

Society of Early Americanists Newsletter

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FROM THE SEA PRESIDENT

Someone asked me recently how a field seemingly so small as early American studies could draw so many to membership, listserv discussions and, especially, our meetings. The question took me aback; given my long-affiliation with the SEA, with our organization's intellectual rigor and generosity, how could we help but attract robust and excellent participation? But when I stopped to think about the reasons why our growth and activity have been so strong, it occurred to me that our success lies in part with our interest in and willingness to play nicely with one another. When we are at our best we mentor, talk, benevolently conspire and connect in ways that I for one have found rare in academe. The essence of the SEA is collaboration.

Our founding moment was collaborative. Sharon Harris, Carla Mulford, and Rosemary Guraswamy together invented the first incarnation of the society in 1992. Collaboration drove its reinvention, when Frank Shuffleton, Dennis Moore, and Tom Krise brought the Society for Eighteenth-Century American Studies (organized by Dan Williams in 1990) and the SEA together in 2000, bringing to the new partnership the annual essay prize established by SECAS to honor the best paper given at any meeting of the SEA, ASECS, or any of its affiliates (see: <http://www.societyofearlyamericanists.org/contest.html>). Ralph Bauer launched our successful series of thematic conferences with a pair of meetings that turned on new kinds of collaboration, the Anglo-Ibero summits of 2002 and 2004. Our new partnership with the University of North Carolina Press and *Early American Literature*, described in Gordon's column, is another signal moment of collaboration, one that we hope secures our finances and membership services for years to come. After five years on the Executive Council, I can attest that without the team effort of Executive Coordinator, Vice-President and President, we'd shatter—certainly I would.

And in 2015 we will (once again) reach out to a sister group to collaborate on an annual meeting that will explore the breadth and depth of Early American studies. Please go to our website to find a link to the call for papers for the joint SEA-OIEAHC 2015 conference. For more details and information about the conference, please visit the conference website: <<http://oieahc.wm.edu/conferences/annual/cfp/index.cfm>>.) At the heart of this institutional collaboration

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How many of us have hatched new research projects or plans for publications or new classes at SEA panels or—just as likely—in the convivial interstices of our programs? (Really, how many? I’d love to know!) I write with confidence that at this summer’s London meeting (hatched out of an informal conversation among SEA members in the halls of Vancouver’s ASECS), as well as at our joint meeting in Chicago, 2015, countless such collaborations will be born.

Until then, I encourage you to begin submitting your panel proposals (it’s never too early) and to make use of the panel locator (address included in the CFP) to propose new directions for the next iteration of early American studies.

Kristina Bross, SEA President

Even as our President has been hard at work organizing the 2015 biennial in Chicago – a very exciting collaboration with the Omohundro Institute – I’m fully involved in the traditional SEA Vice-Presidential activity of thinking anxiously ahead to the following biennial. It is tentatively scheduled for March 2-4 2017 in Tulsa, Oklahoma, thanks to generous support offered by the University of Tulsa as well as opportunities for collabo-

FROM THE SEA VICE PRESIDENT

rations with the Gilcrease Museum of the Americas and the University’s newly founded Helmerich Center for American Research. I have decided to organize the conference around the theme of “The Public,” encouraging us to ponder the functions, roles, and representations of the public in early America while we supplement an academic conference with public outreach activities.

The conference will have the traditional structure of an SEA biennial, but it will be preceded by a day of service in which a smaller number of SEA members will arrive a day early to engage in community activities that make use of their expertise on early America. Other programs, such as professional development sessions for high school teachers, field trips that prompt dialogue about history tourism and cultural memory, and digital humanities workshops, will supplement our typical scholarly and social events. I hope to be able to welcome a small number of tribal historians and tribal museum curators with some financial support for travel, and I look forward to foregrounding the place of Native history and racial conflict in contemporary popular representations of early America. The result, I hope, will be an event that maintains the structure and indeed the feel of the preceding SEA biennials, especially the particular mix of scholarly intensity, lively sociability, and support for junior scholars that makes our conferences such a pleasure to attend. At the same time, there will be a surplus of opportunities

for our attendees to approach early American scholarship as a labor and a conversation fully embedded in - and indeed embedding - community activities and public discourse.

As a first step in our planning, I have convened a committee on public engagement for the 2017 conference. Four of our longstanding members (and one executive officer) have agreed to serve on this committee: Kristina Bross, Lorraine Carroll, Cathy Kelly, and Clark Maddux. All four have extensive experience in diverse arenas of public scholarship, civic engagement, and service learning, ranging from collaborations with public high school teachers to open access online publishing on early American topics of broad public interest. I would like to thank them profusely in advance for their service, as I know I will be asking much of them. We also welcome suggestions about activities and programs – please feel welcome to email me with any ideas: <laura-stevens@utulsa.edu>.

Laura Stevens, SEA Vice President

On the occasion of the new collaboration between the

FROM THE SEA EXECUTIVE COORDINATOR

SEA and Early American Literature, I’d like to reflect on our small role in the fast-moving changes in journal publication and humanities research in the academy.

