

2010 Minutes of the Society of Early Americanists' Annual Meeting
Friday, May 28, 2010, 2:00-3:20pm
American Literature Association Conference, San Francisco, May 27-30, 2010

Attending: Christopher Apap, Bridget Bennett, Wilson Brissett, Kathleen Donegan, Duncan Faherty, Edward Griffin, Susan Imbarrato (SEA President), Helene Littmann, Marion Rust, Bryce Traister, Brian Yothers.

Welcome and Introductions: SEA President Susan Imbarrato called the Society of Early Americanists' annual business meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. and welcomed everyone. Minutes from the 2009 SEA annual meeting were distributed. The call to accept the minutes was made; Edward Griffin (University of Minnesota) moved to accept; Marion Rust (University of Kentucky) seconded the motion; Imbarrato called for the vote; the minutes were approved unanimously.

SEA Officers' Reports

SEA President, Susan Imbarrato

Overview of the SEA

Susan Imbarrato provided an introduction of the Society of Early Americanists, an interdisciplinary scholarly organization that covers the literature and culture of America to approximately 1800. The Society was founded by Professor Carla Mulford in the early 1990s, along with the good assistance and support of J.A. Leo Lemay, William Scheick, and others, holding its initial organizing meetings at the ALA. In 1994, the SEA was officially formed and chartered as a non-profit organization, and in 1999, held its first conference in Charleston, S.C. For more information about the "History of the SEA" along with general information about the Society, including how to become a member, Imbarrato reminded everyone to please visit our website at www.societyofearlyamericanists.org.

Conferences

Imbarrato reported that the Society of Early Americanists has been very active with conferences and preparations this year. For our affiliated societies, we have four panels at this year's ALA, a complete list appears on the "SEA@ALA 2010" handout and is posted on the SEA website. Imbarrato thanked all of the chairs and panelists for contributing to this rich slate of SEA panels at this year's ALA conference. Imbarrato also thanked Hilary Wyss (Auburn University), SEA Vice-President, for her good assistance with organizing these panels for the ALA conference. In addition, the SEA had two panels at the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (ASECS) Annual Meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico, March 18-21. Imbarrato acknowledged and thanked Professor Laura Stevens (University of Tulsa) for organizing and coordinating these panels as the SEA-ASECS liaison. Earlier this month, SEA was one of the co-sponsors for "Early American Borderlands," a special topics conference that was held in St. Augustine, Florida, May 12-15. Imbarrato thanked co-chairs Professor Ralph Bauer (University of Maryland) and Professor Santa Arias (University of Kansas) along with their Program Committee for a great conference.

Forthcoming conferences

Seventh Biennial SEA conference: Planning continues for the *Society of Early Americanists' Seventh Biennial Conference*, Philadelphia, March 3-5, 2011, with a Call for Papers now posted on the SEA conference website. Imbarrato reminded everyone that paper proposals are due to panel chairs by Monday, September 20, 2010.

ALA 2011: For the 2011 ALA, which will take place in Boston, May 26-29, 2011. Please look for the Call for Papers in the Fall 2010.

ASECS 2011: For the ASECS Annual Meeting in Vancouver, BC, March 17-20, 2011, the SEA will sponsor two panels. Please look for the Call for Papers in mid-June 2010.

Special topics conference 2012: Heather Nathans (University of Maryland) and Jeffrey H. Richards (Old Dominion University) are working on the next special topics conference whose topic will be the "The African and African American Experience in Early America -- Culture, History, Performance." More information is forthcoming.

SEA Executive Coordinator Forthcoming Election

Imbarrato reminded everyone that a call for nominations and applications for the position of the next SEA Executive Coordinator will go out in September, with the election for the tenth SEA EC in February 2011.

More information about all SEA events is available on our website: www.societyofearlyamericanists.org

SEA Vice-President, Hilary E. Wyss (Auburn University)

Hilary E. Wyss, SEA Executive Coordinator, could not attend the meeting.

