

American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies

News Circular No. 168

December 2017

President's Column: *Susan S. Lanser, Brandeis University*

As 2017 draws to a close in a world of unsettling changes, I am happy to affirm that change has not unsettled ASECS. When I wrote to you last July, our incoming executive director Lisa Berglund and office manager Aimee Levesque were still unpacking boxes in our new headquarters at Buffalo State College in the Society's first change of administrative leadership in twenty years. By October, when I visited the new offices (and heartily thanked Buffalo State's provost, dean, and English department chair for their crucial support), Lisa and Aimee were in full swing of preparation for Orlando. The Society could not be in more able hands; it has been a privilege to work with the new team during this start-up period while also benefiting from the continued counsel of our past executive director Byron Wells. If you have not yet met Lisa or Aimee, please do introduce yourself in Orlando so that they can get to know our members and you can get to know them.

Our journal *Eighteenth-Century Studies* has also made a move-- from Yale to the University of New Hampshire under the capable leadership of Sean Moore as editor-in-chief, Matthew Wyman-McCarthy as managing editor, and Cheryl Nixon (UMass-Boston) as book review editor. In Orlando, Sean will join four other editors, including Eve Tavor Bannet, who edits our annual publication *Studies in Eighteenth-Century Culture (SECCO)*, for a panel on publishing in eighteenth-century journals. The full program for this 49th annual meeting is now on line; a whopping 800 members will be represented in nearly 200 sessions over three days. SEASECS will meet concurrently, UCLA professor Barbara Fuchs will deliver the Clifford Lecture, and we'll end the meeting with a Masquerade Ball, the proceeds dedicated to a cause crucial to our profession and our field.

Which takes me back to these unsettling, turbulent times. Those of us who wake dreading the morning news may find it useful to remember that "turbulent times" also spanned the eighteenth century. The phrase can be found in dozens of works from Jonathan Swift's first political discourse, which looks back to Rome's troubled politics to confront "contests and dissensions between the nobles and commons" in the tumultuous English year 1701; to Jane West's 1799 *Tale of the Times*, with its recognition that "turbulent times" require intensified parliamentary attention; to William Wetmore's oration on the death of General Washington, which lauds a "Senate faithful to [its] Country's rights." Such allusions may provide grist for cross-historical contemplation or at least for ready wit.

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Even as we take the long view, however, ASECS, like other learned societies, must ask hard questions about responding to the tenor of the times as we confront sexual and status harassment in the academy, bills and budgets that threaten higher education, the consequences of travel bans, the aftermath of Charlottesville. As we approach the 50th anniversary of ASECS in 2019, the Executive Board will be considering whether and how the Society might respond publicly to current concerns, working independently or with other learned societies to advance values of justice and inclusion and to preserve the integrity of humanist inquiry.

We also need to ensure that these values are fully realized in our own professional practices. One urgent concern: the vulnerability of many of our colleagues, and the field itself, in an environment where tenure-track jobs are shrinking and a presentist STEM-focused academy too often deems eighteenth-century studies expendable. A significant number of ASECS members now hold contingent positions plagued by inadequate pay, job insecurity, limited opportunities to teach within the field, and negligible support for research or professional development.

The Masquerade Ball planned for our Orlando meeting, sponsored jointly by the Women's Caucus and the Executive Board, will help to address the needs of contingent faculty by raising funds for travel to ASECS conferences. I hope that you will not only attend the ball on Saturday evening, March 24, but contribute directly to the fund for non-tenure-track faculty with an earmarked gift. (Contributions by the end of this tax year are especially welcome, but donations of any size, at any time, can be sent to the ASECS office with the designation "NTTF.") This fund will enable more of our colleagues to attend the 50th anniversary meeting in Denver in 2019 and to continue in coming years to participate actively as full members of our professional community.

A second long-term challenge is the continuing whiteness of our field in both scholarly presence and scholarly substance. These are of course related challenges; addressing structural racism in eighteenth-century studies should also help to draw aspiring scholars to the period. The creation of the Race and Empire Caucus has been particularly critical in moving toward these ends, and the

A significant number of ASECS members now hold contingent positions plagued by inadequate pay, job insecurity, limited opportunities to teach within the field, and negligible support for research or professional development.

Orlando program includes a record number of papers and panels that focus both on the critical contributions of people of color to eighteenth-century cultures and on the eighteenth-century's troubling legacies of colonialism, enslavement, and white supremacy. It is my hope that the Society will be able to think together about ways to create the collegial environment most welcoming to scholars of color and to recruit a diverse cadre of young people to the field. When I look back on the dramatic degree to which both the study of women, gender and sexuality and the participation of women scholars have suffused ASECS over the past thirty years, I am confident that we can effect a similar transformation vis-à-vis race and ethnicity, serving not only eighteenth-century studies itself but the national imperative to confront a troubling past and its persistent consequences in the present.

When I was nominated to the presidency of ASECS, I pledged to continue our efforts at integrating the international and interdisciplinary interests of our membership, to explore ways of fostering an environment generative for both new and seasoned scholars, and to encourage innovative approaches that keep us fresh and self-questioning. The Executive Board welcomes your creative wisdom in imagining a robust future for the Society as we enter second half-century. I invite you to contact me (lanser@brandeis.edu) or any of our board members as, all the more urgently in these troubling times, we work together for the common good.



Seeking a Parliamentarian for ASECS

After the 2017 Business Meeting, Roger Fechner handed in his well-worn copy of *Robert's Rules of Order*. The ASECS Executive Board gratefully recognizes his two decades as Parliamentarian of our society. If you would like to volunteer as the next Parliamentarian (a 3-year renewable term), please send a letter describing your interest in the position to the Executive Director. Review of application letters will begin on 1 February 2018 and continue until a Parliamentarian is appointed.

49th ASECS Annual Meeting: 22-24 March 2018, Orlando



Registration for the 2018 ASECS Annual Meeting is now open.

You may access the draft Annual Meeting program and the registration form here:

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1CzCMWYWpTyT-juo4-jb_CEOeD5-0FP-P.

Online registration is also available. You may pay by credit card, using the Eventbrite registration form located here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/asecs-2018-annual-meeting-registration-tickets-41282768873>.

