



# Early Americanists Newsletter

*A Biannual Publication of the Society of Early Americanists*

## From the SEA President and Vice-President

It's hard to believe that we're already eight weeks away from our "London and the Americas" meeting. We both want to thank all those who made the conference such a success (well, maybe not the weather gods, who socked us with the "hottest day in the UK this summer" for three days running). When we cooked up the idea of a London meeting for the society with our scholar-host Brycchan Carey, we were thinking rather modestly: fifty or so scholars for some good conversation on Atlantic and transatlantic research. Good conversation we had indeed—but with closer to one hundred and fifty colleagues on the program and more in attendance. Elsewhere in this issue of the newsletter you'll find pictures and others' thoughts on the meeting, including Executive Coordinator Gordon Sayre's meditation on the state of Atlantic Studies and its future. In this joint column, we'll add our thoughts on what we've learned about the possible future of the society by decamping to Kingston-upon-Thames.

The London meeting was not our first international venture—past President Tom Krise brought us to Bermuda in 2009. Traces of that meeting were evident in London; one of the pink giveaway bags was spotted at one of our evening wine receptions. Anyone still carrying a green one? And as we put together this meeting, we were conscious that we were building on that precedent. But arguably, the Bermuda meeting was still geographically in "American" space. This time around, U.S.-based scholars rather than our continental and UK colleagues tapped the travel funds, took the long flights, and dealt with the jet lag. As a consequence, we were glad to welcome a higher percentage of non-U.S.-based scholars to the meeting: over fifteen percent of our presenters, a level of participation we very much hope to continue and see increase in coming meetings.

Society history and demographics aside, it's the content of the presentations and conversations that really matters. We were struck by how moving our locale to London shifted our collective sense of what counted as "early American." Our collective interest in Caribbean/West Indian topics—such an important part of the 2009 Bermuda meeting—was extended in Kingston, aided by the

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contributions of Early Caribbean Society members, who met for their conference immediately following the close of the SEA conference—and several papers registered a transatlantic matrix that included islands and metropolises, but did not touch down on the mainland at all. London’s historic cosmopolitanism means that our research was not as entirely Anglo-focused as one might expect, given the title of the meeting (though to be sure, Shakespeare had a distinct presence on the program). As Geoffrey Planck reminded us in his keynote address on Quakers in New Jersey, Maryland, London and Rotterdam, relations between London and the Americas existed in a network of influence that stretched to other places as well. By the time we came to Nuala Zahediah’s plenary talk, which concluded the conference, we were prepared to think about how Mincing Lane, a center of sugar and slave trade in eighteenth-century London, should be imprinted on early Americanists’ mental maps.

This meeting marks the first, and likely the last, time that sitting SEA officers will chair one of our special topics conferences. We took on the task because we felt the added complication of an international meeting would best be supported the first time by the society’s infrastructure (though had we known how beautifully Brycchan and his staff would keep things running, we wouldn’t have worried!). Seven of these “off-year” meetings have been held since Ralph Bauer chaired the first Anglo-Ibero Summit in 2002. Members continue to express interest in hosting and attending these meetings, and one of our goals for the next few months is to make the process of proposing such meetings systematic and transparent.

We believe they do important work for the Society in creating a more intimate setting for collegial exchange and for encouraging scholars unfamiliar with the general society to get to know us. By the time you read this newsletter, the deadline for the next biennial conference will have passed, but our next special topics meeting, the fourth Anglo-Ibero summit, will be accepting proposals soon. We hope to see many of you in Maryland in 2016.

SEA President  
Kristina Bross, Purdue University

SEA Vice-President  
Laura Stevens, University of Tulsa



*At center, Lisa Gordis (holding Bermuda bag) and Timothy Sweet (holding black bag, which he assures us was also in attendance at Bermuda).*

#### From the SEA Executive Coordinator

Our meeting at the University of Kingston under the title “London and the Americas, 1492-1812” included papers on so many transatlantic topics: the slave trade, exploration and natural history, authorship and publishing, and consumer and material culture to name a few. It seemed as though transatlantic methodologies were routine, the way we had always operated.

