

2009 Minutes of the Society of Early Americanists' Annual Meeting
Thursday, May 21, 2009, 12:00 – 1:20pm
American Literature Association Conference, Westin Copley, Boston

Attending: Teresa Coronado, Jeremy Dibbell, Michael Ditmore, Theresa Strouth Gaul, Susan Imbarrato (SEA Vice-President), Thomas Krise (SEA President), Heather Nathans, Karen Roggenkamp, and Rachel Trocchio.

Welcome and Introductions: SEA President Thomas Krise called the Society of Early Americanists' annual meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone. Minutes from the 2008 SEA annual meeting were distributed. The call to accept the minutes was made; Michael Ditmore (Pepperdine University) moved to accept; Teresa Coronado (University of Wisconsin-Parkside) seconded the motion; Krise called for the vote; the minutes were approved unanimously.

SEA President Thomas Krise's Report

Overview of the SEA: Tom Krise provided an introduction of the SEA by explaining its six-year officers' structure, and each officer's duties, and noted that Kristina Bross (Purdue University) will be the new SEA Executive Coordinator when the SEA Officers assume their duties on June 1st, following the American Literature Association (ALA) conference. Krise then explained the SEA's history, from its initial affiliation with the ALA in the early 1990s, the merging with the Society for Eighteenth-Century American Studies (SEACS) shortly thereafter, and its continued affiliation with both the ALA and the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (ASECS). Krise reported that Laura Stevens (University of Tulsa) is the new chair of the SEA-ASECS Committee of Correspondence. Krise also reminded members that they could become Lifetime SEA members and/or nominate "Honored Teachers" as two ways to contribute to the SEA.

Sixth biennial SEA conference: Krise noted the success of the recently held Sixth biennial SEA conference in Hamilton, Bermuda, March 4-7, 2009, to mark the 400th anniversary of the wreck of the *Sea Venture*, flagship of the Jamestown Third Supply voyage, which initiated the permanent settlement of Bermuda--the second permanent English colony in the Americas. Krise reported that there were 311 registrants, including 31 graduate students, making it the largest stand-alone SEA conference. To encourage graduate student participation, the SEA again provided travel grants. There was also a pre-conference day that included a trip to the historic town of St. George's in the north end of the island. There was an extensive Book Exhibit, along with over 60 panels. Information about this and other past conferences is available in Archives on the SEA website.

Topical Conferences: The SEA is co-sponsoring "*Early American Borderlands*" in St. Augustine, Florida, May 13-16, 2010. Program Chairs are Santa Arias (University of Kansas) and Ralph Bauer (University of Maryland). For more information: <<http://www.mith2.umd.edu/fellows/bauer/summit3/index.html>>.

Heather Nathans (University of Maryland) spoke about the "African American Experience in Early America" conference that she and Jeffrey Richards (Old Dominion) are working on for the 2012 topics conference that will address literature and performance. Information will be forthcoming in 2011.

SEA Vice-President Susan Imbarrato's Report

The Society of Early Americanists is sponsoring four panels at this year's ALA conference in Boston, May 21-24, 2009: "Cataloging Early America: Considerations of Genre and Sentiment," Chair, Elizabeth Maddock Dillon, Northeastern University (with 31 in attendance); "Revolutionary America: Voices of Change and Matters of Race and Identity," Chair, Thomas W. Krise, University of the Pacific (with 28 in attendance); "Persuasive Perceptions: Food, Class, and Sermons in Early America," Chair, Leonard von Morze, University of Massachusetts, Boston (with 22 in attendance); "Teaching Early American Topics: Archives, Blogs, and Print," Chair, Susan Imbarrato, Minnesota State University Moorhead (with 52 in attendance). A complete list of papers included on these panels appears on the "SEA@ALA 2009" handout and is posted on the SEA homepage, Imbarrato thanked all the chairs and presenters for this year's panels.

Forthcoming Conferences:

- ASECS: Albuquerque, New Mexico, March 18-21, 2010, the SEA will again sponsor two panels, which are being organized by Professor Laura Stevens, University of Tulsa. Conference details are available on the ASECS website <<http://asecs.press.jhu.edu/2010%20Annual%20Meeting-1.html>>.
- ALA: San Francisco, May 27-30, 2010, the call for papers will go out in the Fall 2009.
- SEA 7th Biennial Conference: Please mark your calendars for the Society of Early Americanists' 7th Biennial Conference in Philadelphia, 3-5 March 2011, and please look for a call for panels in Spring 2010.

SEA Executive Coordinator Hilary E. Wyss's Report

Hilary E. Wyss, SEA Executive Coordinator, could not attend the meeting, so Tom Krise read her report: The SEA has roughly 600 members (current and lapsed), including over 400 current members and seventeen Lifetime members. The SEA treasury is doing well [data on file].

Report from the Society of Early Americanists Webmaster, Susan Imbarrato:

The SEA homepage includes information about conferences, membership, and other SEA-related events <www.societyofearlyamericanists.org/>. "Early American Fellowships, Seminars, and Prizes" <gemini.gmu.edu/tharvey2> managed by Professor Tamara Harvey, George Mason University includes information about seminars, fellowships, annual prizes, and publication opportunities related to Early American literature, history, and culture. "Teaching Early American Topics" <www.mnstate.edu/seateaching> includes teaching resources and syllabi relevant to the field of Early American Topics; and the SEA page for "Recent Publications on Early American Topics" <www.mnstate.edu/seabooks/books.html> contains a list of books and journals relevant to the field of Early American Studies, organized by publisher. A general discussion about the possibility of adding a "Log-In" feature to the SEA Directory by way of enhancing the security of our members' email addresses by preventing them from being automatically gathered by robot software. Imbarrato will be checking into IT costs for setting this up before presenting this possibility to the membership, if we decide that we are interested.

General Discussion

Theresa Strouth Gaul (Texas Christian University) suggested that the SEA consider future conference sites outside of the eastern seaboard, such as San Antonio, Texas, Santa Fe, New Mexico, Wisconsin, or California. Gaul also suggested that we might hold regional study groups. Teresa Coronado suggested that we might create an online resource for mentoring both for faculty and for graduate students, such as a "How to Teach Sequence." Follow-up discussion included setting up a Frequently Asked Questions, "FAQ" on the Teaching Early American Topics page, related to both Teaching and Professional questions. Rachel Trocchio (University of California, Berkeley) suggested creating a discussion venue for graduate student questions that would also create camaraderie. Jeremy Dibbell (Massachusetts Historical Society Library) described a feature on the American Library Association website that provides for mentorship opportunities. Michael Ditmore noted the good efforts of the "Early American Caucus" as part of the American Studies association that Dennis Moore initiated in encouraging Graduate Student participation as well. Tom Krise thanked everyone for attending over the lunch hour and reminded everyone of the panel immediately following and the two SEA sponsored panels on Friday.

Adjournment:

Thomas Krise concluded the meeting, which adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Imbarrato
SEA Vice-President, 2007-09