Please note: For your protection and security, we no longer process credit card payments through the ASECS Business Office.

If you wish to pay by check, print out the registration form (.doc or .pdf) and mail it to the ASECS Business Office along with your payment.

Remember: to appear in the Annual Meeting program, **you must be a current member of ASECS or an ISECS-affiliate society as of January 1.** You may join ASECS or renew your membership by visiting: <https://asecs.press.jhu.edu/membership/join>. The ASECS Business Office does not process membership payments, but if you have questions about your membership status, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Hotel reservations at the Hilton Buena Vista Palace Orlando may be made directly with the hotel by visiting <http://www.buenavistapalace.com/> or by phone [407-827-2727](tel:407-827-2727). The ASECS group code is ASE.



STOP PRESS UPDATE! Hotel rooms for the ASECS 2018 Annual Meeting in Orlando are going fast. **Wednesday night is sold out** and we are negotiating for an additional block of rooms at a nearby hotel. We will update you via email, Facebook, and the website as soon as arrangements have been made. If you are willing to change hotels during the conference, we advise you to book other nights as soon as possible, and adjust your schedule once overflow hotel information is available.

49th ASECS Annual Meeting: Special Events

The Masquerade Ball



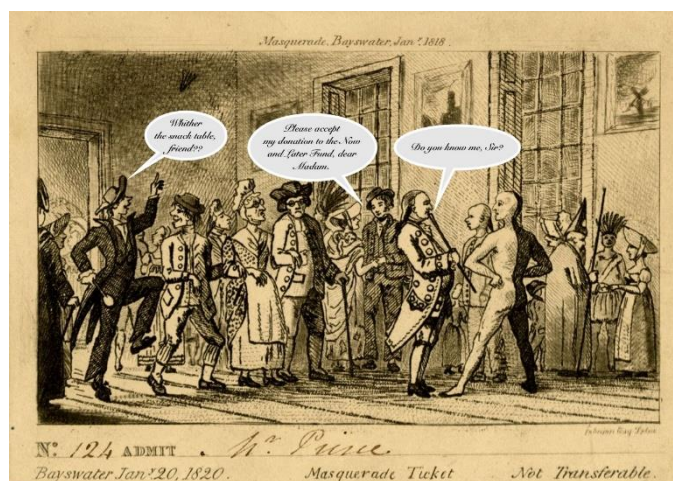
The ASECS Executive Board and the Women's Caucus are very pleased to announce that they are jointly sponsoring the Masquerade Ball at the 2018 meeting in Orlando on the final Saturday night of the conference. The 2014 Ball in Williamsburg is now the stuff of legend, but it's time to make new memories for a great cause by attending and supporting your colleagues through an additional contribution to the ASECS "Now and Later NTTF" Fund.

All money raised by the 2018 Ball will benefit this new travel fund for non-tenure track/adjunct scholars who have no access to institutional travel funds for the national meeting. Massive shifts in the academy have created a crisis in our profession, a crisis reflected in declining membership numbers. The "Now and Later Non-Tenure Track Fund" (NTTF) will do two things to address this crisis. First, it will provide immediate grants to colleagues who lack support to attend the ASECS meeting. Second, it will start an endowment to support this project into the future. We believe that by pulling together to address this problem now, we can ensure the future of the society and the vibrancy of scholarship, debate, and collegiality that animates it. Please give generously, with checks made out to ASECS and "NTTF" in the memo line or through the forthcoming online donation system.

As in Williamsburg, we encourage all to come dressed for the occasion, but we will also have a limited number of masks and accessories available for purchase at the door. Those who would like to dress but don't happen to have period formalwear on hand can band together in groups of 10 or more and place a group rental order, thanks to an arrangement through Norcostco, a costume rental company. **Norcostco will offer group rental rates of \$50 per costume (plus shipping) for groups of 10 or more (up to 300!) and have them shipped to the hotel.** This fee includes alterations based on measurements provided and dry cleaning. To use this service, you must order in a group, the group must have a main contact person, and the company **MUST** have a minimum of three to four weeks to

put it all together. That means orders should be organized and placed in early February. If you would like to organize a group and make these arrangements, follow the instructions for a group order at norcotco.com. Renters are responsible for shipping in both directions. Again, this is up to members to organize; your group will be responsible for collecting the payments and measurements, submitting the order, arranging for delivery and returns, and coordinating costume pickup and delivery in Orlando at the hotel. If you have questions, please email Peggy Elliott at peggy.elliott@gcsu.edu.

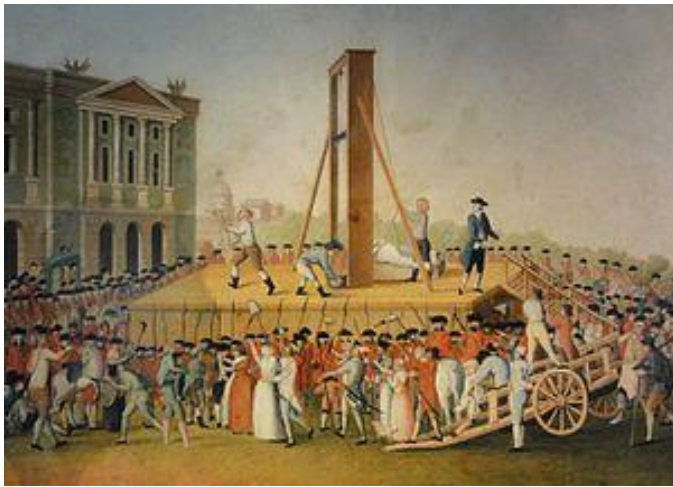
You will be able to buy a ticket online with your ASECS registration and donate to the cause by check



or online. We will have light refreshments and a cash bar at the Ball. Come celebrate the successes of the meeting on the last night and toast to the joys of friendship and scholarship in high eighteenth-century style. —*Manushag N. Powell, Purdue University*

Reacting to the Past: Pre-Conference Workshop

[Reacting to the Past](#) games revolve around flashpoints in the history of ideas and are informed by rich texts. Students are assigned roles with victory objectives. In order to "win," they must read closely, think critically, write extensively, speak persuasively, collaborate, conduct library research, solve problems and take creative initiative. (See the [RTTP Consortium website](#) and series in [The Chronicle](#).) RTTP games can enhance our students'



engagement with the eighteenth century and enliven our classrooms intellectually.

