



# Early Americanists Newsletter

*A Biannual Publication of the Society of Early Americanists*

## FROM THE SEA PRESIDENT

The older I get, the more I know I need to be attuned to the dangers of professional curmudgeonliness. My upper administration regularly and vocally muses about the need to adopt what some call “disruptive” educational technologies. We are called to flip our classes, to adopt active learning practices (as if they’ve been newly invented), to teach our students to meet “workforce needs,” and even to separate the labor of course development from that of delivery. Our research is criticized for being abstruse, disconnected from the economic engines of our society and not STEMmy enough. Meanwhile the traditional protections, such as tenure, that should be afforded instructors and researchers who experiment in the classroom or in their scholarship, are being whittled away. So I’ve gotten awfully quick to say “no” to change, awfully suspicious of calls to do things differently.

And yet this newsletter is all about change. Gordon Sayre reflects on the ways that he’s shaken up his early American literature survey productively, using historical fiction on film to connect students to the texts and geographies of early America. Laura Stevens’s column notes the ways that the SEA is looking to forge new international connections, an important step for many reasons, but especially in helping U.S.-based scholars recognize the global dimensions of our field.

As I write, we are getting ready for the second joint OIEAHC-SEA meeting in Chicago in June, a meeting that both connects to our past (our first joint meeting was in 2007) and reflects how different our field is from ten or twenty years ago. For instance, in 1999, at the inaugural meeting, we had one panel on Native American topics, three on African-American topics and two concerning women and gender. In 2015, we will have eight panels or workshops on Native American and indigenous work, six on African-American topics and four on women or gender. The shift in panel numbers may seem small, but we should also look to the many papers on Native American, African American or women and gender that are woven throughout the program, appearing in other panels. We also have many more papers being presented on Caribbean and West Indian materials (surely a legacy of the wonderful Bermuda conference, chaired by Tom Krise).

## Inside this Issue . . .

<b>Letter from the SEA President</b>	1-2
<b>Letter from the SEA Vice-President</b>	2-3
<b>Letter from the SEA Executive Coordinator</b>	3-4
<b>Announcements</b>	4
<b>Moore Speaks at Library of Congress</b>	5
<b>Recent and Forthcoming Conference Sessions</b>	6-7
<b>CFPs</b>	8-11
<b>Council of Officers</b>	11
<b>Opportunities for Giving</b>	12
<b>Membership Information</b>	12
<b>Image Index</b>	12



*A View of the Town of Concord* by Ralph Earl, 1775

We seem to have declined a bit in our interest in New Spain or work on traditions other than the English, but I hope that such work will be rekindled by the upcoming SEA-sponsored Anglo-Ibero summit in 2016. In addition to such intellectual shifts, we've made some technological moves. Thanks to Laura Stevens, Joy Howard, Jonathan Field and Nick Miller (with Jonathan Senchyne and Jeremy Dibbel before them), we've taken some tentative steps into social media. And of course, you are reading this newsletter for the first time in electronic form rather than in print. In consultation with our newsletter editor Mary M. Balkun (thank you, Mary!), we've made this change in an effort to trim costs, to be a bit more green and as a first step to what we hope will be a more interactive SEA website with more membership services. Beyond the newsletter, the Executive Committee continues to grapple with our changing membership, our changing field, with new technologies and new paradigms of higher education (some of which I actually do approve). More changes are in store.

Here's an early announcement of one of the most exciting changes: a new series of SEA workshops. When the SEA was founded, it wasn't clear that we could sustain our own, free-standing biennial meetings. Hence our constitution and bylaws link us to the annual meetings of the American Literature Association, which generously offered a home for the fledgling group in its early days. But of course, our biennial meetings have proven extremely successful, and since 2002 we have sponsored smaller, topical meetings. And the numbers at these meetings has grown, to over 120 participants this past July in London. In effect, though we have treated the Anglo-Ibero summits, "Early American Cartographies," "Prophetstown Revisited," "Triumph in My Song" and "London and the Americas" as rather ad-hoc affairs, in practice we have been sponsoring annual meetings since 2002.

The special topics conferences have become so large that it seems to us the time has come to introduce a new gathering for SEA members, and so we will be announcing society-sponsored workshops designed for fewer participants, on topics that are more specific, more experimental, even more timely. The smaller scope of such meetings will, we hope, allow our members to collaborate together on new work rather than only to present their individual research. At our business meeting in Chicago, we will be discussing a formal process for proposing either special-topics meetings or workshops in the future. We'll be taking up possible revisions to our Bylaws and Constitution to better reflect the state of our society, we'll be offering you a preview of our next biennial conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma in 2017, which will chaired by our incoming president Laura Stevens, and we'll be welcoming Patrick Erben to the position of Executive Coordinator. If you are attending the Chicago meeting, please do come to the business meeting, set for first thing Sunday morning (the coffee

is on order!). And if you are attending the meeting, I hope that the mix of sessions that will bring together SEA and Omohundro speakers and disciplinary approaches proves stimulating.

Finally, a word of thanks to the membership for your enthusiasm and support over the years that I have served as an officer, and to Susan Imbarrato, Hilary Wyss, Laura Stevens and Gordon Sayre, who have been such wonderful partners in the work. I have been honored to be a member of this society, which has nurtured me intellectually and collegially since my most junior of junior scholar years. Whatever the changes that we have experienced and that are to come, I know that officers and members alike are committed to retaining the quality of scholarship and the generosity of spirit that has characterized our exchanges and gatherings since our inception.

