

Society of Early Americanists Newsletter

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From the SEA President

Greetings, fellow SEA members!

Not much to report at the conclusion of my first year as President of the SEA, although as you can see from the rest of the newsletter we have all been very busy. Heather Nathans' "Triumph in my Song" conference in Maryland this spring was by all accounts a rousing success, as Kris Bross's column makes clear, and Laura Stevens has been at the forefront of some of our most recent forays into social media platforms and digital humanities more generally. I am so grateful to everyone who has worked throughout this year to maintain the SEA's commitment to community, collegiality, and intellectual engagement. We have a thriving website, an active listserv, and more recently a wonderful Facebook page and Twitter feed; these are all ways, along with the newsletter you now hold in your hands, that we maintain our connections to the field at large and amongst ourselves as members of the thriving community of early Americanists.

Plans are well underway for our 2013 Biennial conference, which will be in Savannah, Georgia, February 28 to March 2. Savannah should be beautiful at this time of year, hopefully with flowers in bloom and balmy temperatures. We are looking forward to an exciting intellectual and cultural event in this beautiful southern city, and encourage our members to consider staying on for an additional day or two to soak in the atmosphere of this extraordinary site.

The program committee was most gratified to receive a record number of panel proposals, and we are excited to hear of the work you, our members, are producing. We have several conference events in the works, so be sure to follow the developments on our website at <http://www.cla.auburn.edu/sea/>. Make sure to submit a paper to one of the excellent panels listed on our website, and please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or suggestions for the conference or for the SEA more generally.

Hilary E. Wyss, President, Society of Early Americanists

From the SEA Vice President

I'm writing my letter to you in anticipation of our upcoming biennial conference in Savannah, and with a very brief account of my impressions of the recent conference, "Triumph in My Song: 18th and 19th Century African Atlantic Culture, History and Performance." Chaired by Heather Nathans, and co-sponsored by the SEA, the meeting was another in the successful series of "off-year," thematic conferences. Despite periods of torrential rain and widespread regional tornado warnings (or maybe all that electricity in the air transferred

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to the sessions?), the meeting was invigorating and productive.

The program committee brought together a balanced presentation of research and performances. Particularly exciting was the chance for the more “traditional” SEA fields of literary criticism and history to be in conversation with performance studies and theater studies scholars. It was clear from the Q&A sessions that I attended that we have much to teach one another across these fields. Here’s hoping that we continue to have strong participation in SEA events from our colleagues in performance. Notable performance events included the Du Theatre of the Afro-Surinamese: *Artistic Voice of the South American Slave*; *The Whipping Man*, by Theater J; and a presentation of metatheatricality in connecting the slave past to the present (created by Beth Turner at NYU), as well as a work called “(Dis)Embodied Voices,” created by Dr. Valerie Joyce (Villanova) and Philadelphia actress, Kimberly Fairbanks. Theatre J’s performance was supported in part by a collaborative grant from the American Society for Theatre Research.

Our sessions were held in the Clarice Smith Center for the Performing Arts, a spacious and appropriate setting for the meeting. During one of the panels I attended, during a talk on the antebellum performances by Mary Webb of *The Christian Slave* (a “reader’s theater” adaptation of *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*), we could hear students in a nearby rehearsal space practicing banjoes. A bit distracting, perhaps, but as the speaker, Alex W. Black suggested a fitting soundtrack for his research. The conference reception was held at the David C. Driskell Center for the Study of the Visual Arts and Culture of African Americans and the African Diaspora and featured the exhibit, “Successions” (a collection of African American art from the Jean and Robert Steele Collection). These reports always risk reproducing a strong conference program in its entirety, so I’ll close my remarks with just one more example of the good conversations begun in Maryland. The colloquy on Frances Smith Foster’s book *‘Til Death or Distance Do Us Part*, organized by Dennis Moore, led to a wide-ranging conversation, but Professor Foster’s comment that she hoped this book would be widely read outside of academia, even as it lived up to rigorous standards of evidence and argumentation, has stayed with me. It should serve as a challenge to the SEA in general to find new ways to perform what our institutions variously call “outreach,” “engagement,” or “service”—but which most SEA members might include under the old—but still vital—term “teaching.”

I was reminded that our colleagues in theatre face the challenge of bringing their work to a wider public all the time; the Du Theatre of the Afro-Surinamese reprised their work in the lobby of the Clarice Smith center, with their audience (who brought their lunches) seated on the main staircase. It’s not so easy to adapt traditional humanities research to “street theater” as successfully as the Du Theatre, but maybe it’s worth a thought.

Plans are in the works for the next “off-year” meeting of the SEA, to be held in London in summer 2014. Watch this space for details! I myself plan to be busking New England Puritan sermons in Trafalgar Square. Look for me next to the living statue of a Beefeater.

Kristina Boss, Vice President, Society of Early Americanists



The Du-Theatre of the Afro-Surinamese in Q&A following their performance of the “Artistic Voice of the South American Slave” in the lobby of the Clarice Smith Center for the Performing Arts.