I began subscribing to *Early American Literature* in 1993, at a time when electronic journal subscriptions were not yet available at the University of Oregon library. I was proud of the line-up of blue spines in my office (and one golden one from 1993), each with the volume and issue number, and I consulted the back issues frequently. The collection gave me a sense of belonging to a disciplinary community. It seemed like a commitment to devote so much shelf space to *EAL*, and I felt that my colleagues who published there also were committed to helping me and other junior colleagues in our careers. So I still have that collection of back issues, and I will continue adding to it.

In the last twenty years we have witnessed the rapid transformation of “scholarly communications,” as our librarians call it. Journal articles are now searched and located through various databases driven by mysterious algorithms; are consumed in html and pdf formats or printed out as small as we can read the type; are stored on flash-memory and hard drives that seem to take up no space at all. We have a cornucopia of potential research materials available on our screens, such that the challenge of research and writing is today often one of sifting and prioritizing through an overabundance of texts, rather than of locating and obtaining the next much-anticipated source. Tell me if you disagree, but I sense that databases and search algorithms have made individual journal titles

less significant for our research. We no longer have to browse through the surrounding pages and issues of a bound volume of journals as we search for the article we wanted to find. We likely do not know the LC call number at which those bound volumes are shelved, and the library may in fact have moved those volumes to an off-campus storage warehouse (go check to make sure). We often see only a tiny thumbnail of the journal's cover on our computer screen before we click to download a pdf, and for open-access electronic journals there is no cover at all, but instead a colorful webpage design. I also sense that the academic status to be accrued from publishing in a certain journal may not be as great as it once was. All this may help explain why the theory and methodology of literary studies has become more diverse than ever. In designing a course on this topic for graduate students at Oregon, I decided I could not hope to survey all the competing schools, approaches, or trends.

The revolution in scholarly communications has also transformed the business model behind scholarly journals. A journal title is no longer a single product for librarians to buy and catalog. A decade ago I was asked in my role as English department library representative to help librarians choose titles to discontinue so as to fit a shrinking acquisitions budget, but today such an endeavor would not be possible. Nearly all academic journals are now published either by huge commercial publishers such as Elsevier, Wiley, or Taylor and Francis, or by major university presses such as Oxford and Johns Hopkins. They are distributed through a maze of overlapping databases and archives such as Project Muse, EBSCO, and JSTOR. Readers, editors, and librarians too often find themselves helpless in the face of these oligopolies.

Libraries pay tens of thousands of dollars for bundles of journals, and lack the power to select only the titles they want at prices they can afford. Prices have gone through the roof, particularly for science, medicine and engineering journals that also collect substantial page fees from authors who are eager to publish under prestigious titles. Yearly humanities journal subscriptions can be had for one-hundredth the cost of some science journals.

By negotiating an alliance among the SEA, *EAL*, and the University of North Carolina Press (which publishes fewer than ten other journals), we have made a case for the continuing importance of a community of individual authors, editors, and readers. There are many possible venues for such a community, of course, as our Facebook and twitter presence, our website, and open-access electronic journals like *Common-place* all demonstrate, but I believe there is also value in the continuity of older paper journals.

Even if you don't have a big shelf of back issues, those blue covers that will soon be coming your way can represent a bond with colleagues whose work you read inside, and with others who published there years ago.

Gordon Sayre, SEA Executive Coordinator

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **ASECS Fall News Circular** is now available at: <<http://asecs.press.jhu.edu/News%20Circulars/Fall%202013.pdf>>. There are conferences and other announcements that will interest SEA members.

Visit the **SEA Early American Fellowships, Seminars, and Prizes page**, managed by Tamara Harvey, George Mason University. This page contains information about seminars, fellowships, annual prizes, and publication opportunities related to Early American literature, history, and culture. Programs and events announced on this page are generally ongoing in nature: <http://gemini.gmu.edu/tharvey2/>.

The Society of Early Americanists website includes news and announcements about SEA conferences, membership, and other society information. To find out more about the SEA and how to join, please visit: <<http://www.societyofearlyamericanists.org/>>; the SEA "Teaching Early American Topics" page includes resources for teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in early American studies: <<http://web.mnstate.edu/seateaching/>>; the SEA "Recent Publications on Early American Topics" page includes recent books and new releases in early American studies: <<http://web.mnstate.edu/seabooks/books.html>>.

Drinks R us @ Williamsburg!

Again this year, the SEA will be an integral part of the big and lively Cash Bar that ASECS stages for several affiliate organizations simultaneously! This year's will be that Friday, March 21, and the list is at <<http://asecs.press.jhu.edu/2014%20Annual%20Meeting%20Program.pdf>> (hint: scroll down to p. 49). Each of us who registers will also want to keep in mind the various tours – as well as the receptions on Thursday and on Saturday, where we can all get together for a pint or two! Cheers – J.H. and D.M., co-liaisons between ASECS and its Americanist affiliate, the SEA

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Solicitation Of Interest For The Editorship of the *New England Quarterly*

The New England Quarterly Inc., the administrative governing board of *The New England Quarterly*, invites inquiries from individuals interested in editing and colleges, universities, or cultural organizations interested in hosting the journal as of 1 July 2015, when the current editor steps down. The directors of NEQ Inc. will consider any viable arrangement (multiple editors, a partnership among multiple institutions, the participation of independent scholars, etc.) that advances the mission of the journal to publish the best that is being written about New England literature, history, and culture and their relation to the United States and the world. Our search is nationwide.

