

SEAN

The Society of Early Americanists Newsletter



THE SOCIETY OF EARLY
AMERICANISTS

From the SEA President

Greetings, fellow early Americanists, and congratulations to us, the Society of Early Americanists, on the 30th Anniversary of our founding in this year of 2022!

I begin my first column as SEA president in this anniversary year with a bitter-sweet announcement. After many years of invaluable service, Susan Imbarrato has informed us that she will be stepping down as SEA Webmaster this summer in order to devote her full attention to her new position as chair of the English Department at Minnesota State University, Moorhead, effective July 1st. Susan has continuously served as SEA webmaster since 2006 and, in 2017, collaborated with then-SEA Vice-President Gordon Sayre and the design firm Webstix to upgrade and redesign the [site](#) in a WordPress format. (The SEA website had originally been designed by Michael Clark in 1994 and launched in 1995).

In her capacity as webmaster, Susan has also continuously served on the SEA Advisory Committee. Already before taking on the role as general webmaster, Susan had been serving as coordinator for the webpages “[Current and Forthcoming Publications](#)” (1996-present) and “[Teaching Early American Topics](#)” (2003-present). Last but not least, Susan served on the SEA’s Executive Committee from 2005-2011, culminating with her tenure as SEA President from 2009-2011. Please join me in thanking Susan for her enormous service as webmaster and as an officer in the SEA’s governance during all these years, as well as for the dedication, meticulousness, and thoughtfulness with which has performed those substantial duties.

We wish her the best of luck in her new role as department chair and will continue to appreciate her as an active member of our organization and the early Americanist community.

A formal call for (self-) nominations for a new webmaster will be announced soon, and the search will be coordinated by the SEA Advisory Committee. We aim to have a new webmaster in place by this summer, and Susan has graciously agreed to assist with the transition.

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Susan Imbarrato

As already announced on our EARAM-L listserv last September, Dr. Cathy Rex (University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire) has assumed the SEA office as our listserv moderator. Cathy is a Professor of English, as well as of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, specializing in the study of race and gender in early America, Early American texts by and about women and Native American writers, as well as American material and visual culture. In her role as SEA listserv moderator, Cathy will also become a standing member of our Advisory Committee. Please join me in welcoming Cathy in her new role as EARAM-L listserv moderator!



Cathy Rex



Ray Craig

Let me also take this opportunity to thank Dr. Raymond Craig (Bowling Green State University) for his long-term service as the founding editor of the EARAM-L listserv, which has been in operation for almost thirty years. After it was launched in 1992, it quickly grew to ca. 80 subscribers by 1994 and has over 1000 subscribers today. Thank you, Ray, for the many years of invaluable service to the Early Americanist Community! I also would like to thank our ex-president Dr. Laura Stevens (University of Tulsa), who has been serving as EARAM-L listserv co-moderator in more recent years. Thank you Laura!

We also would like to thank Leonard von Morzé (U Mass Boston), who will be cycling out as our liaison to the American Literatures Associate (ALA) after more than two terms

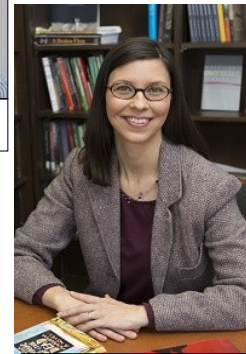
of service. In order to see us through this transition, Len has graciously agreed to extend his service by a few months and coordinate the SEA-sponsored panels at the upcoming ALA [Annual Conference](#) in Chicago (26-29 May), while our new ALA liaison, Melissa Adams-Campbell (Northern Illinois University) is coming on board. Thanks very much to Melissa for agreeing to serve in this role for the next two years! Thanks also to Theresa Strouth Gaul (Texas Christian University), who has cycled off as the SEA's liaison to the Society for the Study of American Women Writers (SSAWW) after multiple terms of service. Mary Eyring (Brigham Young U) will be taking Theresa's place as our SSAWW liaison. Welcome and thank you to Mary for agreeing to serve!



Leonard Von Morzé



Mary Eyring



Melissa Adams-Campbell

Also, thanks to Lauren LaFauci (Linköping University, Sweden), for agreeing to serve for another term as our liaison to the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE); and thanks to Ana Schwartz (UT Austin) who will cycle off as our liaison to the American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies (ASECS) after the completion of her term at the end of this year!

Finally, I would like to thank Kaden Ivy (Notre Dame U) for his continued service as our Scholar-of-the-Month and Junior-Scholar-of-the-Month features coordinator; Jillian Sayre (Rutgers Camden) for her continued service as the SEA's Essay Contest Committee Chair; and last but not least Mary Balkun (Seton Hall U) and Kait Tonti (Seton Hall U) for their continuously tremendous work on the SEAN.

As announced in my column in the last issue of *SEAN*, the SEA Executive Committee has initiated a process that, if approved by the membership, will expand the SEA's Advisory Committee (AC) to include a new officer responsible for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. This new officer will join the six members currently serving on the AC—the immediate past president, the editor of the SEA's Newsletter, the webmaster, the moderator of the EARAM-listserv, one of the two co-chairs of the Junior Scholars' Caucus, and an at-large member—for a new total of seven members.

While this addition will necessitate yet another amendment of our Constitution and Bylaws (the latest revisions of which were just ratified two years ago), we decided that this new position should be appropriately anchored in our organizational documents. The SEA Executive and Advisory Committee have, in a recent meeting, reviewed and approved a draft of a proposal for the new office and a description of its portfolio, as well as of revisions of the SEA's Constitution and Bylaws.