Chair Heather S. Nathans wraps up the conference on June 2

From the SEA Executive Coordinator

After the rush of learning that inevitably accompanied the beginning of my term as Executive Coordinator, I am glad to say that I have little to report about my second semester in this position because things have been going well. The Society enjoys financial stability, thanks to the careful stewardship of its current and former presidents. It also is graced with a vibrant and growing membership: I have had the pleasure of welcoming many new members over this past year while seeing renewals from longstanding members cross my computer screen or my desk. The work of archiving the Society’s papers and creating a digital backup is continuing, and once again I am grateful to the work-study students in the University of Tulsa’s English department for their assistance. This project also should simplify aspects of the transition from the outgoing to the incoming Executive Coordinator in the summer of 2013.

As chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on New Media and Technologies I am delighted to report that the debut of the SEA's Facebook page in January and Twitter account in March were both very successful. Jonathan Senchyne and Jeremy Dibbell deserve a great deal of thanks for administering the Facebook page, as do Jonathan Field and Jordan Stein for running the Twitter feed. If you are on Facebook and have not done so already, please click "like" on the "Society of Early Americanists" group page to receive announcements from us on your newsfeed. Likewise, if you are on Twitter please follow TheRealSEA. As the 2013 conference approaches you also can follow or contribute to commentary through the hashtag #sea13. If you have suggestions for -- or comments on -- the operation or content of either venue, please feel welcome to contact me or the Facebook and Twitter administrators. At the 2013 business meeting the Ad Hoc Committee will be presenting a report assessing these new developments and discussing other possible ventures.

Finally, as is my duty, I remind all of you who have not renewed your memberships this year please to do so. I also ask those with gainful employment to consider making a donation to our graduate student travel fund while you are renewing. These contributions make a significant difference for our most junior members who are trying to gather funds for travel to Savannah.

Laura Stevens, Executive Coordinator, Society of Early Americanists

Professional Opportunities

While every effort has been made to present information accurately, interested persons should always verify submission dates and criteria directly with the sponsoring institutions.

Digital Humanities Start-Up Grants Receipt Deadline September 25, 2012

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) invites applications to the Digital Humanities Start-Up Grants program. This program is designed to encourage innovations in the digital humanities. By awarding relatively small grants to support the planning stages, NEH aims to encourage the development of innovative projects that promise to benefit the humanities. Proposals should be for the planning or initial stages of digital initiatives in any area of the humanities.

Enduring Questions

Receipt Deadline September 13, 2012

The NEH Enduring Questions grant program supports faculty members in the teaching and development of a new course that will foster intellectual community through the study of an enduring question. This question-driven course will encourage undergraduates and teachers to grapple with a fundamental concern of human life addressed by the humanities, and to join together in a deep and sustained program of reading in order to encounter influential thinkers over the centuries and into the present day.

18th-19th C. American History and Culture: Document Studies

EBSCO Publishing (Salem Press)

Salem Press, an imprint of EBSCO Publishing, is developing a multi-volume series on primary source documents in American History. Designed for advanced high school and undergraduate students, the series will publish complete or excerpted historical documents with analysis (4,000 words)). We seek researchers working in the field of American history and culture studies to complete monographs for a range of subjects and genres. If interested, please email Jim Ryan at EBSCO Publishing: <jryan@ebSCOhost.com>.

Regional CEA Journal: Notes on Teaching English

[NOTES] call for contributions

After a long hiatus, the journal of GACCEA will return in May as an online journal. "Notes" will offer pedagogically directed scholarship on all topics relevant to teaching college-level English, in a fresh multimodal online format. We invite you to participate in shaping this exciting publication by contributing your scholarship. Send submissions and inquiries to Dan Vollaro at <dvollaro@ggc.edu>.



Tom Krise

Thomas W. Krise Named President of PLU

Tom W. Krise, SEA President, 2007-2009, became the 13th President of Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington, beginning June 1, 2012. Formerly Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences at the University of the Pacific in Stockton, CA, Tom's many contributions to the SEA include organizing the highly successful sixth *SEA Biennial Conference* in Bermuda.

Carla Mulford Wins Essay Prize

Carla Mulford, distinguished Franklin scholar, founding President of the Society of Early Americanists, and Associate Professor of English at Penn State, was recently awarded the William L. Mitchell prize for her essay "Benjamin Franklin's Savage Eloquence: Hoaxes from the Press at Passy, 1782."



Carla Mulford

Early American Presentations at NeMLA

Below is a sampling of sessions and presentations on early American topics from the 2012 meeting of the Northeast Modern Language Association, March 15–18, in Rochester, New York. If you present at a future conference, we invite you to submit the title of your work and your affiliation so members can know more about the latest research being presented.

