



# Early Americanists Newsletter

*A Biannual Publication of the Society of Early Americanists*

## From the SEA President

With this column, I step into my new role as president—an office I am honored to hold. We'll be sorry to lose Hilary Wyss's direct leadership, though I know she'll continue to advise and support the society (right, Hilary? Just a phone call away??). It's traditional for presidents to offer a brief "state of the society" in their columns, and I can report that we continue to be a vital and energetic group. Our wonderful Savannah biennial meeting was our largest ever, and we are eagerly anticipating our 2014 thematic conference in London, hosted by Brychan Carey at Kingston University.

As part of the transition to our new Executive Committee (welcome, Gordon Sayre!), Laura Stevens conducted a membership audit. We have some 400 members in good standing, but we've discovered that our system of renewing memberships is sorely dated. Watch this space (and the listserv, Twitter and Facebook) for announcements of a more streamlined system that we believe will serve the needs of the society much better.

So much for the nitty gritty. I'd like to turn this update to a few thoughts on the challenges and promise of this moment for scholarship in general and for early American studies in particular. On the one hand, we see universities and colleges headed by CEOs rather than scholars (full disclosure: my undergrad alma mater just appointed an MBA, PAC-trained president, and Purdue is now headed by Mitch Daniels, who was appointed to the post while he was the sitting governor of our state. I may be a bit sensitive on this topic). We hear of a shrinking tenured job base and read jeremiads from Mellon and Harvard about the waning significance of the humanities and social sciences. We've taken up the challenges directly; at our last biennial, Lorraine Carroll convened a session that explored the troubling influence of neoliberalism on higher education worldwide.

On the other hand, the same Mellon-sponsored study that charted a sharp decline in numbers of students pursuing humanities and social science degrees proclaimed that "the humanities and social sciences are the heart of the matter, the keeper of the republic," language that must strike a resonant chord with those of us in this society, including as we do the founding years of "the republic" in our studies. Moreover, our members are active at the border of scholarship and society: from David Shields and his work with the Carolina Gold Rice

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Foundation to restore and preserve historic foodways to Michele Tarter and her work with prison history (*Buried Lives*, co-edited with Richard Bell) and in prisons, working with inmates in New Jersey's maximum security prison for women.

These reflections lead me to a request: tell us your thoughts on how the Society of Early Americanists can innovate on this boarder between the academe and society. Might we create a public program to accompany our biennial conferences in the cities in which we meet? Should we consider instituting a public speakers' panel on topics of concern to 'the republic?' How can we better connect our specialized knowledge to the concerns of our wider community? If you have thoughts or ideas, please write me at kbross@purdue.edu.

Kristina Bross, Purdue University

### **From the SEA Vice-President**

However delighted and honored I was to begin my tenure as the SEA's Executive Coordinator in 2011, I am even more pleased this spring to be handing on these duties to our new EC, Gordon Sayre. An Executive Officer's tenure as Vice President is generally regarded as the lull between two storms of activity, and I am delighted to have entered this two-year phase of relative quiet.

I also am pleased to note that the ad hoc committee on New Media and Technologies, formed in the summer of 2011, has completed its work. Some of its recommendations, which included the formation of a Facebook page and a Twitter account (@TheRealSEA) for the Society, were implemented well before the committee's report at the Savannah conference business meeting. Other plans are in the works to facilitate our communications with members and with the general public. Jonathan Beecher Field also graciously has accepted the Executive Committee's request that he serve a two-year term in the new office of Coordinator of Communications, developed in response to the committee's recommendations. His charges include organizing announcements and communications for the SEA and advising the Executive Committee on any issues that arise regarding new technologies of relevance to our work. Many thanks to Jonathan for taking on this work! I also want to thank Susan Imbarrato for her ongoing work on the web site. She and the IT staff at UC Irvine, which continues to host our web site, worked quickly when the site was hacked last February, and more recently Susan has completed the first stage of a renovation to the web site.

Having been committed to fostering connections between the SEA and early Americanists beyond the bounds of the United States, I was delighted to see a strong showing of international scholars at our Savannah conference. Many thanks to all of them for making the journey, and particular thanks to the five scholars who participated in the roundtable discussion on International Approaches to Early American Studies: Brycchan Carey, Marie-Jean Rossignol, Oliver Scheiding, Bryce Traister, and Joanne van der Woude. I look forward to ongoing conversations with our overseas members and with the European Early American

Studies Association as we continue to discuss ways in which we can work together to advance scholarship and teaching of the early Americas in a global framework.

Most of all, I look forward intensely to working with Kris Bross, Brycchan Carey, and the program committee as we plan for the Society's topically focused conference in London next summer on London and the Americas.