According to our founding documents, the proposals for these changes must be presented to the general membership for a vote and their implementation will be contingent on an approval by a simple majority of the membership. Accordingly, the EC will present these proposals to the general membership at our next business meeting, which will be scheduled for the last week of March or first week of April. (Please stay tuned for an announcement of the meeting).

As previously announced, the next SEA Biennial will be taking place at the University of Maryland and at various locations in Washington DC, 8-11 June, 2023. As in the previous two biennials, the Program Committee has again decided to partner with [Ex Ordo](#), an online platform for conference services on managing the submissions and reviews of proposals, as well as program building and registration. Ex Ordo's proposal has been presented to the AC, which has endorsed the Program's Committee recommendation to proceed with a contractual agreement.

Meanwhile, the program committee has begun to work on the identification of finalists for keynote speakers, as well as of several panel streams and another Common Read series. A general call for proposals of papers and panels will go out in late August. We are currently planning for an in-person conference but are considering a hybrid option. The SEA 2023 Biennial Conference web page can

be found on the SEA website located under the Conferences header: <https://www.societyofearlyamericanists.org/conferences/sea-2023-biennial>

Ralph Bauer
University of Maryland

From the SEA Vice-President

At the September 2020 business meeting, during a discussion of the organization's social media presence, a member proposed that a working group be formed to review the SEA's communication platforms, including the EARAM listserv and the SEA webpage, reflector, and newsletter, as well as social media. Also for consideration: the journal *Early American Literature* and its social media resources, including a podcast.

SEA president Ralph Bauer announced plans to convene the working group in a joint meeting of the Executive Committee and the Advisory Committee that took place on January 28, 2022.

The first regular meeting of the group occurred on February 10. Members shared information about the usage of existing resources, including EARAM-L postings (provided by the new listserv moderator, Dr. Cathy Rex) and website "clicks" (presented by the outgoing webmaster, Dr. Susan Imbarrato).

Other group members shared information that they had collected about a range of organizations with similar profiles to the SEA, including the ALA, the ASA, ASECS, ASLE, C19, NEMLA, and SAWW, as well the Early American Junto website and the online journal *Common-Place* (now hosted by the Omohundro Institute). The next step for the group is to compile the information and use it to formulate a poll of the membership.

The members of the working group include: the SEA Executive Committee (president Ralph Bauer, vice-president Sandra Gustafson, executive coordinator Kelly Wisecup, and treasurer Joy Howard); EARAM-L moderator Cathy Rex; webmaster Susan Imbarrato; *SEAN* editor Mary Balkun; former president Kristina Bross; and Junior Faculty representative Kaitlin Tonti.

A review of current resources was published last summer in this column and can be accessed at the link here: <https://www.societyofearlyamericanists.org/membership/newsletter>

Sandra Gustafson
University of Notre Dame

Virtual SEA: The Mobile Archives Symposium and SEA Seminar Series

In 2021-22, the Society of Early Americanists hosted or sponsored virtual events that brought scholars together through our zoom portals and computer screens.

The Society of Early Americanists supported the Mobile Archive (#MobileArchive), an online symposium that examines mobility and translation in our teaching, research, and especially in archival collections. This ongoing, portable project is directed by Thomas Hallock (U South Florida), Marcel Hartwig (U Siegen, Germany), Markus Heide (U Hildesheim, Germany), and Lenin Martell (UA Estado de Mexico).

An opening online symposium (supported by the SEA) took place November 2021, and the group looks to continue the conversation at future conferences--at the next SEA biennial, the American Studies Association (we hope!), and elsewhere. Initially envisioned as the SEA off-year conference, the Mobile Archives Workshop brought scholars together virtually across time zones and nations for a vibrant conversation about the rootedness and mobility of archives.

On October 8, 2021, the SEA hosted the first event in an ongoing virtual seminar series, virtual gatherings oriented around discussing scholarship and teaching practices related to early American literature and culture. Convening throughout the academic year, the seminar series aims to generate opportunities for sharing conversation and research about early America beyond the SEA's Biennial Conference.

The series especially seeks to reflect and amplify the range of scholarship on early American literature and culture, to create generative, supportive spaces accessible to scholars across a diversity of institutional and geographical locations; and to create opportunities for supporting early Americanist scholars and teachers, especially junior faculty and graduate students, beyond the biennial conferences.

The October 8 event brought together six scholars who discussed "Origin Stories & Early American Studies." Origin stories have long been central to early American studies, in questions of periodization and of the field's geographic scope, and in studies of empire, settlement, and nation.

And origin stories are at stake in contemporary calls to grapple with histories of slavery and colonialism in our understandings of the past (such as those raised by the *1619 Project* and calls to remove monuments to figures like Christopher Columbus).

Bringing together scholars whose work takes up questions of origins in a range of archives and in several historical, theoretical, and cultural contexts, this panel asked how early American studies scholars might productively contribute to conversations and debates about origins, past and present.

Scholars focused on keywords that included Looting (Ajay Kumar Batra); Slavery & Resistance (Dexter Gabriel); Interdependence & Translation (Emily García); Agrarianism (Jay Miller); Communal Stories (Marie Balsley Taylor); and Settlement (Alyssa Mt. Pleasant). In short talks, they considered how these keywords have origins in the early Americas while resonating in our own moment, and they considered the kinds of research, teaching, and activism through which we might approach those resonances.

