

Real Colegio Complutense Cambridge, MA (USA)

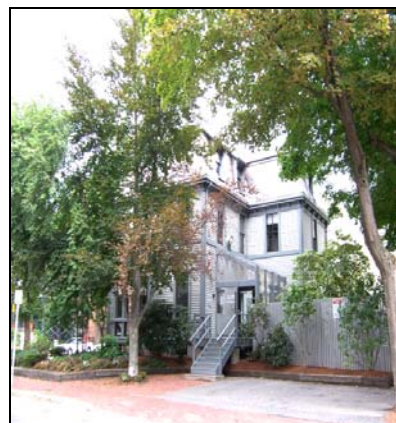


February, 2007
Bulletin #17

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 February

Cold temperatures prevailed and dominated many conversations. We now have received snow (and ice). The warm rooms at RCC and in the Harvard classrooms and libraries are definitely welcomed and induce a focus on work!

At the end of January, RCC's Program Coordinator, Elizabeth Kline, spent nine days in the Ecuadorian Amazon as the guest of a local guide. She is working with him on his two projects: providing education for children whose families live along the Río Napo near his island home and bringing endangered monkeys to this island to breed in safety. The guide, and teacher and his family live in traditional houses adjacent to the one room traditional school. The 14 school children, ages 7 to 15, are picked up at 8 AM, taught, fed a hot meal, and returned to their homes at 1 PM each weekday.

Here are a few photos from this amazing adventure:



Río Napo (Sunset View from the Island)



Teacher Transporting Kids from School



Owl Eyes Nocturnal Monkey (Newest One on the Island)
With Pablo, Teacher's Brother

Most of you have been to RCC at 26 Trowbridge Street in Cambridge...perhaps, some years ago. So, this issue includes some photos of what this place is like now.



Front Entryway



Reception/Program Coordinator's Desk



Main Room (Statue of King Carlos)



Main Room (Looking at Back Patio)



Kitchen (Near Main Room)



Conference Room for Lectures & Films



Third Floor Office – Arturo Prats

Upcoming Activities

Lecture Series (7:30 PM, Free, in English)

March 1: Jesús San Román, Rey Juan Carlos, “Sixty Years against Cardiovascular Diseases: Where are we now?”

March 8: Julia Mendoza, UCM, “A Path to the Other World: A Comparison between Orphics and Brahmanical Texts”

March 15: Antonio Diéguez, U. of Málaga, “What is Technological Determinism and Why it Should Not be Accepted”

March 22: Elena Llaudet, U. of Barcelona, “On the Public-Private School Achievement Debate”

March 29: Javier Pueyo, CSIC Researcher, Madrid, “Medieval & Sephardic Bible Translations”

Film Series (7:30 PM, Free, in Spanish with English Subtitles)

March 2: *Tesis*, directed by Alejandro Amenábar (1996)

March 9: *Los aires difíciles*, directed by Gerardo Herrero (2006)

March 16: *La buena vida*, directed by David Trueba (1996)

March 23: *Un oso rojo*, directed by Adrián Caetano (2002)

March 30: *Ninette*, directed by José Luis Garci (2005)

Current Researchers

Continuing Researchers (with Offices at RCC)

Demetrio Castro Alfin, History, U. Pública de Navarra

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

Eva Botella Ordinas, History, U. Autónoma de Madrid

Arturo Prats Oliván, Hebrew Literature, UCM

Raúl Fernández Fraile, Philosophy, Universidad Pontificia Comillas

Pedro Chalmeta, History/Law, UCM
Antonio Martínez Marin, Administrative Law, U. of Murcia
Bjoern Arp, International Law, U. of Alcalá
André de Sousa, Commercial Law, U. of Barcelona

New Researchers

Antonio Diéguez Lucena, Philosophy, U. of Málaga
Julia Mendoza, Classics, UCM
Diego Rodríguez Rodríguez, International Economics, UCM
Francisco Javier Pueyo, Sephardic Language and Literature, CSIC

Interview with Demetrio Castro



I didn't know anyone who had come to the Real Colegio Complutense, but I knew that I wanted to come to Harvard University because of its incredible libraries. Once I arrived here, I realized that some of my friends and colleagues had been at RCC. They contacted me by email, congratulating me.

My field of anti-clericalism is cross-disciplinary. So, I need access to books and articles from many different fields, including social science, politics, and history. I was so surprised to discover that the Harvard libraries are even better than I had imagined. Indeed, I believe that they are the best academic libraries in the world.

They have everything that you need and have everything well organized. The librarians are so nice, friendly, and knowledgeable. What surprises me is that the library systems are set up with the users in mind. I have already done more research work in six months than I could do in a year in Spain.

I also had not expected RCC to be so comfortable, easy, and convenient. I appreciate the staff's attention to the needs of the researchers. It is a short walk from my office at RCC to the Widener and Houghton libraries. The other researchers are friendly. We meet when getting our coffee and see each other at the Thursday evening lectures. RCC-sponsored faculty and students are encouraged to give a lecture in English, with some time afterwards for questions and answers. I gave a lecture. This is a great opportunity to communicate to people from other fields of interest and to learn from each other.

When I arrived in Cambridge, I came with my wife and our children. Because I am on a sabbatical leave, I am staying longer than they were able to be here. I'm fortunate that I can remain in a very nice place in the Fresh Pond neighborhood of Cambridge. I've gotten to know my neighbors. My house is near the Fresh Pond Reservoir and Park, and within walking distance of the Mt. Auburn Cemetery. Both are great for walks and for relaxation. During the fall months (September – November), we loved seeing the bright colors of the trees and bushes in the Cemetery that was designed to be full of unusual and beautiful plants. I often walk around the Reservoir on a nice Saturday.

I really enjoy all of the cultural opportunities in the Boston/Cambridge area. Harvard University and the other universities and colleges offer many free and reasonably priced lectures, exhibits, panel discussions, and musical performances. I love classical music and really enjoy the Boston Symphony Orchestra. I've gone to hear them perform 5 or 6 times already and will attend more of their concerts. I also appreciate the museums. With my Harvard ID card, I can go to the Fogg Museum whenever I want. I'm surprised at the quality of the art at the Museum of Fine Arts – their collections are really, really good. The Isabella Gardner Museum, close to the MFA, was once a house and now is open to the public. It is charming.

I decided to see a professional hockey game in Boston, simply because I wanted to see what it was like. So, I bought a ticket to a Boston Bruins game. I found out that playing hockey can be quite violent at times.

I've been surprised by the friendliness of the people around here. The image is of a cold New Englander. However, everyone is kind. For example, I've found that many Harvard professors let me sit in on their lectures and courses. Other people, including bus drivers and people waiting in lines at the supermarket, are equally friendly. Many people, I've noticed, speak many languages including quite a few who speak Spanish.

I'm very interested in politics and was eager to see what happens in the USA during an election. On election day in early November of 2006, I visited several voting places and followed the results. I enjoy watching t.v. news stations such as C-SPAN which broadcasts political events as they are happening.

In the fall, when my family was here with me, we often rented a car during the weekends to see places around Massachusetts and New Hampshire (to the north). The weather was great this year – until the middle of January when it turned cold.

It will be difficult, eventually, to return to my "normal life" in Spain. For now, I am focused on doing a lot more research and writing as well as enjoying the rest of my time here. This is a very special time for me. By the time that I leave, I hope to have completed my book on anti-clericalism.

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