**Kristina Bross, SEA President**

## **FROM THE SEA VICE-PRESIDENT**

### **The International Abstracts Initiative**

We may live in a global economy, but in many ways the parameters of scholarship are still nationally or continentally defined. This fact has grown upon my awareness over the past few years, especially when I have had the opportunity to attend early American studies conferences outside the United States. Certainly we have listservs, social networking platforms, digital humanities projects, and online forms of publication, all of which facilitate conversations in a truly international space. To a large extent, though, scholarly conversations are still directed by what persons are physically present in a conference session room, or what publications are materially at hand. Attending conferences outside America consistently startles me with an awareness of the rich array of work being done in my field, work of which I have not been aware. This is sometimes because the work is not being written in English, but also because Anglophone scholarly publications from outside the U.S. are not always easily available inside the U.S. for subscription or purchase.

Over the past year the SEA Executive Committee has been brainstorming about ways in which we can bridge some of the divides that exist among early Americanists in North America and abroad. Over the next year we have decided to launch an initiative to collect and distribute to our members annual abstracts of scholarly publications on early American studies from outside the U.S. The basic idea is that we hope to distribute to our members brief summaries in English of publications in our field from countries outside the United States.

This will help foster awareness in the United States of early American scholarship taking place abroad, perhaps providing a basis for international communications and collaborations. Initially we will be distributing the abstracts by pdf over email to SEA members. In the future we hope to be able to post the abstracts behind a members-only wall on the Society of Early Americanists' web site.

The international abstracts initiative will of necessity develop gradually, country by country, through international collaboration. For our first year of this project, 2015, Oliver Scheiding, Chair of American Studies at Johannes Gutenberg Universität in Mainz, Germany, and a stalwart SEA member, will be overseeing the collection of abstracts of early Americanist scholarship published in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. We are very grateful to him and his team at Johannes Guttenberg Universität for their willingness to work with us in this initiative. Going forward, we look forward to branching out to other countries, most likely starting first with our colleagues in the European Early American Studies Association. Stay tuned, then, for your first set of international abstracts of early American scholarship.

**Laura M. Stevens, SEA Vice-President**



#### FROM THE SEA EXECUTIVE COORDINATOR

At the University of Oregon we have seen a steep decline in the number of undergraduate majors in literature and humanities subjects. Six years ago English was among the five most popular majors, but it now trails Economics, Human Physiology, and several science disciplines. The trend might be attributed to pre-professional ambitions, but another factor has been the creation of new majors in Folklore, where I also teach, and in Cinema Studies. Cinema courses were taught in English for many years, until the creation of the Cinema Studies major in 2010. Now it graduates hundreds of students each spring.

I have no training in film studies, but I've learned the catchphrase "if you can't beat 'em, join 'em." In our English department curriculum, American Literature to 1800 is the one regular course in my specialty. However, I struggled with the course when I taught it as a survey using an anthology. Students at Oregon have little familiarity with colonial American literature and history. They lack the exposure to historic buildings and local histories that give people in Eastern and Southern locales a connection to seventeenth and eighteenth-century literature and history.

And because I included on my syllabus many texts translated from French, Spanish, and German, as well as Anglophone New England and Virginia, the shifting settings, eras, and nations left my students cramming names, titles, and places for the exams, rather than thinking about the rhetorical and literary features of the readings.

So for 2010 I redesigned the course as "Early American Literature through Film." Students watch five movies produced in the last 20 years: *Cabeza de Vaca*, *Black Robe*, *Pocahontas*, *Jefferson in Paris*, and *Amazing Grace*. I selected readings for each of the five units that included textual sources used to create the screenplays, such as Thomas Jefferson's *Autobiography* and excerpts from the *Jesuit Relations* of the 1630s that Australian author Brian Moore used in writing the novel *Black Robe*. The new course is much more successful at engaging students with early American literature. Whereas most had no prior exposure to the genres of colonial missionary relations, promotional tracts, or conversion narratives, they know the conventions of the Hollywood historical costume drama and the Disney princess tale.

The biopic about William Wilberforce, *Amazing Grace*, inspires classroom debates on how evangelical moralism relates to human rights discourse in Equiano's and Gronniosaw's *Narratives*. Nearly all the students watched Disney's *Pocahontas* as children, and they are fascinated to see how James Nelson Barker's 1808 musical drama, *The Indian Princess*, follows a similar plot, and uses Irish characters for comic relief, much as Disney uses the animals Flit, Percy, and Miko. I also encourage students to examine the James Ivory papers in our library's Special Collections, which includes boxes of documents from the screenplay and production of *Jefferson in Paris*. Ivory, a native of Klamath Falls, Oregon, set the standard for prestigious historical dramas, and in that film anticipated the controversy over Sally Hemmings that intensified with the research of Annette Gordon-Reed.

How many SEA members use films in courses on early America? Our colleague Ed Gallagher of Lehigh has created (in addition to his marvelous Pocahontas archive) a list of films about early America. Among more than 150 titles on his list, it's remarkable to find more from the 1910s and 1950s than from the 1990s when he began compiling the list. The era of colonial revival in the U.S. coincided with the development of silent film to create a flood of heroic and patriotic pictures, and the heyday of the Western brought another wave. I find most powerful, however, the non-Hollywood films such as Werner Herzog's *Aguirre, The Wrath of God*, Nelson Pereira Dos Santos' *How Tasty was my Little Frenchman*, and Nicolas Echevarria's *Cabeza de Vaca*.

