

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

George P. Hoffmann, associate professor of French, with tenure, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of French, with tenure, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1990	University of Virginia
Diploma d'Estudis Avançats	1985	Université d'Aix-Marseille I
M.A.	1984	University of California, Santa Barbara
B.A.	1982	University of Chicago

Professional Record:

2000 – present	Associate Professor, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, University of Michigan
1999	Visiting Associate Professor, Department of French, University of Virginia
1996 – 2000	Associate Professor, Department of Romance Studies, Boston University
1993	Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, Harvard University
1990 –1996	Assistant Professor, Department of Romance Studies, Boston University

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Hoffmann is a strong teacher who is admired by his students. In the last decade he has taught seventeen different courses at all levels and all of them have been very popular. He is deeply involved in the pedagogical mission of undergraduate students and has participated several times in the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP). As French section head and director of the French undergraduate curriculum committee, Professor Hoffmann has worked tirelessly to create new courses, to design classes of interests to students, and to create opportunities for concentrators and minors to study abroad.

Research – Professor Hoffmann is an internationally recognized scholar of 16<sup>th</sup>-century French literature, with a particular emphasis on the most influential figure of the French Renaissance, Michel de Montaigne. In his second book, *Alone unto Their Distance*, Professor Hoffmann has broadly expanded his primary interest in Montaigne to cover questions of secularization, atheism, and religious violence in Early Modern Europe. His interdisciplinary scope is seen as one of the many admirable aspects of this book since it encompasses anthropological, historical, literary and political dimensions of 16<sup>th</sup> century France. Professor Hoffmann's next project, *To Make Believe: Literature, Religion, and the French Reformation*, is well advanced and anticipated by scholars in the field.

Recent and Significant Publications:

*Alone unto Their Distance: French Reformers, Satire, and the Creation of Religious Foreignness*, Oxford University Press, 2013.

“From amateur gentleman to gentleman amateur,” in Montaigne after Theory/Theory after Montaigne, Z. Zalloua (ed.), University of Washington Press, 2009, pp. 19-38.

“Les biographies de Montaigne,” special issue of *Montaigne Studies*, G. Hoffmann (ed.), 20, 2008.

“The investigation of nature,” in The Cambridge Companion to Montaigne, U. Langer (ed.) Cambridge University Press, 2005, pp. 163-182.

Service – Professor Hoffmann has made important service contributions to his department and to his profession. He has served on numerous departmental and university committees

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A)

“*Alone Unto Their Distance* is written with the hand of stylist. Its manner is enthused, ebullient, and joyous. It is far-ranging and, in all its erudition, has flair and panache...that avail pleasure for both the author and reader alike. I believe that it takes a decisive turn and opens new ground in all area that we had thought had been so well covered in the historical writings not only of Febvre but also of Crouzet, Diefendorf, Campbell and others.”

Reviewer (B)

“...Professor Hoffmann is one of the best 4-5 specialists on Montaigne in the world... ..the quality is always excellent and all his articles have extensively been cited, not only in this country but also in Europe. ...all the French specialists of the French Renaissance highly value his work...”

Reviewer (C)

“Hoffmann’s visibility in French Renaissance studies is well established... He receives a steady stream of invitations to lecture in the US...and sits on a number of editorial boards in France as well as in the USA. He is obviously in demand as an assessor for journal articles and books, and has acted as referee for various tenure and promotion cases in American universities. All this points to his standing in the world of sixteenth-century French studies, and the respect in which his scholarship is held.”

Reviewer (D)

“Since the first book Hoffmann has continued to be remarkably productive. His articles...are unfailingly interesting and well written. He is at present one of the top scholars writing on Montaigne... He is a major figure in his field and his dossier of work since tenure is remarkable for its quantity and quality. He has grown as scholar in impressive ways and will no doubt continue to grow.”

Reviewer (E)

“...his sense and knowledge of the field of 16<sup>th</sup>-century French studies is unequalled... ..[*Alone unto Their Distance*...] is an ambitious, courageous project, well supported by research on primary sources often inaccessible to a general public.”

Reviewer (F)

"...I regard the works and studies [of Professor Hoffmann]...as significant accomplishments which already have, or will have, an effect on the scholarly world. All of them would appear on any reading list for both scholars themselves and graduate students... He has good national standing... ..the quality of the whole output is good, scholarly, thoughtful, and well-regarded by his peers."

Reviewer (G)

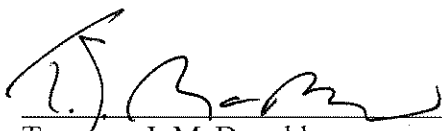
"Professor Hoffmann is a leader in his field... He has done an extraordinary amount of service work for the department and the university, but also for the profession, and his intelligent, critical, but humane approach to intellectual and professional matters is deeply appreciated by all of his colleagues."

Reviewer (H)

"Hoffman[n]'s scholarship [in *Alone unto Their Distance*] is sound and up to date. His chapters are meticulously researched and constitute solid points of departure for his daring arguments. Both primary and secondary sources are handled effectively and with the greatest care. At the same time, the amount of erudition never obscures the argument. I only have words of praise for this remarkably written piece of scholarship."

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Hoffmann is an outstanding scholar with a solid national and international reputation. His dedication and commitment as a teacher has significantly shaped the undergraduate and graduate curricula in his department. He is also a valued colleague. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor George P. Hoffmann be promoted to professor of French, with tenure, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, 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

May 2013