But in fact most of the courses we teach and journals we read are still organized around American Literature or American History, while British or English topics are a separate specialization. Only a few English departments have decided to no longer teach separate survey courses in English and in American literature. So is Atlantic World studies the new normal, or does it remain an insurgent new wave?

Different fields of academia follow different rhythms. In some areas new trends appear with meteoric intensity and excitement, and then just as quickly fizzle out. In other fields a trend takes years to form and gain adherents, and then may inspire dissertations and conferences for decades before entering a phase of gradual decline. It seems to me that a slower pace is preferable given the 6 to 10 years it takes for even the most diligent professor to conceive, research, and complete a book project. History is among the more cautious and conservative fields, and the Atlantic World paradigm has prospered for twenty years. I wonder if it is now past its peak, and if so, is something else on the rise?

To consider this question requires a pause to more precisely define what is implied in the word “Atlantic.” I think it would be too simplistic to give the word a merely geographic signification. In this case Atlantic would be accompanied by Pacific world and Indian Ocean specializations. But as Michelle Burnham and others have pointed out, the Pacific rim from 1500 to 1800 did not feature expansionist empires on the scale of the Atlantic, and although a transpacific silver trade did exist in the sixteenth century, the scale was much smaller than in the Atlantic.

Atlantic studies was more powerfully driven by economic and trade history, I believe. The social, economic and environmental impact of trade in slaves and commodities produced by enslaved laborers: sugar, coffee, silver, tobacco, cotton (and let’s not forget pelts and hides, chocolate, dye-woods, indigo, and spices) had so many consequences that Atlantic studies scholars could continue to examine them for another century. Some historiography I’ve read identifies the emergence of an “Atlantic world” paradigm more than fifty years ago, at the time of the cold war and the formation of NATO. An alliance of liberal capitalist republics against the Soviet bloc required not only a common ideology but a common history. The original members of NATO were the nation states that had brought about the Age of Discovery, the philosophy of liberal individualism, and the critique of absolutism. Atlantic studies consolidated the influence of Britain, France, and the United States.

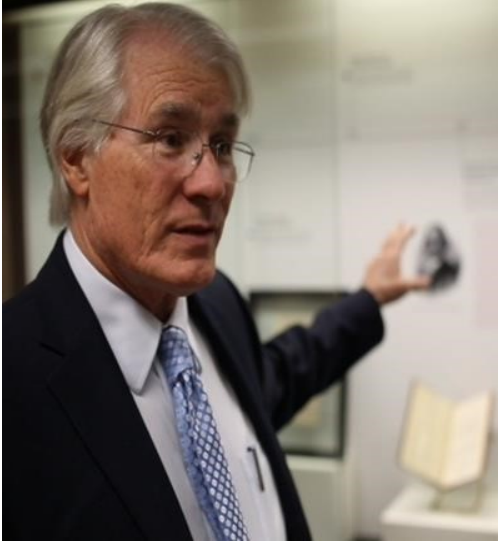
Many titles in our field employ the terms French Atlantic or British Atlantic World, and focus on an imperial and colonial historiography that undercuts to some degree the transnational approach that is a virtue of the Atlantic paradigm. The soldiers, merchants, and administrators of the early modern period answered to commanders in metropolitan England or France through a network of posts or forts and fleets of ships, shallops, pirogues and canoes. But in my own research I’ve found that the common soldier’s or sailor’s loyalty to the metropolitan power was tenuous. This paradigm overcomes the ex post facto nationalism of colony vs. metropole that American vs. English implies. But to segregate the object of study by nation or language calls attention to the fact that is has been anglophone scholars who have pursued the Atlantic world paradigm most enthusiastically. I searched for the phrase “Portuguese Atlantic world” in my library database and found only three articles, even though it was Portuguese navigators who pioneered the spice trade, colonized Brazil and began trade in several key commodities of the Atlantic trade system. No doubt scholars in Brazil have their own approaches to this colonial heritage.

Prior to our conference, I had last visited London in 1998, when the Canary wharf development was just getting started, and the Museum of London Docklands there, which I visited on Sunday after the Hampton Court tour, had not

yet opened. Today London is more prosperous than ever, and seems like a separate world from much of rural and post-industrial Britain. Perhaps the contemporary echo of Atlantic World studies is in the emergence of new commercial city states such as New York and London, which operate internationally and no longer follow the fates of the nations where they are located.

