted without comparative studies of competing regimes in order to exact a clear understanding as to why planned decolonization failed overall.

- Hettie V. Williams

A NEW ERA IN NIGERIAN POLITICS

Nigeria began a new phase in its political history on May 29, 1999 when General Olusegun Obasanjo (rtd) was sworn in as the president of the country. That day marked the end of the old order of military intervention in politics and the beginning of a new era in democracy. Many Nigerians have mixed feelings about the new phase, given their previous experiences of military dictatorship. Others, however, believe that this is the time to cut the growing wings of the military and return them to the barracks, where they rightly belong.

Obasanjo has indicated his commitment to democracy. To maintain democracy, Obasanjo called on the military to stay away from politics because Nigeria has "no place for political soldiers." Nigeria is no longer a place for politics of power but a place where democratic principles are respected and truly practiced to foster ethnic relations and national integration. The new administration has an uphill task to put Nigeria on the path of progress. Corruption is pervasive, ethnic conflicts are rampant, and the unemployment rate is high. Obasanjo has set in motion some processes to check corruption and minimize ethnic conflicts. Now, world communities and political observers are watching and monitoring the new administration in Nigeria.

Because a lot of damage has been done and many wounds have been opened up, reconstruction and rehabilitation will take some time. Nigerians are waiting to see how long it will take the new administration to bear the fruits of democracy.

-Julius Adekunle
Around Historic England With Dr. Ken Campbell...more than tourists!
by Bobbie Harris

In August I had the experience of joining six others to fly to England with Dr. Ken Campbell as he led a tour of historic England for 14 days. From the beginning, landing in Heathrow Airport and immediately boarding our private coach with guide and driver for Winchester, we knew that we would be more than tourists on this trip. Not only were we aware that we would see and stand on the sites of important events, but that before we arrived at each destination, Dr. Campbell would give us enough historical information and his own insights to place each experience in its proper historical context.

We began our tour in Winchester with a visit to the Cathedral and Winchester Castle and while in King Arthur country visited the ruins of Glastonbury Abby, site of the first Christian church in England, and the presumed burial place of Arthur. We even visited Wookey Hole, a series of caves, where Iron Age man lived. Dr. Campbell's lectureettes helped me understand more clearly the long journey that began the development of England. It was a spectacular experience to stand on the wall that the Roman Emperor Hadrian commanded be built across the north of England to mark his boundary (and keep his soldier-builders busy as well). No less amazing was our visit to Bath where Roman engineers created a spa with its marvels still visible today in spite of Victorian enhancements.

Among the other cathedrals visited were Wells, Salisbury (where one of the original copies of the Magna Carta is displayed), Durham and one of my favorites, Canterbury (where Thomas Becket was murdered). On our own we could view the beauty and creativity, of these and other cathedrals, but it was Dr. Campbell who heightened the journey of transition from the Norman arch into the soaring arches of the Gothic.

Although we visited many other historical sites from Blenheim, birthplace of Winston Churchill to Cambridge with its beautiful ancient colleges, and, of course, Westminster Abbey, where my husband had to see the window dedicated to Sir George Williams, founder of the YMCA, we did much more. After visiting Shakespeare's birthplace and then his burial place in Holy Trinity Church, as well as Ann Hathaway's Cottage, we saw A Midsummer Night's Dream at Stratford, and Anthony and Cleopatra at the Globe in London. Both were spectacular experiences in their own right. The former presented with a very contemporary interpretation and the latter was presented the way it would have been done in Shakespeare's day with Elizabethan dress and all roles played by males. Yes, even Cleopatra!

As anyone who has traveled knows, there is more to visiting a country, than the great buildings, the sites of important historical events, and the collections of artifacts and art in its museums and galleries. On this trip we were fortunate to be able to experience the pubs and restaurants in a variety of settings, to walk down cobbled streets and garden paths, to experience the crowded streets of the Shambles in York with all its merchants, the thatched roof cottages on streets near our hotel in Shraftbury and the high energy everywhere in the open-air piazza of Covent Garden. And, of course, there were the "mandatory" tourist things...punting on the Cam, a river trip to the Tower of London, and even watching jousting at Warwick Castle.

There are "people events" that make a trip memorable also. Like walking through the cow pasture to see the "mounds" that are near Stonehenge and to watch Dr. Campbell, stop to pat a cow on the head! We have pictures to prove it. And there are always those who will sit in the laps of giant statues or try to get the Queen's guards to smile. All this is part of a memorable trip even if it is a "learning vacation."

I will remember most of all the many times "history" became more alive as we walked where Roman legionnaires walked, stood where the first King of England was crowned, touched the stones of long fallen cathedral walls, and stood in the nave of cathedrals where worship had continued for hundreds of years. History became more real as I stood where Thomas More stood, and walked through the gate of Trinity College, founded by Henry VIII and saw the actual spot Anne Boleyn was beheaded. And that which I did not know, or knew only a little, took on more meaning by the statements made on our coach before arriving or on the grounds of the places we were about to tour by Ken Campbell. This summer I was on vacation in England, but I was more than a tourist. The reason for that is quite clear, it was a journey in learning with Ken Campbell.

Dr. Campbell is already planning a historical tour of Scotland for Summer 2001. If you sign up before June 30, 2001, you can travel at 2000 prices. Dr. Campbell can be reached at (732) 263-7574 or email campbell@monmouth.edu.