

# American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies

News Circular No. 174

Spring 2020

## President's Column: *Jeffrey S. Ravel,* *Massachusetts Institute of Technology*

As I write this column on the weekend we were supposed to have gathered in St. Louis, I feel regret, but also admiration and gratitude. I regret the lost opportunities to learn from each other and to enjoy our mutual passion for the eighteenth century. But I admire those who have expressed solidarity and resilience in the face of our rapidly changing situation. I admire our Executive Director Lisa Berglund and our Office Manager Aimee Levesque, who have worked constantly since we sent out the cancellation notice on March 6 to keep us all informed, and to mitigate the impact of the cancellation on the Society. I am grateful to my fellow elected officers, Bill Warner and Rebecca Messbarger, and to the entire ASECS Executive Board, for our deliberations on March 6 that led to the cancellation. The arguments Board members made for and against cancellation in that moment were genuine and insightful; as a group we considered all the options and came to the only reasonable conclusion, reluctantly but unanimously. And I am grateful to all of you who have written to the Office and to me to express your support for this decision. I am inspired by your desire to share your scholarship in the face of the unknown threats posed by the spread of the new coronavirus, whether virtually this year or in person next year if we are able to gather in Toronto. The strength of our Society has been apparent in your many communications with us and with each other.

Since we made the decision to cancel the conference, I have looked to the past for lessons that might help us put this moment in perspective. The current crisis is often labeled “unprecedented” in the media, but those of us who study history know that nothing in human experience is entirely new. The plague that first arrived in Europe in the 1340s reappeared there periodically for another three and a half centuries, last arising in Provence in 1720-22 where it killed tens of thousands over the course of two years. Scholars have speculated on the correlation between the disappearance of the plague at that point and the rise of a secular belief in progress over the course of the eighteenth century. As one historian pithily put it two decades ago, “[t]he seventeenth century was a period of crises of mortality, while the eighteenth witnessed the mortality of crises....”<sup>1</sup> But those living in the eighteenth century did not have the comfort of knowing that this form of pestilence was gone for good, just as we face a stunning amount of uncertainty today. In an article on the history of the plague published in the *Encyclopédie* in 1765, the Chevalier Louis de Jaucourt noted how

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little was understood about the nature of the disease, or the way it was transmitted. The Chevalier, while not well-known today, was a familiar figure in Enlightenment circles; he wrote around 18,000 pieces for the monumental project directed by Denis



Diderot, or about one quarter of the total articles that appeared in its pages. His recommendations to his contemporaries should the plague reappear were not that different from the advice we are getting now: flee those regions in which the disease has appeared, and if unable to do so sequester

yourself at home in a well-ventilated space. He also recommended lots of citrus fruits, white wine, gargling with vinegar, frequent bathing, and purifying the air in one's home with steam infused by the wood and berries from juniper trees. A bibliophile, he noted that over two hundred books had been published about the experience of the plague in Marseilles a generation earlier, but that no more than a dozen were worth consulting. Fake news and facile conclusions abounded then, as well. He also observed that the plague was often accompanied by two other disasters: war and famine. The historical experience of the plague, it seems, was still too raw in human memory, and the catastrophic economic, social, and political dislocations too painful, for a belief in secular progress to eclipse the systemic disruptions brought on by an epidemic. The lesson for us today? Humility, perhaps, and a humane response in the face of the unknown challenges that lie ahead.

Returning to the present, I can confirm that the business of our Society continues, in spite of our decision not to congregate in St. Louis. The Executive Board met virtually to discuss our finances, to hear reports on our journals, affiliates, and caucuses, and to think about how to make our web site even more useful for the membership. I am pleased to report that a new editorial team will be taking over *Studies in Eighteenth-Century Culture*. David Brewer of the Ohio State University will be the journal's editor for the next four years, and Crystal Lake of Wright State University will serve as Associate Editor. The Board and the Society vigorously salute the outgoing *SECC*

editorial team of Eve Tavor Bannet of the University of Oklahoma, who served as Editor of the journal for four years, and as Associate Editor for two years before that; and Roxann Wheeler of the Ohio State University, who served as Associate Editor for four years. As you have no doubt noticed, our quarterly journal, *Eighteenth-Century Studies*, has a striking new cover design thanks to the efforts of *ECS* editor Sean Moore and the Johns Hopkins University Press design team. If you have not already done so, I urge you to read the series of interviews with some of the Society's long-time, distinguished members that will be running in the journal this year.

One particularly pressing matter is the Society's still incomplete policy on harassment and sexual misconduct. We are making good progress on this complex issue. I hope to be able to report in my next column that a committee is in place to handle complaints according to fair and transparent procedures. Elsewhere in this news circular you will find the new Program Selection policies that we will follow for the Toronto conference. These reforms are the result of a proposal from the Society's Diversity, Equity, Inclusiveness and Accessibility (DEIA) Advisory Committee, which the Board then debated and slightly modified. They will address the issues raised by the membership during the program selection process for the St. Louis conference. Finally, I ask that you read the Tribal Land Acknowledgement, also published in this circular, that I had been planning to present at the start of the Business Meeting in St. Louis. I am grateful to the DEIA, and especially to Eugenia Zuroski, for guidance in preparing this statement. Although we did not get to acknowledge the indigenous occupants of the land on which we were to meet in St. Louis, it is my hope that we will be able to do so next year in Toronto, and at our subsequent annual meetings.

We do not know how or when we will emerge from the pandemic. But when we emerge, I am confident that our Society's deep engagement with the past will provide guidance. The eighteenth century is over, but the lessons it has to teach us are ongoing and valuable, as we will reaffirm the next time that we convene face-to-face. We will continue our never-ending debate about the merits and failings of our eighteenth-century predecessors. Perhaps we will even breathe air infused with the aroma of juniper berries....

<sup>1</sup>Daniel Gordon, "The City and the Plague in the Age of Enlightenment," *Yale French Studies* 92 (1997), 67-87, quote on 67.

# ASECS 2020 Annual Meeting Updates

## Virtual 2020 Annual Meeting Sessions

The week of April 13, ASECS will launch the Virtual 2020 Annual Meeting using the Zoom conferencing app. Any session originally scheduled for St. Louis may be held in the Virtual 2020 Annual Meeting. Panels will receive instructions on signing up for a session date and time. Once sessions are scheduled, ASECS will publish a Virtual 2020 Annual Meeting Program listing the speakers. ASECS members will be able to register to receive a password to join the audience of any sessions that interest them.