SEA Executive Coordinator  
Gordon Sayre, University of Oregon

**SEA Award Recipients**



William B. Warner won the ASECS 2013-14 Louis Gottschalk Prize for his *Protocols of Liberty: Communication Innovation, and the American Revolution* (Chicago and London: U of Chicago P, 2013).  
<[http://emc.english.ucsb.edu/imprint/warner/protocols/protocols\\_of\\_liberty\\_overview.html](http://emc.english.ucsb.edu/imprint/warner/protocols/protocols_of_liberty_overview.html)>



Steven Thomas received one of the ASECS 2013-14 Innovative Course Design Competition awards for his "Pirates, Puritans, and the Revolutionary Atlantic World."

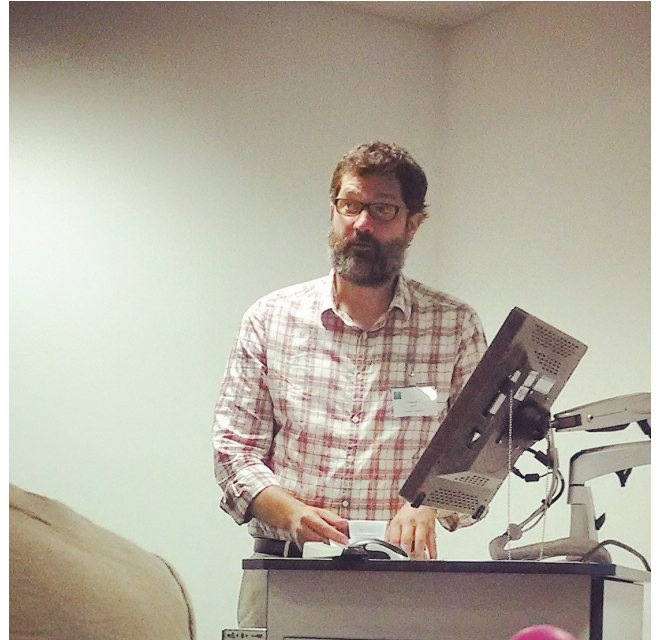
**Reflections from the SEA Conference: London and the Americas, 1492-1812  
July 17-19, 2014, Kingston University, London**

As with other small conferences, the London and the Americas conference provided a format that allowed extended conversations to develop across several panels. An unexpected pleasure for me was interdisciplinary exchange --for too often at larger conferences, I tend toward the literature panels. A memorable example was a panel of art historians, "Art Follows Empire: A Roundtable on Material Culture," in which each panelist reflected on one object, something as mundane as a tobacco box or as unique as Joseph Pope's Orrery. The chair, Wendy Bellion, posed an interesting question at the close of the session to draw out those who hadn't yet joined the conversation, asking each member of the audience to name an aesthetic object bearing an imperial trajectory. I named a hortus siccus specimen, maybe American ginseng. Later during the river cruise, in conversation with Wendy and some others who had attended the panel, I revised this idea. Inspired by the gardens along the banks of the Thames, I thought: instead of dried specimens, why not seeds or plants such as John Bartram sent Peter Collinson, mountain laurel, azalea, rhododendron, living links between the American wild and English cultivation?

Timothy Sweet, West Virginia University



The Thames River from a bridge near Hampton Court Palace



Edward Cahill, Fordham University, speaking at the "Franklin in London" session

As a first-time attendee to the Society for Early Americanists Conference, I did not know what to expect from this meeting. Conferences, especially in foreign countries can be intimidating to graduate students presenting their research. These papers often represent pieces of budding dissertation projects. This meeting proved to be incredibly welcoming and a delightful gathering of scholars from different disciplines who share a love for this field. My co-panelists were encouraging and helped calm my nerves. Meals with other graduate students and scholars ended with a plan to create a panel to submit to the 2015 SEA Meeting in Chicago. These experiences solidify the importance of attending these conferences as graduate students. Without the continued support from sources like the SEA Travel Grants and our own Departmental Funds, these gatherings would be out of reach for many junior scholars. I thoroughly enjoyed this experience and look forward to future conferences.