At this workshop, you can experience the game and **discover how RTTP can reinvigorate your teaching**. Register using the Annual Meeting registration form online or by regular mail; the \$60 fee includes lunch and all workshop materials.

The workshop will be conducted by David Eick, associate professor of French at Grand Valley State University. He is co-author, with Gretchen Galbraith, of an RTTP game in development, *The Enlightenment in Crisis: Diderot's Encyclopédie in a Parisian Salon, 1750-?*, which has been play-tested at eight colleges and universities, and author of a forthcoming monograph, *Dictionary Wars: The Struggle For Language from the Birth of the Enlightenment to the French Revolution* (Equinox).

RTTP Workshop Schedule

9:00-12:00 French Revolution game. To get a sense of our students' experience, participants will play a session of [Rousseau, Burke and Revolution in France, 1791](#) (by Jennifer Popiel, Mark Carnes and Gary Cates).

12:00-1:00 Lunch

1:00-1:30 Post-mortem and reconciliations

1:30-2:00 Student panel: RTTP vets discuss their perspective and answer questions.

2:00-2:15 Break

2:15-2:45 Faculty panel: Colleagues with RTTP experience share insights and answer questions. Peggy Elliott, Georgia College and State University; Daniel Ennis, Coastal Carolina University; Diane Kelley, University of Puget Sound; and Diana Solomon, Simon Fraser University

2:45-3:15 Practical information / How to get started

Science Studies Caucus Dinner and a Movie: A Screening of *Donna Haraway: Story Telling* *for Earthly Survival*

All members of ASECS are invited to attend a free screening of the 2016 documentary *Donna Haraway: Story Telling for Earthly Survival* (dir. Fabrizio Terranova, 121 min.). This film considers Haraway's decades-long engagement with the history of science and technology, gender and feminist theory, and animal and environmental studies.

After the screening, which will take place on Friday, March 25 at 7:45 pm in one of the conference hotel breakout rooms, members of the Science Studies Caucus will host an informal discussion of the documentary to consider Haraway's theories and their application to eighteenth-century studies. Among other questions, we will ask how Haraway's work helps us better understand eighteenth-century gender norms; early modern technologies; the emergence and legacies of colonialism; the legacy and rhetoric of the Royal Society; and eighteenth-century concepts of the environment.

Members are welcome to bring dinner/snacks to eat during the viewing; the Caucus will provide movie-themed snacks. For any questions, please contact the Caucus on Twitter [@18ScienceCaucus](#) or email danielle.spratt@csun.edu.



STORY TELLING FOR
EARTHLY SURVIVAL



Affiliate Societies Column

Rivka Swenson, Virginia Commonwealth University

FALL 2017 MEETINGS:

The *Daniel Defoe Society* held its fifth biennial conference September 8-9 in New Haven on the timely theme of “Tolerance and Intolerance” in the works of Defoe and his contemporaries. This focused meeting of “#DefCon5” – as per the buttons that were given to attendees – was organized by **Dwight Codr** and **Ben Pauley**. DefCon5 featured seven sessions with two panels apiece over two days. A stand-alone panel, the President’s Plenary Panel, on “Defoe’s *Review*: New Perspectives,” chaired by **John Richetti**, showcased remarks and presentations by **Maximillian Novak**, **Manushag N. Powell**, **Nicholas Seager**, and **Rachael King**. Each day featured a plenary session; on Friday, **Jill Campbell** delivered a riveting talk on “*Qui transtulit sustinet*: Toleration and Transplantation after *Crusoe*”; on Saturday, **Wolfram Schmidgen** spoke probingly on “The Ontology of Toleration.” Morning panels were fueled by coffee, tea, and pastries, and the conference ended with convivial hors d’oeuvres and an elegant dinner banquet at the Union League Cafe.

The *Aphra Behn Society* and the *Frances Burney Society* held a joint meeting – “#B²,” as designated by the tote-bag swag – in Pittsburgh on November 2-3. Co-organized by **Laura Engel** and **Marilyn Francus**, B² made good use of buildings and other resources on the Duquesne campus, starting with an ABO Edit-a-thon on the eve of the conference. The joint meeting embraced both halves of the century, through seven sessions of three or four panels apiece and two primary themes: “Women and the City” (Behn Society) and “Placing the Burneys” (Burney Society). The inclusion of breakfast and lunch on both days, and dinner on the first night, was conducive to community, and the first night’s banquet was brightened by **Kristina Straub**’s Behn Society plenary, “The Slap of the Woman Writer: Disciplining the Male Body Politic,” a moving formal acknowledgment by **Aleksandra Hultquist** of the outgoing *Aphra Behn Online* editors, **Laura Runge**, **Kirsten Saxton**, **Robin Runia**, **Anne Greenfield**, and **Jennifer Golightly**. On Saturday, another leavening plenary (Burney Society) was given, by **Linda Zionkowski**, “Putting Burney in Her Place.” Gracefully co-coordinated throughout, the meeting began and ended with a performance of



The Duquesne Redmasquers in Centlivre's The Busy Body

Susanna Centlivre’s *The Busy Body* at Duquesne’s Genesis Theater; of this production, one approving attendee (**Mary Beth Harris**) observed that it was “a frolicsome farce that used Lucille-Ball-humor to present Restoration bawdiness to a contemporary audience.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS, EVENTS, DEADLINES:

The *British Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (BSECS)* will host the ISECS International Congress of the Enlightenment in Edinburgh, July 14-19, 2019. Theme: “Enlightenment Identities.” Details and CFP to follow. The application deadline for the BSECS/ Bodleian Libraries Fellowship is January 17, 2018. Ditto the BSECS/Georgian Group, Dunscombe Colt Research Fellowship. www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/csb/fellowships.

