

To: UNC Press Board of Governors
 From: John Sherer, Director
 Date: 8 November 2012
 Re: Report for the November 14 meeting

Sales:

Our year-to-date sales remain on track to achieve our 6% sales growth in fiscal 2013. The Financial Report from Robbie will offer more detail, but this is a terrific accomplishment in what remains a very challenging economic environment. What I'm hearing anecdotally from other press directors is that their sales are flat or, more frequently, down for the first 4 months of fiscal 2013. AAUP did report that for FY12, UPs on average were down 3.2% (where we were down less than 1%).

Awards: Since the Board last met, we've had lots of award news. Highlights include:

- Broadwater, *James Madison: A Son of Virginia and a Founder of the Nation*, 2012 Ragan Old North State Award, North Carolina Literary and Historical Association
- Brogi, *Confronting America: The Cold War between the United States and the Communists in France and Italy*, 2012 Smith Book Award, European Section, Southern Historical Association
- David Kinkela, *DDT and the American Century: Global Health, Environmental Politics, and the Pesticide That Changed the World*, 2012 Forum for the History of Science in America Distinguished Publications Prize
- Amrita Chakrabarti Myers, *Forging Freedom: Black Women and the Pursuit of Liberty in Antebellum Charleston*, 2012 Julia Cherry Spruill Prize, Southern Association for Women Historians
- Rose Stremlau, *Sustaining the Cherokee Family: Kinship and the Allotment of an Indigenous Nation*, 2012 Willie Lee Rose Prize, Southern Association for Women Historians
- Sweet, *Domingos Álvares, African Healing, and the Intellectual History of the Atlantic World*, 2012 Frederick Douglass Book Prize, Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition

Exhibits: This is our busiest time of year for academic conferences and book exhibits. In October Chuck Grench attended the Western History Association, and several members of the Press have just returned from the Southern Historical Association (SHA), where we held a booth reception celebrating the Press's 90th anniversary. This was John Sherer's first conference as director and David Perry's last SHA as Editor-in-Chief. Other November meetings include the American Society for Ethnohistory, the American Studies Association (ASA), and the American Academy of Religion-Society of Biblical Literature (AAR-SBL).

Subsidiary Rights: We have sold the Simplified Chinese language rights to Michael Hunt's and Steven I. Levine's *Arc of Empire* to Grand China Publishing House in Shenzhen, China; the Japanese language rights to Eric Muller's *Colors of Confinement* to Kinokuniya Company in Tokyo; and the South African reprint rights of Sa'diyya

Shaikh's *Sufi Narratives of Intimacy* to the University of Cape Town Press in Cape Town.

Media Attention: We've enjoyed some terrific media attention recently for our books and authors. In broadcast news, David Cecelski (*Fire of Freedom*) and Nadine Cohodas (*Princess Noire*) have appeared on NPR's "The State of Things." Edward Blum (*The Color of Christ*) has been interviewed by Terry Gross and is scheduled to appear on "Fresh Air" within the next two weeks.

In print attention, we have had book reviews in *Garden & Gun*, *Publishers Weekly*, *Washington Post Book World*, *Atlanta Journal Constitution*, *Times Literary Supplement*, *Women's Review of Books*, and *Ms. Magazine*. In addition, several Press authors have written op-eds for the *New York Times*, and Elaine Maisner was featured and quoted at length about the digital revolution in religion publishing in *Publishers Weekly's* Religion Update supplement.

Strategic Initiatives:

We have begun the search for a new editor and we are confident we will have a range of solid options to work from. We're intending to have someone in place well before David Perry leaves the Press in March. We're continuing to work with other campus organizations in developing partnerships to promote scholarship. In particular, we're aiming to expand the DocSouth publishing program with the UNC-CH Library and would like to try to expand to other campuses; we're publishing a book jointly with Carolina Performing Arts on their very successful Rite of Spring series; I've met with Susan King at the UNC School of Journalism and we're exploring a number of joint initiatives that would benefit both the J-School and the Press.

Publishing Headlines:

- Penguin-Random House Merger
- Big 6 are seeing lower sales, but higher profits
- Harper moving its warehouse to Donnelly printing facility
- iPad mini now in the mix for Holiday 2012, meaning all the major players have new devices this year.
- Amazon lost \$273 million in Q3