Chloe Northrup, University of North Texas



Conference attendees starting the tour of Hampton Court Palace

When I returned to St. Louis after "London and the Americas," one of my colleagues asked me what I remembered most about the conference. I smiled and responded: "You know, there was a standing-room-only panel on Puritans. Only at SEA could studying Puritanism seem so cool." When I entered graduate school and declared my interest in studying early American literature, I was one of only two Early Americanists in my department. It was difficult to convince my peers that what I studied was "cool," and even more difficult to feel like part of an intellectual community. This is why the SEA conferences (of which London was just the latest and greatest example) have meant so much to me. In London I found myself surrounded by generous and community-oriented scholars who shared not only their work but their passion for teaching, mentorship, and the continued growth of our field. In a single day I sat through mind-blowing papers on natural history in America, geeked out about Mary Wollstonecraft over lunch, received publication advice from a senior scholar, learned about a new monograph that has already informed my research, and enjoyed talking about pedagogy over dinner with new friends. I walked away from London energized about my work, the state of our field, and the new teaching practices I will bring to my classrooms. I look forward to our next gathering in Chicago!

Nick Miller, Washington University in St. Louis

What a host Brycchan Carey is!, and what an admirable job he and Laura, Kris, Eve and Oliver and their colleagues on the London program committee did of assembling a first-rate conference! It was great getting to see and learn from so many bright colleagues, great that Pickering and Chatto had an editor there, and great to've gotten to construct two panels. If only Susan Castillo could've been on hand to chair the "London Printing Trade's Representing – and Helping Shape – Perceptions of the Americas" session I'd cooked up; sounds as if Susan and the new grandbaby're thriving, and it turned out well that Cathy Rodriguez, ASECS's affiliate-societies coordinator, was willing and quite able to fill in as chair of the panel – which included strong papers by historians Matthew Shaw, he of the British Library, and Catherine Molineux, she of Vanderbilt U. Jonathan Beecher Field did double duty, doing a paper on that panel and participating in the lively colloquy on his *Errands Into the Metropole*, so here's a Thanks-again shout-out to Jonathan Senchyne, who had suggested how appropriate that book would be in that venue. Danielle Skeehan, Heather Kopelson, Ritch Frohock and Kelly Wisecup each contributed mightily to that roundtable – and Kelly knows how much I appreciate her having Skyped in to chat with the students in the course I was teaching, this July, at FSU's London Study Centre. Looking forward.

Dennis Moore, Florida State University

The Early Caribbean Society was fortunate enough to organize its third symposium jointly with the SEA special topics conference on London and the Americas, 1492-1812, this past July. Kingston University turned out to be a wonderful setting for the conference—who knew London weather was so tropical? Byrchan Carey did an admirable job of keeping us all informed, entertained, and fed, and I would like to convey a special thanks to him on behalf of the ECS. The symposium's very full one-day schedule asked a lot of its participants, but they held up admirably, and the conversations about papers never waned from the first panel to the last. This third symposium was the largest and most international to date, and the papers represented an impressively broad range of research interests and disciplinary approaches, which bodes well for the Society's continued work and future events. A big thanks goes to the SEA and its officers Kris Bross, Laura Stevens, and Gordon Sayre for their help in making our third symposium possible.

Richard Frohock, Vice President of the Early Caribbean Society



One of the large tapestries in a dining room of Hampton Court Palace

“When can we do that again?” This summer I was lucky enough to attend the SEA’s “London and the Americas, 1492-1812” conference hosted by Kingston University London. It was a spectacular event, and not just because I got to see old friends, make new ones, and witness a dance floor . . . on a dinner boat . . . filled with dancing early Americanists! Even more spectacular were the insights generated in many of the talks I heard that thought hard about early “America” “in London,” while actually in London. Rochelle Zuck’s paper on Mohegan sachem Samson Occom began to think about the actual plays Occom could have referenced—those performed in particular London theatres—when he made his famous comment that “the Stage Players, had been Mimicking of me in their Plays” while he visited London in the 1760s. I am excited to hear what Rochelle might be able to teach us about Occom by further researching his time in London.