“Each new generation must rewrite history from its own point of view,” the journal’s founding editors wrote in the *NEQ*’s first issue. After its long-lived and successful runs at Bowdoin and Northeastern, the *NEQ* is well poised to accept the stamp of a new generation and to broadcast new points of view. *NEQ* has a loyal subscriber base and readership, and its electronic usage statistics are robust. With a stable corporate structure and a healthy stream of revenues and donations, the *NEQ* is financially secure; the next editor will have a generous and creative partner in *NEQ* Inc.

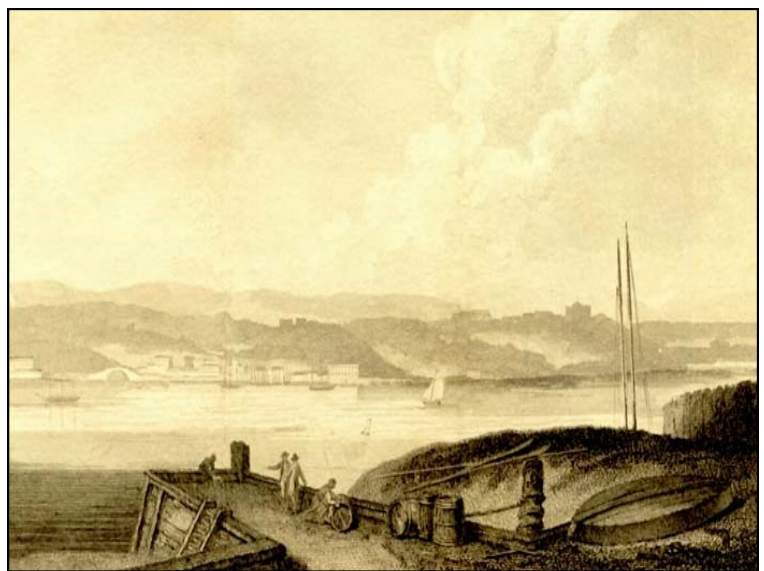
Individuals interested in serving as editor or coeditor of *NEQ* should address their preliminary inquiries to the *NEQ* Transition Team, c/o Sarah Hudson, The New England Quarterly, 249 Meserve Hall, Northeastern University, Boston, MA 02115, or at neq@neu.edu, no later than 1 February. A comprehensive packet of information is available for those seriously considering this exceptional opportunity. The deadline for receipt of final proposals (one electronic file and two hardcopies, addressed as above), including an institution’s initial, nonbinding offer of support, is 15 March 2014. The transition team will vet applications and send the most promising to *NEQ* Inc.’s Directors, who will negotiate final terms. For more information, visit *NEQ*’s website at <http://www.northeastern.edu/neq/> and our current content hosted by our publisher, MIT Press Journals, at <http://www.mitpressjournals.org/loi/tneq>. *NEQ* is also available via JSTOR.

NEH Summer Programs

Each year, the National Endowment for the Humanities supports tuition-free summer programs for school and college educators. Participants receive stipends to help cover travel and living expenses. These one-to-five week study opportunities focus on important topics, texts, and questions in the humanities; enhance the intellectual vitality and professional development of participants; build a community of inquiry and provide models of excellent scholarship and teaching; and promote connections between teaching and research in the humanities.

Some example of NEH programs held this year include “Beyond the Trail of Tears: A View from the Cherokee Homeland,” “The American Revolution on the Northern Frontier: Fort Ticonderoga and the Road to Saratoga,” “Secret Culture, Public Lives: Slavery in the Colonial Chesapeake,” and “Banner Moments: The National Anthem in American Life.”

NEH summer programs are held across the United States and abroad. For a list of summer programs for 2014, please visit www.neh.gov/divisions/education/summer-programs. The application deadline is March 4, 2014. NEH also offers grants to direct a summer program in 2015. For more information, please see the guidelines for NEH Seminars and Institutes and NEH Landmarks of American History and Culture Workshops at www.neh.gov/grants.



The City of Washington D.C. in 1800

AAS Summer Seminar in the History of the Book: Books in the Larger World of Objects

The Program in the History of the Book in American Culture at the American Antiquarian Society has been offering week-long summer seminars in book history for nearly thirty years. The 2014 seminar will focus on the theme “Books in the Larger World of Objects,” and will take place at the AAS in Worcester, MA from June 15-20, 2014. This seminar will explore what happens when we reposition books (and book history) within the larger world of objects and the disciplines devoted to their examination: in particular, social anthropology, material culture studies and the kinds of philosophy and history of science that get lumped together as “thing theory.” Like book history, these fields are centrally concerned with describing and thinking about the relations between persons and things. Curiously, however, they have shied away from any consideration of books as a type of object central to much of the world over the past half millennium.