Finally, kudos and fond thanks to Hilary Wyss for organizing such a fantastic conference at Savannah. I experienced most of the conference from behind the registration desk, so I can offer more knowledgeable commentary on the event's organizational rather than intellectual aspects. Still, I gained a great deal from the few moments when I stole away to hear papers, especially the panel on German-Language Migrations and the Early American South in an Atlantic World, which took place in the lovely setting of the Georgia Historical Society, and the unsurpassable presentation by David Shields and Glenn Roberts on Lowcountry Heritage Food. The few papers I heard and many conversations I held left me assured of the vibrancy and excitement that characterizes current work in our field. I think I can speak for Kris and Gordon in saying that we'll all find this gathering a hard act to follow, but we eagerly anticipate planning our next biennial conferences.

Laura Stevens, University of Tulsa

### **From the SEA Executive Coordinator**

As the fiscal year turns over on July 1st and I officially begin my term in the SEA leadership, I still have much to learn about the administration of our organization, but I am eager to help the SEA advance. The infrastructure of accounting, membership, communications and web hosting is challenging for an organization that has no fixed abode and no permanent staff. I see with new urgency how much hard work our volunteers provide. Thanks again to Susan Imbarrato, Mary Balkun, and all the others who have pitched in!

The Savannah conference was a highlight of my 2012-13 school year. A great conference results from a mix of the familiar and the surprising. I heard wisdom from familiar colleagues in distant places, such as those on the panel "International Approaches to Early American Studies." I was inspired by presenters I had not met before, such as the eminent archaeologist David Hurst Thomas comparing sixteenth-century Native polities in the Southeast and in the Southwest, and archivist Del-Louise Moyer speaking on her edition of the diary of Moravian missionary Theodor Schulz. Those two also reminded me how engaging a good power-point can be (and how much work it takes to create those slides).

In Early American Studies the melding of historical and literary studies has been cooperative, if occasionally also competitive. Eric Slauter's provocative 2008 essay on the "trade gap" between the two disciplines brought overt attention to

issues that had been the subject of quiet grumbling. SEA and the OIEAHC can, I hope, work to promote cooperation among their members in years to come.

At the Savannah meeting, as at past SEA conferences, I met and listened to presentations from scholars in many fields outside English and History. And something that stood out again this year was meeting colleagues who work not at universities or colleges but at historical societies, tribal governments, and at parks and preserves such as the Wormsloe plantation.

These folks often approach research and scholarship differently from those of us in higher ed. teaching. Mutual exchanges with these people can not only enrich our knowledge base but help expand our ideas of professional opportunities for graduate students in early American studies. I look forward to trying to foster more of these exchanges at future meetings, and creating more field trips or site visits in our conference host cities.

At historical sites that are of interest to all of us, those in history departments, in English departments, and other fields, can meet on neutral ground, as it were, and learn about non-academic issues: How do schoolchildren or older visitors to historical sites learn about early America? How can these sites' managers and preservationists keep our heritage available to the public in the face of funding cuts?

And of course, how does the sense of place visitors experience there enhance our understanding of early America?

Gordon Sayre, University of Oregon

#### **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.*

The **Daiches-Manning Memorial Fellowship** is being established to honor two eminent and much-missed scholars of eighteenth-century Scottish literature and culture: David Daiches (1912–2005) and Susan Manning (1953–2013). The fellowship is the result of a collaboration between the Eighteenth-Century Scottish Studies Society, the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, and the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities (IASH) at the University of Edinburgh.

David Daiches, who held many distinguished academic positions in the UK and North America, was the Director of IASH from 1980 to 1986 and the first recipient of the ECSSS Lifetime Achievement Award (1987). He was the author of dozens of books on a wide range of topics, including pioneering studies of Robert Fergusson, Robert Burns, and other Scottish poets and a seminal exploration of dualism in the eighteenth-century Scottish cultural experience, *The Paradox of Scottish Culture*.

Susan Manning was a leading scholar of eighteenth-century Scottish and transatlantic literary culture and a central figure in the development of ECSSS, serving as its President from 1994 to 1996, a member of its Executive Board continuously since 1994, and a fixture at its conferences. In 2006 she followed in the footsteps of David Daiches by becoming the Director of IASH and by greatly expanding its range and stature, notably in the area of eighteenth-century Scottish and transatlantic studies. She was awarded the ECSSS Lifetime Achievement Award posthumously in May 2013.

The Daiches-Manning Memorial Fellowship will provide a bursary of \$3000 (approximately £1800) for 2–3 months of research at IASH, on an eighteenth-century Scottish topic. Application details will be posted on the websites of IASH ([www.iash.ed.ac.uk](http://www.iash.ed.ac.uk)) and ECSSS ([www.ecsss.org](http://www.ecsss.org)).

ECSSS is now actively seeking funds to ensure the development of this fellowship for many years to come, and to establish a lasting memorial for two of our most distinguished colleagues. In donating to this fellowship you will help to honor their important contributions to this field.

Donations can be made by check payable to ECSSS, in care of Richard B. Sher – Exec. Secretary, New Jersey Institute of Technology, University Heights, Newark, NJ 07102-1982 USA. ECSSS is a non-profit educational society with 401(c) tax-exempt status in the United States of America.

