

## Abstracts

### **“Connecting two worlds : French Consulate at Cadix in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, an interface between Europe and *Las Indias*”**

Sylvain Lloret

In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Cadix was a city bond and a relay point between Europe and Spanish America. It had become a very wanted destination for French traders who wanted to make money by entering the trade of *Carrera de Indias*. The analysis focuses on the role of the French consul in Cadix in the activities connected to Spanish Empire in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. With a renewed perspective, we will consider the French Consulate as an interface between France and *Las Indias* and an actor of the interconnection of the world which was pursuing an important aim : push the French trade boundaries. Linked to mercantilist theories, we demonstrate that this consulate was an actor of a State strategy of development and projection of French trade in Spain and in its colonial empire.

### **“Information and curiosity at the margins of Europe : Henri Lavie, first French consul in Russia, 1714-1722”**

Éric Schnakenbourg

Seen from France at the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Russia was a remote area and there was very little direct trade between the two countries. Paradoxically, French goods were demanded there but were carried by foreign ships, namely English, Dutch and Hanseatic. During the reign of Peter I<sup>st</sup>, Russia defeated its Swedish enemy and succeeded in the conquest of the Baltic shores. The foundation of Saint Petersburg in 1703 was the symbol of the opening of Russia to the West. Henri Lavie, who was considered by the French government as an expert in all the matters concerning the northern trade in the early 1710s, was sent to Saint Petersburg as *commissaire de la Marine*, in 1714, and became consul in 1717. During the nine years he spent in Russia, he had to help his very few merchant fellow countrymen engaged in the trade from France. The bulk of his activity was to send information to his government on a wide range of subjects such as, Russian external trade, the tsar's military forces, his relations with Asia... Moreover, he also took an important part in the opening of French governmental minds to the knowledge of Russia by sending to Paris books, maps and information on various topics. All along his stay in Saint Petersburg Lavie had to face huge financial difficulties. As he should have earned money thanks to the French shipping in Russia, the very low level of the direct exchanges between the two countries made him very poor. The case of Henri Lavie allows to show how the consular services were used by the French in distant areas, to create new connections in commercial, political and cultural fields as well.

## **“French consuls in the kingdoms of Naples and Sicily at the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century as observers of Mediterranean and European countries”**

**François Brizay**

Between 1702 and 1720, French consuls stationed in Naples and Sicily were careful observers of wars that were taking place in Europe and in the Balkans. Since they were working in towns located at the crossroads of the Ottoman Empire and Christian great powers, they turned their attention to episodes of the War of Succession in Spain and conflicts Ottomans waged against Venetians and Austrians. Thanks to their official and occasional informants, they gave the French ambassador in Rome and the Secretary of State for the Navy information about enemy and allied strength and complement, and about movements of troops and ships and current negotiations. They played their part of French monarchy agents connected with different stages of diplomatic and military life.

## **“Writing the History of consulates in the 19<sup>th</sup> century : an attempt of legitimization”**

**Géraud Poumarède**

While many treatises have dealt with the figure of the ambassador during the modern era, it was only at the late eighteenth century that the consul became the subject of a similar interest. In a few decades, from the 1790s to the 1840s, was published a series of works that focused on him. Even if the status of the consul had remained for long very uncertain, between trading and political action, the authors of these treatises agreed to firmly link this function to diplomacy and to the service of the State. All have also undertaken to write the history of this institution more or less systematically. They emphasized its antiquity and its continuity, using the past as an important way of legitimization.

## **“French consuls in Pacific in the 19<sup>th</sup> century: agents of a French empire in South Seas?”**

**Claire Laux**

During all the nineteen Century, the French consular presence remains limited. The French consular network is set up in the end of the 1830's: Manilla and Sydney (1839), Sandwich (1837), Tahiti and Society Islands (1838). In Pacific Islander, Hawaii (Sandwich) becomes the center of French empire's influence. This article questions the origins of the consuls in Pacific Islands. We observe a classical phenomenon of professionalization. First, adventurers and missionaries in the first half of the century, consuls become professional diplomats. We then examine how these consuls perform their duties in the particular context of the Pacific Islands. Ultimately, erasure of France in Hawaii appears as the failure of these consuls.

## **“A transitional figure at the borders of an colonial empire: Léon Roches, consul of the French government (1845-1867)”**

**Alain Messaoudi**

Léon Roches was in his time a famous character for his adventurous life. Closely acquainted with Abd el-Kader before becoming minister plenipotentiary of the French government, he efficiently publicized his own life in widely distributed memoirs. Yet our proposition is to consider this former military officer, with ties to the world of merchants and a career spanning the world from Tangiers to Tokyo, as a more ordinary figure, representative of a new type of consul. Combining the imposing presence of an ancien régime cavalry officer with strategic alliances with local central authorities against the “feudal powers,” the consul should have the ability, using force if necessary, to incorporate pre-modern oriental societies into the sphere of French imperial influence.

## **“Georges Dubail, France’s Consul General, and the Foundation of the French Chamber of Commerce in Montreal (1885-1890)”**

**Didier Poton**

Within a global trend of the creation of French Chambers of Commerce abroad, begun in 1883 by the government of the Third Republic, France’s Consul General to Quebec, Georges Dubail, united French industrialists and businessmen along the banks of the Saint Laurent river with the goal of founding a French Chamber of Commerce in Montreal, the economic capital of Canada. As one of the very first in the Americas, it testifies to the special relationship between the two countries as well as a willingness to develop commercial and financial exchanges. The CCFM would become an essential element of support for these political and economic programs, and a valuable tool for understanding Canada for French Consuls General posted in Montreal after 1894.

## **“Outside of imperialism: the French consular network in the United States during the 19<sup>th</sup> century (1815-1898)”**

**Gérald Sim**

Set between the Atlantic Revolutions and World War I, the nineteenth century seems to be a blind spot as far as French-American historical research is concerned, with the exception of the imperial diplomacy during the Civil War. This article aims at reassessing and analyzing the actions taken by the French consuls in the United States of America between 1815 and 1898. While this specific Atlantic space tries to rebuild itself after the revolutionary turmoil, the Restoration sets the foundations of a commercial diplomacy beginning in the mid-1820s in which the consuls will play a central part. In 1898, as the United States begin to rise as an imperial power, the Quai d’Orsay’s priority is now to include the United States of America into the Delcassé alliance system. The commercial and consuls era now gives way to a period of politics and ambassadors.

## **“Empire builders ? French consuls in Jeddah during the 19<sup>th</sup> century (1839-1914)”**

**Luc Chantre**

First created for economic reasons, the French consular agency in Jeddah promptly specialized on political and religious issues related to the pilgrimage to Mecca, especially the protection of Muslim pilgrims from the French empire. If the first initiatives implemented between Jeddah and Algiers were not always coordinated, we can notice an increasing integration of colonial issues in the managing of *hajj* by the consuls in Jeddah whose profiles evolve over the decades. Nevertheless, consular efforts sometimes met, sometimes anticipated the colonial authorities in order to oversee and frame the pilgrimage’s flows.