

Approved by the Regents
May 15, 2008

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
College of Literature, Science and the Arts

David J. Hancock, associate professor of history, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of history, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1990	Harvard University
A.M.	1984	Yale University
A.M.	1983	Yale University
A.B.	1980	College of William and Mary

Professional Record:

2003	Visiting Professor, École des Hautes Études, Paris
1998 – present	Associate Professor, Department of History, University of Michigan
1996 – 1998	Assistant Professor, Department of History, University of Michigan
1994 – 1996	Associate Professor, Department of History, Harvard University
1990 – 1994	Assistant Professor, Department of History, Harvard University

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Hancock’s teaching contributions have been consistently generous and strong. He engages in both the “service” teaching in large undergraduate surveys and in offering new courses at all levels. Moreover, he has made important contributions through his service and leadership on the Department’s Curriculum Committee. As the range of courses he has taught, including an innovative new course entitled “Life, World, Story,” and his rigorous work with graduate students shows, Professor Hancock is an important contributor to the Graduate History Program.

Research – Professor Hancock ranks among the leading Atlantic historians of his generation. In his forthcoming work, *Oceans of Wine*, he moves beyond the English Atlantic to explore the creation and growth of the trade in Madeira. The focus is a product, which was traded across imperial boundaries, and the narrative is integrated across the functional boundaries of production, distribution, and consumption of material goods. He has also published fourteen articles and book chapters, including two path-breaking historiographical essays.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Oceans of Wine: Madeira and the Organization of the Atlantic Market, 1640-1815, Yale University Press, forthcoming 2008.

“Rethinking the Economy of British America,” in *The Economy of Early America: Historical Perspectives & New Directions*, C. Matson (ed.), Pennsylvania State University, 2006, pp. 71-106.

The Letters of William Freeman, 1678-1685, London Record Society, 2002.

“The British Atlantic World: Coordination, Complexity, and the Emergence of an Atlantic Market Economy, 1651-1815,” *Itinerario*, 2, 1999, pp. 1-20.

Service – Professor Hancock has a very strong record of administrative service. His assignments have included the Executive Committee, the Graduate Admissions Committee, and the Curriculum Committee, which he has chaired twice. He played a foundational role in the Atlantic Studies Initiative, which he now heads, and has been a member of University-wide committees, including at the Clements Library, the Office of the Vice President for Research, and the University of Michigan Press.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A)

“Hancock is now recognized as one of the most creative historians of his generation in early American history and the commercial and social history of the Atlantic world in the early modern period. He is distinguished in terms of imagination, archival diligence...and solidity of judgment. His work is well known and universally respected throughout the English-speaking historical world and in European scholarly circles...”

Reviewer (B)

“David Hancock’s work has been central to the development of Atlantic history as a research field in the last 15 years, a period in which it has gone from being a new and somewhat marginal area of inquiry to a field of innovative scholarship influencing historiography across several world regions. ...he would receive the promotion at *any* university in the country.”

Reviewer (C)

“He has published a major monograph [*Citizens of the World*]...edited a 17thc commercial letter book [*The Letters of William Freeman*]...and has now completed his third book [*Oceans of Wine*]... In all three of these projects he is pursuing the same basic theme: the dynamic expansion of the pre-industrial 17thc-18thc Anglo-American Atlantic economy in a richly textured social and cultural setting. ...a very clear case for promotion to professor.”

Reviewer (D)

“The extent of research in primary and secondary sources is enormous; few other historians have done research of this magnitude. As important, however, is Hancock’s ability to frame interesting and important questions, and to place them into the existing historiography. His studies...make major contributions to the study of colonial Western Europe, North America, and the West Indies, and demonstrate the impact of well-done Atlantic History.”

Reviewer (E)

“His work is exemplary both for his breadth of vision and the depth of his archival grounding. He has achieved high stature as a historian who brings the scope and tools of cultural and social history to fields formerly dominated by a narrow economic approach. ... Hancock is a leading exemplar of traditional economic history and of the newer cultural-social approach to Atlantic history, and the broad scope of this new work [*Oceans of Wine*] tremendously enhances its value.”

Reviewer (F)

“David is among the leading Atlantic historians of his generation. ... [*Oceans of Wine*] is history on a grand scale, built from intensive knowledge of primary sources and supplemented—and at times shaped—by insights from a variety of disciplines (notably sociology, economics, business, and history).”

Reviewer (G)

“*Oceans of Wine* will be another very major book and will surely be very well received. ... It is an even more staggering piece of research [than *Citizens of the World*]. ... I am sure that it will be very influential.”

Reviewer (H)

“David Hancock is internationally recognized as one of the most prominent scholars in [the] early modern Atlantic World.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Hancock is an innovative scholar of unusual talent, who is also an extremely effective teacher and mentor. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor David J. Hancock be promoted to the rank of professor of history, with tenure, in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



Terrence J. McDonald
Arthur F. Thurnau Professor,
Professor of History and Dean,
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

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