The ASECS Business Office will host the Virtual 2020 Annual Meeting sessions, managing audience access and ensuring that the panels are secure from Zoom-bombing. Sessions will normally be held during Business Office hours (Monday-Thursday, 9:30 am- 5:00 pm EST and Fridays 9:30 am - 1:30 pm). Accommodations can be made for earlier or later times if sessions will have participation from many European or West Coast members.

Orientation on managing Zoom sessions will be provided to panel chairs.

Any panel that has a chair and at least two speakers may participate in the Virtual 2020 Annual Meeting. Substitute speakers may be included in the session as long as they are members of ASECS or of an ISECS affiliate society and registered for the Annual Meeting. Sessions will be allotted 90 minutes and should include 20 minutes for discussion.

Members of ASECS and members of affiliate societies need not have registered for the meeting in St. Louis in order to join the audience of the Virtual 2020 Annual Meeting. Presenters may invite students, colleagues or family to register for a seat in the audience. (Registration forms are posted on the ASECS2020 website.) For reasons of security, no one will be admitted to a session who has not registered as an audience member.

Sessions for the Virtual 2020 Annual Meeting must be requested by May 1 and take place no later than November 30. All sessions held in the Virtual 2020 Annual Meeting format are official ASECS sessions.

## Alternatives to the Virtual 2020 Annual Meeting

To make alternative arrangements for holding a session originally approved for the 2020 Annual Meeting (for example, to host a session using a different platform), panel chairs should contact the ASECS Office directly.

## Rolling over Sessions to 2021 Toronto

Sessions approved for the 2020 Annual Meeting can reserve a guaranteed slot on the 2021 Program. **Session chairs should notify the Business Office no later than April 15, 2020, if they wish to roll over their sessions.** The form to request rolling over a session is available here: [www.asecs2020.org](http://www.asecs2020.org).

Chairs may recruit new or additional members to participate in the rolled-over sessions, as long as the revised panel conforms to the usual requirements: it must have the same title as the panel approved by the Program Committee, the panelists must be members of ASECS or an ISECS affiliate, they may not appear

Visit the  
Virtual 2020 Annual Meeting  
page to find forms to request  
reimbursement of  
Registration Fees or Meal Tickets,  
participate in the Virtual 2020 Meeting,  
or move a 2020 session to 2021.  
It also has information about the NTTF  
Travel Grants and the Traveling Jam Pot.

on the meeting program more than twice, and they may not chair panels on which they are presenters. Panels may have no more than four speakers and roundtables no more than seven, plus the chair.

Sessions presented in the Virtual 2020 Annual Meeting may not also roll over to 2021 Toronto.

## Reimbursement of Registration Fees, Meal Tickets, and Event Tickets

ASECS will reimburse registration fees (less a processing fee of \$15), meal tickets, and tickets to Cahokia. The form to request a reimbursement is at <https://www.asecs.org/latest-news-from-asecs>.

## 2020 Graduate Student Conference Paper Awards

The Women's Caucus Catherine Macaulay Award, the Race and Empire Caucus Award, and the ASECS Graduate Student Conference Paper Award **will be presented to papers originally accepted for the 2020 Annual Meeting.** Please consult the descriptions of prizes in this circular or at [www.asecs.org](http://www.asecs.org) for information about revised submission requirements and deadlines.

## NEWS from the Executive Board

The following financial decisions were made by the Executive Board in online meetings March 18-20, 2020. This report normally would have been made to the membership at the Business Meeting.

### New Discount for Three-Year Membership Renewals

These discounted three-year membership rates will be effective with all new memberships and renewals made after May 1, 2020. The one-year membership rates remain the same.

Member Level	One-year Membership	Three-year Membership	Savings to Member
Income <\$50,000	\$50	\$130	13%
Income \$50,000-\$100,000	\$90	\$250	7.5%
Income >\$100,000	\$125	\$350	5.3%
Student	\$40	\$100	16%
Emeritus	\$50	\$130	13%
Institution	\$200	\$580	3%
Joint	\$35	\$100	5%

### New Rates for Lifetime Memberships and Lifetime Patron Memberships

Lifetime membership rates have not been raised for more than 20 years. The Board therefore has approved the new rates, effective immediately.

Lifetime Membership	\$1,500
Lifetime Patron Membership	\$4,000

*A Lifetime Patron Membership includes Lifetime membership (\$1,500), a lifetime subscription to SECC (\$700), and an \$1,800 donation to ASECS. As a donor, the Lifetime Patron Member is listed in SECC, ECS, and the Annual Meeting Program.)*

### Funding for Fellowships and for ISECS:

The ASECS / William Andrews Clark Library Fellowship will be increased to \$3,000.

The 2021 ISECS Early Career Scholars Seminar, to be held at the University of Michigan under the direction of Dena Goodman and David Porter, will receive a grant of \$4,500. ASECS members are eligible to apply to participate in the seminar; information on the Seminar, will be available in the next News Circular.

## Reforms to the Annual Meeting Program Committee Membership and Selection Procedures

Beginning with the Program Selection Process for the ASECS 2021 Annual Meeting in Toronto, the following reforms will be implemented:

### **I. Composition of the Program Selection Committee**

- Committee members do not need to reside in the metropolitan area in which the Annual Meeting is being held to serve on the Committee.
- The Committee membership will expand from three to five people.
- The Chair of the Committee will be appointed from among the Committee members who served in the previous year.
- The Committee will include one member of the ASECS Executive Board.
- One member of the committee will be a graduate student, a non-tenure-track faculty (NTTF) member, or an independent scholar.
- No more than two Committee members may be from the same disciplinary field, as those fields are defined in Bylaw 3 of the ASECS Constitution.
- No more than two members of the committee will be working within the same geographic field.