Those movies depict the fear and marvel of encounters where Europeans and Natives could not communicate, and the sublime power of swamp and desert landscapes. The sense of wonder I felt in reading colonial exploration narratives my students can best absorb from seeing such films on the big screen.

**Gordon Sayre, SEA Executive Coordinator**

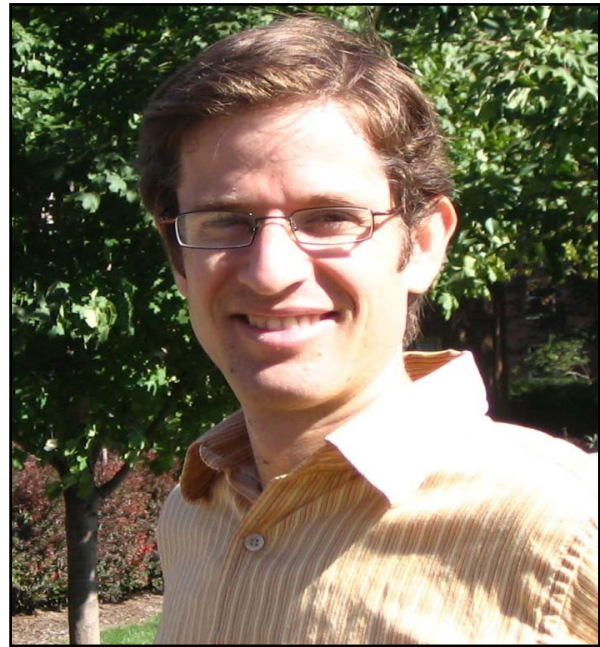


**Announcements**

**NEW SEA EXECUTIVE COORDINATOR  
ELECTED**



The Society of Early Americanists is pleased to announce the election of Patrick Erben, Associate Professor of English at the University of West Georgia, as Executive Coordinator of the Society. Prof. Erben is a specialist in the German-language literatures of early America, and the history of pietist Protestant communities in the Atlantic world. He is the author of *A Harmony of the Spirits: Translation and the Language of Community in Early Pennsylvania* (21012), and an edition of the writings of the German-American polymath Francis Daniel Pastorius, forthcoming from Penn State University Press. Patrick will serve a two-year term, 2015-17, as Executive Coordinator, then as Vice President, 2017-19, and as President, 2019-21. Please join us in congratulating Patrick. We all look forward to working with him to build our organization, and host yet more stimulating conferences, over the next six years.



The sixteenth annual SEA Essay prize has been awarded to Steven W. Thomas. Steven will be awarded for his essay “The Circum-Atlantic Surrogation of Ethiopia in the London Public Sphere,” at the 2015 SEA Conference in Chicago. Steven teaches American Literature at Wagner College, where he is currently the director of their Film and Media minor.

**Advertising Transatlantic Publications**

If you would like to announce new publications with a transatlantic focus, our team at [Teachingtransatlanticism.tcu.edu](http://Teachingtransatlanticism.tcu.edu) would be happy to publicize your scholarship on our new website for transatlantic studies. Please send the publication information to: [teachingtransatlanticism@gmail.com/](mailto:teachingtransatlanticism@gmail.com/)

In the body of the email, please include a link to the press's page about the book along with a jpeg image of the book cover. We will post these in the order in which we receive them. Please limit your email to 150 words. Teaching Transatlanticism is a collaborative space for sharing resources on transatlantic literary culture, from teaching materials, discussion forums, and news of upcoming books, conferences, or events. We are excited to include the voices of colleagues from around the world who share our interests in transatlantic teaching.

A new book, *Teaching Transatlanticism*, is due out in the next few weeks from Edinburgh University Press, distributed in the US by Oxford University Press.

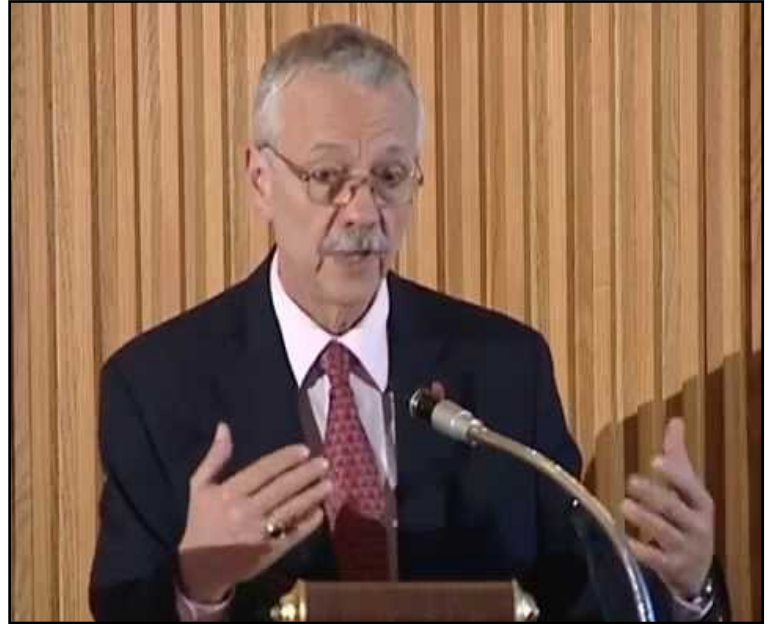
## Moore Gives Talk at Library of Congress