SEA Executive Coordinator, Kristina K. Bross (Purdue University)

The SEA has 514 members (current and lapsed), including twenty-four Lifetime members. The SEA treasury is doing well [data on file].

SEA Advisory Officers' Reports

(With their permission, Susan Imbarrato read the reports from the SEA Advisory officers who could not attend the meeting)

SEA Newsletter Editor, Richard Frohock (Oklahoma State University)

Dear SEA members,

It has been my pleasure to have edited the *Newsletter* since 2007. During this time I have benefited from the excellent assistance of two graduate students, first Brad Sewell and then Lyn Megow, who have received Teaching Assistantship support from Oklahoma State University for their work on the *Newsletter*. Lyn Megow has finished her last *Newsletter* (Spring 2010), and is moving on to new

opportunities; Chris Black will take over the job of assistant editor in Fall 2010 (although Lyn will help with the transition). I would like to recognize and thank Lyn for her outstanding contributions over the past two academic years.

The *Newsletter* continues to appear biannually; copies are mailed to all current members of SEA. Each issue contains letters from SEA officers and current information about upcoming conferences and professional opportunities. Issues also include features such as conference reviews; abstracts from SEA-sponsored panels at prominent national conferences; and interviews with leading scholars and journal editors. As editor, I always welcome comments and ideas for new content and improvements.

I plan for the Fall 2010 issue to include abstracts from SEA panels at ALA, a review of the Early American Borderlands conference, and a preview of the next SEA conference in Philadelphia. The Spring 2011 issue will contain, among other things, a review of the SEA biennial conference.

After having completed my first 3-year term as editor (2007-2009), I agreed to extend for 2 additional years (through Spring 2011). I have enjoyed my time working on the *Newsletter*, but I believe that it is best to rotate editors every 3-5 years. I am happy to help the new editor with the transition in summer 2011.

Sincerely,
Richard Frohock

Webmaster, Susan Imbarrato

SEA Webmaster, Susan Imbarrato (Minnesota State University Moorhead) reported that the SEA homepage includes information about conferences, membership, and other SEA-related events < <http://www.societyofearlyamericanists.org/>>. The SEA page for "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. The SEA page for "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.

EBB Coordinator EARAM-L Moderator, Raymond Craig (Kent State University)

Our subscriber list has topped 900 for the first time, with 908 subscribers at the moment. I am working to convert our archives to a web-based model, to allow easier access to those archives than we currently have (if I get this done, I will let you know). Activity on the list is moderate but I think productive—

All the best to you and the other board members--

Ray

General Discussion

Kathleen Donegan (University of California, Berkeley) suggested that we might consider having a set of Teaching Panels for future biennial conference similar to the workshops that took place at the EAB conference in St. Augustine, and include links to "Approaches to Teaching"; "Assignments"; and "Student Reactions." Edward Griffin (University of Minnesota) remarked that the Early American Periodical panels at the ALA conference this year raised important issues about database access, including cost, and offered strategies to acquire databases, such as linking their use to student assignments, noting that students are really using these databases. Universities need to collaborate with larger universities. Brian Yothers (University of Texas at El Paso) suggested sending librarians an email about student assignments and noted the interdisciplinary aspect of databases. Marion Rust (University of Kentucky) noted that librarians are very helpful in acquiring databases and that we need to keep ourselves visible to them. Bryce Traister (University of Western Ontario) cited the different types of Humanities and Social Science databases in terms of costs and publishing practices. He also noted that in Canada, universities pool their resources for more access to databases. Susan Imbarrato noted that the SEA had been invited to attend a meeting at the Mellon Foundation in February on this issue of database access and that, as per the Mellon Meeting organizers request, once there is a follow-up report and recommendations that she will pass along this information to the membership.

Adjournment:

Susan Imbarrato concluded the meeting, which adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Imbarrato
SEA President, 2009-11