Future SEA seminar series events include a seminar on anti-racist pedagogy, organized in collaboration with the Early Caribbean Society and Bigger 6, and an event on creative engagements with early America. Stay tuned for more information!

Many thanks to Kelly Bezio (Texas A&M-Corpus Christi) and Maria Windell (U of Colorado Boulder) for serving on an ad hoc committee to advise on the seminar series. Thanks also to the junior scholars caucus co-chairs, Kaitlin Tonti and Kristi Cherry-Randle, and *Early American Literature* editor Marion Rust and *EAL* coeditor for reviews Katy Chiles.

Kelly Wisecup
Northwestern University



John Tobler: The Pennsylvania Town and Country-Man's Almanack for the Year of Our Lord, 1756

Announcements

New SEA Email List Moderator

The Society wishes to welcome Cathy Rex, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, to the roles of Moderator and Listowner of EARAM-L. You can reach her, for assistance with list matters, at rexcj@UWEC.EDU. We also want to thank Ray Craig for his many years of outstanding service as moderator of the listserv (<https://www.societyofearlyamericanists.org/membership/listserv>) and a member of the SEA Advisory Committee.

Just Teach One Has Moved!

The *Just Teach One* Project has been moved to a new server and now all seventeen classroom editions can be found at: <https://jto.americanantiquarian.org/>

The *Just Teach One* Project still offers scholars and teachers a wide array of neglected early American texts that are otherwise out of print or unattainable.

The most recent texts added to the *Just Teach One* site are scholarly transcriptions of *The Black Vampyre; A Legend of St. Domingo* (1819), a variety of late 18th-Century Slavery Texts, and “The Man at Home Series” (1798).

E- Memberships from the New York Society Library

[The New York Society Library](#) offers E-memberships for those interested in access to our collection of [20+ electronic resources](#). Most resources are accessible off-site, and several would be of interest to scholars with an interest in Early America. Some of the resources that we offer include JSTOR, Project Muse, The Founding Era (collections of papers and correspondence from the 18th-early 19th centuries), archives to The TLS, New York Review of Books, and the London Review of Books, various Oxford University Press databases, American National Biography, and many more. We also offer our own database called [City Readers](#), a fully searchable database of circulation records for our early membership from **1789 to 1805**.

A standard membership allows members to borrow books and browse the stacks holding a collection of 300,000 volumes. The New York Society Library was

The E-membership costs \$100 /year. E-memberships do not include circulating privileges for the print collection or access to individual study rooms but do include 10 building visits per year.

More information can be found here:

<https://www.nysoclib.org/members/e-memberships>

or write to membership@nysoclib.org

In Memoriam: James A. Levernier

It is with a sad heart that we announce the passing of Dr. James A. Levernier. A recently retired member of the faculty at the University of Arkansas Little Rock, Dr. Levernier was essential to early studies on early Indigenous studies. Dr. Zabelle Stodola writes in her tribute that Dr. Levernier’s wrote his dissertation on captivity narratives, and also co-authored *The Indians and Their Captives* (1977), and *The Indian Captivity Narrative, 1550-1900* (1993).

In 2011, Dr. Levernier won the University of Arkansas Little Rock Excellence Award in Teaching.

See more memorials to Dr. Levernier at <https://www.societyofearlyamericanists.org/membership/in-memoriam/james-a-levernier-1949-2021>.



James Levernier

MLA 2021 Book Prize

The winner of this year's 29th Annual Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for Comparative Literature Studies is Ralph Bauer, Associate Professor of English and Comparative Literature at the University of Maryland, for his book *The Alchemy of Conquest: Science, Religion, and Secrets of the New World* published by University of Virginia Press (2019).



Ralph Bauer

Two Prizes for Allison Bigelow's *Mining Language*

The winner of the 2020 MLA Prize for a First Book was Allison Bigelow, University of Virginia, for *Mining Language: Racial Thinking, Indigenous Knowledge, and Colonial Metallurgy in the Early Modern Iberian World* (Omohundro Inst. of Early American History and Culture and Univ. of North Carolina Press, 2020)

Bigelow's book was also recognized with the 2021 James A. Rawley Prize in Atlantic History. The prize was created in 1998 in accordance with the terms of a gift from James A. Rawley, Carl Adolph Happold Professor of History Emeritus at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. It is offered annually to recognize outstanding historical writing that explores aspects of integration of Atlantic worlds before the 20th century. (<https://www.historians.org/awards-and-grants/past-recipients/james-a-rawley-prize-recipients>)



Allison Bigelow

SEA 2022 Essay Contest Winner

This year's SEA essay contest winner is Don James McLaughlin, Assistant Professor of English at University of Tulsa, for his essay "Charity and Sylvia's Adult Cradle: A Crip Queer Method for Early American Studies." He will be presented with his award at the 2022 C19 conference in Coral Gables, Florida.



Don James McLaughlin

EAL: Book Prize Nominations Sought

The journal of *Early American Literature* is seeking nominations for the 2022 Early American Literature Book Prize. The Book Prize is offered in collaboration with the University of North Carolina Press, the Society of Early Americanists, and the MLA's Forum on Early American Literature.

The *EAL* Book Prize is awarded in even calendar years to a first monograph, and in odd years to a second or subsequent book. The prize is accompanied by a \$2,000 cash award.