The *Burney Society* is planning a September 2018 conference with JASNA. Details and CFP to follow. In 2019, the Burney and Behn Societies will team up again, at Auburn University in Auburn, AL. Conference organizer is **Emily Friedman**. The Burney Society asks graduate students (registered within the last year) who are working on Burney to note the September 1, 2018, deadline for the Hemlow Prize for best grad essay on Burney or members of her family. www.mcgill.ca/burneycentre/burney_society/hemlow-prize-burney-studies

The *Canadian Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (CSECS)* reports that graduate students in the third year or beyond, and postdoctoral researchers, part-time professors or instructors, full-time non-tenure-track professors, and independent researchers should note the deadline for the CSECS D. W. Smith Fellowship competition: April 30, 2018; \$2000 to “fund research into any aspect of

eighteenth-century studies.”

www.csecs.ca/awards/smith-details.php

The *Daniel Defoe Society* has awarded its inaugural J. Paul Hunter Prize to **Michelle Lyons-McFarland**, a PhD candidate in English at Case Western Reserve University. The prize (\$200) honors the best graduate student paper and presentation given at the biennial conference; Lyons-McFarland presented on “Rising Up: Roxana and Social Mobility.” The next conference (July 2019), which will take place in London, will mark the 300-year anniversary of the publication of *Robinson Crusoe*. The Defoe Society announces a second new prize, the Sharon Alker, Katherine Ellison, and Holly Faith Nelson Prize, to be given biennially for the best article (on any author/topic) published in *Digital Defoe*; the prize is named for the scholars who made the Defoe Society and *Digital Defoe* a reality. Like the Maximillian E. Novak Prize (given biennially for the best article or book chapter/essay on Defoe) and the Hunter Prize, the Alker, Ellison, and Nelson Prize confers \$200 to the honoree. Last but not least, the Board welcomes **Katherine Ellison** as its new vice president, and thanks past vice president **Paula Backscheider** for her service.

The *Eighteenth-Century Scottish Studies Society (ECSSS)* (along with ASECS and the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities at University of Edinburgh) seeks applications for the Daiches-Manning Memorial Fellowship in 18th-century Scottish studies; deadline, February 28; \$3,000 bursary for travel to and accommodation in Edinburgh. www.iash.ed.ac.uk/daiches-manning-memorial-fellowship-18th-century-scottish-studies

The *Historians of Eighteenth-Century Art and Architecture (HECAA)* will hold their first-ever conference November 1-4, 2018, at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. Details, CFP soon.

The *Ibero-American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (IASECS)* offers the Pilar Sàenz Annual Student Essay Prize for the “best essay dealing with 18th-century Spain, Portugal, or Ibero-America.” Open to students enrolled in North American universities, including undergraduates. A \$250 prize and possibility of publication in *Dieciocho*; February 15, 2018 deadline. www.iasecs.org/iasecs-prizes-and-grants/

The *Midwestern American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies* will meet in Sioux Falls, SD, October 12-13, 2018. Theme: “Eighteenth-Century Frontiers.” Details and CFP soon.

The *North American British Music Studies Association* will hold its 8th biennial conference from July 30-August 1, 2018, in Logan, UT. The deadline for proposals is January 19, 2018. Details and CFP: <https://nabmsa.org/conferences/2018-biennial-conference/>

The *North American Kant Society* welcomes submissions for the NAKS Book Prize for Senior Scholars (40 years of age or older). \$500 prize. Deadline: December 31, 2017. www.northamericankantsociety.onefireplace.org/event-2533038.

The *Rousseau Association* is planning its 21st Biennial Colloquium, to take place in Stockholm, May 29-June 1. Theme: “Rousseau and Aesthetic Experience: Art, Nature, Politics.” Conference organizers: **Maria Gullstam** and **Jennie Nell**. Details and CFP soon.

The *Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing (SHARP)* offers the George A. and Jean S. DeLong Book History Prize, a \$1,000 prize for “the best book on any aspect of the creation, dissemination, or uses of script or print published in the previous year.” Deadline: January 31, 2018. **Eva Mroczek** won the award this year, for *The Literary Imagination in Jewish Antiquity* (OUP, 2017). www.sharpweb.org/main/activities.

The *Southeastern American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies* invites submissions for the Graduate Student Essay Prize. Open to students presenting at the annual meeting, the \$300 prize is given for the best student paper given at SEASECS. Deadline: January 15, 2018, by 5 p.m. The 2017 winner was **Mariah Gruner**, for “Transformative Emulation: Construction and Display of the Mobile Schoolgirl Self and Sampler.” www.seasecs.org/graduate-student-essay-prize.

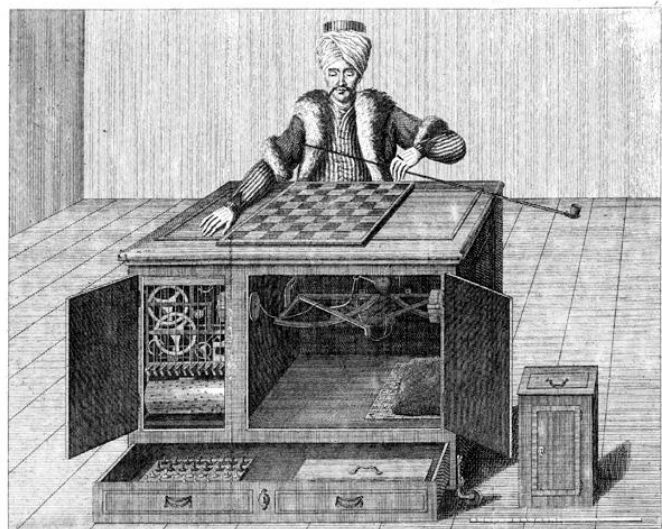
Registration is now open for the *Western Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (WSECS)* annual meeting at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, on February 16-17, 2018. Held in conjunction with the Las Vegas Baroque Music Festival (February 15-18, 2018), the WSECS meeting is organized around the theme “Conversing among the Ruins: The Persistence of the Baroque.” **Timothy Erwin** and **Gregory S. Brown** are the organizers. <https://sites.google.com/unlv.edu/wsecs18/home> or <http://lasvegasbaroquefestival.com/>.