Another key conference moment was the panel on “Puritan Studies in Post-Americanist Times.” In a packed (and hot!) room, Lori Stokes, Meredith Neumann, Ivy Schweitzer, Lisa Gordis, and Abram van Engen brought us up to date on Puritan studies—in all of its diverse and fascinating facets—and, selfishly for me, gave us new and exciting ways to teach Puritan material in the classroom. I was especially grateful for Lisa Gordis’s insight on making sure her students understand certain tenets of Puritan thought before they then analyze how that thought plays

out complexly, interestingly, and sometimes contradictorily in a given poem rather than teaching a poem as an exemplification of any tenet of Puritan thought. This returns the literary complexity of any given poem to the poem, allowing us to teach it and our students to read it as literature, not strictly as religious doctrine.

But perhaps the zenith of the conference for me took place in the “Transatlantic Aesthetic Genealogies” panel. My descriptions won’t do the presentations justice, but let me attempt to say how interesting it was to hear Christopher Looby question when different sexuality identities come into being at various nodes in the transatlantic world, thus revising our ideas about the history of sexuality; to listen to Joseph Rezek investigate the London book trade, the development of aesthetics, and how this should influence our thoughts about provincial versus national literatures; and to see—so spectacularly—Elizabeth Maddock Dillon trace a genealogy of striped pants from enslaved black men performatively dressing as “black dandies” in the Caribbean to the figure of Uncle Sam himself. It has been quite some time since my jaw dropped in a conference talk, but I found myself staring, mouth agape, at the images Elizabeth so convincingly presented for us. Which leads me to ask, “When can we do that again?”

Katy Chiles, University of Tennessee

Is it too nerdy to say that I approached the SEA conference in London with “great expectations”? SEA has been home to some of my most productively interdisciplinary conversations, with panels on the archaeology of the Chesapeake Bay (Bermuda, 2007), (post) coloniality of language in the early Americas (Savannah, 2013), and a middle-of-the-hallway conversation with an editor who told me about OIEAHC fellowships – and explained why literary scholars should apply for them. (For details on the upcoming cycle, see [oieahc.wm.edu/fellowship](http://oieahc.wm.edu/fellowship).) This SEA topical conference was no different. Innovative panel formats did much to enliven and enrich our discussions, including a thoughtfully-organized roundtable on the indigenous Atlantic, with sharp papers from Rebecca Lush, Kelly Wisecup, Drew Lopenzina, and Katy Chiles, and a comment from Coll Thrush that helpfully pointed to new avenues of inquiry. Meanwhile, traditional paper formats allowed for novel crossings of research areas and methods. I’m thinking in particular of how historian Heather Miyano Kopelson articulated a theory of reading indigenous and African dance, music, and performance, sites that her fellow panelists, Jennifer Wood and Mary Caton Lingold, both from literature departments, unearthed in archival diggings from Brasil and Surinam.

These types of cross-disciplinary collaborations were made possible by a thoughtful and creative program committee, and they occasioned enjoyably insightful ruminations on the state of early American studies. As such, Brychan Carey, all of our wonderful hosts at Kingston University, and the organizing committee more broadly have very nicely set the stage for next year's meeting in Chicago, jointly sponsored by the SEA and OIEAHC, which I am already looking forward to.

Allison Bigelow, University of Virginia

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sari Altschuler is the recipient of the SEA's Fifteenth Annual Essay Prize, presented July 2014, for her essay, "Ain't One Limb Enough: Historicizing Disability in the American Novel."



### The *Early American Literature* Book Prize

The editors of *Early American Literature* are pleased to announce a new award to be given annually for the best new academic book about American literature in the colonial period through the early republic (roughly 1830). The prize is offered in collaboration with the University of North Carolina Press, the Society of Early Americanists, and the MLA's Division on American Literature to 1800. A purse of \$2000 will accompany the award.

The prize will be awarded in even-numbered years to a first book and in odd-numbered years to an author's second or later book. Only monographs are eligible.

The selection committee will consist of the journal's editor, advisory editor, and book review editor, as well

as one representative from the SEA executive committee and one representative from the executive committee for the division.