Do let us know if you have a first-time monograph published in 2020 or 2021 which focuses on early American literature broadly conceived. Additionally, we are always accepting nominations for future awards, so please send any recommendations for the 2023 or 2024 Book Prize.

Please send your nominations by email to EAL's assistant editor at alex.gergely@uky.edu.

The deadline is **March 15th, 2022**.

***SEA Scholars and
Junior Scholars of the Month***

***SEA Scholar of the Month, September 2021
Ralph Bauer***

Ralph Bauer is Professor of English and Comparative Literature at the University of Maryland, and is also the SEA president. He is also the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs for the College of the Arts and Humanities. He is currently working on a comparative project on early Native American writings. He has many inspirations, including Rolena Ardorno.



***SEA Jr. Scholar of the Month, September 2021
Elizabeth Polcha***

Elizabeth Polcha is Assistant Professor of English and Digital Humanities at the University of South Mississippi. She is currently working on a book project titled *Venus in Transit: Gendered Violence and the Production of Natural History*, and is an editor with *Insurrect: Radical Thinking in Early American Studies*. She is inspired by many of her fellow junior scholars.



***SEA Jr. Scholar of the Month, October 2021
Lloyd Si***



Lloyd Si is a PhD candidate at the University of Virginia where he is working on the third chapter of his dissertation. His dissertation considers representations of deforestation in American literature throughout the 19th century. His inspirations include Dana Luciano and the late Lauren Berlant.

***SEA Scholar of the Month, October 2021
Deirdre Cooper Owens***



Deirdre Cooper Owens is the Director of Program in African American Studies at the Library Company of Philadelphia. Currently, she is also the Charles and Linda Wilson Professor of History and Director of the Humanities in Medicine Program at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She is working on a monograph about Harriet Tubman.

***SEA Scholar of the Month, November 2021
Jason Shaffer***



Jason Shaffer is Professor of English at the United States Naval Academy. He is currently working on his second book, titled *Staging the Republic, 1787-1837*, which considers how Americans represent themselves onstage from the signing of the constitutions to the Age of Jackson. He is inspired by many, including Elizabeth Maddock and Meredith Neuman.

***SEA Junior Scholar of the Month, November 2021
Molly Nebiolo***



Molly Nebiolo is a doctoral candidate in history at Northeastern University and the 2021-2022 Friends of the ASP Predoctoral Fellow in Early American History. She is currently writing her dissertation, which considers the history of public health in American's cities, including Philadelphia. She is inspired by Sara Altschuler.

***SEA Junior Scholar of the Month, December 2021
Hannah Manshel***



Hannah Manshel is Assistant Professor of English at University of Hawai'i—Mānoa. She is currently working on a book manuscript titled *Without the Law*, which considers how Black and Indigenous peoples use religion and spirituality as a way around oppressive law. She is also developing another book project titled *Bad Faith*, which is about the U.S. legal system. Her inspirations include K-Sue Park and Xine Yao.

Early America on the Conference Circuit

Sessions at the Modern Language Association Conference

January 6-9th, 2022
Washington, D.C.

Poetic Justice in Early African American Periodicals

Presider: DeLisa Hawkes, U of Tennessee, Knoxville

“Performative Unnaming: Visualizing Black Women Writers in Early Black Newspapers”

Jewon Woo, Lorain County Community College

“For Health, for Pleasure, and for Profit’: Nineteenth-Century African American Environmental Thought”

Kassidi Jones, Yale University

“*The Weekly Anglo-African’s* Paeans for the Newspaper and the Affects of Publishing”

Magdalena Zapędowska, Smith College

Encountering Indigenous Languages in Early North America

Respondent: Kirsten Silva Gruesz, U of California, Santa Cruz

“Their Idiom to Them Is, as Ours Is to Us’: Eliot Tracts as Contact Literature”

Elizabeth Sauer, Brock U

“Where Words Come From: Papunhank’s Multilingual Contexts”

Jay David Miller, U of Notre Dame

“Spies, Messengers, and Scribes: Garcilaso’s Translators and the Construction of Genre”

Jenny Marie Forsythe, Western Washington U

Revolución/Révolution

Presider: Jesse Aleman, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque

“Benjamin Franklin in Brasil: Poor Richard’s Almanack as Anti-Insurrectionist Text”

David Faflik, University of Rhode Island

“Reconstructing a Transatlantic Latinidad: *Irene Albar* (1885, 1886), by Eusebio Guiteras”

Carmen Lamas, University of Virginia

“Christian Conversion through Racial Exclusion in *The Oriental; or, Tung-Ngai San-Luk*”

Joey Kim, University of Toledo

Poetry and Politics in Early America

“Burning to Support the Right’: Women’s Poetry and the Antislavery Cause”

Monica Pelaez, St. Cloud State University

“At the Cost of Truth’: Hannah Lawrence Schieffelin and the Gradual Abolition Debate”

Kaitlin Tonti, Seton Hall University

“Though Land of Blood, and Crime, and Wrong’: James Monroe Whitfield’s Anti-Anthem to America”

Samantha Plasencia, Colby College

Sessions at the Society for the Study of American Women Writers Conference

November 4-7, 2021

Baltimore, Maryland

Reconceiving Three Early American Women: Ecologies of Finance

“Dorothy May Bradford’s Death and Reconceiving ‘Realness’”

Stacy Dearing, Sienna College

“The Survival of Bradstreet’s Voice”

Abram Van Engen, Washington University in St. Louis

“Reading Rowson Right”