Caucusing Corner

In this new column, the News Circular will profile two or three of the society's caucuses in this new column. ASECS members are encouraged to support caucus activities or to explore the formation of new caucuses. For information on how to propose a new caucus, please contact the Business Office.

The **Digital Humanities Caucus** was started in 2010 under the leadership of George Williams (USC Upstate) and Lisa Maruca (Wayne State University) to energize and organize discussion of digital thinking about the long eighteenth century. In recent years, algorithmic criticism, data visualization, digitization, database design and other forms of analysis have deeply influenced the way we engage our period—and will continue to do so. As a result, it is incumbent upon us to think through the politics and the ethics of digital engagement with the past. The DH Caucus also encourages thoughtful discussion of digital pedagogy in this context. Since 2010, the DH Caucus has organized two panels each year; past sessions



W. de Keyserling del. Ch. = Michel sculp. Dardel. P. G. Pezay, f. Paris. Sauf la partie mécanique de l'Échec, qui est le modèle de ce qui se joue par devant.

have included traditional paper sessions on topics like “Graphs, Charts, Maps: Visualizing Eighteenth-Century Data” and non-traditional sessions like our project “petting zoo,” “A Royal Menagerie: DH Projects in the Wild.” Interested ASECS members are welcome to join the DH Caucus by visiting facebook.com/groups/ASECSDH/.

The **Italian Studies Caucus** is an interdisciplinary group of specialists, working both in North America and in Europe, who devote themselves to the advancement of scholarship in all aspects of Italian culture from the later seventeenth through the

early nineteenth century, including literary studies, history, art history, religion, philosophy, theatre, music, women and gender studies, material culture studies, and the history of science, medicine, and technology. The Caucus has promoted scholarship that cuts across not only traditional disciplinary



boundaries but also national and linguistic divides in an effort to remap Italian Studies from a transnational and intercultural perspective. Its members have served on the ASECS Executive Committee, and on the editorial boards of 18th-century journals and series, and have been recipients of major awards from the Society and its affiliates including the Catherine Macaulay Prize, the Clifford Prize, and the Percy Adams Prize. The caucus has successfully organized and conducted sessions/panels on such topics as “Real’ Events and Invention in Eighteenth-Century Italian Literature; Food and Gender; Italian Celebrity Culture; the Religious Enlightenment; the Grand Tour; Teaching Innovation; and the Visual Arts and Material Culture. For more information, contact Rebecca Messbarger at rmessbar@wustl.edu.

The **Science Studies Caucus** is an inclusive community of scholar-teachers whose work incorporates interdisciplinary theoretical and historical methodologies related to science, medicine, and technology across the long eighteenth century. This year, our panels focus on issues of environment and sustainability. On our two sponsored roundtables, we will discuss a range of topics: water’s role in British art and architecture; natural disasters; weather in Equiano’s writing and the environment in plantation narratives; and the impact of these subjects on poetry, periodicals, travel writing, and novels.

At each annual meeting, we host guaranteed sessions and a business lunch open to all (there is no advance charge to attend lunch). Membership is

informal, and nearly all Caucus business occurs online. Each spring, we solicit panel proposals from members; also via email, we elect one new co-chair to serve a three-year term. The 2017-18 chairs are David Alff, Joseph Drury, and Danielle Spratt.

We welcome members from all fields of C18 studies and at all stages of their scholarly careers. To join our mailing list, sign up for our listserv [here](#) or email David Alff at dalff@buffalo.edu. For frequent updates, follow us on Facebook (ASECS Science Studies Caucus) and on Twitter @18ScienceStudies.



ASECS Office Manager: Aimee Levesque

Aimee Levesque is a PhD Candidate in the Curriculum, Instruction and the Science of Learning program, in the Department of Learning and Instruction at the University at Buffalo. She also holds a Master of Library and Information Science (MLS) from the University at Buffalo and a MA in English from Buffalo State College. Aimee is the Founder, Executive & Artistic Director of Inclusive Theater of WNY; ITOWNY is a theater company that welcomes all persons of all levels of experience and ability and focuses on promoting inclusion, diversity, and respect in the Arts. Aimee was recently re-appointed to the New York State's Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (DDPC) and is active in the WNY disability and theater communities.



ASECS Awards and Prizes: Deadlines before July 1, 2018

For a complete list of ASECS prizes and fellowships, visit <https://asecs.press.jhu.edu/>. Applications for the following awards should be submitted to the ASECS Business Office, asecsoffice@gmail.com, unless noted otherwise.

Clifford Prize

The James L. Clifford Prize goes to the author of an article on an outstanding study of an aspect of eighteenth-century culture, interesting to any eighteenth-century specialist, regardless of discipline. It carries an award of \$500.

To be eligible, the article should be no longer than 15,000 words, and must have appeared in print in a journal, festschrift, or other serial publication between July 2016 and June 2017. The article may be nominated by a member of the society, by its author, or by an editor of the publishing journal. Self-nominations are limited to one article per year.

Nominations should be submitted in pdf format to the ASECS Business Office. All submissions must be received in the ASECS Business Office no later than **January 1, 2018**. The author must be a member of the ASECS at the time of submission.

Graduate Student Research Paper Award

Recognizing the pioneering research contributions of the next generation of eighteenth-century studies scholars, this \$200 award is given to an outstanding research essay of 15-30 pages that has not been previously published.

A pdf copy of the essay as well as a letter of endorsement from a mentoring professor outlining the originality and contributions that the essay makes to the field of eighteenth-century studies, are required. The deadline for applications is **January 1, 2018** and the winner will be announced at the Annual Meeting.

The Srinivas Aravamudan Prize

This award goes to the author of an article published in the previous year that pushes the boundaries, geographical and conceptual, of eighteenth-century studies, especially by using a transnational, comparative, or cosmopolitan approach. It carries an award of \$250. To be eligible, the article should be no longer than 15,000 words and must have been published in a journal or any peer-reviewed publication between July 2016 and June 2017. The article may be nominated by a member of the society, by its author, or by an editor of the publishing journal. Nominations must be submitted in pdf format and received in the ASECS Business Office no later than **January 1, 2018**. The author must be a member of ASECS at the time of submission.

