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20 January 2006

“It would now be technically possible to unify the world, abolish war and poverty altogether, if men desired their own happiness more than the misery of their enemies”: **Bertrand Russell** (1872-1970), *Portraits from Memory* (1956)

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1. INTO 2006 WITH THE HRI

Happy new year from the HRI! We have some very exciting events coming up in the next few weeks. As always, our events are free of charge, and everyone, on and off campus, is warmly invited to attend. Here are some upcoming highlights.

On the evening of 15 February we are presenting a Special Profiling Scholarship Event. In a cabaret setting at the University Club, celebrated author **Ken Mitchell** will talk about his newest book, an sumptuously illustrated centennial history of jazz in Saskatchewan, while his musical guests will offer musical illustrations. Jazz is all about improvisation, so we won't try to predict exactly how the evening will unfold...

On 1 March the HRI welcomes back art historian, novelist, and U of R alumnus **Ross King**, whose last visit here in December 2003 to talk about the competition to decorate the Sistine Chapel was one of the highlights of that year. This time he'll be giving an illustrated lecture about the subject of his new book, *The Judgement of Paris*, on the French art scene at the birth of the Impressionist movement.

The HRI's flagship event is the annual Dr. Barbara Powell Visiting Lecture. On 6 March we welcome acclaimed historian **Margaret MacMillan** to talk about a subject that derives from her best-seller *Paris 1919*, but also has a bearing on today's geopolitical realities.

Full details about all these events can be found below. But there'll be other HRI events in the coming weeks. Watch your inbox for subsequent HRI E-mail Newsletters (they appear roughly once a month) for further information, and keep an eye on the HRI website at <http://www.uregina.ca/hri/index.shtml>

If this HRI Newsletter was forwarded to you by a friend, and you'd like to subscribe yourself (it's free, and you can unsubscribe at any time), just go to the appropriate page on the HRI website <http://www.uregina.ca/hri/informationform.shtml> and submit the simple form.

2. HRI PROFILING SCHOLARSHIP SPECIAL EVENT: KEN MITCHELL'S JAZZ PROVINCE (15 February)

THE JAZZ PROVINCE: AN EVENING OF JAZZ HISTORY

with **KEN MITCHELL** and His Musical Guests

Date: **Wednesday 15 February 2006**

Time: **7:30 pm**

Place: **University Club, College West, CW 215**

Admission free; all are welcome

Cash bar; refreshments and soft drinks will be provided

Come and enjoy a performance of jazz and narrative, with author Ken Mitchell and “jazz doctor” Dr. **Ed Lewis**. They will be joined by student members of the University of Regina Jazz Ensemble, featuring guitarist **Jack Semple**. The occasion is a celebration of Mitchell’s just-published book, [*The Jazz Province: The Story of Jazz in Saskatchewan*](#), which will be on sale. The University Club provides a relaxed cabaret setting for this unusual collaboration.

Ken Mitchell is a Professor Emeritus of English who retired in June 2005 from the University of Regina to take up the writing and editing of this handsome book, which was commissioned and published by the Regina Jazz Society for the Saskatchewan Centennial. Designed by award-winning designer Catharine Bradbury, the book is an astonishing compendium of archival photographs and fascinating oral history from the pioneers of jazz from 1914 to the present ... and even into the future!

3. HRI ROSS KING ILLUSTRATED LECTURE: THE JUDGEMENT OF PARIS (1 March)

“THE JUDGEMENT OF PARIS: RIVALRIES AND REPUTATIONS IN NINETEENTH-CENTURY FRENCH ART”

An Illustrated Lecture by **ROSS KING**

Date: **Wednesday 1 March 2006**

Time: **3:30 pm**

Place: **Classroom Building, CL 110**

Admission free; all are welcome

The lecture will be followed by a reception and book signing

Impressionism has been one of the most popular and influential movements in the history of art. It has also become a huge industry that has seen Claude Monet's garden at Giverny place second only to Versailles as the most-visited tourist attraction in France, while Impressionism's iconic scenes of ballerinas and lily ponds have launched millions of framed prints and graced everything from tote bags and T-shirts to computer screensavers and wallpaper for mobile phones. However, it is well known that Impressionism was, at its inception, probably the most reviled artistic style in history. Paul Cézanne earned such extreme public mockery and so many toxic reviews that he was known to shred his canvases in despair, and Monet once attempted suicide by leaping into the Seine. Why was there so much fierce contemporary resistance to the Impressionists? And how have their reputations enjoyed, for most of the past century, such an astounding reversal?