#### **Newberry Fellowships**

The Newberry is proud to announce two new fellowships sponsored by the Jack Miller Center and by The Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Illinois:

**The Newberry Library-Jack Miller Center Fellowship** supports scholarship that will contribute to a deeper understanding of America's founding principles and history, including the wider traditions that influenced its development. PhD candidates and postdoctoral scholars are eligible for research at the Newberry for up to two months. While in residence, fellows will deliver one public lecture based on findings in the Newberry collection. The monthly stipend is \$2,000; fellows also will receive a stipend for the public lecture.

**The Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Illinois Fellowship** offers support for PhD candidates and postdoctoral scholars; among qualified applicants, preference will be given to those working in early American history and culture. Applicants do not need to be a member of the Mayflower Society in order to be eligible. This fellowship supports one month in residence at the Newberry. The stipend is \$2,000.

The Newberry Library begins to accept applications for short-term fellowships on September 1, 2013. Applications must be received electronically by **January 15, 2014**, 11:59 pm C.S.T. This includes the applicant's own materials and all letters of reference.

### Smithsonian Fellowships

The Smithsonian American Art Museum and its Renwick Gallery invite applications for research fellowships in art and visual culture of the United States. A variety of predoctoral, postdoctoral, and senior fellowships are available. Fellowships are residential and support independent and dissertation research. The stipend for a one-year fellowship is \$30,000 for predoctoral fellows or \$45,000 for senior and postdoctoral fellows, plus generous research and travel allowances. The standard term of residency is twelve months, but shorter terms will be considered; stipends are prorated for periods of less than twelve months. **Deadline: January 15, 2014.** Contact: Fellowship Office, American Art Museum, (202) 633-8353, AmericanArtFellowships@si.edu. For information and an application, visit <http://www.AmericanArt.si.edu/fellowships>.

### Early American Sessions at American Studies Association Conference, Nov. 21-24, 2013, Washington, D.C.

"Colloquy with Annette Kolodny on *In Search of First Contact*," *Chair*: Dennis Moore, Florida State University.

"Commons Democracy," *Chair*: Dana Nelson, Vanderbilt University.

"Debts and the Memories of Colonial Slavery," *Chair*: Karen Woods Weierman, Worcester State College.

"Debts of Spirit and Substance," *Chair*: Elisa Tamarkin, University of California, Berkeley.

"Decolonizing the Indigenous Archive," *Chair*: Dustin Tahmahkera, Southwestern University.

"Elegiac Desert and the Politics of Form," *Chair*: Craig Willse, George Mason University.

"Hemispheres of Debt, Crises of Ecology, Ethics of Collective Dissent: The Caribbean and Pacific Islands in American Studies," *Chair*: Iping Joy Liang, National Taiwan Normal University.

"Morbid Accumulation: The Body as Capital, Bodies in Debt, Embodied Resistance," *Chair*: Sarah Schuetze, University of Kentucky.

"Nineteenth-Century Public Lecturing, New Media, and Technologies of Orality," *Chair*: Thomas Augst, New York University.

"Political Melville?" *Chair*: Robert Levine, University of Maryland.

"The Politics of Exigency: Dispossession, Petitions, and the Limits of Legal Recourse," *Chair*: David Kzanjian, University of Pennsylvania.

"Visions of Anti-Slavery," *Chair*: Jacqueline Stewart, Northwestern University.

### SEA Council of Officers

#### Executive Officers, 2013–2015

Kristina Bross, President (Purdue University)  
[bross@purdue.edu](mailto:bross@purdue.edu)

Laura Stevens, Vice-President (University of Tulsa)  
[laura-stevens@utulsa.edu](mailto:laura-stevens@utulsa.edu)

Gordon Sayre, Executive Coordinator (University of Oregon)  
[gsayre@uoregon.edu](mailto:gsayre@uoregon.edu)

#### Advisory Officers:

##### Immediate Past President

Hilary E. Weiss, Immediate Past President (Auburn University)  
[wysshil@auburn.edu](mailto:wysshil@auburn.edu)

##### SEAN Editor

Mary M. Balkun (Seton Hall University)  
[mary.balkun@shu.edu](mailto:mary.balkun@shu.edu)

##### Editorial Assistant

Kaitlin Tonti (Seton Hall University)

##### Webmaster

Susan Imbarrato (Minnesota State University Moorhead)  
[simbarra@mnstate.edu](mailto:simbarra@mnstate.edu)

##### EARAM-L Moderator

Raymond Craig (Kent State University)  
[rcraig2@kent.edu](mailto:rcraig2@kent.edu)

**Website:** <http://www.societyofearlyamericanists.org>

### New Lifetime SEA Members

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

#### 2012:

Eric Gardner  
Zachary Hutchins  
Paul Rich  
Sarah Rivett  
Scott Slawinski  
Joanne van der Woude

#### 2013:

David A. Boruchoff  
Edward Cahill  
Katy Chiles  
Matt Cohen  
Theresa Gaul  
Scott Gordon  
Laura Laffrado  
Glen Roberts  
David S. Shields  
Edward Watts  
Brian Yothers

## Reflections from SEA 8th Biennial Conference

*The 2013 SEA Conference was held in Savannah, Georgia at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Special events included THATCamp, the Material Culture Colloquy, the Wormsloe Plantation Tour, and the Heritage Food Event. Several attendees shared their SEA experience with us for this season's newsletter.*

### **Cristobal Silva, Columbia University:**

As it has for the past several years, the SEA conference began for me while waiting for the flight to Savannah in an airport departure lounge. Colleagues—some familiar, others not—arrived at the gate, and conversations began in earnest; those conversations continued until well after the flight home had landed, and will reverberate at least until Chicago in 2015.