Session 2.01: Not Quite Six Feet Under: How Not to Perform a Funeral in American Texts (Seminar)

Chair: Lisa Perdigao, Florida Institute of Technology

“Unsatisfactory Gravestones and the Case of Foster’s *Couquette*,” Jennifer Harris, Mount Allison University

“‘Out of Ashes’: Cotton Mather’s Body-less Resurrection of Sir William Phips,” April Phillips, Purdue University

Session 3.08 The Gothic Aesthetic

Chair: Kellie Donovan Condron, Babson College

“‘I once more tasked my understanding and my senses’: Sensual Stimuli in Charles Brockden Brown,” Emily Petermann, University of Göttingen

Session 3.16: Gender in Postnational Context I

Chair: Johanna Rossi Wagner,
Pennsylvania State University

“Hannah Webster Foster’s Patriarchal Warnings,” Hannah Ruehl, East Tennessee State University

Session 5.07: The Questions of Voice in Nineteenth-Century American Women’s Literature

Chair: Karen Waldron, College of the Atlantic

“Firmly in the Bonds of Womanhood: The Constricted Voice of Harriet Jacobs,” Margaret Cullen, Ohio Northern University

Session 7.03: American ‘Anglophone’ Authors: Towards Post-Colonial Inclusivity

Chairs: Margaret Finn, Temple University;
Katherine Henry, Temple University

“Samson Occom, Phillis Wheatley, and the Politics of ‘American Anglophone,’” Katherine Henry, Temple University

“Romancing Wilderness, American Identity, and the Multi-cultural Mapmaking of Captain John Smith,” Pavlina Radia, Nipissing University

“Catharine Maria Sedgwick and Hope Leslie: Shaping American Literature and Roles for American Women,” Lynn Embick-Morris, Salem State University

Session 13.03: African American Women in Rochester

Chair: Jennifer Sieck, George Washington University

“Navigation and Morality in Harriet Jacobs’s *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*,” Allison Siehnell, University at Buffalo-SUNY

Session 18.01: Upstate New York and Early African American Expression (Seminar)

Chair: Johnathan Senchyne, Cornell University

“Reading Hearts Not Books: Affective Literacy and Public Sentiment in Early African American Writing,” Tara Bynum, Towson University

“Buffalo’s Bloodhound: Early African American Literature and the Ghost of Millard Fillmore,” Nicholas Mohlmann, Purdue University

LIFETIME MEMBERS

The SEA would like to extend its gratitude to the following individuals, who have purchased lifetime memberships during the past academic year:

- *Eric Gardner – Saginaw Valley State University*
- *Zachary Hutchins – Brigham Young University*
- *Paul Rich – Policy Studies Organization*
- *Sarah Rivett – Princeton University*
- *Scott Slawinski – Western Michigan University*
- *Joanne van der Woude– University of Groningen, Netherlands*

Early American Presentations at the MLA Convention

The 2012 Modern Language Association Convention, January 5—8, in Seattle, Washington, featured four sessions sponsored by the MLA's Division of American Literature to 1800, with one co-sponsored by the Division on Eighteenth-Century French Literature. If you present at a future conference, we invite you to submit the title of your work and your affiliation so members can know more about the latest research being presented

Session 10: Rag, Letter, Post: Material Communications Networks in Colonial and Early National America

Chair: Trish Loughran, University of Illinois

Responder: Trish Loughran

Session 413: Word, Image, Media in Early America

Chair: Sean X. Goudie, Penn State University

Responder: Christopher J. Lukasik

"Paper Nationalism," Jonathan Senchyne, Cornell University

"Posting Logan: Jefferson's Appendix to *Notes on the State of Virginia*," Mark Mattes, University of Iowa

"Revolutionary Correspondences," Russ Castronovo, University of Wisconsin, Madison

"Why We Left: Transmedia and Transatlantic Archives of Colonial Memory," Joanna M. Brooks, San Diego State University.

"Phillis Wheatley and Art's New Geographies in Colonial America," Sarah Dennis, University of Illinois

"Semaphores: The Chappe Telegraph in the Early Republic," Eric Wertheimer, Arizona State University West

Session 564: The French in the Americas: Co-Sponsored by the Division of Eighteenth Century French Literature

Chair: Mary McAlpin, University of Tennessee

"New French Sympathy: Quentin Stockwell's Ardent Frenchmen," Laura Laffrado, Western Washington University

"America in the French Imagination: The French Settlers of Asylum, Pennsylvania, and Their Perceptions of 1790s America," Catherine Spaeth, Saint Catherine University

"Lafitau's Indigenous Religions," Mary Helen McMurrin, University of Western Ontario

"'Lieu de mémoires,' from Versailles to the Verrazano Narrows: Location and Identity in the *Mémoires de la marquise de La Tour du Pin*," Julia Luisa Abramson, University of Oklahoma

Session 198: Native Space: Indigenous North American Geographies before 1800

Chair: Jean O'Brien, University of Minnesota

Responder: Matt Cohen, University of Texas

"Captive Geographies," Lisa Brooks, Harvard University

"Tantaque's Tortoise: A *Welikia* Story," Andrew Newman, Stony Brook University, State University of New York

"The Xam Kwatcan and the Indigenous Spaces of Early California," Phillip Round, University of Iowa