To investigate these puzzles it is necessary to look at two of the main antagonists in the culture wars of the 1860s and 1870s, a pair of painters described as the two opposite poles of art: Édouard Manet and Ernest Meissonier. While Manet was ridiculed and abominated for canvases, such as "Le Déjeuner sur l'herbe," that seemed to defy all known laws of painting, Meissonier was the richest and most celebrated painter of the nineteenth century, famed for his painstaking efforts and almost photographic realism. Meissonier has now disappeared into fathomless obscurity, but it is impossible to comprehend the impact of Manet and the Impressionists--and to understand their seesawing reputations--without coming to terms with what he represented.

Born and raised in Saskatchewan, **Ross King** received a BA (Hons.) and MA in English from the University of Regina before completing a PhD at York University in Toronto. Following postdoctoral studies at the University of London he has published five books, including *Brunelleschi's Dome*, which in 2001 won the American Bookseller Association's BookSense Non-Fiction Book of the Year; and *Michelangelo and the Pope's Ceiling*, a finalist in 2003 for both a National Book Critics Circle Award in the United States and the Governor General's Award in Canada. His new book, *The Judgement of Paris*, has just been published.

4. HRI 2006 DR BARBARA POWELL VISITING LECTURE: MARGARET MACMILLAN (6 March)

MARGARET MACMILLAN

(Provost of Trinity College and Professor of History at the University of Toronto)

"1919: A NEW WORLD ORDER?"

Date: **Monday 6 March 2006**

Time: **7:30 pm**

Place: **Classroom Bldg, CL 110**

Admission free; all are welcome

The peacemakers who met in Paris in 1919 faced the formidable task of putting back together an international order that had been shattered by the First World War. They could not merely go back to the prewar world. Four empires--the German, Russian, Austria-Hungarian and Ottoman--had gone or were about to go. Moreover powerful new ideas were mobilizing public opinion. The Bolshevik Revolution promised a new international socialism and an egalitarian society. From the New World, the American president Woodrow Wilson talked of a liberal international order with self-determination of nations, open diplomacy and a League of Nations. A whole variety of national groups demanded their own nations. In the great European empires, independence movements were stirring. Amidst all this, the Paris Peace Conference did its work and produced peace settlements which have been criticized ever since. Did the decisions made in 1919 lead to the Second World War? Could the peacemakers have done differently or better? Questions about how to end wars and make lasting peace are still with us today.

Margaret MacMillan is Provost of Trinity College and Professor of History at the University of Toronto. Her books include *Women of the Raj* (1988) and *Peacemakers: The Paris Conference of 1919 and Its Attempt to End War* (2001), published in the United States as *Paris 1919: Six Months That Changed the World* (2002). In the UK this latter book won the Duff Cooper Prize, the PEN Hessel-Tiltman prize for history and the Samuel Johnson prize for non-fiction; in the US it won the Silver Medal in the Council on Foreign Relations Arthur Ross Book Award; and in Canada it won the 2003 Governor General's Literary Award for non-fiction and the Canadian Booksellers Libris Award for non-fiction book of the year. In 2003 she co-edited with Francine McKenzie *Parties Long Estranged: Canada and Australia in the Twentieth Century* (2003). Her most recent book is *Canada's House: Rideau Hall and the Invention of a Canadian Home*, written with Marjorie Harris and Anne L. Desjardins (2004). Dr. MacMillan appears frequently in the media commenting on both history and current international affairs.

5. SOME OTHER DATES TO WATCH FOR IN WINTER 2006

23 March: HRI Profiling Scholarship Series/Book Launch: **Garry Sherbert, Sheila Petty, and Annie Gérin's** *Canadian Cultural Poesis: Essays on Canadian Culture*.

29 March: HRI Visiting Research Fellow Lectures Series #3: **Dani Phillipson** on Contemporary Celebrity TV.

14 April: Deadline for HRI Spring 2006 Funding Competition

6. HRI CONTACT INFORMATION

The HRI e-mail Newsletter appears once a month from September to April, and more occasionally during the rest of the year. Recent issues are archived on the HRI website.

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For further details about upcoming HRI events or to submit material to future newsletters, please contact:

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