

A few pages found by his son in an office file provide an illustrative glimpse into John's life and spirit. It was a record of his annual professional activities for Johns Hopkins' History Department in the last year of his life—a full teaching load, supervision of two doctoral defenses, two new articles, a book chapter and two book reviews; departmental and university committee work; service on international editorial boards; and mentorship of two assistant professors. It was even annotated with his characteristically scratchy handwriting. But in the midst of typing, there suddenly appears a paragraph that begins with the words “On Thursday I had a magical experience....” In a few short lines, there are John and his beloved pit bull Abby taking a long winter's stroll around the lake, when the historian stops to note the colors and the motion of its icy surface. He can hear the water. “The orchestra played softly and tenderly. The notes represented the full range of the scale. There was a shy, almost apologetic quality to the music of the ice, but there was no questioning the perfection of the sounds and the crystalline clarity of each individual note.”

We tend not to reflect on the qualities that make history a humanistic discipline. John Russell-Wood embodied them, and he will be deeply missed.

*Rutgers University
New Brunswick, New Jersey*

KIM D. BUTLER

Adrian Bantjes (1960–2010)

On September 3, 2010, Adrian Bantjes of the University of Wyoming died in a tragic car accident. Scholars of Mexico lost a model colleague. Many of us lost an exceptionally kind and good natured friend as well.

Adrian left behind a rich record of scholarship on postrevolutionary Mexican state formation, particularly its religion dimension. His first monograph, *As if Jesus Walked on Earth* (1998), grew out of a dissertation written under Alan Knight at the University of Texas, Austin. Through meticulous archival work and nuanced interpretation, it revealed how local actors subtly manipulated and often thwarted Cardenismo in the frontier state of Sonora. After its publication, historians would never look at the watershed presidency of Cárdenas in the same way.

As if Jesus Walked on Earth also revealed the yawning cultural gap between state and society, which encouraged Adrian to examine Mexico's postrevolutionary religious conflict. Over the past decade and a half, Adrian published a number of pathbreaking chapters and articles in Mexico, Europe and the United States that revealed how revolutionary anticlericalism profoundly antagonized a broad cross section of Mexican society. By trying to extirpate Catholic “fanaticism,” Adrian argued, the postrevolutionary state had unintentionally undermined its hegemonic claims. In this project, Adrian once again proved himself to be an indefatigable researcher unafraid to question conventional scholarly wisdom. At the time of his untimely death, Adrian was finishing a

manuscript on the religious question, entitled "Idolatry and Iconoclasm in Revolutionary Mexico. Popular Religion and Cultural Revolution, 1910–1940." Fortunately, his wife Mary will finish preparing it for publication.

Most of us came to know Adrian through his research. But he was, by all accounts, a marvelous teacher as well. Adrian expected a lot from his students, and they rose to his challenge because of his example. I came to know two of them who went on to post-graduate work due in no small part to his inspiration. They both recalled his passion for Mexican history in the classroom and his wise counsel as a mentor. In remembering Adrian, one of them recalled these words of Carl Jung, "An understanding heart is everything in a teacher, and cannot be esteemed highly enough. One looks back with appreciation to the brilliant teachers, but with gratitude to those who touched our human feeling." I cannot think of a more fitting tribute to him.

*Colby College
Waterville, Maine*

BEN FALLAW

RESEARCHERS NEEDED

Franciscan History in the United States

The Academy of American Franciscan History is looking for six scholars to research and write extensive essays on aspects of the Franciscan experience in the United States. Each scholar will be asked to research and write a 100-120 page essay on one of the following topics as they relate to U.S. Franciscans: charity and justice, missions(post-1840), education, spirituality, parishes and immigration, and Franciscan women. The essays will be published as part of a two-volume history of Franciscans in the United States and individually as small paperbacks. Each scholar will be required to participate in a conference at the beginning and end of the process. Scholars will receive a \$10,000 stipend plus \$2,500 for travel expenses. Interested parties should send a brief statement of interest and c.v. to Dr. Jeffrey M. Burns, Academy of American Franciscan History, 1712 Euclid Ave., Berkeley, CA 94709. Applications may also be submitted via email to acadafh@fst.edu. For more information call 510-548-1755. Applications will be considered beginning March 1, 2011 and will continue until all slots are filled. The project will begin in Fall 2011.