ASECS Women's Caucus Editing and Translation Fellowship

The ASECS Women's Caucus Editing and Translation Fellowship is an annual award of \$1,000 to support an editing or a translation work-in-progress of an eighteenth-century primary text on a feminist or a Women's Studies subject. Editing and translation work of eighteenth-century texts in languages other than English are eligible. The award is open to all members of ASECS who have received a PhD. Proposals from emeritae/i faculty who do not have professional support for their projects will also be considered. The award is meant to fund works in progress, commensurate in scope with a scholarly article-length project to a longer scholarly and/or a classroom edition with a strong scholarly basis for which research and work is well under way, rather than work that is already completed. To be eligible for the prize, projects must translate and/or edit works by eighteenth-century women writers or works that significantly advance our understanding of women's experiences in the eighteenth century or offer a feminist analysis of any aspect of eighteenth-century culture and/or society. Projects typically fall within the period from 1660 to 1820.

Applications must include an abbreviated curriculum vita that lists achievements relevant to the project, a three-to-five page proposal outlining the project, a two-page bibliography of pertinent works, two letters of recommendation sent directly by the referees to the ASECS Business Office, and a budget explaining the candidate's plans for using the funds.

The winner will be asked to submit a brief written report on the progress of the project one year after

receiving the award, and whenever possible, will serve on the Award committee in the following year. Award winners will be requested to acknowledge this grant's support in the publication that results from the project. The prize winner will be announced at the ASECS Annual Meeting and the Women's Caucus Luncheon. Applications must be received at the ASECS Business Office by **January 15, 2018**.

Émilie Du Châtelet Award

The Émilie Du Châtelet Award is an annual prize of \$500, made by the ASECS Women's Caucus to support research in progress by an independent or adjunct scholar on a feminist or women's studies subject. The award is open to the members of ASECS who have received the PhD and



who do not currently hold a tenured, tenure-track, or job-secure position in a college or university, nor any permanent position that requires or supports the pursuit of research. Faculty emeritae are not eligible. The award is meant to fund works in progress, commensurate in scope with a scholarly article or book chapter, for which some research is already under way. To be eligible for the prize, projects must advance understanding of women's experiences and/or contributions to eighteenth-century culture or offer a feminist analysis of any aspect of eighteenth-century culture and/or society. Applications must include a curriculum vitae, a one-to-three page research proposal outlining the project and the candidate's plans for using the funds, and evidence of progress on this project (e.g., an accepted

conference paper, a related publication, or an essay submitted for publication).

The winner will be asked to submit a brief written report on the progress of the project one year after receiving the award, and whenever possible, will serve on the Award committee in the following year. The prizewinner will be announced at the Women's Caucus Luncheon at the ASECS Annual Meeting. Submissions for the Émilie Du Châtelet Prize must be sent directly to the ASECS Business Office and be received by **January 15, 2018**, for consideration.

New Award!!

The Mary D. Sheriff Travel and Research Award supports feminist topics in eighteenth-century art history and visual culture. The award in the amount of \$2,000 will be given every other year, beginning in 2018. Doctoral candidates and early career scholars are eligible. The deadline for submissions is **January 15, 2018**. The Award will be presented at the Historians of Eighteenth Century Art and Architecture (HECAA) annual luncheon and business meeting at ASECS.

Dora Wiebenson Graduate Student Prize

HECAA (Historians of Eighteenth-Century Art and Architecture) offers its Wiebenson Prize for the best graduate student paper presented during the previous calendar year at a scholarly conference or as a sponsored lecture. Honorable mention is an option for papers of distinction that do not win the prize.

Winners must be HECAA members in good standing. Deadline for submissions is **February 15, 2018**. The prize is awarded at the HECAA annual luncheon and business meeting at the ASECS Annual Meeting. For more information, consult *Enfilade*, HECAA's online newsletter.

2018 Graduate Student Conference Paper Award

The ASECS Executive Board will award \$200 for the best paper presented by a graduate student at the 2018 ASECS Annual Meeting in Orlando (regional meetings do not qualify). Papers submitted may be no longer than 2,500 words plus notes. Papers exceeding this length will be disqualified.

Entries must be emailed to the Business Office in pdf format no later than **Monday, March 26, 2018**.

The María Salgado Student Travel Grant

The *Ibero-American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies* (IASECS) offers up to a maximum of \$400 to graduate students from North American universities who present a paper focused on eighteenth-century Spain, Portugal, or Ibero-America at the ASECS Annual Meeting. **To inquire about availability of funds visit www.iasecs.org/iasecs-prizes-and-grants/**. Funds will be granted and disbursed upon submission of receipts no later than two weeks after the national conference.

IASECS Registration Fee Grants

Two grants are available for non-tenure-track full time and part-time faculty (lecturers, instructors, adjuncts, etc.). Those who have not received an award previously will be given preference. Funds for the registration fee grants are disbursed after the presentation of a paper focused on eighteenth-century Spain, Portugal, or Ibero-America at the ASECS Annual Meeting. **For more information visit www.iasecs.org/iasecs-prizes-and-grants/**

Marjorie Weston Emerson Award

The Mozart Society of America, an affiliate society of ASECS, invites nominations for its Marjorie Weston Emerson Award. A prize of \$500 will be awarded annually for the best scholarly work in English related to Mozart to have been published during the preceding calendar year. Eligible works include books, essays, or editions. The selection will be made by a committee of Mozart scholars and performers appointed by the President of the Mozart Society of America, with approval from the Board of Directors. Works may be submitted by the author or nominated by committee members or outside scholars. Deadline for nominations will be **May 1, 2018** (or as determined by the committee and President). The award will be presented at the Mozart Society's annual business meeting in the fall and announced in the January issue of the Society's Newsletter.

2017 ASECS Travel Fellowships: Reports from the Road

Thanks to the generosity of past and present members, ASECS supports a variety of travel awards and joint fellowships to libraries and archives. Please consider making a contribution to one or more of our travel funds. Donations may be made through the ASECS website, where you also will find information on travel grants.

The following reports from recent recipients of ASECS grants and fellowships have been edited for length. Such reports will continue to be a regular feature of the News Circular.