The first *Early American Literature* Book Prize will be awarded in June 2015. Second or later books that appear between January 2013 and December 2014 are eligible for the 2015 award. Please direct inquiries to Professor Sandra M. Gustafson, Editor, [gustafson.6@nd.edu](mailto:gustafson.6@nd.edu).



SEA @ ASECS  
Williamsburg, VA,  
March 20-22, 2014

*"Historical Reenactment, Living History, and Public History," was sponsored by the Society of Early Americanists. Organized and chaired by Joy A. J. Howard*

I grew up attending events with my family at Greenfield Village near Detroit, Michigan. Reenactors demonstrated how a mid-nineteenth century Michigan farm would have planted seeds, harvested crops, and sheered sheep. I was smitten. I was a city girl accustomed to buses and the smog of factories, but I was enthralled by the noises of lambs and the smell of radishes in dirt. The history I learned at the living history site far surpassed history classes at my struggling public junior high school. The historians and reenactors encouraged me to ask more questions.

A master potter in the village helped me put into words why I valued quilting with my grandma and why putting up tomatoes with my mom was such balm for my soul. I was, therefore, wholly dismayed in graduate school when I was mocked by other graduate students for enthusiastically sharing that I had visited a nearby living history site. I had not anticipated the tension that existed between public history and academia as a young graduate student. I knew myself well enough by then, however, to ignore the scoffers.

I found something useful in living history as a young learner, and later, I found the tension between the academy and the public history space to be useful in my own pedagogy. Even the sensational midnight ghost tours here in Philadelphia offer valuable learning opportunities to my early American Literature students. The actors approach early American studies in a different way than I do as someone trained in literary studies.

When I learned that ASECS would be held at Historic Williamsburg, I proposed a panel that would theorize genera-

tive intersections between tourists, reneactors and scholars for purely selfish reasons: I wanted to learn more about historical reenactment and living history--an area entirely outside of my own specialty, but one that I valued because of my own childhood and because of my students' enthusiasm. I did not wish to replicate the stereotypes and animosities. Instead, I asked for proposals that would explore bridge building between academics, living history experts, tourists, and scholars. The panel topic hit a nerve. I am, as it turns out, not the only early American literature professor who loves visiting living history sites!

Without embarrassing anyone by name, I was amused by the numerous emails I received from academics "confessing to the delights of living history done well. I received many more proposals than we had room for and the panelists who spoke to us on Saturday morning at ASECS in Williamsburg were true gems.

We started by hearing from two reenactors with nationally recognized experience in living history. Wayne Randolph, a historic farmer reenactor at Colonial Williamsburg, spoke from 30 years of experience. Wayne's wisdom and generosity set the tone for the panel. Michael Twitty, a historian, activist, and food interpreter of African and African American foodways in the American South spoke on race and the untold stories living historians need to tell even though those stories are not always welcome. His talk was interwoven with heartbreaking and hilarious personal vignettes.

Following these two veteran living historians, two graduate students and also reenactors shared their experiences. Sara Harwood spoke on the myriad of challenges she faced as an intern at the witch house museum in Salem, Massachusetts. She explained that the real history and the diversity people of the 1692 witch crisis had been completely digested by commercialism. She shared the value of a single case study as one step toward historical accuracy.

Tyler Putman has been involved with Revolutionary soldier reenactment for years. He spoke on the intersection of history and his experience as a historic tailor and tent maker. His talk combined personal experience with the

digital humanities as he and other tent makers recreated the making of General Washington's tent in front of live streaming web cameras.

Professors Susan Kern and Janet S. Zehr shared their own experiences in the classroom using public history sites in early American history and early American literature classes respectively. Their pedagogical approaches emphasized multiple exposures to living history sites and critical analysis of audience and narratives. One of our main goals was to create space and invitations for conversation and each of the panelists selflessly kept their own presentations to less than 10 minutes so that we all had time to talk with each other and with the audience. What an audience we had! Almost every chair was taken. In response to queries, panelists explored issues of diversity and multiple voices, as well as the practicalities of requiring student participation and scaffolding assignments. The discussion was dynamic and lengthy. The energy in the room codified for me that the intersections between the classroom, tourists, living history, reenactors, academics, and historians are just as--if not more--generative as the teenage Joy found them to be many summers ago near Detroit.