Meanwhile, book history, despite its many achievements, has all too often remained wedded to concepts that these other fields have productively critiqued or moved beyond. By putting these different disciplines in conversation with each other, we hope to devise a new set of methods for book history, ones that preserve its archival richness and descriptive precision, but do so in a way that allows us to describe, in new and significant ways, the relations between books and their readers, writers, and other producers and to think in more sophisticated ways about how books move through time and space, and what it might mean to call a book “American.”

A limited amount of financial aid will be available. Preference for assistance will be given to first-time AAS summer seminar attendees. Applications will be available on the AAS website, at <http://www.americanantiquarian.org/summer-seminar-2014>. The application deadline is March 14, 2013. Tuition for the seminar is \$750, which includes lunch each day and two evening meals. Limited financial aid is available. For further information, please contact Paul Erickson, Director of Academic Programs at AAS, at perickson@mwa.org.



Early American Sessions at the ASA Conference, November 2013, Washington, D.C.

“Debts of Spirit and Substance”

Chair: Elisa Tamarkin, U of California, Berkeley
Papers: James Deutsch, Smithsonian Institution; Gino Conti, U of Southern California; Glenda Goodman, Colburn School; Tanja Aho, SUNY, Buffalo
Commentator: Elisa Tamarkin, U of California, Berkeley

“Decolonizing the Indigenous Archive”

Chair: Dustin Tahmahkera, Southwestern U
Papers: Tyler Jackson Rogers, Yale U; Alicia Cox, U of California, Riverside; Sandra L. Garner, Miami U of Ohio; Shaista Patel, U of Toronto
Commentator: Dustin Tahmahkera, Southwestern U

“Visions of Anti-Slavery”

Chair: Jacqueline Stewart, Northwestern U
Panelists: Teresa Alice Goddu, Vanderbilt U; Alex Black, Cornell U; Sarah Mesle, U of California, Los Angeles; Aston Gonzalez, U of Michigan, Ann Arbor
Commentator: Jacqueline Stewart, Northwestern U

“Nineteenth-Century Public Lecturing, New Media, and Technologies of Orality”

Chair: Thomas Augst, NYU
Papers: Carolyn Eastman, Virginia Commonwealth U; Granville Ganter, Saint John’s U; Tom F. Wright, U of Sussex (U.K.)
Commentator: Thomas Augst, NYU

“Political Melville?”

Thursday, Nov. 21 Chair: Robert Levine, U of Maryland
Panelists: Jennifer Greiman, SUNY, Albany; Jason Frank, Cornell U; Branka Arsic, Columbia U; Samuel Otter, U of California, Berkeley; Jeannine DeLombard, U of Toronto

“Debts and the Memories of Colonial Slavery”

Thursday, Nov. 21 Chair: Karen Woods Weierman, Worcester State C
Papers: Michelle Commander, U of Tennessee, Knoxville; Catherine E. Saunders, George Mason U; William B. Hart, Middlebury C; Wendy Walters, Emerson C
Commentator: Karen Woods Weierman, Worcester State C

“Crèvecoeur’s Letters”

A reading / book signing in the LC’s occasional “Books & Beyond” series; this session focuses on the John Harvard Library *Letters from an American Farmer and Other Essays* (2013), edited and with an Introduction by Dennis Moore.

“Elegiac Dissent and the Politics of Form”

Chair: Craig Willse, George Mason U

Papers: Max Cavitch, U of Pennsylvania; Travis Foster, Villanova U; Marcellus Blount, Columbia U; Virginia Jackson, U of California, Irvine

Commentator: Craig Willse, George Mason U

“The Politics of Exigency: Dispossession, Petitions and the Limits of Legal Recourse”

Chair: David Kazanjian, U of Pennsylvania

Panelists: Adam Lewis, Boston C; Samantha Seeley, NYU; Emma Stapely, U of Pennsylvania

Commentator: David Kazanjian, U of Pennsylvania

“Commons Democracy”

Chair: Dana Nelson, Vanderbilt U

Papers: Joanna Brooks, San Diego SU; Elizabeth Maddock Dillon, Northeastern U; Melissa Pawlikowski, Ohio State U

Commentator: Dana Nelson, Vanderbilt U

“Morbid Accumulation: The Body as Capital, Bodies in Debt, Embodied Resistance”

Chair: Sarah Schuetze, U of Kentucky

Panelists: Mary Balkun, Seton Hall U; Charlotte Quinney, U of Denver; James Spady, Soka U of America; Manuel Herrero-Puertas, U of Wisconsin, Madison; Amanda Stuckey, C of William and Mary

Commentator: Sarah Schuetze, U of Kentucky

“Hemispheres of Debt, Crises of Ecologies, Ethics of Collective Dissent: The Caribbean and Pacific Islands in American Studies”

Chair: Iping Joy Liang, National Taiwan Normal U (Taiwan)

