

History 201-O/ Hist 197

Global Knowledge in the 17th and 18th Centuries

Winter 2004

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By the 17th century, long-distance travel for purposes of trade, exploration and collection was well established. In the aftermath of the voyages of discovery, in what sense was knowledge of the natural world global? This course will investigate the long-distance networks and expeditions that brought distant regions of the globe into contact, with particular focus on natural knowledge (such as geography, natural history, anthropology). We will examine especially how knowledge of distant parts of the world was formulated, interpreted and represented in Europe, and how those other parts of the world led to rethinking of all sorts of meanings.

Week 2:

Jorge Canizares-Esguerra, How to Write the History of the New World, Chaps. 1-3

Week 3: Canizares, chaps 4-5

(On Monday Jan. 26, Prof. Canizares will be presenting the history of science colloquium on Iberian Science in the 18th Century B thus you will also be reading his paper for that occasion)

Week 4: Michael Dettelbach, articles on Alexander von Humboldt

Week 5: Steve Harris, articles on long-distance networks and organization of knowledge by Jesuits in 17th c

Week 6: chapters from Merchants and Marvels, ed. Smith and Findlen

Week 7: Geography and Enlightenment

Week 8: M-N Bourguet, C. Licoppe and O. Sibum, Instruments and Travel, Intro and chaps. 2, 4,5 and M.N. Bourguet, The Explorer@; Richard Sorrenson on ships and the Royal Society

Week 9: Visions of Empire (selected chapters)

Week 10: Bougainville and Diderot (this is open to negotiation)