**NECLAS PRIZE CITATIONS 2015**

**JOSEPH T. CRISCENTI BEST ARTICLE PRIZE**

Prize Committee: Julia A. Kushigian, Chair (Connecticut College), Abigail Adams (Central Connecticut State University), Cynthia Stone (College of the Holy Cross)

Winner: David Carey Jr., “Drunks and Dictators: Inebriation’s Gendered, Ethnic ad Class Components in Guatemala, 1898-1944.” In *Alcohol in Latin America: A Social and Cultural History*. Eds. Gretchen Pierce and Áurea Toxqui. Tucson: The University of Arizona Press, 2014. 131-157.

Carey skillfully guides the reader through a complex argument about the ways "nation-building wasenmeshed with alcohol**"** in early twentieth-century Guatemala**.**He complements extensive archival research with oral interviews conducted in Kaqchikel from 1997-2005, building on the work of previous scholars in the intersection of gender, ethnicity, race and class. Framing alcohol as an instrument used to measure nationalism, hence appropriate conduct and cultural values, Careyelucidates **t**he Guatemalan state’s contradictory relationship withdrunkenness under the dictatorships of Estrada Cabrera and Ubico**.** While the state depended on revenues from taxing and producing alcohol that encouraged consumption, it also regarded drunken behavior as pre-modern, an atavistic  “Indian problem” that was holding back the modern nation-state.  This structural problem of state ambivalence coincided with the Guatemalan elite’s trope of the degenerate use of alcohol by indigenous people, one still widely accepted in public discourse**.**“As the twentieth-century wore on,” Carey writes, “popular imagination so inflated inebriation, poverty, and ethnicity that some poor drunk ladinos were identified as indígenas.” (136).  The ethnographic sensibility of the article comes throughstrongly in Carey’s discussionsof the ways the Maya resisted the state's attempts to destroy the role of alcohol, especially locally produced “illegal” *aguardiente clandestino*, in community ritual. While drawing on rich sources of material, Carey alsoaccounts for gaps/erasures in the archives and oral histories, exploring, for example, the fact that the people interviewed tended to downplay female drunkenness in their lives and communities due to its frequent conflation with sexual promiscuity. While ironically establishing very clearly that elite and non-indigenous drinking were statistically more prevalent in police reports of public inebriation sampled, Carey’s work and methodology bring to the surface the voices of those often erased in the written record, particularly women and indigenous peoples, which the author beautifully incorporates into this essay.

Honorable Mentions (in alphabetical order): Enrique García, “Latino Action Heroes, Strippers, and Non-Hegemonic Miscegenation: Family Apocalypse in Robert Rodríguez’s *Planet Terror*” *Post Script* 33:3 (2014); Luis Millones, “The Bezoar Stone: A Natural Wonder in the New World” *Hispanófila* 171 (2014).