Panelists: Karen N. Salt, U of Aberdeen (U.K.); Vicente M. Diaz, U of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign; Joni L. Ad- amson, Arizona SU; Hsinya Na Huang, NSYSU (Taiwan); Iping Joy Liang, National Taiwan Normal U (Taiwan)

“Colloquy with Annette Kolodny on *In Search of First Contact*”

Chair: Dennis Moore, Florida State U

Panelists: Ralph Bauer, U of Maryland; Anna Brickhouse, U of Virginia; Lisa Brooks, Amherst C; Lauren Coats, Louisiana SU; Shelley Fisher Fishkin, Stanford U; Birgit Brander Rasmussen, Yale U

Annette Kolodny, U of Arizona, author of *In Search of First Contact: The Vikings of Vinland, the Peoples of the Dawnland and the Anglo-American Anxiety of Discovery*.



Reflections on the 2013 ASA Conference

Being on hand for the A.S.A.'s full-to-overflowing annual conference is always a treat. This November's big A.S.A. was the tenth consecutive one at which the org's early-American caucus had a presence (counting the meet-up at the one in '004, where a number of us gathered at happy hour; gosh, they never took our drink order :) Again this year we got to pick, via an e-mail ballot at the end of May, two sessions from among the dozen or so early-American-flavored ones on the program which two to tell the ASA command module to designate as "Sponsored by the Early American Matters Caucus"; particulars are at: <www.earlyamericanmatters.org>.

There're 400+ of us who've added our name to the list of members, and those of us on the Caucus's ad hoc Working Committee urge everyone who sees the SEA Newsletter to consider cooking up a dynamic, substantive panel proposal for the '014 A.S.A., in L.A. next November – and to turn it in by the late-January deadline! Details abound at http://www.theasa.net/annual_meeting/page/submit_a_proposal/.

Dennis Moore
Florida State University



From left to right: Dana Nelson, Elizabeth Maddock Dillon, , Joanna Brooks, and Melissa Pawlikowski.

Having attended the ASA convention for many years, it's a real pleasure to see not only a growing number of early Americanists attending and participating in the conference but also the significant increase in the number of sessions in the field of early American studies. This is particularly true for the 2013 ASA convention. Without exaggeration, the two most compelling sessions took place in our field. One was the well-attended colloquy with Annette Kolodny that brought together a number of outstanding scholars in early American studies and related disciplines. The discussion of Annette's most recent book clearly demonstrated how enriching early Americanists's work is for conceptualizing American studies in terms of globalizing and transnational perspectives.

The other compelling session was an off-site discussion ("Books and Beyond") in the Library of Congress's Manuscript Division, which focused on Dennis Moore's new edition of Crèvecoeur's *Letters from an American Farmer*. This session gave the ASA a strong empirical touch and marked the importance of fresh textual work for American studies' analysis of the sources of American power.

I hope that this successful cooperation between the ASA and SEA becomes a model for other American studies associations world-wide; the German Association of American Studies (GAAS) could, for instance, relaunch the early American studies caucus at its annual conventions, creating a similar forum for the exchange of global and transnational perspectives between European and American scholars.

Oliver Scheiding
Johannes Gutenberg University

At this year's ASA, I had the amazing experience of responding to Annette Kolodny's new book, *In Search of First Contact*, along with Ralph Bauer, Lauren Coats, and Shelley Fisher Fishkin. (We were sad to miss having with us Birgit Brander Rasmussen and Lisa Brooks, but we carried on.) I loved hearing my fellow panelists' thoughtful responses along with Annette's discussion of how she came to the project and what it changes about how we think of American literary history.

It's a sweeping book that runs from the Vinland sagas through the early twentieth century. I'm glad my colleagues in the A.S.A.'s Early American Matters Caucus chose this session as one of the two we sponsored at this

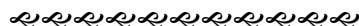
year's conference and grateful for getting to take a sneak preview.

Anna Brickhouse
University of Virginia

ASA was especially important for me as it asked me to revisit transborder/hemispheric work. I was lucky to witness an excellent panel/roundtable, ASA International Committee Talkshop: Transnational American Studies and North America, featuring an appropriately international group of scholars. I was particularly persuaded by Robert McKee Irwin's call for a more multi-lingual and multinational ASA, a thing that has been all too slow in the realizing.

This should be especially true for next year's conference in Los Angeles, a border city if ever there was one. I'm hoping the early American matters group will be vocal about this, given our interests in circum-Atlantic transnationality. I also chaired and responded to a terrific panel grouped under the title, U.S. Indebtedness to the Americas: Interventions in Hemispheric Studies, featuring work by Claire Fox, Claudia Sadowski-Smith, and Monika Kaup. In short, the papers showed just how eclectic and theoretically creative hemispheric work has become.