The SEA has grown a great deal over the years, and I look forward to the conference with a sense of gratitude for the friendship, generosity, and influence that colleagues and mentors continue to offer. More than any other institution, the SEA has been my academic home since late in my graduate career, and I can't conceive of any aspect of my professional life without it.

Even as I had the incredible opportunity to reflect on my past work in Savannah thanks to Dennis Moore, I was reminded yet again that we gather every two years to witness the futures of the field and of the profession. It is a mark of how vibrant our field is that those futures come in such often unexpected forms—emerging from encounters with new texts, material objects, teaching strategies, and foods. I think in particular of this year's wonderful Lowcountry Heritage Food presentation, which began with David Shields's timely admonition that we be attentive to the range of early agricultural texts that made up the majority of printed material through the mid nineteenth century. Weeks later, colleagues in New York were still talking about David's comments on local crop rotation, which had made us reconceive of American geographies, commerce, and knowledge networks.

### **Susan Imbarrato, Minnesota State University**

#### **Moorehead:**

Thank you to Hilary, Kristina, Laura, and the SEA 2013 Program Committee for all the hard work that went into the conference planning and for providing the good opportunity to gather in Savannah and share our research, yet again. The well-crafted papers along with the supportive collegiality made returning to the classroom afterwards all the more invigorating. So, thank you to everyone who attended for making the SEA's Eighth Biennial Conference such a memorable event.

### **Lisa Gordis, Barnard College:**

This was an SEA conference with new elements: THATCamp SEA and the special Lowcountry heritage food event. At THATCamp, participants shared ideas and perplexities as we considered how to use new technologies to expand the possibilities in our teaching and research. We talked about digital archiving and curation, social annotation, database design, and data visualization. Though many of the technologies we discussed were new, their implications were tied to

long-standing questions and concerns. We talked about how to foster informed close reading in our students, and how the work scholars do in digital teaching and research is counted in the tenure and promotion process.

Along with these new additions to the SEA program, the conference preserved what I've come to think of as its essential features. As always, sessions were open and collegial, and discussions offered helpful and constructive insights to advance the work in progress panelists presented. As always, the papers I heard were smart and lively, and expanded the list of texts I need to read and issues I need to consider. (This year I took notes in Scrivener, which let me assign key words to papers I heard. My keywords run from "Adam," "advertisements," and "aesthetic pleasure" to "witchcraft", "yellow fever," and "Zolling [sp?].)"

The cost of the lively program was the lack of down time. Every session had multiple interesting panels, so once again there was never enough time to eat lunch. And of course the meals mattered, too. The amazing low country heritage food event offered participants information about and tastes of heritage foods, and other meals, whether hurried or leisurely, were occasions for conversations about research, teaching, the landscape of higher education, and our personal lives.

The SEA biennials are occasions for renewing old friendships and making new ones, for life-sustaining conversations with those who understand that the challenges of caring for children and aging parents, the challenges of teaching and administration, and the challenges of research and writing are intertwined. The days were very full, and as always I arrived home simultaneously exhausted and recharged, grateful to the conference organizers for a wonderful experience and to the SEA for being a professional home.



*Glenn Roberts and David Shields speaking at the Lowcountry Heritage Food Event at the SEA Conference.*

## Reflections from SEA 8th Biennial Conference (continued)

### **Chris Packard , New York University:**

An Indian war club, inscribed with an image of the warrior who welded it, is a powerful combination of function and message. As someone who studies self-fashioning in North America during the long eighteenth century, I was inspired by Mark Alan Mattes' (U Iowa) talk about carvings on war weapons. People make self-portraits for many reasons, but does any oil-on-canvas depiction of its maker carry a message so forcefully? Mr. Mattes' co-panelists, too, helped me expand definitions about modes of self-representation to include human skin and tattoos. In fact, expanding definitions and garnering inspiration were the key themes of the SEA Savannah conference for me.

