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21st Annual Carl L. Becker Memorial Lecture: Hidden Communes in Absolutist Theory

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21st Annual Carl L. Becker
Memorial Lecture
“Hidden Communes In
Absolutist Theory”

FREE

Helen Nader
Professor of History
and Department Head
University of Arizona

Wednesday, September 21, 1994
8:00 P.M.
Sabin Hall, Room 102

Helen Nader's most recent book, **Liberty in Absolutist Spain: The Habsburg Sale of Towns 1516-1700**, received the Leo Gershoy Award for Best Book in Early Modern European History, awarded by the American Historical Association. In this book, she challenges well-established generalizations concerning the governance of Habsburg Spain, demonstrating that “absolutism did not mean centralization; rather, the kings invoked their absolute power to decentralize authority and allow their subjects a surprising degree of autonomy.” Nader is pursuing this line of argument in a forthcoming work entitled “The more communes, the greater the king: Hidden Communes in Absolutist Theory.” Her talk will thus provide the UNI community with an early opportunity to hear a leading scholar's contribution to an intriguing historical debate.