Eric Wertheimer
Arizona State University



GORDON SAYRE RECEIVES HONORABLE MENTION



Gordon M. Sayre, Professor of English and Folklore at the University of Oregon, received an Honorable Mention in the MLA's 8th Lois Roth Award for a Translation of a Literary Work for *The Memoir of Lieutenant Dumont, 1715–1747: A Sojourner in the French Atlantic*, by Jean-François-Benjamin Dumont de Montigny. (Univ. of North Carolina Press for the Omohundro Inst. of Early American History and Culture, Williamsburg, Virginia, 2012).

Coming Changes to the SEA

Dear SEA Members,

I am writing with news of some important developments that the Executive Council believes will greatly improve our membership services and overall functioning. We have negotiated an agreement with the University of North Carolina Press and Early American Literature, in which the press will provide the SEA with membership services, and EAL will be the official journal of the society. We believe that this relationship will improve services to our members and streamline our administrative processes.

The advantages for the Society in general and for individual members are many. Early American Literature is the leading journal in the field of early American literature, and with this agreement, the SEA will have a prestigious publication associated with the organization, such as many other similar scholarly organizations enjoy. We have long had a close informal connection to the journal. The current editor, Sandra Gustafson, is a member of the SEA, and the journal's immediate past editor, David Shields, served as the Society's president 1999-2001.

The timing for the partnership is pragmatic. It has been the experience of several generations of Executive Coordinators that we have simply outgrown our old way of doing business. When Laura Stevens ran a membership audit before becoming our vice president, she discovered that a substantial number of our members had not kept up with dues--we were carrying close to 700 members, but only about 400 of them were up to date.

This state of affairs had been building up gradually over time; few full-time faculty members have the training or the time to keep accounts expertly and track membership. We also have had the recurring problem of finding a way to streamline our conference registration process, which has been dealt

Under the new agreement, membership in the SEA will carry a number of benefits. Some of them are traditional, and some are new. As always, you will receive the SEA newsletter twice a year. You will be eligible to appear on the program for our biennial and special topics conferences.

You can participate on the SEA listserv and in the business meetings of the Society, and you may vote in the biennial elections for the SEA Executive Coordinator.

New benefits include professional management of our membership database through the UNC Press. In addition, each member of the Society will receive a print subscription to Early American Literature, beginning with the spring issue of 2014.

Our dues will increase somewhat, but we think the resulting schedule is still an excellent bargain:

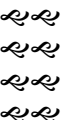
\$30 Graduate students

\$50 Faculty members

\$35 Independent Scholars, Staff at libraries/cultural institutions, Emeritus professors and high school teacher.

If you are currently a member of the SEA, you will be receiving additional information from either the UNC Press (for those who are scheduled to renew their memberships) or from the Executive Council of the SEA (for those whose dues are paid in advance). I will be writing under separate cover to our Lifetime Members and to our international members about the ways that we will be handling your EAL subscriptions. In the meantime, if you have any questions about these changes, please feel free to contact me at <kbross@purdue.edu>. We look forward to our new partnership with the University of North Carolina Press and with Early American Literature. Many thanks to the UNC staff, to Sandra Gustafson, and to the members of the SEA advisory board in helping us with this transition.

Kristina Bross
SEA President



Forthcoming Conferences

American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Annual Meeting, Williamsburg, Virginia, March 20-22, 2014

The Society of Early Americanists will sponsor two sessions:

I. "Historical Reenactment, Living History, and Public History: Theorizing Generative Intersections between Tourists, Communities and Scholars."

Chair: Joy A. J. HOWARD, Saint Joseph's University

Michael Twitty, "No More Whistling Walk For Me," Historian and Food Interpreter of African and African American Foodways.

Sara Harwood, "Escaping the 'Tourist Trap': Recent endeavors of the Witch House in Salem, Massachusetts," Georgia State University.

Russell Taylor Stoermer, "Researching History for Living History Programs," Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and The College of William and Mary.

Tyler Putnam, "Historic trades skills, Historical Scholarship, and Living History Interpretation," University of Delaware.

Susan Kern, "Students as Tourists, Critics, and Neighbors: Teaching Public History at William and Mary," National Institute of American History and Democracy, The College of William and Mary.

Janet S. Zehr, "Embodied and Disembodied Voices: Modes of Interpretation of Black and White Experience at Old Salem, North Carolina," Salem College.

Wayne Randolph, "Where the Rubber Hits the Road: Bridging Academia to 'The Masses,'" Historic Farmer, Colonial Williamsburg.

II. "Colloquy on Crèvecoeur's *Letters from an American Farmer and Other Essays* ed. Dennis Moore."

Panelists: Eve Bannet (University of Oklahoma), co-chair Ralph Bauer (University of Maryland), co-chair Richard Frohock (Oklahoma State University), Jennifer Greeson (University of Virginia), Chris Iannini (Rutgers University), Mary Kelley (University of Michigan), Dennis Moore (Florida State University), and Gordon Sayre (University of Oregon).

Please contact the current SEA-ASECS liaisons, Professor Dennis Moore <dmoore@fsu.edu> and Professor Joy Howard <Joy.Howard@SJU.edu>, with any questions about the panels and the ASECS conference. For additional information about the ASECS conference, please see the ASECS website: <<http://asecs.press.jhu.edu/>>.