The outing to the Wormsloe Plantation organized by Thomas Hallock (USF) was outstanding, with its balance of intellection and touring -- and boxed lunches! Later the same day I heard conference presentations on tea, on clothing, on food, on fireplace designs, and on musical instruments -- in addition to the expected delights of contextualizing literature. My own panel on minority self-fashioning demonstrated again the value of bringing people together and synthesizing their work in the question-and-answer exchange after the presentations. I've always made new friends and explored new collaborations at the SEA conferences I've attended in the past, and this time was no exception. Scholarship might seem like a lonely business for we archive divers in those dim hours in libraries and historical societies, but reconnecting with old friends and swapping stories reminded me that none of us is alone in our work. Thanks to Hillary Wyss and all who created the staging grounds for inspirations, discoveries, and reconnections.



*Library, Wormsloe Plantation*



*SEA Leadership Past and Present: Tom Krise, David Shields, Laura Stevens, Kristina Bross, Hillary Wyss, Dennis Moore, and Susan Imbarrato.*

### **Andrew Simon, Stony Brook University:**

My paper was in the first session of the conference, and I almost sort of didn't make it. The day before, I had to let my flight leave without me because it took off too late to make the connection in DC. So there I was, downgraded to standby for a direct flight, also delayed, sitting on the floor by a charging station and eating cold falafel, when a fellow early Americanist suddenly stood over me and said something very complimentary about my recent book! I thought, if I had known I might hear such things at the airport, I wouldn't have booked a ticket all the way to Savannah; maybe it wouldn't be the worst thing if I didn't make the flight. But I did, and of course I was glad. I've been to a lot of conferences in the past year, which has made me appreciate the collegiality at SEA all the more. My favorite panel was the one on "Convention and Agency," with papers by Meredith Neuman, Tamara Harvey, and Lisa Gordis, chaired by Michelle Lise Tarter. What I liked about it was the way the fantastic papers complemented one another like three acts in a play, and the way this coherence carried over into the Q&A and beyond -- into lunch and a walk through Savannah. SEA feels like home to me wherever it is held. I think a great venue for a future conference would be Terminal C at Newark airport.

### **Thomas Hallock, Univ. of South Florida St. Petersburg:**

After a day or two at the conference, even the most dedicated scholar can use a walk. Attendees at the last Society of Early Americanists meeting piled onto the bus and headed to

Wormsloe State Historic Site, just south of Savannah, where we walked. Sarah Ross of the Wormsloe Institute for Environmental History (a related group) led two tours of the plantation. Through her keen eye, we learned the nuances of an historically and ecologically rich landscape. We had valuable academic exchange. Tim Sweet, Gordon Sayre, Scotti Parrish and I held a roundtable discussion on early American environmentalisms. But most of all, we appreciated the chance to get outside. The visit to Wormsloe was partially sponsored by the Bartram Trail Conference, a group SEA members should consider joining.

Since the 1970s, the BTC has provided a model of publicly-engaged scholarship. The BTC sponsors a Fothergill Award for research on William Bartram and his world. (Academic projects are encouraged, although the award typically serves work commensurate with the BTC's mission.) We meet biannually, always at some point of the naturalist's great southern tour; next October 11-13, the site will be the Mountain Retreat in Scaly Mountain, North Carolina. The BTC maintains an active website ([bartramtrail.org](http://bartramtrail.org)) and puts out an informative, sometimes even artful newsletter. The public outreach is impressive. As funding in the humanities continues to come under fire, the BTC offers a model of community involvement. Florida aficionados in Putnam County (between Gainesville and St. Augustine) are now building a trail that will draw natural and cultural tourism to a wild, less developed corner of the state. This initiative is not part of the BTC, although the team of scholarly advisors comes almost exclusively from its board.

I personally would love to see more connection between the BTC and the SEA. Speaking as a former BTC president and longtime board member, I have been heartened by the general interest in an otherwise obscure eighteenth-century writer. Bartram provides a name and face for environmental causes in otherwise overlooked places. The BTC has facilitated scholarship that serves an immediate and visible purpose. To learn more about the group, join us in North Carolina this October.



*Tim Sweet, Scotti Parrish, Gordon Sayre, and Sarah Ross of the Wormsloe Institute for Environmental History.*



*Ivy Schweitzer, winner of the MLA Lifetime Achievement Award, Kathleen Donegan, who presented the award, and Hillary Wyss, SEA President, at the SEA Biennial Conference.*

## SEA ANNOUNCEMENTS

### MLA Lifetime Achievement Award



**Ivy Schweitzer**, Professor of English and Women's and Gender Studies at Dartmouth University, was awarded the Modern Language Association's Division for American Literature before 1800 Lifetime Achievement Award. The award was presented February 28, 2013, at the SEA 8th Biennial Conference in Savannah, Georgia. Phil Round composed an anagram for the occasion:

"Dear Neat Ivy,"  
Of this deserved honor,  
I can only offer  
an anagram revealing:  
"Ethics' Very Wiz."

### SEA 2012 Essay Award Winner



**Glenda Goodman**, an ACLS New Faculty Fellow in the history department at the University of Southern California starting September 2013, was awarded the SEA Fourteenth Annual Essay Prize. The award was presented February 28, 2013, at the SEA 8th Biennial Conference in Savannah, GA. Goodman's essay, "The Economy of Accomplishment: Aesthetics and Labor in Women's Musical Lives," was delivered at the March 2012 ASECS Conference in San Antonio, TX.



