

Real Colegio Complutense Cambridge, MA (USA)

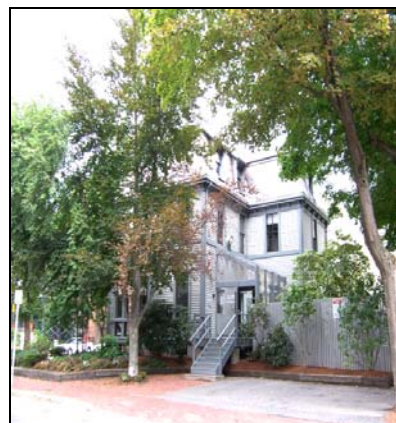


**December 2006
Bulletin #15**

Welcome to the monthly electronic bulletin of the Real Colegio Complutense at Harvard University. Its purpose is to provide, past and future researchers and interested friends, a sense of what is going on at the RCC, and to maintain the contact with our Alumni.

We invite your comments and suggestions at rcc-info@camail.harvard.edu (Elizabeth Kline)

Angel Saenz-Badillos, Director



Major Activities in December

The winter months at RCC tend to be quieter. People are busy reading in libraries, writing papers, and attending classes. The weather has been, surprisingly, warm for Boston/Cambridge. We had our first snowflakes in early December: normally, we have over an inch of snow in November.

The Academic Council met in Madrid on December 18, 2006. Some of the key decisions made were to:

- Increase the amount of the RCC Fellowships to \$2,500 per month;
- Nominate one of the alumni from each Faculty or School of the UCM and other universities with agreements with UCM, to educate and communicate information about RCC in their places;
- Approve new courses and seminars in various topics (Finances, Public Health, etc.) in Cambridge;
- Collaborate with DRCLAS on various courses aimed at Latin American and Spanish faculty. The first ones will be on Comparative Law (Lead: D. Kennedy) and Anthropology and epidemiology (Lead: A. Castro);
- Approve other special events including "Madrid y la Modernidad" organized by B. Epps (May 4-5, 2007): a Seminar on Chemistry (Lead: M. Alario), a Seminar on Tick Borne Diseases (Lead: S. Olmeda), a session on Health

Information Technology for Spanish Hospitals (Lead: E. Shore), a Seminar on Terrorism (Lead: M. Ramírez), and possibly, a Conference on Medieval Hispanic Bibles (Lead: L. Girón);

- Support other cultural or academic events that will take place in Cambridge or in Spain;
- Approve the budget which funds the usual items plus the new initiatives.

On December 6, 2006, researchers decorated the RCC tree. Spaniards were introduced, by the Program Coordinator, to hot chocolate with marshmallows to add to the festivities.



Assembling the Tree



The Group & The Decorated Tree
(The statue of King Juan Carlos is in the background)

Upcoming Activities

RCC Thursday evening lectures at 7:30 PM:

January 4: *Categorizing Human Aggression*, J. Martin Ramirez, UCM

January 11: *European Union Competition Law*, Alejandra Bernabei Cancian, UCM

January 18: *TBA*

January 25: *Bonafed's Diwan*, Arturo Prats Oliván, UCM

RCC Friday evening films at 7:30 PM:

January 5: *Los lunes al sol*, directed by Fernando León (2002)

January 12: *La ardilla roja*, directed by Julio Medem (1993)

January 19: *Buñuel y la mesa del rey Salomón*, directed by Carlos Saura (2001)

January 26: *Cosas que nunca te dije*, directed by Isabel Coixet (1996)

Current Researchers

Continuing Researchers

Demetrio Castro Alfin, History, U. Pública de Navarra

Carmen Alba Pastor, Education, UCM

Judit Targarona Borrás, Hebrew and Medieval Literature Studies, UCM.