American Literature Association's 25th annual conference, Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill on May 22-25, 2014

The Society of Early Americanists will sponsor three sessions:

I. Crises of Federal Absence: Chair: Keri Holt, Utah State University

"The Lazaretto Metaphor: Confinement and Resistance in Charles Brockden Brown's 'The Man at Home,'" Joe Letter, University of Tampa.

"False Notions of Eloquence": John Neal's Critique of William Wirt's *Sketches of the Life and Character of Patrick Henry* and the Transformation of American Literary Style," Peter C. Molin, West Point.

Independent Thinking in the Absence of Authority: Reconsidering the Moral Ambiguity in Charles Brockden Brown's *Arthur Mervyn Or, Memoirs of the Year 1793*," Wanlin Li, Ohio State University.

"Imagined Overthrow: Synodic Revolution and the American Illuminati Crisis," Gordon Fraser, University of Connecticut.

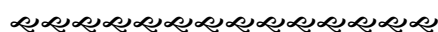
II. New Directions in Regionalism: Chair: Duncan Faherty, Queens College & The CUNY Graduate Center.

"Many Regions in One Place: Reading Native American Writing as Regional Texts," Keri Holt, Utah State University.

"Shifting Perspectives in the Early Republic: From the Globe to the Section," Chris Apap, Oakland University.

"Medicine, Natural History, and Creole Regionalism in William Byrd II," Thomas Long, University of Connecticut.

Washington Irving's Hemispheric Weltanschauung," Jordan Wingate, University of California, Los Angeles.



III. Online in the Old Classroom: Chair: Edward Whitley, Lehigh University

“Teaching T(homas) Paine through Rap Genius: Early American Literature and Collaborative Literacy,” Kacey Tillman, University of Tampa & Jeremy Dean, PhD, RapGenius.com.

“‘The simple, compact, well join’d scheme’: Creating Multimodal Experiences for Students of Early American Literature Using Webbased Resources,” Jeff Everhart, Longwood University.

“The New Leviathan: How I Implemented the AAS’s Periodicals Database in My Traditional American Literature Survey Class, and Lived to Tell the Tale,” Joshua Matthews, Dordt College.

Thanks to Professor Duncan Faherty, Society of Early Americanists ALA Conference liaison, 2013-2014, Queens College, Department of English & American Studies, for organizing these panels.

**SEA in London, July 17-19, 2014
Kingston University
London and the Americas, 1492-1812**

As the host of the Society’s special conference on London and the Americas, I am really looking forward to greeting many of you at Kingston University in July.

Kingston University is in south-west London, easily accessible from Heathrow and central London, but it’s a leafy suburb with its own character. The neighbourhood’s full name is Kingston-upon-Thames, and you’ll find riverside pubs and restaurants aplenty, as well as beautiful walks along the river towards Hampton Court to the west or Richmond to the east. Kingston is a well-known shopping area, and modern shops in the Bentall Centre are just a few minutes’ walk from independent stores in medieval alleys and squares such as Harrow Passage and the Apple Market.

But the main show is the conference itself. We have more than 150 papers exploring the relationship between London and the New World, including keynote talks from Geoffrey Plank (University of East Anglia) and Nuala Zahedieh (University of Edinburgh). Susan Castillo (Kings College London) will be a leading light on our plenary roundtable session exploring the intellectual and practical challenges of researching early America in London. This will be the biggest ever gathering of scholars interested in the relationship between early America and the metropolis, and we’re expecting wonderful conversations, brilliant debates, and awesome insights! And it’s not just the SEA... Kingston is also hosting the annual meeting of the Early Caribbean

Society, on the Monday following the SEA conference. Feel free to stay for the ECS event, or choose between one or the other. You’ll get a full choice when you register.

All of you with recent books are encouraged to bring an inspection copy and some flyers. We will not have publishers’ stalls, but we will have a book table. Do please bring copies of your recent work – and if your suitcase is already bulging, I’d be happy for you to send copies and flyers to me at Kingston University by post—even if you’re not attending in person!

Finally, we have a great programme of social and cultural events that you can sign up to, including a guided tour of Hampton Court Palace; the royal palace where monarchs and protectors from Henry VIII to Queen Anne masterminded the growth of empire. The social highlight will be a floating party with an early American theme. We have chartered the UK’s only Mississippi-style river boat for an evening of dining and music on the Thames. Don’t miss it! This will be a unique conference, both for Kingston University and the SEA. I look forwards to seeing you all in July...

Brycchan Carey, Kingston University

***Utopian Studies*, the interdisciplinary journal of the Society for Utopian Studies, seeks essays for a special**

Calls for Papers

issue on utopian foodways, broadly conceived. Essays which employ or revise theories of utopia and/or food practices of the last decade are especially welcome.