On November 22, 2014, at the Books and Beyond Event, co-sponsored by the Center for the Book and Manuscript Division, Dennis Moore presented a lecture on his new edition of Crèvecoeur's *Letters from an American Farmer*. The new reader combines the 12 original letters with 13 other essays written by Crèvecoeur. Dennis has been kind enough to provide us with a short essay on his experience presenting in Washington D.C.:

It was an honor to return to the Library of Congress in November 2013 to give a presentation in the occasional "Books and Beyond" series that the Center for the Book stages. It was especially fitting that the LofC's Manuscript Division co-sponsored this presentation: as many readers of the SEA Newsletter well know, the treasures that the Library of Congress stores at its Manuscript Division include Crèvecoeur's holograph manuscript that contains the pieces he published, in London in 1782, as *Letters from an American Farmer*. My recent collection *Letters from an American Farmer and Other Essays*, in the John Harvard Library, builds on the work I'd done at the Manuscript Division, crafting my 1995 book *More Letters* (whose subtitle refers to "the essays in English left unpublished by Crèvecoeur"), as well as considerable work since then.

A number of us early Americanists were gathering in D.C. that weekend for the American Studies Association's annual conference. While many SEAN readers know that the A.S.A. is, if anything, hyper-presentist, its growing list of subgroups includes the Early American Matters Caucus, whose working committee includes Paul Erickson of the American Antiquarian Society -- who had generously agreed to introduce my talk -- and half a dozen other tireless colleagues. Our work consists of helping nudge our fellow early Americanists into participating in A.S.A. conferences, sometimes with panels that link the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries to the twentieth and twenty-first. Hmmmmm, thinking ahead, here's hoping we'll see a session on the play "Hamilton" on the A.S.A.'s program before too long! Meanwhile, I thank Mary Balkun for giving me the link to the tape that the Library of Congress made of this presentation; having watched it for the first time here in early March 2015, I recall that I couldn't resist mentioning the major exhibition, in Washington that month, marking the 500th anniversary of *The Prince*, given that one of Crèvecoeur's narrators -- who obviously isn't the bumpkin Farmer James -- mentions that "Machiavelli's principles seem the only ones that are followed. . . ."

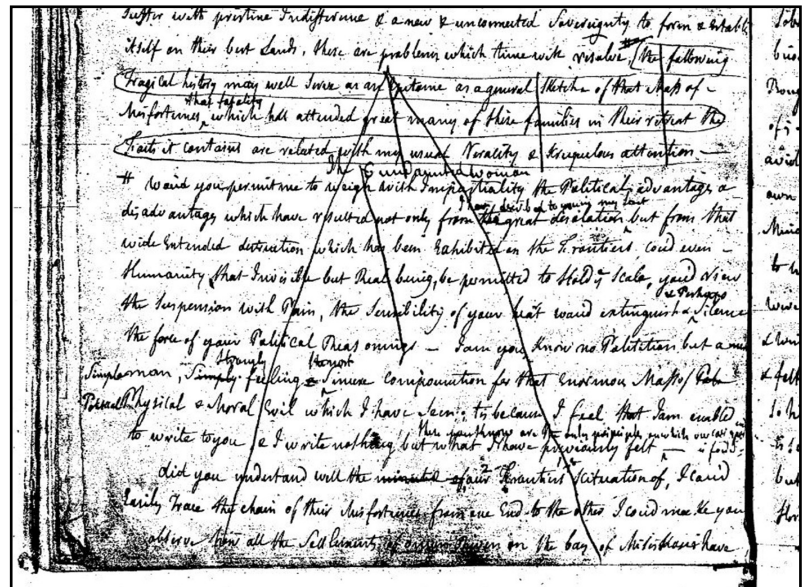
**Dennis Moore**  
**Florida State University**



Dennis Moore presenting at the Library of Congress

You can find a video and transcript of Moore's lecture at:

[http://www.loc.gov/today/cyberlc/feature\\_wdesc.php?rec=6533](http://www.loc.gov/today/cyberlc/feature_wdesc.php?rec=6533)



A page from the Crèvecoeur manuscript in the Library of Congress

## Early American Sessions at MLA 2015

Early American themes and topics were the focus of the following panels at this year's MLA Conference in Chicago, IL, January 7—11, 2015. Sessions were arranged by the Division on American Literature to 1800.

### Colonial Soundings: Music and Memory

Presiding: Kathleen Donegan, Univ. of California, Berkeley

"Hell's Bells: Uncanny Transatlantic Jinglyings," Jennifer Linhart Wood, George Washington Univ.

"The Registers of Revival: Hearing Roger Williams's *A Key into the Language of America*," Nicole Gray, Univ. of Nebraska, Lincoln

"Dancing the Plantation: The Early Caribbean Feedback Loop," Sarah Jessica Johnson, Univ. of California, Berkeley

"Epistemic Geographies at Ebo Landing," Thomas Bonneau Hallock, Univ. of South Florida

### Atlantic Empiricisms

Presiding: Monique Allewaert, Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison

"Colonizing Empiricism: The Morphology of Pain in American Puritanism," Lucas Hardy, Youngstown State Univ.