Guillermo Guerra Martín, Commercial Law, U. Rey Juan Carlos

Eva Botella Ordinas, History, U. Autónoma de Madrid

Alejandra Bernabei, Law, UCM

Pablo Diaz Gridilla, Law, ICADE/Garrigues

Jésus Martín Ramírez, Psychobiology, UCM

Ricardo Mateo, Business, U. of Navarra

Arturo Prats Oliván, Hebrew Literature, UCM

José Fernández-Albertos, Political Science, UCM

Raúl Fernández Fraile, Philosophy, Universidad Pontificia Comillas

Pedro Chalmeta, History/Law, UCM

Tina Lindhard Ramirez, Psychologist, Cranial Sacral Therapist, Arka Dhyana (Intuitive Meditation) Teacher

Interview with Pedro Chalmeta



Having come to the Real Colegio Complutense twice before, I knew what I wanted from my five months this time: access to Harvard's wonderful libraries. The Widener Library, for example, is huge and allows me to look through the stacks rather than request one book at a time. In Spain, you normally ask for a book and then wait to receive it. Here, you can discover other books while searching on the shelves for a particular one.

In addition, you can take out as many books as you want at one time. Being a professor emeritus at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, I enjoy having the time

here because I am able to focus on my research. I spend hours by myself in the library, doing research, and writing on my computer in my private office on the third floor of RCC. When I want a break, I go downstairs for a cup of tea.

My field is the medieval Muslim world, especially in Spain. I published a large book on a 10th century notary, researching and translating materials. Now, I am finishing another large book – this one is about medieval Muslim marketplaces. They were the only public place found in Muslim communities, where all kinds of people mixed. There were Muslims and non-Muslims; residents and strangers; sellers and buyers. I'm interested in learning about how these marketplaces looked, architecturally, as well as how they functioned, institutionally.

My work involves comparative studies of medieval Muslim marketplaces communities in the Middle East and through the Mediterranean region, (including Spain, France, and Italy). I look at them from historical and cultural perspectives in order to gain insights about them as places and as institutions.

For a researcher, RCC/Harvard is a very good place. I can accomplish in three months' here what might take me one or two years in Spain. Without my family and friends, I can spend much more time focused on my research and writing.

I also enjoy the intellectual ambience at Harvard. It helps me see the context for my own work. I read a lot of other people's research in many different fields, including history, economics, and law. Several years ago, I attended seminars on Islamic history and law. And deliver some lectures on economic Muslim and history of al-Andalus.

I find being at RCC to be both friendly and challenging. The challenge is to learn from all the different disciplines represented by the researchers who share space in the building and offer weekly lectures.

From Our Alumni/ae Association

We encourage all RCC alums to email us information about their research projects, articles, books, and other related activities. We really encourage former RCC researchers to view their contact information on our website, under "Antiguos Colegiales", (www.realcolegiocomplutense.harvard.edu) and email Elizabeth Kline of any desired changes (rcc-info@camail.harvard.edu). We also want to publicize any articles and/or books based on your research while at RCC. Email these references and they will appear in the next monthly bulletin.

There is an official **Asociación de Colegiales del Real Colegio Complutense en Harvard:**

Presidente: Ignacio Rodríguez-Alfageme

Vicepres.: Octavio Ruiz-Manjón

Secretaria: María Pérez-Ugena

Tesorera: Elena Gallego

Vocales: José Luis de Castro, Emilio García Silvero, Tiscar Lara,

Esteban Moro, Judit Targarona

RCC celebrated with Matias Irigoyen-Testa when he returned from UCM where he completed his PhD on Law and Economics (specifically, about punitive damages).



Paloma Díaz Soloaga, a 2006 RCC Visiting Fellow, recently published an article, *Using Video Games as an Educational Tool in Pro-Social Relationships with Children and Adolescents*, based on research conducted in Spain and at RCC/Harvard U

Juan Francisco Fuentes has been appointed Full Professor of Contemporary History (UCM).

Mercedes López Salvá received her "habilitación" for becoming Full Professor in Classics (UCM).

Pedro de Miguel recently became Full Professor (Catedrático) at the Law School of the UCM.

L.Viceira (a former Fellow and member of the Advisory Council) received tenure as a Full Professor at the Harvard Business School.

Sandra Val Cubero (Art History, UCM and Valladolid) has been teaching this year at the American University in Kabul.

Cristina Sánchez-Carretero wrote that her article on *Transnational Devils: Nicknames and Document Identities as Survival Strategies in the Context of Dominican Migration* was published in the Croatian Journal of Ethnology and Folklore Research.