"Unsettling the Southeast," Kathryn Walkiewicz, University of Illinois, Urbana

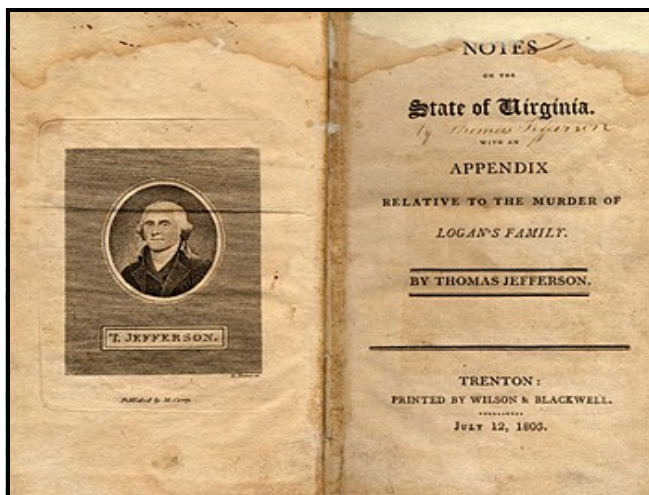
2011 SEA Essay Award

Jennifer Heil of Emory University, currently a dissertation fellow at the Library Company of Philadelphia, won the 13th annual SEA Best Essay Award. Her paper, "Imperial Pedagogy: Susanna Rowson's *Columbus for Young Ladies*," was presented at the 2011 SEA conference in Philadelphia. She will receive her award at the 2012 ASECS conference in San Antonio.



Jennifer Heil

Title pages of Jefferson's *Notes on the State of Virginia*



Reflections of SEA Members on the March 2012 ASECS Conference at San Antonio

At last fall's American Studies Association conference, where the A.S.A.'s Early American Matters Caucus had managed to get more than a dozen early-American-flavored panels onto the program, Mary Balkun asked if I'd collect a few responses from colleagues for inclusion in the SEA Newsletter; I was glad to do so and am glad Mary has asked me to gather a few more, this time from early-Americanists who'd participated in last month's ASECS conference, at San Antonio. The following notes are from quite a range of articulate, collegial people, two of whom are graduate students -- and one, Jenny Heil, is most recent recipient of the SEA's annual Essay Prize! -- and several of whom are in disciplines or specialties quite distinct from early American lit. Which, yeah, is the point of going to ASECS, the reason too that I'm glad the SEA is ASECS's Americanist affiliate. Well, I'm also glad ASECS has included the American Antiquarian Society among its affiliate organizations, too, and glad that ASECS has a grad-student mentoring setup -- plus glad to have gotten access to a few fine photos (thanks again!, Drew Armstrong) from that optional Sunday-morning tour of those Missions, photos that are now in place at the SEA's Fb page. While I'm not glad about all the doubling up (and, yeah, tripling up on Saturday morning, when David Shields, Tom Krise and I were each chairing a session at the same time; yikes!), I'm glad that we're work-ing to find a way to minimize such scheduling conflicts next time around. That "we" includes Cathy Parisian, ASECS's tireless affiliate societies coordinator and Joy Howard, with whom I'm getting to work as, um, co-liaisons between the SEA and the big, diverse world of ASECS.

Dennis Moore, Florida State University

"I attended my first ASECS with a little worry that that pesky "imposter syndrome" might set in before too long; perhaps I was concerned that people in the elevator would ask me to quote my favorite lines from Pope (I might have even prepared a couplet, just in case). But, the scholarship was diverse and the scene was friendly. Though many attendants seemed familiar with each other, prevailing was the attitude that anyone interested in the eighteenth century could learn from anyone interested in another part of it. Hence, some of the best questions were those that brought one field of expertise to a new setting. Early American offerings were plenty, though more would not be too much. For me, the most exciting panels were those that approached geographic dilemmas through disciplinary ones. (The Caribbean Enlightenments panel, and the conversations it sparked, was a highlight; the grad caucus sessions After Exoticism and Viral Communications are great examples.) Exciting new work is happening in history of science and history of the book--perhaps they could be talking to each other?--and the mentality that we could revisit, revise, and integrate older categories of knowledge

with practices that understand our volatile and shifting world seems proof that, despite the naysayers, the Humanities do, indeed, know what they're doing. I would like to thank Nick Miller for running the mentorship program, which gave me the chance to meet with Dennis Moore, and the Ibero-American Society, which warmly welcomed me onto a bilingual panel."

Jenny Temechko Braun, University of Virginia

"Each ASECS conference has a different character. Some encourage sociability, others foster studiousness, while some are remembered for the oddest reasons: who could forget the lock-down in Boston when President Bush rode into town, or the hot tubs full of cigar-smoking San Francisco bikers when ASECS arrived in Vegas. ASECS in San Antonio had plenty of potential for oddness; the tourist traps of the Alamo and the Riverwalk attract many curious characters. In the event, it was one of the most balanced and productive conferences for many years. The venue was like a vast panopticon in which open terraces and glass elevators ensured that no-one got lost and no-one missed out on a crucial meeting. The result was a harmonious intermingling of younger and more experienced scholars, American and inter-national delegates, old friends and new. This seemed to encourage participation. The curse of modern conferences is the delegate who flies in, delivers their paper, and flies out again with-out attending a single additional panel. Second to that in iniquity is the delegate who delivers his or her paper and then spends the rest of the conference seeing the sights, or visiting elderly aunts in the neighborhood, without gracing anyone else's panel. This is the reason why I think conferences should charge an upfront \$500 registration fee, with \$50 refunded for every panel attended. Happily, at ASECS 2012 such draconian measures were not needed. Almost all the panels I went to were well attended by colleagues who were happy to participate fully. I learned much about transatlantic dialogue, Caribbean literature, early astronomers, peppercorn rents, and all the hills climbed in the novels of Jane Austen. I dis-cussed future publications, arranged to meet colleagues in Europe, America, and the Caribbean, and even had a conversation about colonial military architecture -- by the entrance to the Alamo. In short, for me, although perhaps it was a little thin on oddness, ASECS 2012 was one of the most productive on record."