### SEA 15TH Annual Essay Competition

The SOCIETY OF EARLY AMERICANISTS is pleased to announce our Fifteenth Annual Essay Competition. If you have presented or will be presenting a paper on an Americanist topic, broadly conceived, during the academic year 2012-2013 at the *Society of Early Americanists Eighth Biennial Conference*, Savannah, GA, February 28-March 2, 2013; or at an *American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies* conference 2012-2013, or that of any of its affiliates, including the *Annual Meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies*, Cleveland, Ohio, April 4-7, 2013, we invite you to consider entering.

By "Americanist topic, broadly conceived" we mean that the competition is open to papers that address America in terms of both the long and the wide (i.e., circumatlantic) eighteenth century. Our panel of judges will see each entry through a simple system of blind reviewing; your name goes only on a separate cover sheet, and we recommend that you rework any self-citation, either in the body or in notes, to the third person.

Note that we accept revised papers and that the maximum length for an entry is **6,000 words**.

Papers should be double-spaced, 6,000 words maximum, with your name appearing only on the cover sheet, along with your institutional mailing address and e-mail address; panel title, chair's name, date of presentation, and name of conference. Please send essay as an email attachment to: Kelly Wisecup at [kelly.wisecup@unt.edu](mailto:kelly.wisecup@unt.edu).  
**Deadline: Friday, October 4, 2014.**

The 2013 American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Conference took place in Cleveland, Ohio, April 3-6.  
The 2013 American Literature Association Conference took place in Boston, MA, May 23-26.

### Reflections on the SEA at ASECS

As a first-time participant and attendee at the ASECS conference, I found the varied interests and deep engagement of the presenters at the 44th annual meeting energizing.

The selection of panels brilliantly represented the conference organizers' very purposeful engagement of the current and diverse aspects of eighteenth-century studies. Panels and papers covered topics from the role of digital humanities, cartography, and bibliographical studies to aspects of queer studies, the African diaspora, and fashion.

On panels sponsored by the SEA, scholars presented papers that predominantly concerned the diversity in religious experience for early Americans, with one of the two panels devoted specifically to this topic. "The Eighteenth Century in Unexpected Places" and "The Rural Believer in the Eighteenth Century" both touched on the results of what George Washington called "effectual barriers against the horrors of spiritual tyranny" in his letter to the United Baptist Chamber of Virginia in May 1789. Presenters on the panel that discussed rural beliefs called attention to several understudied yet notable figures and the ways in which the formative ideals of an emerging American government and rural isolation gave them license for religious conversion. Panelists cited examples of settlers and colonists who embraced the ideals of the First Great Awakening, the Baptist faith, the Catholic Community—including Eastern Orthodoxy—and Puritanism. The panels also echoed the diversity of the conference by revealing the nuances that should be explored and acknowledged as part of our early American narrative.

Anne Carver Weakley, Virginia Commonwealth University

### SEA-Sponsored Sessions at the ALA

**Genre Crossings: Relations of Form in Early American Literature.**

**Chair: Christopher Lukasik, Purdue University**

1. Daniel de Paula Valentim Hutchins, Boston University: "On Roanoke and Troped Time: History, Prophecy, and the 'Temporal Turn' in Thomas Harriot's *A Brief and True Report of the Newfound Land of Virginia*."
2. Michelle Burnham, Santa Clara University and James Freitas, Santa Clara University: "*The Female American*, The Problem of Mastery, and the Lost Literary History of Castaway Fiction."
3. Melissa Pojasek, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill: "Early American Illusions: The Epistolary Novel as Rhetorical Trompe L'Oeil."

**Violence, Place, and Property: Possession and Identity at the Site of Rebellion.**

**Chair: Ethan Wittet, Northeastern University**

1. Diana I. Dabek, University of Miami: "We Rich Widows are the Best Commodity this Country Affords": Redefining Gender Roles in Aphra Behns 'The Widow Ranter.'"
2. James M. Greene, West Virginia University: "Frontier Violence and National Loyalty: Hugh Henry Brackenridge Edits Two Accounts of the Crawford Expedition."
3. Jillmarie Murphy, Union College: "Place Attachment, Race, and the Age of Revolution in Leonora Sansay's *Secret History, or, the Horrors of St. Domingo*."

**Revising the Core in the Early American Literature Classroom.**

**Chair: Leonard Von Morze, University of Massachusetts, Boston**

1. Thomas Koenigs, Yale University: "The Common Core and Early American Fiction."
2. Steven W. Thomas, Wagner College: "Pirates, Puritans and the Revolutionary Atlantic World."
3. Nicole Aljoe, Northeastern University: "Teaching Early Slave Narratives."