A.C. Elias, Jr. ASECS Irish-American Fellowship

June 2017--The A.C. Elias, Jr. award allowed extensive archival research to be undertaken as part of work towards my second monograph, *Women's Diaries in Ireland, 1760-1820: Narrating Society, Negotiating Selfhood*.

The Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Archive has a wealth of valuable information with regard to eighteenth-century Ireland and women, including important material on Maria Edgeworth, and the Leadbeater family. Various correspondence contained in the collections allows for comparison to be made between different modes of writing: epistolary and diary-keeping, to ascertain the various elements concerned with each, and how women approached both. The Ballitore collection also includes diaries kept by Mary Leadbeater's mother, Elizabeth, which allows comparisons to be made at an inter-generational level. A journal in the Houghton Library that I consulted also records a visit to Ireland in the 1790s, by Elizabeth Quincy, and again reveals the shaping of ideas of the self, with which the project is so concerned.

Amongst the items that were of particular interest for the project at Yale was the anonymous "Diary of a winter in Bath, 1796-1797." This was exceedingly useful for a comparative study, when considered alongside the journal of Marianne Fortescue of Co. Louth, who kept a diary of her journey from Co. Louth to Bath during the same period, specifically 1797. Many of the diaries under review can be considered as carefully constructed narratives, and the project attempts to discern the intended audience for each diary, and their individual aims. Recognition of the development of a

narrative voice by each female writer represents a major consideration of the project, enabling interpretation of whether each voice might have at its origin gender, religion, or nation. Comparative analysis of these two diaries from an identical period, wherein two diarists visit the same town, allows similarities and differences to be noted. My findings from a study of these two diaries is currently being written up as an article, entitled, "Cultural Encounters and Recordings of the Self: Irish Women's Diaries, 1796-98," which explores issues of selfhood and national identity, as these were to the fore in these examples of life writing, particularly in that in Yale.
-Amy Prendergast, Trinity College, Dublin

Aubrey Williams Travel Fellowship

July 6, 2017--The Aubrey L. Williams Research Travel Fellowship enabled me to spend three weeks in the United Kingdom conducting research for my dissertation, *Beyond Representation: English Fiction in the Catholic Tradition*. I studied and photographed manuscripts at the library of St. Mary's College, Oscott; the British Library; and the Old Library at Magdalen College, Oxford. My primary objective was to gather primary source material for the third chapter of my project, which features the prose and poetry of recusant author Jane Barker (1652-1732). I was also able to conduct work on other Catholic writers, such as Elizabeth Inchbald and Joseph Berington, who appear in later chapters of the dissertation.

I spent the first week of my expedition at the Glancey Library, located at St. Mary's College in Oscott, Birmingham. St. Mary's is one of three Roman Catholic seminaries in the United Kingdom; its library houses an extensive collection of manuscripts by and about English Catholics. Studying these manuscripts helped me to gain a clearer picture of the intellectual and religious culture of the recusant community over the course of the eighteenth century, as Catholics slowly regained the right to practice their faith publicly. The degree to which Catholics were actually barred from public life by the Penal Laws and Test Acts is still debated in scholarship; my research revealed a community anxious to make itself as unthreatening to Protestants as possible and to correct long-standing misconceptions about Catholic beliefs. Several manuscripts by Joseph Berington (1743-1827), a Catholic priest and polemicist who figures in the fifth and final chapter of my project, illustrated this very clearly. His line-

edits to *An Exposition of the Doctrines of the Catholic Church*—a treatise that was never published—often reflect a concern to minimize the distinctions between Catholic and Protestant attitudes.

The library museum also contained Catholic artifacts from the eighteenth-century, which I plan to describe and discuss in the introduction of my project. The religious nature of these objects was often minimized or concealed in order to deceive Protestant authorities. I viewed Eucharistic chalices that doubled as ordinary drinking goblets, priests' vestments that could be readily disguised as tablecloths, and Mass kits that allowed any table to serve as an altar. These artifacts demonstrated that the eighteenth-century Catholic condition allowed material things to be ontologically flexible.

I then spent a week and a half at the British Library in London, where I studied and photographed Jane Barker's *Poems Relating to the Times*, a collection of manuscript poetry that has yet to appear in full in a contemporary print edition, scholarly or otherwise. The poems form a narrative sequence depicting the various triumphs and tribulations of the Jacobite community, from Monmouth's defeat to mass exile at St. Germain. They are far more explicit about Barker's political and religious commitments than her prose and will offer a new way into her published fictions, which tend to obscure her ideological positions. I also reviewed and photographed a broad selection of other documents relevant to the English Catholic community. Studying a collection of Jacobite correspondence, including a seditious letter written by Barker to the Earl of Ormond, revealed the extent to which Catholic communication relied upon codes and cyphers. This casts Barker's use of codes to express her Catholicism in her published fictions in an even more serious light. A set of documents describing state surveillance of the Catholic Radcliffe family in the 1670s illuminated the annoyances and suspicions visited upon Catholic gentry in the years prior to the Revolution. The life-and-death stakes of Jacobite allegiance and Catholic belief became starkly clear in an account of the last days and execution of the Earl of Derwentwater, a 26-year-old Catholic aristocrat beheaded for his role in the rebellion of 1715 – something that Barker would doubtless have been aware of.

After concluding my work at the British Library, I spent a day at Magdalen College's Old Library reading and photographing "the Magdalen

Manuscript," a three-part collection of Barker's poems featuring a copy of *Poems Relating to the Times*, a corrected version of *Poetical Recreations*—and a selection of poems that Barker composed during her French exile. These latter poems, which have never been published in full, contained some of Barker's most explicit musings on the nature of art and representation and on the supposed "idolatry" of Catholicism.

—Margaret L. Tucker,
Washington University in St. Louis

Paula Backscheider Archival Fellowship

August 2017—With the generous support of the Paula Backscheider Archival Fellowship, I was able to conduct research in three archives in South Carolina for my dissertation. In June, I worked at the South Carolina Historical Society (SCHS) in Charleston, and in July I researched at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History (SCDAH) and the South Caroliniana Library. My project examines the practice of long-term enslavement of women for sexual purposes, often called concubinage in literature on Atlantic slavery, from the eighteenth century in the British colonies of North America and the Caribbean to the nineteenth century in the United States. Each archive yielded records that are valuable to my analysis of how this practice shaped social and cultural norms in the South.