Brycchan Carey, Kingston University

"This year's ASECS conference in San Antonio was my first. As an avowed antebellum Americanist, I rub elbows with eighteenth-century folk with some regularity, but my own work almost never ventured back that far. As Director of Academic Programs at the American Antiquarian Society (AAS), however, I work with scholars from all disciplines who are doing innovative research on eighteenth-century topics, so I thought I should finally take the plunge. This year seemed like an especially fitting time to go, since the AAS officially became an

ASECS affiliate society. For many years AAS has been able to offer a short-term fellowship that is funded with the generous support of ASECS, so our formalizing the relationship was long overdue. But then, the Antiquarian Society is 200 years old, so we tend not to rush into things. The conference was a great experience, in a wonderful venue. The disciplinary and geographic breadth of the work represented was compelling, and represented an ideal fit for scholars who have done work in AAS's capacious holdings. I'll definitely be back."

Paul Erickson, American Antiquarian Society

"This was my third ASECS, and by far the one that I enjoyed the most. Both institutionally and intellectually, I feel as if SEA is now enjoying a wider footprint than ever before within ASECS. At the same time, it's really a treat to be at a conference where you meet people who have preoccupations that are similar to yours, rather than preoccupations that are the same as yours.* I find that the specific chronological range of ASECS encourages a disciplinary variety that I find really exciting – you are more likely to see musicologists or architectural historians on a panel with literary and historical scholars than at most conferences. I'm working on a monstrous births project, and really enjoyed the panel (#124 in your ASECS program) on women's health in the eighteenth century, chaired by Elizabeth Kuipers. I didn't know any of the scholars on the panel, and I learned a tremendous amount. Among other things, I learned from Patsy Fowler that animal-skin condoms with anti-Pope cartoons were popular during the Restoration. That, alone, was worth the trip.

I think San Antonio was an inspired choice for a venue – nice to have a change from the usual suspects. The hotel's configuration encouraged mingling, but the wireless could have been more robust – very slow (and expensive) in the rooms, and spotty, (if free) in the common areas. Also, it's a nice problem to have, but there were some panels, notably the Performance Theory panel (#167) where there were people who literally could not get in through the door to hear the conversation. I am grateful to the organizers and participants. In particular it's nice to have a bit of an intellectual shot in the arm as the academic year winds to a close.

*I am very much looking forward to sharing shared preoccupations at SEA in Savannah."

Jonathan Beecher Field, Clemson University

"I had a wonderful experience at this year's ASECS thanks to the variety of panels, the efficient organization of the conference, the excellent papers and choice of venue. In reflecting on that weekend, I thought about remarking specifically on the provocative presidential address,

the beautiful Riverwalk just outside the hotel doors or the intellectually rigorous panels on form and the eighteenth century, but the deepest impressions—and what I continue to enjoy at scholarly conferences above all—were made by the people I met, whether it was for the first time or the tenth. This time to connect with others and share not only our work but also our meals, our stories, ourselves is what I appreciated most about ASECS 2012, and I thank the conference organizers, the panel chairs, the presenters, the hotel staff, the people of San Antonio and all who contributed their patience and hard work to make these meaningful connections possible."

Jennifer Heil, Emory University *and* recipient of the SEA's most recent Essay Prize



**The Mission San Francisco de la Espada
in San Antonio, founded in the 1750's.**

"As a first time participant in ASECS national conference, I was pleased to find ample offerings on the digital humanities, religion, and book history at this year's conference. The luxury of so many panels – sixteen per session! – enabled me to sample the newest work in a range of different fields of personal interest. Particularly commendable is ASECS's commitment to providing a forum for the presentation and discussion of digital pedagogy, scholarship, and resources. The presenters in Thursday's digital pedagogy panel provided much to think about, especially as each approached the topic from a different disciplinary perspective than myself. Despite that difference, their reflections on teaching undergraduate and graduate students how to engage critically with online databases, how to use open source software like Omeka, and how to construct their own on-line databases all resonated with my own experience in putting together a digital history course. The panel the next day on digital tools offered a useful reminder of our continuing need to develop an architecture and infrastructure for digital humanities research. Laura Mandell's discussion of

ASECS con't...

the TypeWright function of 18th Connect, a tool for correcting faulty OCR translations of ECCO texts, stood out as a reminder of how far we have come in the development of digital resources, and how far we have to go.