**Session 19-N: Self-Fashioning in Early African-American Literature.**

**Chair: Thomas Koenigs, Yale University**

1. Zach Hutchins, Brigham Young University: "Matters of Fact: The Historicity of Briton Hammon's Narrative."
2. Christopher Allan Black, East Tennessee State University: "Clothes Make the Man: Black Dandyism and Ethnographic Self-Fashioning in Olaudah Equiano's *Interesting Narrative*."
3. Cassander Smith, University of Alabama: "No Rogue, No Rascal, No Thief": Self-Fashioning and the Problem of Literary Translation in Adam's *Negro's Tryall*."



## FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES

### **American Literature Symposium: "War and American Literature," October 10-12, 2013, Hotel Monteleone, 214 Royal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana.**

ALA symposia provide opportunities for scholars to meet in pleasant settings, present papers, and share ideas and resources. The October 2013 symposium will focus on war and American literature, exploring the literary treatment of warfare and its consequences in both prose and poetry from the colonial times through the present. We welcome proposals for presentations on the place of war in the writings of both popular and canonical American authors (Cooper, Twain, Crane, Hemingway, Heller, Vonnegut, McCarthy, O'Brien, and others).

Conference Directors:

Dustin Anderson, Georgia Southern University

Olivia Carr Edenfield, Georgia Southern University

### **American Studies Association Annual Meeting: "Beyond the Logic of Debt, Toward an Ethics of Collective Dissent," November 21-24, 2013, Hilton, Washington, DC**

From college students graduating with crushing loans to millions of retirees facing foreclosures, from the still neglected residents of New Orleans to Asian and African women targeted by micro lenders, from the suicides of so many suffering economic loss to those made desperate by their utter lack of options, including deaths that set off the Tunisian uprisings of the "Arab Spring," the ubiquity of debt defines our current historical moment. We thus call for discussions of "debt" in its many historical, contemporary, and allegorical dimensions, and invite everyone to offer insights on not only the dominant logic of debt, but also the alternative practices of collective dissent that disrupt and deregulate its coercive power

The convention theme takes our conference location, Washington D.C., as an opportunity to explore debt. Myriad debts are managed in D.C., including student, home, credit card, healthcare, and national debts. In addition to being the "seat of democracy" it is the "seat of finance," a combination well represented by the city's famous nationalist monuments and the landmarks of global finance (the World Bank, the IMF, the FRB).

### **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.*

**Society of Early Americanists Special Topics Conference, "London and the Americas, 1492-1812,"** London, July 17-19, 2014. "London and the Americas, 1492-1812," a Society of Early Americanists Special Topics Conference, will take place at Kingston University, London, July 17-19, 2014. Program Co-Chairs, Kristina Bross (Purdue University) and Laura Stevens (University of Tulsa).

This interdisciplinary conference of the Society of Early Americanists will examine London's connections with the Americas in the colonial era. It will focus on the role that Europe's largest urban center played in the structuring of an Atlantic world inscribed, amidst both war and peace, by networks of trade, travel, religion, kinship, cultural identification, captivity, slavery, and governance. At the same time, participants will consider how the Americas in particular shaped the geography, both actual and metaphorical, of early modern London (that is, the cities of London and Westminster), influencing its practices, hierarchies, infrastructures, modes of representation, arrangements of space, and movements of peoples.

The focus will thus be on London as both recipient and source of transmission and interaction, connected imaginatively and actually with American regions under the control of other European powers as well as with its own colonies. Hosted by Brychan Carey at the School of Humanities in Kingston University London, the conference will take place on the University's campus in South West London, a 25-minute train ride from central London and a short bus ride from Heathrow Airport. Housing options will include university dormitories as well as a diverse array of local hotels. Proposals are welcome for individual papers or complete panels. Innovative panel formats are welcome along with traditional trios of 20-minute papers and roundtable discussions of no more than five contributors.

**Please send proposals by September 1, 2013, to: [sea14london@gmail.com](mailto:sea14london@gmail.com)**

### **The Third Symposium of the Early Caribbean Society: "European Caribbeana," July 20-22, 2014, Kingston University, London, England.**

Following on the successful symposiums of the Early Caribbean Society (ECS) held in Barbados in 2011 and Puerto Rico in 2012, the ECS will host its third symposium in London, England to promote the study of early Caribbean literary history. The symposium will take place immediately following the Society of Early Americanists conference on "London and the Americas, 1492-1812," which will be held in London on July 17-19, 2014. Attendees can sign up for the SEA conference, the ECS symposium, or both events through one registration process.

Proposals are invited for 20 minute papers that address any aspect of early Caribbean literature, culture, or literary history. Given the location of the third symposium, we particularly seek papers that consider Atlantic networks, currents, and influences. Papers might address the movement of people, ideas, and commodities around the Atlantic and the Caribbean, the material and ideological impacts of European colonization in the Caribbean, and/or the literary construction of the West Indies. Papers might also consider how actual and imagined experiences in the West Indies transformed cultural practices, habits of consumption, and scientific, religious, and/or philosophical discourses in Europe.

