

2007 Minutes of the Society of Early Americanists' Annual Business Meeting

**Friday, May 25, 2007, American Literature Association Conference, Boston,
Westin Copley Hotel, Great Republic, 7th Floor**

Attending: Edward Griffin, Susan Imbarrato (SEA Executive Coordinator), Thomas Krise (SEA Vice-President), Shawn Martin, Dennis Moore (SEA President)

SEA President Dennis Moore called the Society of Early Americanists' annual business meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and welcomed everyone. Minutes from the 2006 SEA business meeting were distributed. Edward Griffin moved that the 2006 minutes be approved and Thomas Krise seconded; motion passed. Minutes will be posted [here](#) at the SEA website.

SEA President Dennis Moore's report

2007-08 Conferences: Moore began his report by noting that Hilary Wyss, newly elected SEA Executive Coordinator, unfortunately could not be here for this meeting. He then provided an update on the forthcoming biennial SEA conference to be held next month in Williamsburg, June 7-10, 2007. This will be a joint conference with the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture, in conjunction with the 400th anniversary of Jamestown and with the Institute's annual conference. Moore distributed the conference program, which included a SEA insert. Information about the Williamsburg conference is available [here](#) on the SEA website.

Moore reported on the planning progress of the next SEA-affiliated conference, *Prophetstown Revisited: A Summit on Early Native American Studies*, 3-5 April 2008, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana. The conference will commemorate the bicentennial of the founding in 1808 of Prophetstown, the Shawnee brothers Tecumseh and Tenskatawa's pan-Indian village on the banks of the Wabash. Kristina Bross (Purdue University) and Edward Watts (Michigan State University) will serve as co-chairs. Participants will be asked to become members of the SEA. Moore called for discussion of a proposal to subsidize one-year memberships for Tribal Librarians. Ed Griffin moved that we accept the proposal; Shawn Martin seconded; it passed. Tom Krise suggested that in addition to the SEA "Graduate Student Travel Fund" we consider setting up an "Independent Scholar Fund" to help subsidize travel and membership for Prophetstown participants. After discussion, the SEA will work on subsidizing these memberships. Information about the *Prophetstown* conference is available [here](#).

Affiliations: Moore reported on the SEA's ongoing affiliations with the [American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies](#) (ASECS). Lisa Logan (U. of Central Florida) has agreed to continue serving as chair of the SEA-ASECS Committee of Correspondence through 2008. The next ASECS conference will take place in Portland, Oregon, March 27-30, 2008; more details appear [here](#). ASECS has again agreed that the SEA may have two sessions, based on the success of our pairs of sessions at both the 2006 and 2007 conferences (at Montréal and Atlanta, respectively).

Constitution: Moore suggested that we consider amending the SEA [Constitution](#) to add ASECS to the reference to affiliates in Section IV. Affiliation, which currently reads: "Section IV AFFILIATION The Society of Early Americanists shall maintain affiliation with the American

Literature Association. The Executive Officers may apply for affiliation with other appropriate scholarly organizations.” Tom Krise suggested that to avoid a series of revisions to accommodate future affiliations that we either drop the specific reference or retain the current wording. Imbarrato agreed that we retain the current wording. Tom Krise suggested that we keep notes on various suggestions for small changes to the Constitution such as this to incorporate whenever we have a proposed amendment that is more pressing.

SEA Website: Moore thanked Michael Clark (University of California, Irvine) for serving as the SEA webmaster for ten years and recognized Susan Imbarrato as the current webmaster. The SEA homepage was thoroughly updated last summer with assistance from the Minnesota State University Moorhead Technology Department. Moore also recognized the valuable service of Andrew Newman (State University of New York at Stony Brook) for his five years of service as founding manager of the online SEA Directory. The webmaster will maintain the Directory, and the possibility of an automated update is being investigated.

The Society of Early Americanists Newsletter (SEAN): Moore acknowledged Richard Frohock (Oklahoma State University) as the new editor of the SEAN. Volume 19.1 came out in the Spring. In addition to hard copy issues at least once a year, future issues may become available as a pdf document that would be downloaded from the SEA homepage.