"Plantation Ecologies: James Grainger's *The Sugar-Cane* and the Rise of the Experimental Plantation," Britt Rusert, Univ. of Massachusetts, Amherst

"Swamp Georgic: Personification and Vitality in the Eighteenth-Century Carolinas," Christopher Loar, Western Washington Univ.

"'Sensory Qualia as the Objects of Our Inquiry': Cybernetics beyond Racial Liberalism's Fold" Michael Litwack, Brown University

### Here and After: Periodization and American Literary Studies

Presiding: Ivy Wilson, Northwestern Univ.

"Paine and Sieyès," R. C. De Prospo, Washington Coll. of Maryland

"From the Residual to the Emergent: Periodization in Henry James's *Hawthorne*," Diana Hope Polley, Southern New Hampshire Univ.

"The Value of Old Criticism: Periodization and *Passé Critique*," James E. Dobson, Dartmouth Coll.

## Forthcoming: The SEA at ASECS 2015

The SEA is hosting two panels at this year's ASECS Conference in Los Angeles, CA, March 19—21, 2015.

### "Interrogating Methodologies in Eighteenth Century Americanist" Scholarship" (Roundtable)

Chair: Joy A.J. Howard, New Jersey University

"Material Culture Studies, the Pennsylvania I-House and Brown's *Wieland*," Erin Sweeney, University of California, Irvine

"Significant Otherness: Companianality in American Frontier Narratives," Jillian Sayre, Rutgers University, Camden

"Confluences of Power: Using Microhistory to Trace Dynamic Geographies of Power in the Northern Trans-Appalachian West, 1765," Andrew Dyrli Hermeling, Lehigh University

"Encoding the Eighteenth Century Transatlantic World: TEI and the Early Caribbean Digital Archive," Liz Polcha, Northeastern University

"The Ingenious Diversity of Fiction: Fictionality, Historical Poetics, and the Limits of Novel History in Americanist Literary Studies," Thomas Koenigs, Scripps College

"Mapping William Hill Brown's Intellectual Network," David Lawrimore, University of Florida

### Colloquy with Hilary Wyss on *English Letters and Indian Literacies* (Roundtable)

- Dennis Moore, Florida State University
- Kevin Berland, Pennsylvania State University
- Andrew Newman, Stonybrook University
- Dan Rados, Cornell University
- Marie Taylor, Purdue University
- Joanne Van der Woude, University of Groningen
- Hilary Wyss, Auburn University



Herman Moll's *To the Right Honourable John Lord Somers... This Map of North America according to ye Newest and most Exact observations*

**Indigenous Atlantic**

Presiding: Sarah Rivett, Princeton Univ.

“The Mythology of Empty Seas and Columbian First Contact: Recovering Alternative Early Histories through Native American Oral Traditions,” Annette Kolodny, Univ. of Arizona

“The Agony and the Ecstasy: Transatlantic Accounting of Native Women's Christianity,” Caroline Wigginton, Univ. of Mississippi

“Indigenous Atlantic Discourses of Universal Justice,” Yael Ben-zvi, Ben-Gurion Univ.

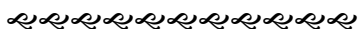
Responding: Scott Richard Lyons, Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor

**SEA NINTH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE**

The Society of Early Americanists Ninth Biennial Conference will be held jointly with the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture in Chicago, June 18-21, 2015. The program is being circulated now, and we are especially pleased to see the mix of disciplines and topics in the panels. Be sure to check out the slate of workshops scheduled for Thursday afternoon, June 18. These are designed to be interactive, productive sessions led by experts in the field. Topics will range from material culture to Native American visual culture, to editing to pedagogy as represented by the “Just Teach One” project. The workshops are going to be limited to 20-25 participants, and you’ll have the chance to register for them on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information about the conference, please visit the conference website:

<http://oieahc.wm.edu/conferences/2015annual/general.html>



**Forthcoming: The SEA at ALA 2015**

The Society of Early Americanists will be sponsoring the following sessions at the American Literature Association meeting, May 21-24, 2015, in Boston, MA.

**Translation in Early America**

Session 9-C, Friday, May 22, 11:10-12:30, St. George C

Chair: Patrick M. Erben, University of West Georgia

“Native Languages and ‘Religion Exemplified in the Life of Poor Sarah,’” Theresa Strouth Gaul, Texas Christian University

“Translating Red: Josiah Francis’s Self-Portrait,” Christopher Packard, New York University

“Inventing the Critical Edition: Christian Jacob Hütter, Printer of Translations,” Len von Morzé, University of Massachusetts Boston

**Imagining Urban Identity in Early America**

Session 14-B, Saturday, May 23, 8:00-9:30, St. George B

Chair: Leslie Eckel, Suffolk University

“Late Puritan Writers and the Increasingly Urbanized Environment of Massachusetts,” Katharine Campbell, University of California Santa Barbara

“‘The Next in Rank to Human Race’: The Foreign Beasts in Early American Almanacs,” Matt DiCintio, Tufts University

“Urbane Seamen: Maritime Culture and Problems of Urbanity,” Dan Walden, Baylor University