Topics might include, but are not limited to:

- Food in intentional communities: production, preparation, consumption, clean up, and/or disposal
- Food practices in literary works
- Food author studies (e.g. Michael Pollan, Margaret Atwood, Barbara Kingsolver)
- School gardens
- Food and waste: alternative production, consumption, and/or disposal
- Urban food production: allotments, rooftop gardens, aviary and apiary practices
- Utopian/dystopian diets: whole foods, slow foods, raw foods, supplements, GMOs, heirlooms
- NGOs and global food concerns

Essays should be no more than 7000 words, inclusive of citations according to Chicago Manual of Style, and submitted by April 30, 2014, to each of the special issue editors: : Etta Madden, Professor of English, Missouri State University <ettamadden@missouristate.edu>; Timothy Miller, Professor of Religious Studies, University of Kansas <tkansas@kansas.edu>; and Lyman Tower Sargent, Professor Emeritus, University of Missouri, St. Louis <lyman.sargent@umsl.edu>.

Joint OIEAHC-SEA Conference, Chicago, June 2015 The Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture and the Society of Early Americanists will host a joint conference in Chicago, June 18-21, 2015. This joint conference reflects the mutual engagement and overlapping constituencies of the two groups, represents an exciting opportunity for multi-disciplinarity, and will take the place of each organization's annual meeting for 2015.

Anthropologists, art historians, historians, literary scholars, material cultural scholars, musicologists, political scientists and other scholars have increasingly relied on their shared interests in the character of early America, broadly conceived; this conference will offer formal conference will take place over two full and two half days, from Thursday evening June 18 to Sunday at noon on June 21. We anticipate plenary sessions and alternative format panels will occupy important places throughout the conference schedule.

The program committee, co-chaired by Kristina Bross and Eric Slauter, expressly encourages and will give priority to panels that represent multi-disciplinary work, although panels that more traditionally reside within one discipline or another will also be welcomed. The committee encourages complete panels of two or three papers addressing a coherent theme or theoretical problem, including a panel chair and a commentator, but also alternative formats such as pre-circulated papers, roundtables and other modes of presentation. Assistance in the formation of panels is available at the Panel Locator <http://oieahc.wm.edu/conferences/panel/index.cfm>, and we encourage interested scholars to participate in that forum to discuss topics and form full panels. Individual paper proposals will also be considered. The committee reserves the right to make changes in the overall configuration of panels.

Proposals must be received electronically no later than September 15, 2014. Panels should be submitted by the organizer and include a one-paragraph description, one-page summaries of each paper, and a one-page c.v. for each participant. Each c.v. should include mailing and email addresses and telephone numbers. Materials may be submitted online at the conference website <<http://oieahc.wm.edu/conferences/annual/cfp/index.cfm>>. All submissions will be acknowledged by email. If you do not receive an acknowledgement, please resubmit or contact Kim Foley <kafoley@wm.edu>.

SPECIAL ISSUE OF *EAL*: "On Loyalty"

This special issue of *Early American Literature* seeks submissions exploring the diverse and dynamic cultures of loyalty and modes of affiliation in British North America and the Atlantic world. To what extent does renewed attention to the British American Loyalists also call for further exploration of

the many contexts and occasions for the rubric of "loyalty" in British America during the long eighteenth century?

We are interested in essays dealing not only with the political thought and literature of the American Revolution but also with scholarship on questions of deference, affiliation, social relations, and local cultures. "Loyalty" writ large might include some of the following topics and relevant themes:

- Monarchy in early American literary history, especially in the long eighteenth-century
- Political and philosophical backgrounds and contexts for loyalty
- Subaltern views of British monarchy
- British subjectivity
- Migration and diaspora
- Loyalty and the aesthetics of affiliation
- Legacies of Loyalism and monarchical culture in the post-revolutionary era
- Non-national loyalties in the new US nation.

Submissions should be sent to EAL by March 31, 2014. Inquiries can be made to John Garcia (UC Berkeley/McNeil Center for Early American Studies <jgar@berkeley.edu>) or Philip Gould (Brown, <Philip_Gould@brown.edu>).

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Society of

Early Americanists

Professor Gordon Sayre
Executive Coordinator
Society of Early Americanists
Department of English
1286 University of Oregon
Eugene, OR 97403-1286

Opportunities for Giving

In addition to keeping your SEA membership active, you can contribute to the Society through the Fund to Honor Excellence in Teaching <http://www.societyofearlyamericanists.org/honored_teachers.html>.

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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1. *New York City, 1788:* <<http://www.earlyamerica.com/earlyamericanimages/places2.html>>.
2. *Washington DC, 1800:* <<http://www.earlyamerica.com/earlyamericanimages/places1.html>>.
3. *Bartram's Plate 3, a bulb-flower labeled Ixia caelestina.* <<http://thesga.org/2011/10/description-of-indian-mound-from-the-1770s/>>.
4. *Trade card* <<http://americangardenhistory.blogspot.com/2013/08/garden-furniture.html>>.
5. *Photo courtesy of Mary Balkun.*
6. *Photo of Gordon M. Sayre, courtesy of Rich Stevenson.*
7. *Black snake (Anguis niger)* <<http://www.flickr.com/photos/bibliodysey/5890509839/sizes/l/>>.