Joy A. J. Howard  
St. Joseph's University



#### SEA at ASECS

“Colloquy on Crèvecoeur’s *Letters from an American Farmer and Other Essays*, ed. Dennis Moore.”



***Society for the Study of American Women Writers***  
 The Society for the Study of American Women Writers was founded in 2000 to promote the study of American women writers through research, teaching, and publication.

***SSAWW Book Award***

The SSAWW Book Award is given every three years at the Society for the Study of American Women Writers’ conference to recognize excellence in the field. The award recognizes the monograph’s significant contribution to scholarship related to American women writers published during the preceding three years before the submission deadline.

**Award:** Certificate, Lifetime Membership to SSAWW, and \$200 to offset travel costs to the conference  
**Eligibility for 2015 award:** Eligible books must contribute to the field of American women writers, have been published between December 2011-November 2014, and mailed to all committee members by the submission deadline, January 1, 2015. Edited collections are not eligible for the award.

**Submission Requirements for 2015 Award:** One copy of each entry along with a 150-250 word summary of the book’s contribution to the field of American women writers must be submitted to the three committee members listed below by January 1, 2015 (postmark date).

A separate notification email should be sent to the chair of the 2015 Book Award (Koritha Mitchell, mitchell.717@osu.edu). In the email please include “SSAWW Book Award” in the subject line and note the entry’s title, publisher, date of publication as well as the author’s email, phone and address so the chair may confirm the individual committee members receive the submission.

**SSAWW Edition Award**

The SSAWW Edition Award is given every three years at the Society for the Study of American Women Writers’ conference to recognize excellence in the recovery of American women writers. The award recognizes an edition published during the preceding three years before the submission deadline.

**Award:** Certificate, Lifetime Membership to SSAWW, and \$200 to offset travel costs to the conference.

**Eligibility for 2015 award:** Eligible books must contribute to the field of American women writers, have been published between December 2011-November 2014, and mailed to all committee members by the submission deadline, January 1, 2015. Print and digital collections are welcome.

**Submission Requirements for 2015 Award:** One copy of each entry along with a 150-250 word summary of the edition’s contribution to the recovery of American women writers must be submitted to the three committee members listed below by January 1, 2015 (postmark date). Digital edition entries should submit the website (and password/access code if the site is not free) and summary via email to each reader by January 1, 2015.

**All entries should be clearly marked “SSAWW Edition Award.”**

A separate notification email should be sent to the chair of the 2015 Edition Award (Terry Novak, Terry.Novak@jwu.edu) noting submission to the “SSAWW Edition Award.” In the email please include “SSAWW Edition Award” in the subject line and note within the text of the email the entry’s title and publisher or website as well as the author’s email, phone and address so the chair may confirm the individual committee members receive the submission.





SSAWW Karen Dandurand Lifetime Achievement Award

The Karen Dandurand Lifetime Achievement Award is given every three years at the Society for the Study of American Women Writers' conference to recognize a scholar's career achievement in the study of American women writers. The award recognizes the individual's commitment to the field as demonstrated in his/her teaching, mentoring of students, scholarship and service..

The award is named in honor of Karen Dandurand, who passed away in 2011. She was one of the founding editors of Legacy and was an active member of SSAWW, serving as Vice President of Development (2004-2009).

**Award:** Lifetime Membership to SSAWW; \$200 to offset travel costs to the conference; and award that bears the inscription, Society for the Study of American Women Writers; Karen Dandurand Lifetime Achievement Award; Recipient's Name; Year of Award.

**Nomination Deadline for 2015 Award:** January 1, 2015

**Nomination Requirements:** Nominations, including self-nominations, should submit a CV and brief (250-500 word) letter of support in one PDF file to the Lifetime Achievement Award Chair (Cherene Sherrard, csherrard@wisc.edu) by January 1, 2015. The award chair will distribute the nominations to the committee members.

For more information about the Society for the Study of American Women Writers please visit:

**SSAWW Website:** <http://ssawwnew.wordpress.com/>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/SSAmWW>

**Twitter:** @SSAWWrS

Forthcoming Conferences

2015 Joint SEA-OIEAHC Conference Chicago: June 18-21, 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 a venue for highlighting these conversations.