So many concurrent panels per session meant significant opportunity costs. “Authors and Readers in the Eighteenth Century” won out over “Copyright: Contexts and Contests,” but I am sure the lament over the conference’s excess of riches is a perennial one. That richness clearly stems from the willingness of so many affiliated societies – like the Society of Early Americanists – to contribute panels to the conference certainly added to the richness of the offerings. My panel was sponsored by the Bibliographical Society of America and it, in fact, bestowed the greatest gift a conference could offer: knowledge of a recently discovered primary source that I never would have imagined survived. Pondering what this newly revealed treasure – a 1770 inventory of the library at George Whitefield’s orphanage in Georgia – might hold while basking in the warm reflection of old friends seen and new friends made, steeled me for the return to my academic home and several more weeks of the spring semester. I have been seduced by the easy air of sociability that hung over the ASECS conference and am already looking forward to next year’s conference.

Kyle Roberts, Loyola University Chicago

“ASECS has two stellar characteristics that make it the most interesting conference of the annual conference season. It brings together scholars from many disciplines and subfields, often in combination on a single panel. And the tradition of rarely having official commentators at panels has engendered a culture of conversation and exchange between the audience and presenters. We are all participants at the sessions we attend. Sometimes, conversations are even more lively when the audience is few, as was the case at a book colloquy on Wendy Bellion’s *Citizen Spectator*. This is not an always successful format, but the author’s open reflections and the mix of art historians, literary scholars, and historians led to a substantive and very interesting discussion of art, theater, illusion, and politics in the early republic. Caribbean-centric focus and transatlantic contexts framed quite a few sessions; artists, music, political ideologues made the journey. And everywhere enlightenments multiplied, refracted, coalesced, and now encompassed animals.”

Fredrika Teute, Omohundro Institute of Early American history and Culture



The following is a sampling of early American sessions at the 2012 ASECS conference

“Caribbean Enlightenment,” Chair: Julie Chun Kim, Fordham University

“Revisiting Borderlands in Early America,” Chair: Melissa Antonucci, University of Tulsa (Hosted by the Society of Early Americanists)

“Slavery, the Book, and Enlightenment Rights Theory,” Chair: Philip Gould, Brown University

“Eighteenth-Century America in the World,” Chair: Manushag Powell, Purdue University (Hosted by the Society of Early Americanists)

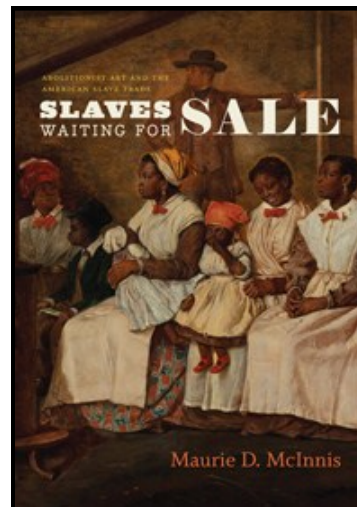
“Transatlantic Dialogues at the Close of the Eighteenth Century,” Chair: Amy Garnai, Tel Aviv University

“Deep in the Art of Texas,” Chair: Amy Freund, Texas Christian University

“Loose Canons: Early Caribbean Literary History,” Chair: Thomas W. Krise, University of the Pacific

“Misión y Sumisión: Religion and Power in the Luso-Hispanic World,” Chair: Madeline Sutherland-Meier, University of Texas at Austin (Ibero-American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies)

“Transatlantic Fictions,” Chair: Jennifer FRANGOS, University of Missouri, Kansas City



Maurie D. McNinnis

The Smithsonian American Art Museum awarded the Charles C. Eldredge Prize for Distinguished Scholarship in American Art to Maurie D. McNinnis for her book, *Slaves Waiting for Sale: Abolitionist Art and the American Slave Trade* (University of Chicago Press, 2011). Her book was recognized for its integration of art and cultural studies, tracing the American slave trade through the visual and written records of Eyre Crowe.

An Interview with Richard Pressman

Richard Pressman, Professor of English and Communication Studies at St. Mary's University, has founded a small press, Early American Reprints, for the purpose of reprinting early American texts that are in demand by instructors but are either out of print or have never been reprinted. The following interview provides details about the press and the texts to be published.

What is Early American Reprints?

This is a special service designed to fill a niche in the marketplace. We are a not-for-profit service designed to make available to the academic community texts for which there is some demand, but not enough for established publishing houses to be willing to invest in. Early American Reprints, housed in the Department of English at St. Mary's University in San Antonio, intends to produce works of the period to about 1820 in short runs of only a few hundred copies at a time. The market is intended to range from advanced undergraduates to academic scholars.

What led you to found it?

I worked at finding a publisher for what is now the press's first edition, Martha Meredith Read's *Margaretta*, for upwards of two years. Some of the experience was simply frustrating, as publishers were not interested in what they thought would not sell. It was, finally, an unhappy experience with an academic publisher that led me to a realization: On the one hand, there is a need for such publications, and in manufactured form rather than just on-line, while, on the other, the need is not high enough to warrant what it costs an established firm—with overhead—to do. I realized that a very small operation could be established with no more overhead than a half a closet! I will be working alone, but with the help of both a graduate assistant and College Work Studies.

Who supports the effort?

When, two years ago, I received a positive response to my reading of a paper on *Margaretta* at the SEA, I was given permission to appeal to the membership as a whole for support to get *Margaretta* published. Forty-three members said they would seriously consider using the text in a course.

What are your qualifications?

