

Resolution on the Retirement of Professor Howard Le Roy Malchow

On behalf of the Department of History and of the University as a whole, I am honored to enter a resolution on the retirement of Howard Le Roy Malchow. Most of us here have known Howard as a constant and dependable figure – dependably willing to serve and dependably irreverent about the University and the academy in general. Since his arrival at Tufts in 1974, Howard has managed to serve on almost every important university committee, chair the History Department for three terms, and teach an ever-changing array of courses on British History and beyond. He has also produced a steady stream of books (six in all) and numerous articles. All this he has done while maintaining a presence in London and San Antonio as well as Medford, and never complaining about overwork.

Howard's background would not seem to have led automatically to a life of scholarship divided between London and Boston. He was born in 1945 to a military family and like other "military brats" he spent his early life moving through ever-changing schools and locations. Both his parents came from farming families, his father's in Indiana, and his mother's in Texas. Both sides were largely German-American. The two met in San Antonio, where his father was training as an Army Air Force pilot during World War II, and his mother returned there after the death of Howard's father in a mid-air collision in 1958. Here he attended one of city's top high schools, from which he moved on to Southern Methodist University, where he claims that he avoided parties, fraternities, and sports. He did, however, follow in his father's footsteps to the extent of joining Air Force ROTC, only to flunk out after a quarrel with a drill-sergeant he considered a martinet.

After his graduation in 1967, Howard hesitated between law and a Ph.D. in British History, and was lured into academia by the quicker cash reward of an all-expense four-year scholarship to Stanford. Here he spent the late sixties studying British social history under Peter Stansky, at a Stanford where the haze of pot smoke seemed to alternate with pepper gas, amid the clamor of protests and the sound of Joan Baez singing in the Quad. Overlooking these potential distractions, and with the escape afforded by a Leverhulme fellowship year in London, he managed to complete both an M.A. and a Ph.D. by 1972. Despite his Texas and California background, a snowy interview at Tufts during the oil crisis of 1973 failed to discourage him from coming here, fortunately for us.

Since arriving at Tufts as a social historian of Victorian England, Howard has consistently moved to a broader scope and more contemporary interests in both writing and teaching. His early books covered a variety of social and political groups central to Victorian society. The first was on emigrants within the empire: *Population Pressures: Emigration and Government in Late Nineteenth-Century Britain* (Palo Alto, 1979). This was followed by a discussion of reform movements, *Agitators and Promoters in the Age of Gladstone and Disraeli* (New York, 1983), and then entrepreneurs, in *Gentlemen Capitalists: the Social and Political World of the Victorian Businessman* (London; Palo Alto, 1991). For his final book of the twentieth century, Howard turned to a more literary topic and a new concern, writing *Gothic Images of Race in Nineteenth-Century Britain* (Palo Alto, 1996).

As the calendar moved to the twenty-first century, Howard moved into the twentieth century in both teaching and writing. He has taught a wide variety of courses on the culture of modern Britain, from youth culture and the new ethnicities of post-imperial Britain to Britain in the Second World War and under the slightly lesser rigors of Thatcherism. In 2007 Howard became the Walter S. Dickson Professor of English and American History and for many years he has offered a course on British and American relations. This is also the subject of his most recent book, *Special Relations: the Americanization of Britain?* (Palo Alto, 2011). For many years, Howard has had a close if sometimes tempestuous relationship with the International Relations Program, for which he has developed a course on the Historical Perspective in International Relations, along with a series of seminars on major moments of diplomatic history, from the Congress of Vienna to the Suez Crisis of 1956. We are not surprised to learn that his next book is a textbook entitled *History and International Relations: From the Ancient World to the 21st Century*, and is due out soon.

Along with all of this, Howard has always done more than his share in the running of the University. He has served on most of the important and demanding committees, including Tenure and Promotion and the Peter-Paul committee. He was an exemplary chair of the History Department for a total of nine years, through the tenure of a variety of deans, and even more demanding, two changes of the course numbering system, a transformation of the History requirement in IR, and a host of new hires. He had a particularly long and close relationship to the Tufts-in-London program, for which he was the onsite faculty director in 1984-85. In that year he met and became close friends with Jaki Levenson, the much-loved director of the program, who died in 2010. For twenty-five years he could be counted on to visit the office almost weekly when he was in London, to serve as a courier between Jaki and her Medford colleagues, and to join her and others for lunch at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts cafeteria. (He was also happy to meet undergraduate advisees at Tufts in London for coffee and academic counseling.) Whether in Medford or in London, Howard devoted himself to his work thoroughly and with notable efficiency.

Perhaps above all, Howard has been a reliable, loyal friend to a number of former students and colleagues. No one has mastered ironic bemusement and polite incredulity so well as Howard, whose sly sense of humor is well known to all of us. He will be sorely missed both in the department and more broadly among the faculty at large and—yes indeed—the university administration. Let us hope that Medford remains a frequent stop on his trans-Atlantic itinerary.

On behalf of the Department of History, I ask that this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the faculty and that a copy be given to Professor Howard Malchow.

Respectfully submitted,
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