Marion Rust, University of Kentucky

Crossings: Theorizing Gender and Radicalized Ecologies of Home in Early America

Moderator: Theresa Gaul, Texas Christian University

“Epistolary Space and Cultural Space: The Letters of Abigail Levy Franks”

Mary Balkun, Seton Hall University

“Ecologies of Home in Lucy Terry’s ‘Bars Fight’”

Mary Eyring, Brigham Young University

“Phillis Wheatley at the Ungendered Borders of Early America”

Cassander Smith, University of Alabama

“White Androgyny and Indigenous Displacement on American Frontiers”

Eagan Dean, Rutgers University

**Sessions at the American Literature Association
Conference**

July 8-10, 2021
Boston, MA

The Society of Early Americanists: Migration and Refuge in Early America

“John Woolman’s Stranger Quakerism,” Jay David Miller, McNeil Center for Early American Studies

“The Fantasy of a Christian Decolonialism in *The Female American*,” Molly Porter, University of Washington

“Samson Occom, Black Hawk and Indigenous American Migration,” Allison Siehnel, SUNY Buffalo State

The Society of Early Americanists: Teaching Early American Environments: A Roundtable

“That Which is So Clear in the Wilderness’: Reading the Environment in Early American Literature,” Amy Oatis, University of the Ozarks

“Teaching Black Women On and Off the Page: Cultural Scripts and the Construction of Environment,” April C. Langley, University of Missouri Columbia

“The Eighteenth-Century Naturalist?: Teaching Early American Science in a School for Environmental Studies,” Leonard von Morzé, University of Massachusetts, Boston

Early American Interests

Chair: James Nagel, University of Georgia

“The Depiction of the Native Americans in *A Narrative and Captivity of the Restoration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson*,” James Tackach, Roger Williams University

“Nation and Superstition: Ghost-Seeing in the Works of Washington Irving,” Michiko Amemiya, University of Utah



Painting of Mt. Vernon

Teaching Early American Literature

***A Perfect Tempest or a Comedy of Errors?
Teaching the Tempest as an Early American Text in the
Midst of Covid***

In January 2020, my colleague Jennifer Heller and I met to plan the 2020-2021 schedule for the English Program. The necessary rotation had us each teaching our favorite class in the fall: Shakespeare (Jennifer) and Early American Literature (me). As we talked about our classes, we pondered the possibility of creating some synergy between them, since the time periods overlap and we knew we would have about half our students in common. Although we did not have specific ideas of how we’d bring the classes together, we agreed to teach *The Tempest* in both, and we scheduled ourselves for back-to-back time periods on Tuesday and Thursday, thinking we might occasionally use the full three-hour block (A dramatic reading? Performance projects?). Then we talked to the directors of The Playmakers, our university theater production company, and they agreed to put *The Tempest* on their line-up for the year. Things were coming together nicely.

Enter COVID, stage left.

After going fully online in March to finish the spring 2020 semester, our university made plans for “limited occupancy” classes in the fall. This meant that, instead of meeting with eighteen students in Early American Literature for seventy-five minutes each Tuesday and Thursday, I met with nine students for an hour on Tuesday and the other nine for an hour on Thursday. This plan allowed for social distancing and significantly reduced the number of students in the academic buildings each day (and the plan did seem to be effective: throughout the fall, we had very few cases of COVID, and none were traced back to classroom transmission); however, this plan also took the idea of combining classes off the table.

In splitting our classes into groups, I split mine between those who were also in Shakespeare (mostly English majors, with one Middle Grades Education major) and those who weren’t (a mix of English, History, and American Studies majors); Jennifer also split hers between those who were in Early American Literature and those who weren’t (a mix of English and Theater majors). Thus, each of us had a “half class” that read the play in both classes and another “half class” that only read the play once. Since we could not arrange any class sharing or stage a dramatic reading of the play with both classes plus The Playmakers—and given all the other challenges of teaching under COVID—we abandoned any attempts to deliberately create synergy between the classes.

In the end, nine students who were enrolled in Early American Literature and Shakespeare read *The Tempest* as an “American” text at the beginning of the semester and read it again at the end of the semester as Shakespeare’s final play. The Playmakers worked through difficult circumstances to stage a version of the play, which then got caught up in post-production difficulties and was finally released through YouTube in April 2021. Not exactly the kind of synergy we were going for.

However, although what had seemed like a “perfect storm” (in a good way) for studying *The Tempest* turned into a different kind of storm altogether, good things still came from the situation.

First, this was my first experience teaching *The Tempest* in an American context, and I fully enjoyed rounding up source texts to give context to our study of the play, and my students really engaged in considering the play as a cultural artifact. Teaching a hybrid course forced me to think ahead about what students should do in preparation for class meetings and pushed me to think creatively about how to provide context through digital media; I used more images than I have in the past, and I drew upon many open access materials such as Antonio Pigafetta’s account of Magellan’s voyage and Silvester Jourdain’s *A Discovery of the Bermudas*. The inclusion of a variety of companion texts highlighted the transatlantic nature of the periods of exploration and colonization, and I used excerpts from many texts I had never considered including in past renditions of the course.

Second, I started the class with *The Tempest* and ended it with Charles Brockden Brown’s *Arthur Mervyn*. Part of the organization of the semester was a move from exploration to colonization to revolution to nation, with an emphasis throughout on identity; additionally, the transatlantic nature of the early part of the course emphasized the still-transatlantic nature of Brown’s novel—and of the fledgling nation. (That we were reading Brown’s pandemic novel in the midst of COVID was simply a bonus.)