I am Professor of English & Communication Studies at St. Mary's University in San Antonio, where I have labored since 1978. I've published in a range of journals on a range of authors, from Royall Tyler to Carolyn Forché, most recently in *Literature in the Early Republic* on Martha Meredith Read, author of *Margaretta*, the press's first release. At the University, I am noted for my editorial skills, which I bring to the work of Early American Reprints. In addition to my editing skills,

I was born into and have worked in the printing industry, and have B.S. degree in the obscure major of Printing Management. So I understand the manufacturing process. I am being assisted in establishing the service by St. Mary's University's in-house poetry chapbook publisher, the Pecan Grove Press. In terms of time, I now have it, being on Phased Retirement and wanting to do something of value as I fade away—but not for a number of years.

What texts are being planned? Are the texts ones that have previously been available and are no longer/have not been available at all?

The first text, *Margaretta*, has never been republished since its initial run in 1807. Nevertheless, it's mentioned in most of the histories. I found myself fascinated by it, as have, apparently, a number of other scholars. The next text, however, and likely the third—*Female Quixotism* and *Kelroy*—were republished by Oxford in the early 1990s, but have been out of print for a long time, easily a decade. After that, it will depend on who is willing to make the effort to rescue texts. I can promise you that it is a grueling, vastly time-consuming effort. In the case of *Margaretta*, what I had originally thought was a question of scanning photocopies turned into a laborious hand-typing and editing and re-reading and re-reading, in which little errors never seem to go away. Even so, this edition of *Margaretta* is about as clean as they come. It's a question of putting in the time. Finally, if you look at the texts being proposed, you will note that they are all by women authors. While I have no intention of limiting the choices to women's texts, I think it makes sense to favor them in the interest of historical justice.

What will each volume include in terms of notes/intro, etc.?

I have modeled them, frankly on what Broadview has done: critical editions that include a scholarly introduction and some ancillary materials—striking a balance between maintaining the flavor of the time and making the text as readable as possible for the contemporary reader. Because it has been my practice for many years to supply my students with extensive page notes, and because there are so many references that are lost by time and terms that have been lost to cultural memory or changed in time, I am providing such for *Margaretta* and will do so for all volumes. My experience is that even advanced scholars can be puzzled by references: How much more convenient to have an explanation right on the same page! I have provided about a footnote per page. The manufactured quality will be first-rate, though all copies will be paperback only.

Who will be doing the work on the volumes?

Only well-qualified scholars. They certainly may be young,

At present, it's best to e-mail me at rpressman@stmarytx.edu. I am in the process of establishing a website, but that will take some time, and I'll be away a good deal of the summer. The name Early American Reprints is available (who else would want it?), so it will soon be possible to find me through a simple web search. I must make it clear that because of the tiny size of the endeavor, I cannot afford examination copies or desk copies. However, this is a genuine not-for-profit endeavor, so much so that it may end up costing me my own money, which money I must lay out. I have, however, been able to establish the prices for *Margaretta*: for single copies sold to individuals, the cost is only \$11.50, which includes local sales tax and also shipping media rate. For orders from bookstores, the cost is \$8.00 per text plus whatever the shipping will come out to. That's a pretty good deal these days. The price would be even lower were it not for the cost of set-up and of ISBNs, which are quite costly. The copies will not have bar-scans on them because of the additional cost. University bookstores can easily put them on, and do. Checks should be made out to "St/ Mary's University / EAR" and sent to:

University bookstore orders should include the tax-exempt number. I am certain that books will be available by the third week in July, at the latest, and so can arrive at a bookstore within another ten days, say by 1 August.

The manuscript page features two distinct illustrations. On the left, three women are depicted in a domestic setting. One woman is seated on the ground, playing a harp. Two other women stand behind her, one appearing to sing or play a small instrument. The illustration is rendered in a simple, linear style characteristic of early medieval art. To the right, four figures dressed as angels are shown standing in a row. Each figure has large, feathered wings and holds a long staff or spear. They are also drawn in a minimalist, linear fashion. Above both illustrations, there are columns of Latin text written in a dark ink using a Gothic script.

Original in the John Carter Brown Library at Brown University

The 128th Modern Language Association Annual Convention will be held January 3rd through January 6th, 2013, in Boston, Massachusetts. It has been over 52 years since the convention was last held in Boston. The presidential theme is “Avenues of Access,” and will encompass such topics as student access to higher education, tenure-track jobs for PhDs., the implications of disability studies for the humanities, and open access and the future of scholarly communication. Registration opens in early September for MLA members.

The Society of Early Americanists 8th Biennial Conference will be held February 28th through March 2nd, 2013, in Savannah, Georgia. Individuals interested in submitting a paper should do so directly to the Panel Chair by Friday, September 7, 2012. Panel Chairs have until Friday, September 21, 2012, to submit completed panels. Individuals can submit a paper proposal directly to the Program Committee by Monday, September 24, 2012. The following panels listed are just a few examples of what is being offered at this years conference. For more information, please visit <http://www.cla.auburn.edu/sea/call-for-panelspapers/>

The American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies 2013 Conference will be held April 4th through April 7th, 2013, in Cleveland, Ohio. Proposals for papers must be submitted by September 15, 2012. Remember to include your telephone, fax number, and email address. The following are just a few of the panel titles being offered next year. For more information please visit the ASECS homepage.



