

| Resources For: | | |
|------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Calendars | Libraries | Log In |
| Site search | A-Z Site Index | |
| Alumni & Friends | | Media |
| Faculty & Staff | | Parents & Families |

[About Holy Cross](#) [Admissions](#) [Academics](#) [Student Life](#) [Offices](#) [Athletics](#) [News & Events](#)

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DEPARTMENTS

[Summer 2011](#)
[Alumni News](#)
[Alumni Spotlights](#)
[Book Notes](#)
[Campus Notebook](#)
[Editor's Note](#)
[Flashback](#)
[Gifts at Work](#)
[In Memoriam](#)
[Letters](#)
[Sports](#)
[Syllabus](#)
[The Profile](#)
[Your Turn](#)

[Home](#) » [Book Notes](#)

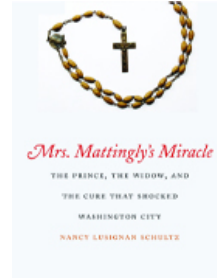
Book Notes

Mrs. Mattingly's Miracle: The Prince, the Widow, and The Cure that Shocked Washington City

By Nancy Lusignan Schultz '78

Yale University Press

Interviewed by Christine Gemme



Nancy Lusignan Schultz '78, author and lecturer, serves as chairperson of the English department at Salem (Mass.) State University, where she joined the faculty in 1983. She received a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship and a Senior Fellowship at the Center for the Study of World Religions from Harvard University to research her most recent nonfiction book, *Mrs. Mattingly's Miracle*. This piece of narrative history takes the reader to 1824 in Washington City (now Washington, D.C.), where one of the first accounts of miraculous healing in the United States was documented. The history begins with Ann Mattingly, widowed sister of the city's mayor, who was mysteriously cured of a ravaging cancer just before her most certain death. The book also examines a German cleric, Prince Alexander Hohenlohe—credited for hundreds of cures across Europe and Great Britain—around whom a cult was arising. The story of how the prince and Mrs. Mattingly are connected is a must-read. With insights into 19th-century American culture, the book poses questions of faith versus reasoning.

Q. What led you to the researching and writing of *Mrs. Mattingly's Miracle*?

A. While doing research for my earlier book, *Fire and Roses: The Burning of the Charlestown Convent, 1834*, in the archives of the Trois Rivières Ursulines Convent in Quebec City, Canada, I happened across a letter that mentioned Prince Hohenlohe, the charismatic miracle worker at the center of the story. In a nearly two-century-old letter about the illness and subsequent death of the Charlestown (Mass.) Convent's Mother Assistant, dated September 1827, its author, Sister Marie-Jean, wrote, "We have made two novenas, together with the Prince Hohenlohe, but our prayers were not altogether favorably heard." As I read on, my interest grew. Certainly this Prince Hohenlohe, whoever he was, must have some miracles to his credit if the Ursuline community was attempting to tap his abilities in a crisis.

Q. In *Mrs. Mattingly's Miracle*, we see a split in people's views of "miracle vs. reasoning." Do you think that these views are any different today?

A. No. We are still greatly under the influence of centuries-old debates between faith and reason that date from the Renaissance. I mention in the book that Shakespeare explores this very question of belief in the supernatural in *Hamlet*, and it still intrigues us today.

Q. Reviewers have said that this story seems tailor-made for a movie script. If that ever happens, whom do you see playing the roles of Ann Mattingly and Prince Hohenlohe?

A. My sons are advocating for Charlie Sheen to play the Prince, which would likely highlight some of the Prince's wilder antics. As for Mrs. Mattingly, a solid character actress could take this on.