### **II. Limitations on Panel and Paper Submissions**

- By decision of the Executive Board, no more than 195 sessions may be mounted at the Annual Meeting.
- Society members may submit only one proposal in response to the initial call for panel proposals. There are no exceptions to this policy.
- The Society's rules permit members to present only one paper at the meeting. Members may, in addition to presenting a paper, serve as a session chair, a respondent, a workshop facilitator, or a roundtable participant, but they may not present a paper in a session they chair. No member may appear more than twice in the program (excluding sessions sponsored by ASECS).
- No member may submit a proposal to more than two sessions. If a member does submit more than one proposal, the member must, when submitting their proposal, indicate to each respective session chair that they are submitting a proposal to another panel. Members must also notify both session chairs if they are proposing both a paper and a roundtable version of the same material, since

## Tribal Land Acknowledgement

*ASECS President Jeffrey S. Ravel had planned to read the following text at the start of the Business Meeting at the St. Louis Annual Meeting.*

Welcome to this year's Business Meeting. You may have already read the tribal acknowledgement in this year's program, a first for ASECS. In addition, we would like to start a tradition this year of beginning the Business Meeting with an acknowledgment of the land on which we are gathered.

The site on which we meet this week has a deep history that began well before the first Europeans arrived here. Cahokia, for example, a settlement across the Mississippi River, was a major crossroads of the continent's thriving societies prior to European contact. The region currently known as Missouri is a land to which many different First Nations have belonged, at different times and in different ways. The Osage nation is most prominently associated with this region today.

The eighteenth century, as we are becoming increasingly aware, was a key moment in the history of the struggle of indigenous peoples against settler colonialism. That history is painful to recount for the indigenous community, for other peoples forcibly brought to the Americas in the Early Modern period, and for Europeans who voluntarily migrated here before 1800. But that pain should not obscure the need to study and understand those encounters, in part because we have a duty to bear witness to the past, and in part because the conflicts that were amplified in the eighteenth century continue to resonate in our continental politics, economics and cultures today.

It is therefore entirely appropriate that the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies acknowledges that we meet this year on colonized land. It is also encouraging that our program this year features, by my count, six panels devoted to indigenous studies. Members of the Cherokee, Osage, and Choctaw nations are at the conference, and will present on some of those panels. It is my hope that there will be more fruitful exchanges between our Society and the indigenous nations of North America in Toronto next year, and in our annual gatherings after that. These exchanges will lead to a deeper understanding of this critical aspect of the eighteenth-century past and help us advocate for a more inclusive and just future for the First Nations and Indigenous peoples of the Americas.

paper and roundtable versions of the same presentation may not be given at the meeting.

E. Second sessions are exceptional, and only granted as follows:

1. Panel organizers requesting a second session must submit the appropriate paperwork by October 1. No spaces are reserved in advance for second sessions.
2. Second session assignments are dependent on the number of sessions initially accepted that are cancelled because the panels do not fill. If no sessions are cancelled for that reason, there will be no second sessions.
3. The Program Selection Committee holds two session time slots in reserve in case of last-minute additions requested by the President, or in case of other scheduling snafus.

F. All requests for second sessions will be forwarded to the Program Committee. In evaluating these requests, the Committee will give priority to sessions that cross disciplinary or geographic boundaries and/or enhance the range of topics offered by the Annual Meeting as a whole. Session chairs will be notified about the second session by October 15.

### III. Rules Regarding Selection of Panels and Papers

- A. The Committee will not vet proposals anonymously at any stage of the Program Selection process.
- B. Society members should address queries about the program to the Business Office, not to the Program Selection Committee members.
- C. Prior to the initial call for session proposals for each Annual Meeting, the Society will endeavor to post the proposals for sessions guaranteed to ASECS Affiliates and Caucuses. These sessions count towards the mandated limit of 195 sessions at each Annual Meeting.

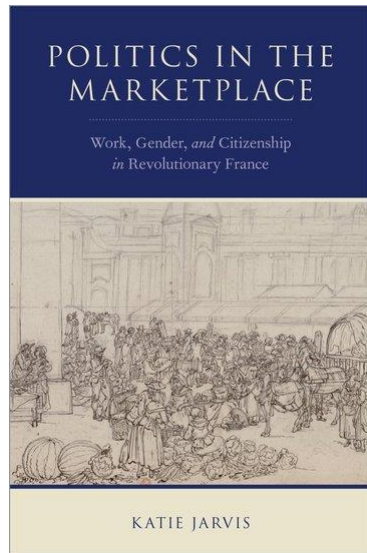




# ASECS Annual Prizes and Awards

## The Louis A. Gottschalk Prize

ASECS awards the Louis Gottschalk prize annually to the best scholarly book on an eighteenth-century subject. In 2020, the Gottschalk Prize has been given to **Katie Jarvis** for *Politics in the Marketplace: Work, Gender, and Citizenship in Revolutionary France* (Oxford University Press, 2019). This book about the French revolution is, well, revolutionary. For our scholarly community, it shifts the collective academic gaze to the influential role of ordinary people, showing by example just how the hard work of historical recovery might be performed in our own archives and subfields.



In a remarkable feat of investigative historicism, Katie Jarvis, an Assistant Professor of History at the University of Notre Dame, recovers the daily lives and political voices of an unusual community of merchant women—the fish mongers and fruit sellers known as the Dames des Halles, after the great hall in Paris where their stalls had fed the city since the Middle Ages, earning it the moniker “the stomach of Paris.” Jarvis shows how the haggling, selling, and mercantile activities of these working women shaped notions of citizenship during the French Revolution through everyday trade. By means of modest legal documents, surviving rental agreements, and obscure inventories of the few material possessions these women left behind at their deaths, Jarvis reconstructs with panache the work lives, networks, and political influence of these pivotal citizens.

Some praise from the judges:

“Jarvis’s masterful prose is novelistic in its ability to conjure up the market stalls of Revolutionary France with upholstered descriptions of objects and things. After the first few pages, you become hooked and want to know more about these merchant women.”

“Oxford University Press should be praised for publishing this extraordinary work and then guillotined for marketing a book about the vibrancy of eighteenth-century mercantilism with the imagination of a pistachio nut. This book is a standout bestseller dressed up as a dull cookie-cutter monograph. Good thing this committee does not judge a book by its cover. But OMG, OUP, follow the example of the Dames des Halles and work a little harder to shout out your wares.”

“Based in original—and inventive—archival research, this book radically revises the traditional account of the French Revolution. Offering a reassessment of the political role of the Parisian market women, Jarvis develops a new conception of Revolutionary citizenship based in public service and social experience. Her lively book opens an entirely new perspective on the role of labor and gender in a revolutionary situation.”