The SCHS collections contained essential information about enslaved women's relationships to the families who enslaved them and enabled me to trace specific individuals' interactions and lives, both through financial documents and personal papers. I continued the work of piecing together the life of a particular enslaved woman whose story I had investigated earlier. In the process, I discovered a number of other collections that contained information about specific enslaved women who were sold, traded, rented, bequeathed, or manumitted. This information is crucial for understanding what it meant to be enslaved as a concubine. Importantly, it will also allow me to unpack, in the introduction of my dissertation, different meanings of the term "concubine" in the context of North American slavery.

At the South Caroliniana Library and SCDAH, I examined plantation records housed at the Caroliniana in search of specific individuals whose lives were documented in personal correspondence at the SCHS. While I have not yet been able to

connect all of these individuals to specific court cases or families found in other archives, the records that I examined at the South Caroliniana are valuable for the information they contain about the treatment of enslaved women in South Carolina and transformations in the legal and cultural dimensions of concubinage from the mid-eighteenth century to the nineteenth century. At the SCDAH, I examined legal documents, such as probate records, petitions, bills of sale, and manumission records. Dating from the late eighteenth century to the mid-nineteenth century, these documents provided crucial information about how enslavers used the courts to secure a racial hierarchy at the same time that a few pursued legal routes to manumit, and sometimes provide for, their enslaved children and the women who bore them. Many of these documents also contained testimonies revealing public perception of women who were enslaved this way and of the enslavers and their families. Together, these documents illustrate how concubinage developed and was sustained through the intertwined cultural, social, and legal aspects of slavery.

In all of these collections, I found numerous connections among families living in both the southern part of North America and the Caribbean. Uncovering these specific connections supports my investigation of concubinage as part of a larger British Atlantic system of slavery, laws, and customs in the interest of understanding more fully the roles of race, gender, and sexuality in both challenging and reinforcing systems of enslavement in plantation societies of the British colonial Atlantic and U.S. South. —*J.E. Morgan, Emory University*

Robert R. Palmer Research Travel Fellowship

September 25, 2017—The financial support provided by the 2016-2017 Robert R. Palmer Research Travel Fellowship helped to make my recent research trips to Palo Alto, Los Angeles, Cleveland, Chicago, and Paris possible. Each of these cities afforded me the opportunity to examine portrait drawings by Louis Carrogis called Carmontelle (1717-1806), whose corpus of roughly 750 objects of this kind is the subject of my doctoral dissertation, “Carmontelle’s Profile Pictures and the Things that Made Them Modern.” Whereas Carmontelle’s portraits have traditionally been used as transparent illustrations in histories of the eighteenth century, my project is unique in its treatment of these drawings as constructions of self-

fashioning in terms of both their consumer commodity content and their casual drawing medium.

The majority of the hundreds of Carmontelle portraits that I pored over during my European sojourn during the 2016-2017 academic year are pasted down to mounts, but at the Iris & B. Gerald Cantor Center for Visual Arts at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California, I was afforded the rare opportunity to study both the recto and verso of a triple portrait by Carmontelle. At the Getty Center in Los Angeles, I examined a portrait and a landscape transparency by Carmontelle, as well as several superb examples of eighteenth-century French furniture and their object files, all of which afforded me new perspective on the materials used to construct the pieces of furniture that Carmontelle depicted, and, relatedly, the drawing media that the artist chose to employ when capturing desks, chairs, and more on paper. Charissa Bremer-David, a curator in the Department of Sculpture and Decorative Arts at the Getty, kindly opened eighteenth-century desk drawers, touched upon the intricate mechanisms with which these desks are equipped, and generously answered questions regarding objects’ functionality. While in the Getty’s storage facility and beyond the stanchions that protect the museum’s period rooms, we also discussed the ornamental elements that help to make pieces of seating furniture intended for different parts of a room differentiable.

The last stops on my grand tour of American collections that boast works by (and contemporaneous with) Carmontelle were Cleveland and Chicago. My time spent examining the Cleveland Museum of Art’s triple portrait provided valuable insight into Carmontelle’s technique. The works on paper that I spent the better part of a week studying at the Art Institute of Chicago similarly illuminated aspects of Carmontelle’s artistic practice.

It was, however, my most recent research trip to Paris that was the most unique and unforgettable, as I had the privilege of studying (previously) privately owned works by Carmontelle at Sotheby’s Paris saleroom before they were sold and dispersed in mid-September. Having seen predominantly poor reproductions of many of these works in auction catalogues that date from the 1980s and 1990s, I was wowed by the drawings’ luminous colors—not to mention by the auction house’s enormously accommodating staff members, who removed all of

the portraits from their frames and allowed me to examine these works at great length. The fifteen Carmontelle portraits in the musée Carnavalet's collection were also unframed at my request during my time in France. I ended the Parisian portion of

my travels at the National Archives, where I was able to consult documents pertaining to the Orléans household (of which Carmontelle was a part) that had not previously been available to me.
—*Margot Bernstein, Columbia University*

ASECS Library Fellowships

To promote and sustain research into the eighteenth century, the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies jointly funds fellowships with the following research institutions:

American Antiquarian Society

Bibliographical Society of America

Boston Athenaeum

Burney Centre, McGill University

Folger Shakespeare Library & Institute

Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, University of Texas at Austin

(This fellowship is only available to members holding the Ph.D. or equivalent degree.)

Houghton Library, Harvard University

The Huntington

Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies, University of Notre Dame

Lewis Walpole Library

Library Company of Philadelphia

McMaster University Library

The Newberry Library

Rare Book School, University of Virginia

William Andrews Clark Memorial Library, UCLA, Center for 17th & 18th Century Studies

Yale Center for British Art

Contact information and links to each fellowship's website is available at

<https://asecs.press.jhu.edu/general%20site/fellowsh.html>. To receive an ASECS fellowship, at the time of the award an applicant must be an ASECS member in good standing and an ABD graduate student or post-doctoral, holding the PhD or equivalent degree, and must be working on a project concerning the eighteenth century.

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