“*Edgar Huntly* and the Paxton Riots,” Will Fenton, Fordham University

**Teaching Early American Writing in Comparative Contexts**

Session 17-A, Saturday, May 23, 12:40-2:00, St. George A

Chair: Len von Morzé, University of Massachusetts Boston

“‘Yet Shall We Never Be Manifested and Made Known unto Any Man’: Secret Societies, Hidden Knowledge, and Mazy Paths in the Transatlantic Literature Course,” Patrick M. Erben, University of West Georgia

“William Billings’s ‘Chester’: Contexts and Resonances,” Charles E. Brewer, The Florida State University

“Adaptation in the American Literature Classroom,” Kelli Purcell O’Brien, University of Memphis

*Forthcoming Conferences cont'd.*

**2015 American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Conference, Los Angeles, 19–21 March 2015**

This year's ASECS Conference will be taking place in Los Angeles at The Westin Bonaventure. Special sessions include "Liberate the Text" - While Creating a Peer Reviewed, Published Digital Edition" from 8:00am-5:00pm on Wednesday, March 18, and "Wikipedia Edit-a-Thon, in Honor of Adrienne Wadewitz" from 12:00pm—8:00pm.

Final Registration Date: March 7, 2015.

**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.*

**Calls for Papers: MLA 2016**

The Executive Committee for Division of American Literature to 1800 invites submissions to the following calls for papers for the 2016 MLA Convention in Austin, Texas.

**Re-Approaching the Survey Course**

Proposals invited for MLA roundtable session (Austin, TX; January 2016) on innovative approaches to teaching literature surveys. Papers may encompass the practical (e.g., syllabus design, teaching strategies, assignments/assessment), the institutional (i.e., ways of introducing curricular innovation), and/or the theoretical (i.e., on place of the survey course in our curricula and the discipline). 250-page abstracts and brief CV to ([dujardin@queensu.ca](mailto:dujardin@queensu.ca)) by March 15.

**Before the Declaration: Happiness in Early America**

How did early Americans of various ethnic, religious, or socio-political backgrounds imagine and experience personal and collective happiness? CV; 300-word abstract by 15 March 2015: Patrick Erben ([perben@westga.edu](mailto:perben@westga.edu)).

**The Walking Dead: Unquiet Spirits in Early**

**America:** Spirits, specters, zombies, apparitions, ancestors, disembodied voices: across "New World" cultures, how did ghosted forms bespeak coloniality? CV; 300-word abstract by 15 March 2015: Kathleen Donegan ([kdonegan@berkeley.edu](mailto:kdonegan@berkeley.edu)).

**Linguistics and Translation in Early America**

Cross-cultural communication, literacies, knowledge, and indigenous adaptations. What shapes language and translation in the Americas from 1492 – 1836? CV; 300-word abstracts by 15 March 2015: Sarah Rivett ([srivett@princeton.edu](mailto:srivett@princeton.edu))

**Reexamining New World Encounters: where do we go from here?**

A panel introducing new theoretical perspectives, untapped archives, and cross-disciplinary methodologies in the study of cross-cultural encounter in the early Americas. CV; 300-word abstract by 13 March 2015: Ralph Bauer ([bauerr@umd.edu](mailto:bauerr@umd.edu)) and Matt Cohen ([matt.cohen@utexas.edu](mailto:matt.cohen@utexas.edu)).

[n.b.: This is a collaborative panel jointly sponsored by the Division of American Literature to 1800 and the Division of Comparative Studies in Renaissance and Baroque Literature.]

**MLA Special Session: Rhetorics of De/Humanization**

This special session investigates the role language and discourse play in dehumanization, the psychological process by which we view other peoples as "less than" or sub-human. In *Less Than Human: Why We Demean, Enslave, and Exterminate Others* (2011), philosopher David Livingstone Smith argues that systemic violence, including slavery, genocide, and colonization, are all predicated on dehumanization. Processes of dehumanization "decommission" our moral inhibitions against harming other humans and neutralize moral and legal sanctions against violence. Research suggests that humans' tendency to dehumanize members of outgroups is rooted in our innate cognitive architecture. But dehumanization is not merely cognitive: it is rhetorical. That is, how and in what contexts we grant and deny individuals and groups their humanity is mediated through language and representation.

This special session seeks to examine the role of language, literature, and visual culture in perpetuating dehumanization or subverting dehumanized tropes. Papers may offer theoretical approaches or focus on literary case studies from any historical period.

Questions papers might address include:

- How is humanness mediated through language and/or visual culture?
- How have literature and/or visual texts created, modified, or denied human subjecthood?
- What is the relationship between representation and dehumanization in distinct cultural and historical contexts?
- What role do rhetorics of dehumanization play in creating or mitigating intercultural conflict?
- How do dehumanized tropes continue to reverberate in contemporary representations of people of color?

Please submit 300-word abstracts by March 15th to Mary-Catherine Harrison: ([mc.harrison@udmercy.edu](mailto:mc.harrison@udmercy.edu)).