“In *Politics in the Marketplace*, Katie Jarvis uses groundbreaking archival research to change what we know about gender and French revolutionary politics. This sophisticated book will appeal to anyone interested in economic history, public and private spheres, and women’s political activity.”

## The James L. Clifford Prize

The James L. Clifford Prize for the best article on an eighteenth-century subject published during the preceding year has been awarded to **Avi Lifschitz** for “**The Book of Job and the Sex Life of Elephants: The Limits of Evidential Credibility in Eighteenth-Century Natural History and Biblical Criticism**” (*Journal of Modern History* 91 [December 2019]: 739-775). Avi Lifschitz is Associate Professor of European History at the University of Oxford.

In his remarkable essay, Avi Lifschitz explores a debate that consumed eighteenth century scientists, religious scholars and philosophes. How did Elephants have sex? He illuminates how the debate complicates traditional understandings of the enlightenment, of the scientific revolution, and of the continuing relevance of Biblical interpretation. The debate that began between religious scholars and scientists transcended even the French Revolution, rumbling right past it into Revolutionary concerts before large crowds (including one with two elephants in an open park, encouraged to perform). The debate

exposed colonial hierarchies (could native observers be trusted?) as well as the problematic deductions of early modern science. Perhaps most surprisingly, the one who discovered the correct answer, who turned more to observation (and listened more to native peoples' voices) was the religious scholar, Johann



David Michaelis. As Lifschitz concludes, the “elephant controversy” demonstrates the complexity of the enlightenment, with religious scholars sometimes more

radical and more devoted to observation, including that by non-Christian peoples. Traditional categories of “radical” versus “conservative” obscure the complex eighteenth-century struggles over truth, over observation versus revelation, over valid observation and even over colonialism, not to mention coitus.

Avi Lifschitz has donated the \$500 award that accompanies the Clifford Prize to the [U.K. University and College Union](#) to help non-tenured university staff casualised as a result of the coronavirus crisis.

### **James L. Clifford Prize Honorable Mention:**

Melissa Bailes, “Cultivated for Consumption: Botany, Colonial Cannibalism, and National/Natural History in Sydney Owenson’s *The Wild Irish Girl*” (*The Eighteenth Century* 59 [vol 4], 2018: pp. 513-533.) “Rarely have we seen so deft and effective a use of interdisciplinarity. Bailes shines a new light on the formation of the United Kingdom in 1800, exposing England’s consumption of Ireland as food for its body politic.”

### **The Srinivas Aravamudan Prize**

James Mulholland, Associate Professor of English, North Carolina State University, has been awarded the 2020 Srinivas Aravamudan prize for 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. Mulholland’s article, “**An Indian It-Narrative and the Problem of Circulation: Reconsidering a Useful Concept for Literary Study**” (*Modern Language Quarterly* [2018]: 79 [4]: 373-396) offers a solid critique of the overabundant and uncritical use of “circulation” as a metaphor and

method of interpretation. He issues a significant challenge to literary scholars with broad implications for how we understand texts in the “global” contexts generated by empire and commerce: namely, that we reconsider how our uncritical use of the framework of “circulation” reproduces power relations underlying imperial forms of traffic. By deploying the concept of “coagulation” instead, he demonstrates how such a model would work through an engaging reading of *The Adventures of a Rupee* and provides a new reading methodology for globalism.

### **Graduate Student Caucus Excellence in Mentorship Award**

The ASECS Graduate Student Caucus has recognized **Rebecca Shapiro with the 2020 Excellence in Mentorship Award**. Shapiro is an Associate Professor of English at the City University of New York College of Technology and the program founder of ASECS’s mentorship program “The Doctor Is In.” She has served as a faculty mentor on several committees in the past years, as both a junior faculty mentor and a program founder of “Ask a Professor” at New York City College. Additionally, Shapiro is an associate editor of *Lexicons of Early Modern English* and was recently the Director of the First Year Writing Program at her institution.

Shapiro’s nominators praise her innovative establishment with “The Dr. Is In.” Jason Farr of Marquette University explains: “What Dr. Shapiro has done with the creation of “The Dr. Is In” is anticipate the future. She has provided for us a space in which to have such conversations, which are horizontal in nature rather than hierarchical.”

Kathleen Alves, a co-chair of “The Dr. Is In” team, commends her unwavering dedication to student mentorship, reflecting that in the first several years of these sessions, “Dr. Shapiro organized and led these sessions herself.”

Joel Sodano speaks to how Shapiro’s mentorship directly influenced his own graduate career when they met at a conference in 2013, and he states that “she made a point of connecting with me to talk about my work and offer encouragement.”

The Graduate Student Caucus extends deep thanks to Dr. Shapiro for making mentorship an integral part of her work.

### **Innovative Course Design**

The Innovative Course Design Competition was founded to encourage excellence in undergraduate

teaching of the eighteenth century. Three proposals, for a new course or new unit within an existing course, are recognized each year. The 2020 winners of the competition are:

**“Coffeehouse Pop-up Museum,”** Cecilia Feilla,

Associate Professor, Department of English,  
Marymount Manhattan College

**“Jane Austen and the Civic Commons,”** Juliette M.

Paul, Assistant Professor, Department of  
Literature and Languages, Christian Brothers  
University

**“Richardson’s *Clarissa* and the #metoo Eighteenth**

**Century,”** Celia B. Barnes, Associate Professor,  
English Department, Lawrence University

## The Catharine Macaulay Graduate Student Conference Paper Prize

The Women’s Caucus Catherine Macaulay Prize recognizes a paper, delivered by a graduate student at the ASECS Annual Meeting or a regional meeting, that helped to advance understanding of gender dynamics, women’s experience, and/or women’s contributions to eighteenth-century culture, or offered a feminist analysis of any aspect of eighteenth-century culture and/or society. The winner of the 2020 prize, for a paper given at the 2019 Annual Meeting in Denver, is **Rachel Gevlin**, PhD candidate, English Department, Duke University, for **“Voluntary Celibates; Or, Why Sir Charles Grandison is (a) No Wanker.”**

From its great title to the clear connection between the eighteenth century and today, along with dialogue in multiple critical conversations, “Voluntary Celibates; Or, Why Sir Charles Grandison is (a) No Wanker” is a lively reading of Samuel Richardson’s less talked about work. Rachel Gevlin centers her argument about Grandison, “the eighteenth century’s most famous virgin,” within modern incel movements, specifically the Proud Boys. In a fascinating discussion, the essay traces the performativity of male chastity and argues that the Proud Boys and Grandison share one core assumption: “that a man living without sex has lost and must regain control over his masculinity.” Grandison is a less sexually performative male figure than the highly sexualized rake, but Gevlin argues that his archetype, which also includes Lord Orville and Mr. Darcy, is no less centered on controlling women by promoting a “conservative ideal of the household” with domesticated monogamous housewives. In addition to its innovative and compelling argument, this essay

is clearly and cogently written and makes the 18<sup>th</sup> century accessible and relevant to modern discourses about masculinity and sexuality. It dives deeply enough to prove its central thesis about Grandison while making connections with other texts to show the potential for this reading as a lens for studying an intersection of domesticity, marriage, and power that have long fascinated gender and sexuality studies.