Third, and most significantly, for the students who studied *The Tempest* in both classes the experience was eye-opening. Several students commented that they felt like they were reading a different play in the Shakespeare class than we’d read in Early American Literature, because Jennifer and I approached the text differently. One student commented that our teaching styles complemented each other and that studying the play “as a sort of cultural artifact” and later “as a play” helped him understand the multiple concerns of the text and the culture from which it sprang. Although we as a program encourage our students to understand that good literature can

sustain multiple interpretations, they seldom get an opportunity to see this in action; last fall they did.

Finally, my experience of reading the text with two different groups of students was also enlightening. The very small class sizes and the more-than-usual online work meant more voices were heard. Moreover, by splitting the class as I did, I ended up with two different discussions each week: the group comprised of mostly History and American Studies majors focused on different things and brought different knowledge to the discussion than the group comprised of almost all English majors. In the past, when I’ve had a mix of majors and I’ve split the students into smaller discussion groups, I have tried to spread out the non-English majors; in the future, I may group the History majors together, so the other students can benefit from their collective contextual knowledge.

We did not get to host the group readings we had envisioned or have cross-class presentations, but the experience was still challenging and rewarding for both my students and myself. Jennifer and I are already wondering how we might plan some crossover for Fall 2022.

Julie R. Voss
Lenoir-Rhyne University

Do you want to write for SEAN?

We invite members of the SEA to submit a proposal for one of our regular SEAN feature columns:

- Early American Historical Sites: little-known or understudied/undervalued historical sites of interest to teachers and scholars of early America.
- Digital Early America: descriptions/overviews of new and insightful digital projects that advance the study of early American in the digital age.
- Teaching Early America: new and engaging approaches to teaching early American material.
- Scholar’s Musings: a new *SEAN* feature that focuses on little-known figures/connections/intersections in early America.

Columns are approximately 750-1000 words in length. *SEAN* deadlines are Jan. 15 for the fall issue and June 15 for the spring issue.

Email Mary Balkun mary.balkun@shu.edu or Kaitlin Tonti ktonti2@gmail.com.

Digital Early America
“The Americas Online: Thinking Digitally about Early America”

“The Americas Online: Thinking Digitally about Early America,” was a virtual conference sponsored by the McNeil Center for Early American Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, the History Department at Northeastern University, the Wilson Institute for Canadian History at McMaster University, the Institute for Thomas Paine Studies at Iona College and the Kislak Center for Special Collections at the University of Pennsylvania. Held November 11 to 13, 2021, it provided an opportunity for scholars, professionals, and students to learn about an array of digital tools, projects, and methodologies to support research and teaching. In addition to a keynote by Jessica Marie Johnson (John Hopkins University), “I Know Nothing: Slavery, Resistance, and the Audacity of Silence,” there was a roundtable on digital pedagogy and an asynchronous undergraduate poster session. The following is a listing of the conference sessions.

For additional information, go to <https://theearlyamericasonline.com/>

Exploring Slavery and Servitude

Chair: Lori Dagggar (Ursinus College)

“Using the Digital to Teach the Archive: Remixing Runaway Slave Adds with the Early Caribbean Archive”

Avery Blankenship (Northeastern University)
Julianna Wessels (Northeastern University)

“Investigating Indentured Servitude: Visualizing Experiences of Colonial America”

Bayard L. Miller (American Philosophical Society)
Cynthia Heider (American Philosophical Society)

Mapping Approach in the Digital Humanities

Chair: Jessica Linker (Northeastern University)

“The Datawheel, a Socio-Spatial Method for Understanding and Displaying Urban History: The Case of Port Cities”

Carola Hein (Delft University of Technology)
Yvonne van Mil (Delft University of Technology)

“Mapping Marronage in Eighteenth-Century Louisiana: A Digital Exploration of Enslaved Lives through the Spatial Movements of Runaways”

Yevan Terrien (University of Pittsburgh)

Law, Slavery, and the Digital Humanities

Chair: Mitch Fraas (University of Pennsylvania)

“Tracing Debates over Justice and Democracy: The Slavery, Law, and Power Project”

Lauren K. Michalak (University of Maryland, College Park), Derek Litvak (University of Maryland, College Park), Matthias M. Fischer (University of Maryland, College Park)

“CitingSlavery.org”

Co-authors:

Armando J. Barcena (Michigan State University College of Law)

Audrea Dakho (Michigan State University College of Law)

Jessica D. Hollan (Michigan State University College of Law)

Clark Johnson (Michigan State University College of Law)

Samuel Jones (Michigan State University College of Law)

Ilina Krishen (Michigan State University College of Law)

Hannah Robinson (Michigan State University College of Law)

Dustin Reed Solt (Michigan State University College of Law)

Digital Scholarship and Publishing

Chair: Amy Sopcak-Joseph (Wilkes University)

“Labor Equity and New Forms of Digital Scholarship in Early American Studies.”

Lila O’Leary Chambers (New York University), Timothy L. Fosbury (University of California, Los Angeles), Elizabeth L. Polcha (University of Southern Mississippi)

Immersive Technology and the Media of History: A Virtual Reality Experience of the Great Experiment at the Philadelphia Convention of 1787: A Taxonomy for Immersive Experience Design

Chair: Nadine Zimmerli (University of Virginia Press)

Kevin R. Hardwick (James Madison University)

Warren R. Hofstra (Shenandoah University)

Mohammad F. Obeid (Shenandoah University)

J.J. Ruscella (Shenandoah University)

Keynote Roundtable on Digital Pedagogy and Public Engagement.