**Edited Collection:  
EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY CROSSOVERS:  
GENDER, GENRE, GEOGRAPHY**

Our proposed collection aims to explore the meanings of crossover in the eighteenth century. The concept of crossover grew out of the uneasy reconciliation between the era's belief in the absoluteness of taxonomical categories and its paradoxical insistence on the potential malleability and manipulability of the same. Sweeping changes in the cultural scene challenged the seeming discreteness between conceptual kinds, and unleashed the possibility of transcending boundaries of all sorts. For instance, the spurt of popular interest in humanoid automata (Jaquet-Droz's *The Writer* and Kemplen's *The Turk*), animalistic humans (the natural man, the freak, or wild children) and anthropomorphic animals (talking parrots, the Ourang-Outang, or horses with human-like intellect such as the Houyhnhnms in Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*) was part of larger intellectual debates about the hybridity, blending, and dissolving of physical categories.

Interestingly, rather than confining the term to corporeal transformations alone, the eighteenth-century opened out the interpretive possibilities of the idea by applying it to other cultural discourses as well. Transgression of gender norms, blurring of generic types, and traversing of geographical boundaries were quite prolific, and have begun to attract scholarly attention across disciplines in recent years. An examination of the representations of such 'crossing over' during 1700 – 1800 thus can offer a new perspective for interrogating and upholding the limits of essentialist classificatory schemas. We seek papers from academics interested in discussing eighteenth-century texts or cultural moments that cross gender, generic and geographical borders.

Possible topics may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Gender: women crossing the private-public divide (professional writers, teachers, stage actresses, musicians, shop-girls, prostitutes); new masculine identities such as fops and the 'man of feeling'; homosexuals in Molly houses (Mother Clap's) and cross-dressers (Mary Hamilton, Fielding's *The Female Husband*); bluestockings, femme fatales, and Amazons

- Genre: mixing of realism, horror and romance in Gothic literature; ballad operas (Gay's *The Beggar's Opera*); interplay between verbal and visual in fiction (Sterne's *Tristram Shandy*) and antislavery writings; epistolary novels; science fiction; mock-epics; urban eclogues and georgics; texts combining poetry, prose and engravings (Blake's *Marriage of Heaven and Hell*); essays metamorphosing into periodicals (*Tatler/Spectator*)
- Geography: transnational mobilities (emigrants, explorers, missionaries, merchants, slaves, mercenary soldiers); the Grand Tour; notions of noble savage and 'going native'; intra-national journeys by post chaise, stagecoaches, wagons, mail coaches; peregrinating picares (Defoe's *Moll Flanders*, Smollett's *Roderick Random*); nomadic gypsies; literary forms moving across national borders (French melodrama, Italian opera); theatre companies travelling on regular circuits between markets and towns

Please send an abstract of about five hundred words, along with a brief bio-note to Sonia Sahoo ([soniasahoo25@gmail.com](mailto:soniasahoo25@gmail.com)) and Ramit Samaddar ([ramitsamaddar@gmail.com](mailto:ramitsamaddar@gmail.com)) before March 31, 2015.



*THE REPEAL, or the Funeral Procession, of MISS AMERIC-STAMP*

**Special Issue of *Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature: Women, Girls, and Young Adult Literature***

We invite manuscripts that examine women and girls as characters, creators, and consumers of young adult novels, poems, comic books, and other written materials oriented primarily to a youth or adolescent audience. These articles should be engaged with the overlap between this topic and the traditional purview of *Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature*: women and writing, explicating the specific links between the woman writer and her work. This collection of articles will interrogate the place of young adult literature in feminist literary history, and ideally it will address the category of young adult literature capaciously, ranging widely across chronology, geography, and genre.

Of particular interest will be essays that consider the following topics or themes:

- The expansion of genres such as detective fiction, science fiction, fantasy, gothic, and romance
- The impact of this literature on the conceptualization of youth and adulthood, including the popularity of youth-oriented materials among adult women and the growth of "new adult" fiction as an emergent marketing category
- The intersection of femaleness with race, nationality, ethnicity, disability, or religion
- Fandom, fan fiction, and media responses to both
- Depictions of non-normative, transitional, or non-binary genders and sexualities
- Treatments of romance, friendship, rivalry, sex, or homosocial networks
- Constructions of maleness and masculinity
- Female heroism, victimhood, pleasure, adventure
- Feminist optimism, dread, or cynicism as expressed in young women's stories
- Female bodies: their celebration, invasion, objectification, control
- Censorship, controversy, condescension: policing the young and/or female reader

Initial queries and abstracts are encouraged, though final acceptance will be determined by the completed essay. Essays should be 6000-8000 words (excluding footnotes and bibliography), should conform to the 16th edition of the *Chicago Manual of Style*, and should be submitted in Microsoft Word. Please submit essays through email by October 1, 2015 to ([tswl@utulsa.edu](mailto:tswl@utulsa.edu)).

**Utopia & the End of the City**  
**16th Annual International Conference of the European Utopian Studies Society**  
**July 1 - 4, 2015, Newcastle University, UK.**  
<http://conferences.ncl.ac.uk/utopianstudies/>

Confirmed plenary speakers include Annette Giesecke (Delaware), Ruth Levitas (Bristol) and Mark Shucksmith (Newcastle).

“Man ceased to be a wild animal only when he built the first wall” (Yevgeny Zamyatin, *We*).

The End of the City can be understood in at least three ways: as its boundary, as its demise, or as a question about its purpose. An ever greater proportion of the world's growing population is urban. As its physical and social limits expand, the city can seem endless, intruding into every aspect of global life. At the same time, its ends or functions – social, political, affective, cultural – become more multi-faceted and harder to pin down. The fortunes of individual cities rise and fall on waves of global capital and shifts in the material infrastructures of world economies. And the voracious growth of the urban also invites us to re-examine the meanings of the natural beyond city-country and nature-culture binaries. Utopian studies offers a wealth of approaches for thinking and re-thinking the dilemmas and desires of an urban age, for exploring what is next for - or after - the city.