## Research Travel Fellowships

**The Women’s Caucus Émilie Du Châtelet Award:**

Cristina Martinez, Adjunct Professor, Department of Visual Arts, University of Ottawa, “Jane Hogarth: The Untold Story of an Eighteenth-Century Printseller and Defender of Copyright Law”

**Aubrey L. Williams Research Travel Fellowship:**

Andrew Barbour, PhD candidate, Department of English, University of California, Berkeley, “Mechanical Powers: Technology and Romantic Poetics in Industrial Modernity”

**Theodore E.D. Braun Fellowship:** Scott Sanders,

Assistant Professor, Department of French and Italian, Dartmouth College, “In Nature’s Darkness: Performing Race across the French Atlantic”

**Robert R. Palmer Research Travel Fellowship:**

Sydney Lokant, MFA candidate, Theater Department, University of Ohio, “The Fashion Frivolities of Marie Antoinette”

**Gwin J. and Ruth Kolb Research Travel Fellowship:**

Rachel Seiler-Smith, Postdoctoral Fellow, School of Literature, Media and Communication, Georgia Tech, “The Law’s Spine”

**Richard H. Popkin Research Travel Fellowship:**

Yiyun (Malcolm) Huang, PhD Candidate, Department of History, University of Tennessee-Knoxville, “Chinese Origins of Medicinal Tea: Global Cultural Transfer and A Vast Early America”

**Paula Backscheider Archival Fellowship:** Jennifer

Keith, Professor, Department of English, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, “The Arts of Exile: Anne Finch’s Poetic and Political Designs”

**A.C. Elias Irish-American Research Travel**

**Fellowship:** Ian Campbell Ross, Professor Emeritus, School of English, Trinity College Dublin, “Edition of *The Vicar of Wakefield*”



## 2018-2019 Travel Fellowships: Reports from the Road

### **McGill-ASECS Library Fellowship**

I was grateful to have been awarded the 2018 McGill-ASECS Fellowship, offered by the Burney Centre in conjunction with the Rare Books and Special Collections Division of the McGill University Library. My project is an edition of the second volume in the six-volume series of *The Letters of Dr. Charles Burney*, under the general editorship of Professor Peter Sabor, Director of the Centre. My volume covers the decade up to 1793, a decade in which Burney was at the peak of his profession. In these years, he published the last two volumes of his *A General History of Music* (1776-89), and his *Account of the Musical Performances in Westminster Abbey and the Pantheon . . . in Commemoration of Handel* (1785). Volume 2 contains the period of Frances Burney's association with the court of George III and the whirlwind courtship of Alexandre d'Arbly. In long letters written to his godchild, Elizabeth Ann Crewe (the glamorous Whig socialite), Burney deplores political radicalism in France and England. He mingles with his cronies at The Club, encourages Boswell to write Johnson's life, and contributes some anecdotes of his own. Burney's professional life is represented by his exchanges of information with other musicians, his involvement with the Handel concerts, and his inspection of a harpsichord being custom-built for Thomas Jefferson. Burney's social life is seen in his exchange of letters with bluestockings and writers, such as Charlotte Smith.

The first task in any edition is to establish the text. The Burney Centre has copies of the complete run of the correspondence of Charles Burney (letters to and from) from 1751 until the year of his death. I managed to track down a few letters which were eluding me and revised the dates of others. Much can be learned from the other side of the correspondence and I was able to peruse letters to Burney written in earlier years, which illuminated the subjects to which later letters refer. I also explored ancillary material, such as letters between third parties, which will be helpful for the annotation. For instance, in one letter, Burney asks for a favour for a member of his family. I knew that Burney's request had produced no results, and that no response from his friend is known to have survived. I did not know, however, that the friend had indeed tried to exert his influence on Burney's behalf,

## 2020 Election Results

The Executive Board is pleased to certify the results of the election held this spring and to extend thanks to the Nominating Committee and to all members who volunteered to stand for a position on the Board.

### Second Vice-President

**Meredith Martin**, Associate Professor of Art History, New York University Institute of Fine Arts

### Members-at-Large, 2020-2023

**Lisa Forman Cody**, Associate Professor of History, Claremont McKenna College  
**Catherine Jaffe**, Professor of Spanish Literature, Texas State University

which I discovered in a letter from a third party. I also explored other manuscripts of Burney's which remain unpublished: for instance, memoranda for music articles, or notes on ancient Greece and Rome. The letters of other Burney family members were also helpful, particularly those of Susanna, whose lengthy accounts often shed light on family occurrences mentioned in the letters. The Centre's microfilm collection is invaluable in that it offers easy access to manuscript holdings in archives around the world (the challenge is mastering the rather daunting microfilm reader.)

Over the years, the Burney Centre has gathered in one place a large number of secondary sources, many from the McLennan Library. I found it enlightening simply to browse the shelves, appreciating the "open shelf access" to books such as the (privately printed) *Annals of The Club*, which contains lists of members and records of meetings that Burney attended. It was wonderful to have first editions of Burney's publications on shelves just by my elbow: for instance, his account of the *Commemoration of Handel*, a complete set of Rees's *Cyclopaedia*, and several editions of his tours. I looked up early reviews of his works in the *Monthly Review* and examined a copy of the subscription list to his *A General History of Music*. It was also helpful to have access to the McGill Library system, which subscribes to electronic resources, such as the Burney Collection of Early English Newspapers, which are not available at my home institution.