Chair: Jean-François Lozier (University of Ottawa, Canadian Museum of History)

Kara McShane (Ursinus College)
Christine Iannicelli (Ursinus College)
George Ironstrack (Miami University and Myaamia Center)
Cameron Shiver (Miami University and Myaamia Center)

Digital Resources in Loyalist Studies

Chair: Maxime Dagenais (York University)

“The Maryland Loyalism Project”

Benjamin Bankhurst (Shepherd University)
Kyle B. Roberts (American Philosophical Society)

“The Loyalist Migration Project”

Timothy J. Compeau (Huron University College at the University of Western Ontario)

“The Virginia Loyalism Project”

Alexandra S. Garrett (Institute for Thomas Paine Studies at Iona College)
Stephanie Seal Walters (Independent Scholar)

“GeoMapping Loyalist Biographies in the Classroom”

Ben Marsh (University of Kent)

Critical and Digital Editions: Case Studies with Scalar and Manifold

Chair: Nora Slomnisky, Iona College

“Crèvecoeur’s Letters from An American Farmer: A Virtual Critical Edition”

Mary M. Balkun (Seton Hall University)
Diana H. Polley (United States Air Force Academy)

“Collaborating with Early America: Bringing Manifold Digital Publishing to Students”

Matthew K. Gold (The Graduate Center, CUNY)
Paul L. Herbert (The Graduate Center, CUNY)
Christina Katopodis (The Graduate Center, CUNY)
Krystyna Michael (Hostos Community College)
Jason Nielson (The Graduate Center, CUNY)
Justin Rogers-Cooper (LaGuardia Community College)

Closing Event

“Penn and Slavery Project”

Katherine Brown (University of Pennsylvania)
Van Jessica Gladney (University of Pennsylvania)
Carson Eckhard (University of Pennsylvania)
Dallas Taylor (University of Pennsylvania)

Early American Literature Book Prize for 2021

Rodrigo Lazo, Professor of English and Spanish at the University of California, Irvine, has been selected to receive the 2021 *Early American Literature* Book Prize, which is awarded in even calendar years to a first monograph published in the prior two years, and in odd years to a second or subsequent book. Lazo’s *Letters from Filadelfia: Early Latino Literature and the Trans-American Elite* was published by the University of Virginia Press in 2020 as part of its “Writing the Early Americas” imprint.

The prize selection committee consisted of: *Early American Literature*’s Co-Editor for Reviews, Katy Chiles; our Advisory Editor, Sandra Gustafson; incoming Chair of the Modern Language Association’s Early American Forum, Martha Elena Rojas; and prior President of the Society of Early Americanists, Gordon Sayre, with *EAL* Editor Marion Rust as an *ex officio* member. We thank our publisher, the University of North Carolina Press, for continuing to support the award, which carries a \$2,000 cash prize. It should be noted that there were more prize submissions this year than ever, due in large part to the stupendous work of *EAL* Assistant Editor Alex Gergely.

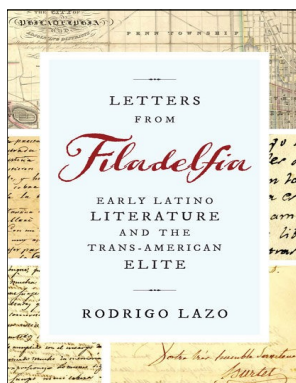
The prize committee praised *Letters from Filadelfia* for its archival depth and theoretical innovation: in the words of one committee member, “we’ll never look at Philadelphia in quite the same way again.” As the most important Spanish-language printing center in the United States from the 1790s through the 1830s, ‘la famosa Filadelfia’ served as a hub for, in Lazo’s words, “intellectuals on the run” from colonial governments in the southern Americas. *Letters* pays particular attention to “cartas” – ranging from deathbed letters to political philosophy to theological treatises – whose “epistolary effects” illuminate a “problematics of intimacy” within “public modes of identification.”



Rodrigo Lazo

Reading Spanish-language texts, which he translates with a fantastic balance of precision and sensibility, alongside English-language publications, Lazo communicates the energy of those seeking to “remake their home societies” according to “principles of equality articulated in the documents that constituted the United states.” At the same time, he emphasizes the elitism inherent in these efforts, given that “aspirations to spread those principles did not always extend to a direct consideration of the large numbers of indigenous and slave populations in Central and South America and the Caribbean,” nor to an awareness of systemic misogyny.

As a result, the body of work discussed here speaks to “the failure of American governments north and south to extend notions of equality and economic opportunity to populations suffering from racial and gender hierarchies.” In its reconsideration of a region long identified with a monolingual Anglophone culture, *Letters from Filadelfia* testifies to the mutuality of US and Latin American Studies and presages further work in the interstices of these two fields. Next year's prize will be awarded to an author's first book; monographs published in 2020 and 2021 are eligible. The deadline for submission is March 15, 2022. Please consult the journal's website at eal.uky.edu/ for additional information.



