

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM OF THE FRIENDS OF THE GERMAN HISTORICAL INSTITUTE AND AWARD OF THE FRITZ STERN DISSERTATION PRIZE

Symposium at the GHI, November 19, 2004. Conveners: Gerald D. Feldman (President, Friends of the German Historical Institute) and Christof Mauch (GHI). Participants: Christopher J. Fischer (Loyola College), Erik N. Jensen (Miami University), Dorothee Brantz (GHI), Frank Zelko (GHI). Made possible by a generous grant from the German Marshall Fund of the United States.

The Friends of the German Historical Institute convened in Washington on November 19, 2004 for their thirteenth annual symposium, chaired by Gerald D. Feldman. The morning session featured the presentation of the Fritz Stern Dissertation Prize, which has been awarded for five years in a row for the two best dissertations in German history at a North American university. Fritz Stern, the eminent historian after whom the prize is named, attended the award ceremony. This year's prizes were offered to Christopher J. Fischer, who received his Ph.D. at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, for his dissertation "Alsace to the Alsatians? Visions and Divisions of Alsatian Regionalism, 1890–1930," and to Erik N. Jensen, who earned his Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, for his dissertation "Images of the Ideal: Sports, Gender, and the Emergence of the Modern Body in Weimar Germany." The Fritz Stern Dissertation Prize Committee was composed of Atina Grossmann (Cooper Union), Kees Gispem (University of Mississippi), and Vernon L. Lidtke (Johns Hopkins University), who chaired the committee.

The committee's prize citations commended Fischer for "a significant and highly original case study of regionalism, nationalism, and the problems of identity construction," as well as "a many-layered and persuasive analysis of Alsatian regionalism as a complex and sometimes contradictory set of fragmented, fluctuating, and contested ideas and practices." They praised Jensen for "a pioneering inquiry into the popular representations of male and female athletes in the Weimar Republic and how these images shaped new conceptions of masculinity and femininity," which constitutes "a major and exciting advance in rethinking the cultural, social, and political history of the Weimar Republic." Both papers are printed in revised form in the Stern Prize section of this *Bulletin*.

In the afternoon, the audience heard presentations by GHI Visiting Research Fellows Dorothee Brantz and Frank Zelko about their dissertation research. The talks were entitled "How Parasites Make History: On Pork and People in the Nineteenth Century" and "Erst wenn der letzte Fluss vergiftet ist: The Origins of Direct Action Environmentalism in Hamburg." Dorothee Brantz's slightly modified paper is published in the GHI Research section of this *Bulletin*.

Birgit Zischke