*-Lorna J. Clark, Carleton University*

### Gwin J. and Ruth Kolb Travel Research Fellowship

The Gwin J. and Ruth Kolb Travel Research Fellowship enabled me to dedicate two full weeks to archival research at the Haus-, Hof-, und Staatsarchiv in Vienna, Austria in December of 2019. I read and photographed Prince Eugene of Savoy's (1663-1736) extensive letter exchange with Ercole Giuseppe Lodovico Turinetti, called the Marquis de Prié (1658-1726) who was his deputy in the Austrian Netherlands. I also read and photographed one letter from Pietro Proli (1671-1733), one letter from Paulo Jacopo Cloots (1672-1725), one letter from Jacobus Maelcamp (1685-1741), and two letters from Jacques Baut (life dates unknown), who were the leading members of the Ostend East India Company, the highly-successful but short-lived seafaring enterprise backed by Charles VI (1685-1740). The letters contain valuable insights concerning the circulation of Far Eastern textiles and porcelain to Europe. They enhanced my understanding of how Asian luxuries are situated at the intersection of diplomacy, cultural transmission, and eighteenth-century globalization. Indeed, vibrant Indian silk and rare porcelain was prominently displayed at Prince Eugene's summer palace in imperial Vienna. Known as the Belvedere, the palace is the subject of my dissertation in Art History at Rutgers University in which I investigate early modern material culture to connect the evolution of late Baroque art during the first quarter of the eighteenth century to the phenomenon of artistic mobility. Access to the prince's letters at the archive in Vienna has enriched my knowledge of the role of specifically Asian luxuries at the Belvedere. They served as a symbol of Habsburg dominion over the Southern Netherlands and coveted Far Eastern trade routes, and moreover, as an expression of the prince's own ability to govern.

—Christina Chakalova, Rutgers University



Upper Belvedere, photo by Bobby-John de Bot, courtesy of Wikipedia Commons

### Daiches-Manning Memorial Fellowship

I was in residency at the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities from May to mid-June, 2019, doing research for a book provisionally entitled *The Enlightenment Crisis of Values*. The topic of my book is relativism in Enlightenment literature and philosophy, mainly in Great Britain and France. The book's argument is that a preoccupation with various kinds of relativism (in ethics, aesthetics, and epistemology) had a substantial yet underappreciated influence on eighteenth-century philosophy and literature, inflecting Enlightenment accounts both of value distinctions and distinctions between human beings. While at IASH I finalized an article entitled "David Hume, Relativism, and the Design Argument," which benefited immensely from the resources on Hume at IASH and the National Library of Scotland. I also benefited from the symposium "David Hume as a Reader," sponsored by IASH and organized by Max Skjönsberg.

My time at IASH also allowed me to finally do a thorough critical reading of Adam Smith's *The Wealth of Nations* (not an easy book to fit into a teaching semester), study the context of reception of common sense philosophy (especially Joseph Priestley's argument that Thomas Reid and James Beattie were relativists), and explore less well-known figures such as the Edinburgh physician Andrew Wilson, whose *Medical Researches* (1776) will be important for the later sections of my book.

I also made progress on sections of the book less directly concerned with Scottish intellectual history. I finished an article on the previously unknown *The Origins of Moral Virtue and Religion Assigned*, an anonymous atheistic pamphlet published in London in 1745. The pamphlet puts forward a form of radical relativism very rare in the period. I attribute it to John, Lord Hervey (1696-1743). This article would have been impossible to write at my home institution or even in the United States. Being at IASH allowed me to easily access to Hervey's papers at the Suffolk Record Office in Bury St. Edmunds.

Towards the end of my time at IASH I had the pleasure of giving my first full talk on this project, as part of the Work in Progress series. My perspective on big issues such as secularity and the human-animal distinction also benefitted from attending other Work in Progress talks. In fact, one of the most valuable aspects of being at IASH is the encounter with scholars working in very different fields yet pursuing projects that have unanticipated overlap with one's own. The talks provide an opportunity to reflect on

familiar issues from a different standpoint, one external to one's own discipline and comfort zone. That cannot but be enriching.

Less directly connected with my book project, I also wrote a book chapter on the state of the humanities, for an edited volume in Portuguese forthcoming in Brazil; and I gave a talk at the Institute for Cultural Inquiry, in Berlin, on my previous book *Empiricism and the Early Theory of the Novel*.

I would like to express my gratitude to Steve Yearley, Ben Fletcher-Watson, Donald Ferguson, and Pauline Clark. Thanks are also due to Richard Sher and Craig Smith, who believed in my project and gave me the opportunity to be the Daiches-Manning Memorial Fellow, and to ASECS and ECSSS for the generous support.

—Roger Maioli, *University of Florida*

## ASECS Prizes and Travel Awards: Deadlines through August 2020

For guidance on applying for awards and prizes, visit <https://www.asecs.org/awards-information>.

**Graduate Student Conference Paper Prize: deadline extended to May 15, 2020.** Papers accepted for the 2020 Annual Meeting in St. Louis are eligible, whether or not they will be presented in the Virtual 2020 Annual Meeting. Papers postponed till the 2021 Toronto Annual Meeting, however, are only eligible for the 2021 Prize.

**2020 ASECS Race and Empire Caucus Graduate Student Essay Prize: deadline July 2, 2020.** The Caucus welcomes essays that are revised versions of papers read at the regional and national conferences of ASECS and its affiliates between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020. This year, papers that were accepted for presentation at canceled conferences are also eligible (papers postponed to next year should be submitted for next year's prize).

## Affiliate Societies Coordinator

### Column:

*Rivka Swenson, Virginia Commonwealth University*

### Preamble

Surely, one of the saddest things about the necessary cancellation of ASECS 2020 is the fact that the program included such a range of affiliate and regional members and topics. Hopefully, many of

these panels will appear on the program for 2021. Also missed: the annual celebration of these diverse affiliate relationships at the Affiliates Luncheon, to which 28 affiliate and regional societies intended to send representatives . . . Here's to ASECS 2021!

News about upcoming affiliate and regional meetings (CFP deadlines, etc.), along with announcements about publications and prizes, are below, as are details about cancelations -- as of the time of this writing, some societies have had to cancel their spring 2020 meetings, for the obvious reason. Still others are valiantly hoping, with appropriately, 'bated breath, that late spring and early summer meetings will be possible. Many exciting meetings lie ahead; ASECS is lucky to benefit from so many cross-pollinating affiliations.