Conference Calls for Papers

While every effort has been made to present information accurately, interested persons should always verify submission dates and criteria in conference announcements.

Philadelphia from the Vernacular to the Spectacular (September 26-29, 2012)

Philadelphia, PA

The Pioneer America Society: Association for the Preservation of Artifacts & Landscapes (PAS: APAL) will hold its 44th annual conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on September 26-29, 2012. The meeting will be held in downtown Philadelphia at Loews Hotel, housed in the historic 1932 Philadelphia Saving Fund Society skyscraper. The 2012 Conference theme is: Philadelphia: the Vernacular to the Spectacular. Philadelphia has a unique history among major U.S. cities and has garnered many descriptions — City of Brotherly Love, Athens of America, Greene Country Town, the Holy Experiment, City of Firsts, Cradle of Liberty, City of Neighborhoods, and Workshop of the World. You can explore these themes and many more on the website <<http://philadelphiaencyclopedia.org/>> The conference committee is currently soliciting proposals for papers, special sessions, and panel discussions relating to the conference theme. However, papers on all material culture and landscape topics of interest to the Society will be welcome. Presentations will be limited to 20 minutes with additional time for comments and questions. All presentation equipment will be provided. Abstracts must be no longer than 300 words, including the authors' names, affiliations, and title. Electronic submission in Microsoft Word is preferred. Abstract submissions are due by 5:00 p.m. Friday, August 31, 2012, and will be published in P.A.S.T. (Pioneer America Society Transactions). Abstracts should be sent directly to: Wayne Brew: wbrew@mc3.edu. For more information, please see: <<http://www.pioneeramerica.org/annualmeeting2012.html>>.

Devils and Dolls: Dichotomous Depictions of 'The Child' (March 27, 2013)

University of Bristol, Graduate School of Arts and Humanities.

Confirmed plenary speaker: Professor George Rousseau, (Magdalen College, University of Oxford). Second plenary to be confirmed.

An interdisciplinary conference open to both postgraduates and academics at any stage of their career, seeking to examine the contrasting images and representations of children as angels or devils, innocent or evil, light or dark in fiction and culture. Why are children offered little dimension in representations? What is the significance of representing the child either as innocent or evil – to both the originating discourse and in a wider context? Is such polarization detrimental to our understanding of what it means to be a child and how we respond to real children? We invite abstracts of 250-300 words for 20 minute (previously unpublished) papers, sent in Word format to <devils_dolls@live>.

co.uk> by August 31, 2012, with the “subject” of the email as “Devils and Dolls abstract submission.”

Cannibals: Cannibalism, Consumption and Culture (April 25-26, 2013)

Manchester, United Kingdom

From contemporary horror film to medieval Eucharistic devotions, from Freudian theory to science fiction, cannibals and cannibalism continue to repel and intrigue us in equal measure. This two-day interdisciplinary conference will explore humanity's relationships with, and attitudes towards, cannibalism, whether fascination, horror or purely practical considerations. Papers are sought from all disciplines, including but not limited to literature, film studies, history, anthropology, archaeology, psychology and medicine. Proposals are sought for 20 minute papers. Please send 300 word abstracts to the conference convenors at conference@hic-dragones.co.uk by 31st December 2012. For more information, please see <www.hic-dragones.co.uk/events>.

Gothic Antipodes: An Interdisciplinary Conference (January 22-23, 2013)

Auckland, New Zealand

The Gothic Association of New Zealand and Australia (GANZA) welcomes papers for its inaugural conference. Keynote speaker: Professor Ken Gelder (University of Melbourne). GANZA is interdisciplinary in nature, bringing together scholars, students, teachers and professionals from a number of Gothic disciplines, including literature, film, music, fashion, architecture and popular culture. It is the aim of the Association to not only place a focus on Australasian Gothic scholarship but also to build international links with the wider Gothic community as a whole. The conference invites abstracts for 20-minute presentations and welcomes proposals on all aspects of Gothic Studies. Proposals for panels are also welcome. Please e-mail abstracts of 200 words to the attention of the conference organisers at: conference@ganza.co.nz. The deadline for submissions is 30 July 2012. Selected papers from the conference will be published in an international publication. For more information visit: <www.ganza.co.nz>.



Society of Early Americanists

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Opportunities for Giving

In addition to keeping your SEA membership active, you can contribute to the Society in other ways.

1. The Fund to Honor Excellence in Teaching (<http://www.societyofearlyamericanists.org/honoredteachers.html>).
2. Members can support the Society with donations to the SEA Graduate Student Travel Fund. For more information, please see the SEA Membership page (<http://www.societyofearlyamericanists.org/>)

Membership Information

The Society of Early Americanists provides a forum for scholarly and pedagogical exchange and professional support among scholars of various disciplines who study the literature and culture of America to approximately 1800. Our membership of over 680 individuals enjoys a bi-yearly newsletter detailing activities in our field, a website that links to many documents of interest to early American scholars and teachers, and a listserv. We also offer opportunities for networking and dissemination of professional work. If you are interested in joining the Society, please see the membership information on our home page: <http://www.societyofearlyamericanists.org/membership.html>.

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