Please submit proposals for 20-minute papers. Proposals should include your name, your academic affiliation, the title of your proposed paper, and an abstract of no more than 250 words. **All proposals must be received by the deadline of September 15, 2013.** Please send proposals to: Tom Krise, Pacific Lutheran University, President's Office, 12180 Park Ave South Tacoma, WA 98447 USA <krisetw@hotmail.com>.

**Fifth Biennial European Early American Studies (EEASA) Conference**

Lublin, Poland, 11-13 December 2014

Protest and Persuasion: Writing, Print, Speech, and Performance in Early American and the Atlantic World

The 2014 EEASA Conference will provide an opportunity to present fresh and more nuanced insights on how political communication actually worked in the Americas and the Atlantic world. What strategies of communication and modes of persuasion and protest did people develop and with what goals? What constraints – technical, geographic, legal, or cultural – help to explain the adoption of certain forms of expression and the content of the messages? How did the meaning and significance of words and images evolve as they travelled from place to place? How were persuasion and protest articulated in non-verbal forms, such as gesture, symbol, image, and performance? What political consequences – intended or unintended – resulted from the way people used speech, writing, print, and group action in early America and the Atlantic world? **Please send your proposal to EEASA2014@googlemail.com by September 30, 2013.**

**45th Annual Convention, Northeastern Modern**

**Language Association (NeMLA), Harrisburg, PA, April 3-6, 2014. "Bachelors, Bastards, and Bad Boys in the Transatlantic World, 1600-1865"**

This seminar will examine how various forms of manhood—including but not limited to bachelors, bastards, and bad boys—are represented in a range of English and American texts from the seventeenth through the mid nineteenth century. It is particularly interested in how modes of exchange across geographies, classes, genders, or cultures articulate male deviancy or legitimacy. Participants are invited to submit 250-300 word abstracts as MSword or PDF attachments to Jordan Windholz, windholz@fordham.edu with BBB in the subject line. **Deadline: September 30, 2013.**

**Graduate Student Caucus Professionalization Panel, ASECS Annual Meeting, Williamsburg, VA, March 20-22, 2014.**

"Going Rogue: The Merits and Perils of Breaking with Professional Conventions"

Graduate students often worry about toeing the academic line and keeping an eye on the market. Countless articles and blogs proffer advice to graduate students for shaping oneself and one's project for the tenure track. However, with the market's shifting demands and opportunities, the tenure track is not the only nor the best professional course. This panel, a roundtable format, will include brief and informal presentations from professionals (i.e. faculty, administrators, editors/publishers, archivists, curators, secondary educators, etc.) on alternative career paths to the

tenure track. Proposals of 250 words that address different professional options and provide practical ideas for preparing for this path in graduate school will be considered. In thinking about alternative professional paths for academics, presenters might address how students' approach to dissertation research and writing or other aspects of graduate study might shift in consideration of a wider field of employment. Presentations that discuss the merits and perils of other unconventional or experimental approaches to professionalization will also be included. **Please submit proposals to Sarah Schuetze <sarah.schuetze@uky.edu> by Sept. 15, 2013.**



***Women's Narratives and the Formation of Empire***

**Editors: Mary M. Balkun, Seton Hall University  
Susan C. Imbarrato, Minnesota State University  
Moorehead**

If woman is indeed not born but made, as Simone de Beauvoir maintained, then certainly the process of empire building also impacts the "construction" of woman—what is normative, what is not, and how the difference between the two is navigated, especially by women themselves. As Kate Conboy, Nadia Medina, and Sarah Stanbury explain in their "Introduction" to *Writing on the Body*, there is a "tension between women's lived bodily experiences and the cultural meanings inscribed on the female body that always mediate those experiences" (1). This tension is especially acute during times of crisis and social change, natural consequences of the power struggles in emergent empires. The lived bodily experiences of women can vary dramatically depending on age, class, and other variables, and what is ultimately written on their bodies may manifest as a call for change and an insistence on reform even in the midst of cognitive and/or physical disability, freakishness/monstrosity, and/or illness.

Produced from their unique position as both insiders and outsiders—a location from which women were expected to support the work of empire but not participate in its power structures—as well as their status as items of exchange within that domain, women's narratives can illustrate the ways gender is implicated in the process of empire building. Thus, while women are supposed to embody the values of empire, the female form is also the place where difference is encoded and where the struggle between the empire and the other (whoever that "other" happens to be) is enacted.

For this proposed volume we are looking for papers that examine women's narratives produced between 1600 and 1820 in which the female body serves as a site of struggle in the development of the American empire. Papers should be 5000 -7500 words in length and formatted according to MLA Style. Please send complete manuscripts, with 200-word abstracts, as well as any questions, to Mary Balkun <mary.balkun@shu.edu> and Susan Imbarrato <simbarra@mnstate.edu> . **Submission deadline: February 3, 2014**

# Society of

## Early Americanists

Laura Stevens, Executive Coordinator  
Society of Early Americanists  
Department of English  
University of Tulsa  
800 S. Tucker Drive  
Tulsa, OK 74104

### 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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