### 3 Pieces of General News

(1) The deadline approaches for the next volume of *Studies in Eighteenth-Century Culture*. SECC enthusiastically welcomes submissions, as always, of *articles developed from papers that were presented at ASECS or any of its affiliate or regional societies between JULY 1, 2019 and JUNE 30, 2020*. This invitation includes papers that would have been given this spring/summer if not for conference cancelations! Deadline: AUGUST 15. Direct inquiries and submissions to [David Brewer](#).

(2) Please welcome new affiliate the **German Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies!**

(3) Regional societies **ECASECS**, **WSECS**, **SEASECS**, and **SCSECS** all held recent conferences. Word on the street is that all were successful. For instance, **Linda Troost** reports that the **ECASECS** meeting, organized by **Joanne Myers**, celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with reminiscences, a strong and characteristic group of panels on book history, bibliography, and textual studies among the larger body of panels, a plenary by **Tita Chico** on, wonderfully, "Microscopes and Couplets," and activities that included a planetarium show of the 18<sup>th</sup>-century sky, an exhibit of Maria Sibylla Merian, and a battlefield tour. As it turned out, the meeting constituted the final attendance of ASECS fixture **Donald C. Mell**, and the final appearance of his longstanding "Swift Roundtable."

Nonregional affiliates **Aphra Behn Society / Burney Society (joint meeting)**, **Bibliographical Society of America**, **BSECS**, and **Mozart Society of America** held their own highly vibrant meetings. **Catherine Ingrassia**, **Laura Miller**, and **Brett Wilson** echoed each other in lauding the meeting of **Behn/**



**Burney** (organized by **Emily Friedman**) for beautiful facilities, attention to detail (consumables and sociality), stimulating papers, inventive swag, creative session formats and workshops (paper marbling!), a production of *The Belle's Stratagem*, and widespread camaraderie.

### Spring Highlights

During my own recent attendance of **SCSECS**, I was impressed that **Kevin Copeland** synthesized the details around the location (St. Augustine) and the rousing theme ("The Speedy Enlightenment: Moving, Racing, Quickening, and Otherwise Accelerating the Long Eighteenth Century") in a way that was simply satisfying and energizing in equal measures (these words also describe **J. T. Scanlan's** keynote on *Tom Jones*), from the graphics on the name tags to the historical trolley tour of the environs. Moreover, the conference included ample opportunity for friendly conversation across the ranks over truly fine and thoughtfully rendered, locally thematic fare. Last but not least, if the oceanfront location were not enough, Kevin also provided for a gorgeous full moon as decoration for the final night's reception.

### A Request

It was great not to have a bunch of overlapping conference dates this year, and it would be great to continue in like fashion by checking during the early-planning stage for potential conflicts with [upcoming affiliate and regional society meetings](#) that have already been scheduled. Attention to this matter does help to keep attendance up at all meetings.

### Announcements: Upcoming Meetings, Deadlines, Prizes, and Publications

Conferences and other events continue to be canceled. Consult the website of these organizations for updates.

[Aphra Behn Society](#) will meet again in 2021, details TBA. But now is a great time to [join or to renew your membership](#) with ABS's recently-adopted biennial dues structure. Also take a look at the most recent issue of *ABO: Interactive Journal for Women in the Arts, 1640-1830*, a (essays by **Linda J. Van Netten Blimke**, **Leah M. Thomas**, **Bethany Williamson**, **Iliana Baird**, **James Fitzmaurice**)

[Bibliographical Society of America](#) is the happy sponsor or co-sponsor of a number of [events and opportunities](#) this spring and summer, in an array of venues and locations. (2021 annual meeting details TBA.) Meanwhile, the BSA Fellowship Committee is

accepting applications now (until Nov. 1) for their annual round of numerous generous [fellowships](#). Last but not least, the Program Committee is accepting proposals now (until Apr. 15) for variety of [programs](#) (e.g., lectures, workshops, conference sessions, and receptions at bibliographical events).

### [British Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies](#)

Details of the 2021 meeting are TBA. Meanwhile, the Society's journal, [The Journal for Eighteenth-Century Studies](#), solicits essays and reviews on the range of the period's topics. The current [issue](#) contains essays by **Amanda Vickery**, **Alberto del Campo Tejedor**, **Ana Saez-Hidalgo**, **Robert W. Jones**, **Jonathan Taylor**, and an edited MS. of Barbauld's by **Jessica Wen Hui Lim**. Reminder: Boydell and Brewer, in association with BSECS, invites multidisciplinary monograph manuscript submissions for the series "[Studies in the Eighteenth Century](#)" on the global eighteenth century.

[Burney Society](#) Details of next annual conference (2021, jointly with Behn) are TBA. Meanwhile, [The Burney Journal](#) is accepting submissions for its annual issue.

### [Canadian Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies](#)

(CSECS) holds its next conference in 2021, from 21-24 October, in Winnipeg, jointly with **MWASECS**. Theme: "[Translation and Appropriation](#)." Check out the latest issue of [Lumen](#), CSECS's official journal, with a preface by **Sebastien Drouin**, **Andreas Motsch**, **Craig Patterson**, and essays by **Barbara Adams**, **Michele Bocquillon**, **Lorna Clark**, **Eric Miller**, **Laetitia Saintes**, **Adam Schoene**, **David Smith**, **Leila Tnainchi**, **Isabelle Trembla**, **Constantine Vassiliou**, **Maria Zytaruk**.

[The Defoe Society](#) holds its next biannual conference, "[Atlantic Routes and Roots](#)," July 22-24, 2021, organized by **Manushag N. Powell**, in San Juan, Puerto Rico, jointly with **Early Caribbean Society**. CFP deadline: paper proposals July 1 2020, complete panel proposals Nov. 1 2020. Peruse the most recent issue of [Digital Defoe](#) for articles by **Annette Hulbert**, **Catherine Fleming**, **Aida Ramos**, **Giorgina, Paiella**, **Ann Campbell**.