Essay Prizes: Moore reported that Laura Stevens (Univ. of Tulsa) will continue through 2008 as chair of the SEA Essay Prize committee. Each recipient receives a framed certificate, a check for \$100.00, and immortality, and details are [here](#). Ed Griffin asked about submitting revised papers and word count; Moore noted that revised papers of 6,000 words were accepted. Currently, essays delivered at the following conferences are eligible for submission: SEA biennial conference, the ASECS annual conference, or at an ASECS affiliate society’s conference. Moore proposed expanding the SEA’s emphasis on recognizing substantive research by considering the creation of an additional prize, parallel to the existing one so as to be open to papers from other conferences (e.g., the ALA, the OAH, the AHA, the MLA, the ASA, and so on). Minutes of the SEA’s 2006 Business Meeting reflect discussion of this same basic proposal for building on the existing Essay Prize, which is now entering its ninth year.

SEA Vice-President Thomas Krise’s report

ALA Boston 2007 Reception: SEA Vice-President Thomas Krise and Dennis Moore acknowledged the successful ALA Reception, “Coffee Klatsch,” Saturday morning, May 26, 8:00-9:00, Third Floor Foyer, Westin Copley, jointly hosted by the SEA, the Society for the Study of American Women Writers (SSAWW), and the journal Studies in American Fiction, with special thanks to Mary Loeffelholz, Editor, Studies in American Fiction (Northeastern University) who co-organized the reception and to both Loeffelholz and Melissa Homestead (University of Nebraska) Membership and Finances Officer of the SSAWW, for providing generous financial support.

ALA Boston 2007 Panels: Krise reported on the four SEA Sessions at this year’s ALA: “Carnal Effects: Sexuality, Textuality, Urbanity,” with 18 in attendance (Dennis Moore, chair); “Writing the Margins at the Margins: Early American Boundaries,” with 20 in attendance (Susan Castillo, chair); “The Teaching Problem: Pedagogy and Early American Material,” with 26 in attendance

(Thomas Krise, chair); and “Fixing the Mush: Behavioral Training in Early America” with 13 in attendance (Susan Imbarrato, chair). A complete list of papers on these panels appears [here](#). As SEA Vice-President, Krise assembled and chaired an ad hoc committee to screen all the proposals for papers in the current ALA conference; he acknowledged SEA colleagues Michael Clark, Mary Loeffelholz, Stephen Shapiro, and Karen Weyler for their service on this year’s ad hoc selection committee.

ALA San Francisco 2008: For the 2008 ALA, which will take place May 22-25, 2008, at the Hyatt Regency Embarcadero Center in San Francisco, soon to be Vice-President Susan Imbarrato will be coordinating the SEA Sessions.

Fund Raising Efforts: Krise reported on various fund raising efforts over the past year. He sent queries to 12 organizations and inquired about possible challenge grants. Responses were pending.

2009 Conference: Krise provided an update for the March 2009 SEA conference to be held in Bermuda to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the founding of the colony. He is currently negotiating hotel and conference accommodations. So far, the Program Committee includes Michael Drexler, Michael Jarvis, Heather Kopelson, and the SEA Executive Officers.

SEA Executive Coordinator Susan Imbarrato’s Report

The SEA Treasury stands currently at \$25,890. The SEA has around 350 members, including twelve Lifetime members. Around 100 memberships have lapsed, and around 150 memberships are due for renewal by July 1st

Webmaster: The SEA homepage was thoroughly rebuilt and updated last summer, with a new feature that includes a secure online registration form that allows for payment by credit card, which has proven to be very convenient for and popular with our members. In February, the SEA ran its first online SEA election for the next Executive Coordinator, which worked very smoothly. The SEA online Directory has been recently updated and moved to the MSUM server, after the long stewardship of Andrew Newman who was the founding manager of the SEA online Directory. This summer, Imbarrato along with student interns and MSUM web technicians will be updating and redesigning the SEA page, “Teaching Early American Topics.”

Adjournment:

Moore concluded the meeting and the meeting adjourned at 6:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Krise
SEA Vice-President 2005-07