Q. Is it true that you helped bring the James Bowman portrait of Bishop Fenwick to the College's attention?

A. During a research trip to Quebec for *Fire and Roses*, I learned that the Quebec Ursulines had sent a portrait of Benedict Fenwick as a gift to the Dedham (Mass.) Ursulines in 1964. In 1831, Mary Anne Moffatt, the Ursuline Superior of the Charlestown Convent, and Bishop Fenwick sat for formal portraits by an American artist named James Bowman (1793-1842). That year, the [Fenwick portrait] was sent to the Dedham Ursulines as a gift from the Quebec Ursulines. It was stored in the attic of the Dedham convent for 35 years. My research helped the Ursulines rediscover and identify the Bowman Fenwick. I took the painting to a Newbury Street art dealer for appraisal, and contacted Holy Cross to tell them about the painting and suggest that they might like to acquire it. The portrait and frame have been restored, and it is now on display in the foyer of O'Kane Hall.

Q. What message do you hope the readers take away from this book?

A. I hope it gets readers to examine their beliefs about supernatural intervention in the world. I think the book has a positive message about the power of faith.

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Visit this issue's Web Exclusives to read more of our interview with author Nancy Lusignan Schultz '78. http://magazine.holycross.edu/issue_45_3/45_3_web_book

Immigrants and the Right to Stay

By Joseph H. Carens '66

The MIT Press

In his new book, Carens supports amnesty for illegal immigrants, espousing the concept that longtime immigrant residents have a moral claim to stay in the country. The book includes responses from six political experts on both sides of this debate.

Made to Write

By Lisa-Marie Calderone-Stewart '79

In this novel, 51-year-old widow Nellie Massa reluctantly writes about her life to be accepted into a religious order and realizes that doing so helps her thrive in a not-so-perfect world. (All proceeds from the sale of this book go to a charity based on the author's lifelong commitment to education. Visit <http://www.lulu.com/product/paperback/made-to-write/13399623> to order.)

Grassroots Coalitions and State Policy Change Organizing for Immigrant Health Care

By Margaret A. Post '96, Director of Community Based Learning

LFB Scholarly Publishing LLC

Utilizing case studies from Massachusetts and California from 2004 to 2007, this book examines the role of community-based organizations whose focus is to help immigrants residing in the United States and to seek policy changes for the rights of these individuals.

The United States and the End of the British Colonial Rule in Africa, 1941-1968

By James P. Hubbard '66

McFarland & Company, Inc.

Hubbard explores the demise of Britain's post-World War II African empire. His book documents and describes how the United States directly and indirectly contributed to the political, economic and social transformation of Africa.

Moby-Dick and the Mythology of Oil: An Admonition for the Petroleum Age

By Robert D. Wagner, Jr. '63

CreateSpace

Wagner compares Herman Melville's original tale of Moby-Dick-that era's exploitation of whale oil for fuel and the subsequent rise in prices-to today's

petroleum-consuming society. Wagner points out that the world's oil resources are being depleted with little thought to the future.

The WOW Factor

By Rev. William O'Malley, S.J. '53

Orbis Books

Fr. O'Malley believes that young adults have lost their sense of wonder about their faith in God and the universe. Including insights from mystics, scientists, saints and atheists, he hopes to get readers to think in a deeper, more challenging way about their relationship with God.

Journal Notes

"Dogs have evolved very rapidly into an incredibly morphologically diverse species with very little genetic variation. However, the genetic alterations to dog cranial development that have produced this vast range of phylogenetically novel skull shapes do not coincide with the expectations of the heterochronic model. Dogs are not paedomorphic wolves."

- Holy Cross biology research assistant Abby G. Drake, from the article "Dispelling dog dogma: an investigation of heterochrony in dogs using 3-D geometric morphometric analysis of skull shape" in the journal *Evolution & Development*, March/April 2011 edition

What does it mean?

Biologists have long thought that dogs evolved by basically becoming "juvenile" wolves, in other words, dog development did not go as far as wolf development, so dogs were in a "puppy-state." But by using a 3-D digitizer, Drake measured more than 600 dog skulls and compared them to a series of 400 wolf skulls that ranged from wolf puppies to wolf adults. "I found that dogs do not morphologically resemble wolf puppies-they look entirely different," she says. "Therefore dogs are not juvenile wolves. They have evolved in their own unique way." Earlier studies missed this because they used calipers rather than the more sophisticated 3-D analysis used at Holy Cross.

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