The 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. For additional information, see: <http://oieahc.wm.edu/conferences/2015annual/cfp.html>

SEA Council of Officers

Executive Officers, 2012-2013

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Raymond Craig (Bowling Green State University)

**Website:** [http:// www.societyofearlyamericanists.org](http://www.societyofearlyamericanists.org)

**Symposium: Enlightened Powers: American, French and British Interactions in Botany Bay, 1789-1800**  
**September 27, 2014**

Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg and the German Society for Australian Studies (GASt) in cooperation with the Interdisciplinary Centre for European Enlightenment Studies (IZEA) and the Muhlenberg Center for American Studies (MCAS) Keynote Speaker: Prof. Dr. Cassandra Pybus, Sydney University

American whalers, French expeditions and Napoleonic spies, black convicts from Mauritius and the newly independent US, British veterans of the American Revolutionary War, Caribbean rum, Irish rebellions, and British naval law... The elements that contribute towards a larger picture of Australia's first white settlement seem in place already and yet have never been considered in a global focus adequate to the international interests at stake in the late 18th century. This symposium brings together scholars from different disciplines to create a first, synchronic picture of the interactions (and their implications) of these multinational experiences, backgrounds, and interests relevant to the foundation of Australia's convict colony.

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Registration at [http://www.anglistik.uni-halle.de/enlightened\\_powers/](http://www.anglistik.uni-halle.de/enlightened_powers/)

**Western Society of Eighteenth Century Studies**

The annual WSECS meeting will be held in lovely San Luis Obispo, CA on February 13 and 14, 2015. The conference will be organized around the theme of "Race, Gender, and Empire in the Long Eighteenth Century" and will feature a plenary address by Brycchan Carey of Kingston University, London. The CFP can be found on the conference website at: [www.cla.calpoly.edu/wsecs2015](http://www.cla.calpoly.edu/wsecs2015)



*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.*

**SSAWW Triennial Conference: November 4-8, 2015**  
**Philadelphia, PA**

For the 2015 Triennial Conference of the Society for the Study of American Women Writers, the conference organizers welcome proposals on any topic related to the study of American women writers, broadly conceived. With the theme of "Liminal Spaces, Hybrid Lives," the 2015 Triennial SSAWW Conference aims to celebrate the multiplicity of American women's writing across a longstanding literary tradition that continues to be dynamic in contemporary times. The conference theme of liminality and hybridity, and the wide range of implications and meanings that these expansive concepts imply, will facilitate a process of encounters, engagements, and conversations within, between, among, and across the rich polyphony that constitutes the creative acts of American women.

Thus, through a focus on liminality and hybridity, the 2015 SSAWW conference hopes to present the varied ways in which women, as critics, dramatists, educators, essayists, journalists, oral storytellers, poets, novelists, short story writers, and practitioners of both older and emerging forms, invent and reinvent the American literary and cultural landscape.

Submissions are electronic:  
[ssaw2015.submit@gmail.com](mailto:ssaw2015.submit@gmail.com)  
Please see full submission guidelines and panel cfp's on the SSAWW website: <http://ssawwnew.wordpress.com/>  
**Due Date: Tuesday, February 13, 2015 for all proposals.**

**NeMLA 46th Annual Convention: April 30-May 3, 2015, Toronto, Canada**  
**American Women Writers' Path to Publication**

Early American female writers often made their literary debuts in the periodical press, where they would publish poems, articles or contribute to the women's page. Authors who gained some notoriety would eventually put together a collection of their poems or publish their serialized novel as a book. In this session, we propose exploring specific case studies of female authors in the United States, from the mid-nineteenth through the early twentieth centuries, who followed this publishing trajectory.

**Due Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2014**

## Early Americanists

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### Opportunity for Giving

In addition to keeping your SEA membership active, you can contribute to the Society by supporting the Fund to Honor Excellence in Teaching ([http://www.societyofearlyamericanists.org/honored\\_teachers.html](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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2. "Visscher's View of London," 1616; [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:London\\_panorama,\\_1616b.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:London_panorama,_1616b.jpg).
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