Upcoming Conferences

Northeastern Modern Language Association (NeMLA)
Theme: Care
March 10-13, 2022
Baltimore, MD
<http://www.buffalo.edu/nemla/convention.html>

American Literature Association (ALA)
33rd Annual Conference
May 26-29, 2022
The Palmer House Hilton
Chicago, IL
<https://americanliteratureassociation.org>

ASECS 2022
52nd Annual Meeting
Hilton Baltimore Inner Harbor
March 31–April 2, 2022
Annual Meeting Website:
<https://www.asecs2022.org/>

Call for Papers

**Archival Work in American Literature
*Resources for American Literary Study and Biography (RALS)***

For its upcoming 2022 issues, RALS is looking for submissions that consider traditional and digital approaches to archival and bibliographical analysis.

Submissions range greatly in terms of length and approach. Recent issues include studies of the critical landscape surrounding Anna Julia Cooper, Gertrude Stein, Arthur Miller, and the later work of Walt Whitman; recovered letters by Elizabeth Bishop; an analysis of handwritten school newspapers possibly by the young Harriet Beecher Stowe; an unpublished play about the Salem Witch Trials by William Carlos Williams; uncollected writings by Paul Laurence Dunbar; an examination of the Alice Hoffman archive; and an overview of Henry James's changing reputation in the newspapers of his day. Issues are available in print and through JSTOR. Instructions for submissions may be found at http://www.psupress.org/Journals/jnl_rals.html.



MLA Early American Literature Forum CFP

The Early American Literature forum is planning to sponsor/ cosponsor five panels at MLA 2023. Please consider submitting an abstract for one of the CFPs below.

Alternative Chronologies

This panel invites 250-word proposals that explore the significance of dates and dating in early American literature and history, particularly those that focus on alternatives to the vaunted date of 1620. Possible subjects include 1619 origins, Indigenous chronologies, decentering 1620, past-present commemorations, distortions, elisions. *Abstracts to Michelle Sizemore* michelle.sizemore@uky.edu **Submission Deadline: Friday, 25 March 2022**

Fictionality

This panel invites 250-word proposals that examine fictionality in early American literature. Possible subjects include fictional techniques and reading practices, credulity and skepticism, tales of truth, the relationship between fictional and historical narratives, and the aesthetic turn in early American studies. *Abstracts to Michelle Sizemore* michelle.sizemore@uky.edu

Submission Deadline: Friday, 25 March 2022

Rites of Citizenship in Early America

This panel invites 250-word proposals that consider literary portrayals of civic rituals in early America. Possible subjects include democratic representation, voting and voter suppression, and political violence. *Abstracts to Jeff Glover* jglover@luc.edu

Submission Deadline: Friday, 25 March 2022

White Supremacist Terror and Narratives of Origin (with LLC Chaucer)

White supremacist weaponization of medieval literature: discourses of origins, European 'indigeneity,' degradation, (in)justice. American, European, trans-Atlantic uses of the medieval past as an idyll, chivalry, religious crusade, or roguish freedom. *250-word abstracts to Kirsten Silva Gruesz* ksgruesz@ucsc.edu, *Marty Elena Rojas* martharojas@uri.edu

Submission Deadline: Friday, 25 March 2022

Wheatley in London (with LLC Late Eighteenth Century English)

250 years ago, Phillis Wheatley (Peters) traveled to London to supervise her poems' publication. How should we understand the British tradition as part of the African-American poet's formation? Her poetics as part of this tradition?

Abstracts to Courtney Weiss

Smith (csmith03@wesleyan.edu) *Abigail*

S.Zitin (abigail.zitin@rutgers.edu) **Submission Dead-**

line: Monday, 21 March 2022



74th Annual Conference of the Institut d'histoire de l'Amérique française

People In French America: Contacts, Conflicts, Collaborations

20-22 October 2022, Quebec City

The organizing committee of the IHAF's 2022 Annual Conference invites reflection on the ways in which French America has been shaped by the relationships between the people who have been included within this concept, whether they identified with it or not. Indeed, the very concept of "French America" deserves to be questioned and deconstructed.

The committee invites proposals for papers (in French only) or full sessions to be submitted by **March 31, 2022**. For instructions on submitting a proposal, visit the conference website: congresihaf2022.cieq.ca.



The Pauline Maier Early American Historical Seminar

Massachusetts Historical Society
Boston, MA

The Pauline Maier Early American History Seminar

invites proposals for sessions in its 2022-2023 series. The Seminar involves discussion of pre-circulated works in progress, especially article or chapter-length papers (20-40 pages), focusing on any aspect of American history and culture from the era of first contact through the 1820s. Papers comparing the American experience with developments elsewhere in the world are welcome, as are cross-disciplinary studies. We invite proposals (500 words) and CVs from interested researchers. In your proposal, please indicate when your paper can be available for distribution, as well as your preference (fall or spring) based on when the seminar's feedback would be helpful to you. Please submit

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

Society of

Early Americanists

To Our Members

The SEA thanks its new and renewing members for their invaluable support of our Society. Your contributions make early American studies thrive. Please remember to keep your membership current and direct any membership inquiries to the Executive Coordinator, Kelly Wisecup (seacoord@gmail.com).

You can also help build our membership by referring colleagues in the field to the Society's homepage: <https://www.societyofearlyamericanists.org/>

Society Information/Membership

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 1830. Our membership of over 350 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 here: <https://www.societyofearlyamericanists.org/membership>

Opportunities for Giving

In addition to keeping your SEA membership active, you can contribute to the Fund to Honor Excellence in Teaching: <https://www.societyofearlyamericanists.org/teaching-resources/honored-teachers>

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21. *Letters from Filadelfia: Early Latino Literature and the Trans American Elite*. Lazo Rodriguez. Image courtesy of upress.virginia.edu.