The 2015 USS Conference is dedicated to exploring these issues and their relationship to utopian thought, theory and practice. Newcastle-Upon-Tyne in the Northeast of England is uniquely situated to consider the city and its end(s). Hadrian's wall, the ruins of which pass through Newcastle, demarcated the limit of the Roman Empire and apparent civilization, an idea that continues to shape conceptions of inclusion and exclusion in Britain and elsewhere. The modern boundaries of Newcastle include urban pastureland where city and country slip into each other, a slippage also felt in the city's proximity to the coast and some of England's most remote countryside. Newcastle has seen its world-famous shipyards, coalmines and even its Newcastle Brown Ale brewery close – but industrial production continues alongside urban regeneration schemes and dreams of reframing Newcastle in the image of entrepreneurialism and spectacle. Newcastle's urban limits are fuzzy, its future is uncertain, and there are many questions to be asked about what and who urban regeneration might be for. We hope this rich context will stimulate a wide range of speculations about possible pasts, presents and futures for cities, natures and communities.

We particularly encourage proposals relating to this theme, but welcome proposals on any other aspect of the utopian tradition in its broadest sense from all fields of research

and practice. We warmly invite creative suggestions for presentation formats as well as proposals for:

- 20-minute papers on research or practice: Please submit a 250 word abstract
- Research posters: Please submit a 250 word abstract
- Closed panels of 3 papers by named contributors: Please submit a proposal comprising a brief outline of the panel theme, the panel chair, abstracts and authors for three papers.
- Alternative modes of enquiry and presentation not indicated above.

Final closing date for paper, closed panel proposals, and posters is March 15, 2015. Please send all proposals and correspondence to [utopian.studies@newcastle.ac.uk](mailto:utopian.studies@newcastle.ac.uk)

### Literature and Its Publics: Past, Present, and Future

The theme "Literature and Its Publics" invites us to consider the face of all of our objects of attention—not only literature and other kinds of texts but film, digital media, and rhetoric—and to consider our indispensable role in bringing texts and their audiences together. Papers and presentations might reflect on the current public status of literature and other kinds of texts in our society; address the nature of public reception according to period, genre, author, or otherwise; or imagine different futures.

The English Graduate Organization (E.G.O.) at the University of North Florida is pleased to announce a call for abstracts for the Spring 2015 conference, which will be held on April 20th in the UNF Student Union Ballroom 3703 from 6p.m. to 9p.m.

EGO welcomes papers and presentations from all areas within the field of English. Abstracts should be approximately 200 words, and presentations should be no longer than 10 - 12 minutes. Please email your submissions to ([unfego@gmail.com](mailto:unfego@gmail.com)) no later than April 8, 2015. In the email, please state whether you will be presenting a "paper" or a "work-in-progress." Remove all identifying markers on the abstract itself, which should be attached as a word.doc to the email.



Philadelphia, Charles P. Varle, 1802



Last October, SEA executive officers Kristina Bross (left) and Laura Stevens (right) were honored to represent early Americanists at a conference, "Obama and Transnational American Studies," at Johannes Gutenberg University in Mainz, Germany, hosted by Alfred Hornung and stalwart SEA member Oliver Scheiding (center).

### SEA Council of Officers

#### Executive Officers, 2013-2014

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

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

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

#### Advisory Officers:

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

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

Assistant: Kaitlin Tonti

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

EARAM-L Moderator:  
Raymond Craig (Bowling Green State University)  
[racraig@bgsu.edu](mailto:racraig@bgsu.edu)

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

## Early Americanists

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

### Opportunity for Giving

In addition to keeping your SEA membership active, you can contribute to the Society by contributing to 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>.

### IMAGE INDEX

1. *A View of the Town of Concord* by Ralph Earl, 1775: image courtesy of <http://connecticuthistory.org/ralph-earl-portrait-of-an-early-american-artist/>
2. "A Map of Lewis and Clark's Track," image courtesy of <http://www.lunacommons.org/>
3. Patrick Erben, image courtesy of Steven Broom.
4. Steven W. Thomas, image courtesy of Steven Thomas.
5. Dennis Moore, image and video link courtesy of The Library of Congress, [http://www.loc.gov/today/cyberlc/feature\\_wdesc.php?rec=6533](http://www.loc.gov/today/cyberlc/feature_wdesc.php?rec=6533)
6. *A page from the Crèvecoeur MS in the Library of Congress*, image courtesy of Dennis Moore.
7. *To the Right Honourable John Lord Sommers... his Map of North America according to ye Newest and most Exact observations by Herman Moll*, image courtesy of <http://enfilade18thc.com/asecs-2015-los-angeles/>
8. *THE REPEAL, or the Funeral Procession, of MISS AMERIC STAMP*, image courtesy of The John Carter Brown Library, <http://jcb.lunaimaging.com/>
9. *Philadelphia, Charles P. Varle, 1802*, courtesy of David Rumsey Map Collection, <http://www.davidrumsey.com/maps5482.html/>
10. Kristina Bross, Laura Stevens, and Oliver Scheiding, image courtesy of Laura Stevens.