[East-Central Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies](#) (ECASECS) holds its annual [conference](#) this fall in Wilmington, DE, at the Winterthur Museum, October 22-24, on "Material Matters in the Long Eighteenth Century." Panel proposals due 3/31, individual paper proposals due June 1, and complete panel proposals are due June 15. At the fall meeting in 2019, **Eleanor Shevlin** was given the Leland Peterson Award. Reminder: the Society's newsletter, [Eighteenth-Century Intelligencer](#), edited by **James E.**

May, continues to be a well-indexed wealth of information for dues-paying members.

[\*Eighteenth-Century Scottish Studies Society\*](#) is super-organized with a slate of upcoming conference dates: June 4-7 2020 (Princeton, NJ), July 2-August 1 2021 (Liverpool, England), October 12-16 2022 (Montreal Canada, jointly with **CSECS**). Meanwhile, the annual ECSSS newsletter, [\*Eighteenth-Century Scotland\*](#), seeks articles, and the [\*Studies in Eighteenth-Century Scotland\*](#) book series, with Bucknell UP, continues to invite manuscript submissions.

[\*Goethe Society of North America\*](#) will hold its triennial conference Nov. 5-7, 2020, in Chicago, on "[Goethe's Things](#)." Read the latest issue of *Goethe Yearbook* [here](#). GSNA offers a range of [prizes](#).

[\*Historians of Eighteenth-Century Art and Architecture\*](#) (HECAA) HECAA keeps members up to date on relevant CFPs, exhibitions, and the like via [Enfilade](#) - the call for articles for the next issue, on "Funerary Inscriptions," is May 15.

[\*International Adam Smith Society\*](#) (IASS) was slated to hold its next [conference](#) in Tokyo from March 15-17, 2020. The Society meanwhile invites submissions to [The Adam Smith Review](#).

[\*International Herder Society\*](#) holds its next biennial [conference](#) in Ottawa, from July 31-Aug. 20, on "Herder and Naturalism: Philosophy, History, Language, Religion," and is putting together the next [Herder Yearbook](#).

[\*Midwestern American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies\*](#) (MWASECS) next meets in 2021, from 21-24 October, in Winnipeg, jointly with **CSECS**. Theme: "[Translation and Appropriation](#)." [\*Mozart Society of America\*](#) Details of the next meeting are TBA, but MSA enthusiastically invites [membership](#) from anyone who shares an interest in Mozart and the goals of the Society. Signing up for their [newsletter](#) is a great place to start. Meanwhile, submissions are due by April 15 for [\*Bach Perspectives 14\*](#), on "Bach and Mozart: Connections, Patterns, Pathways."

[\*North American British Music Studies Association\*](#) (NABMSA) has available the most recent issue of [\*NABMSA Reviews\*](#), containing reviews of seven new books in the field. Meanwhile, NABMSA announces the new "[Studies in British Musical Cultures](#)" (SBMC) series. The first two titles, due to be released this year, are by **Alison DeSimone** and **Joseph Mann**.

[\*North American Kant Society\*](#) holds its biannual meeting, "Kant and the Value of Humanity," in Binghamton from June 5-7. NAKS also currently

## 2021 Annual Meeting Deadlines

*April 15, 2020*: Forms to move 2020 Sessions to 2021 Annual Meeting due  
*April 15, 2020*: Guaranteed Session requests from Caucuses & Affiliate Societies due  
*May 1, 2020*: Call for Panel Proposals posted  
*May 15, 2020*: Proposals for Panels due  
*June 15, 2020*: Call for Papers posted  
*September 15, 2020*: Paper proposals due  
*October 1, 2020*: Completed session information & second session requests due

encourages all scholars who are interested in Kant to learn more about their four active regional [study groups](#) (Midwest, Pacific, Eastern, Southern).

[\*Northeast American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies\*](#) (NEASECS) holds its next [conference](#) from September 25-27 in New York City on the topic of "Traffic in the Global Eighteenth Century."

[\*Rousseau Association\*](#) holds its next [meeting](#) in 2021 (dates TBA) in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

[\*The Samuel Johnson Society of the West\*](#) will hold its annual [dinner](#) at the Huntington Library on November 22; **Freya Johnston** will deliver the 27<sup>th</sup> Daniel G. Blum lecture.

[\*Society for Eighteenth-Century Music\*](#) very regrettably had to cancel its March meeting, for the obvious reason.

Related: [\*HAYDN: Online Journal of the Haydn Society of North America\*](#), seeks submissions.

[\*Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing\*](#) (SHARP) has canceled its annual [conference](#) which had been scheduled for Amsterdam, June 15-19, 2019.

[\*Society of Early Americanists\*](#) will hold its 12<sup>th</sup> Biennial [Conference](#) June 24-27, 2020, in Exeter, UK.

[\*The South Central Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies\*](#) (SCSECS) Details of 2021 meeting are TBA.

[\*Southeast Asian Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies\*](#) (SASECS) Please check out the website from this new affiliate.

[\*Southeastern American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies\*](#) (SEASECS) holds their 47<sup>th</sup> annual meeting from 18-20 Feb. 2021 in Ft. Myers, FL: "[Oceans Rise, Empires Fall](#)." CFP deadline: June 15. Meanwhile, the deadline looms in the distance for their various [prizes](#): Nov. 1.

[\*Western Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies\*](#) (WSECS) Details of 2021 conference TBA.



## News from ISECS

From July 14-19, 2019, the British Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies hosted the fifteenth International Congress of the Enlightenment in Edinburgh, Scotland on behalf of the International Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies and in conjunction with the Eighteenth-Century Scottish Studies Society. Scholars and members of affiliated societies from around the world gathered in the stunning capital city to participate in 491 panels and 5 plenary addresses, which took place on the premises of the University of Edinburgh's historic campus. The university was founded in 1562 and was an inspiring locale for the conference, especially the magnificent McEwan Hall—a soaring 1987 Italian Renaissance style domed building adorned with rich wood interiors, murals by William Mainwaring Pail, and a massive pipe organ—in which the plenary addresses took place. The conference theme was “Enlightenment Identities.”

ASECS members presented on a wonderful diversity of topics, including: “Changing Identities in Revolutionary and Post-revolutionary France”; “British Women Writers and Identities of Reform”; “Enlightenment for the Ears: Negotiating Identities Through Acts of Listening in the Long Eighteenth Century”; “The cosmopolitan identity of an Enlightenment philosopher: David Hume”; and “Wilhelm Meister between Tradition and Modernity.” The first plenary was “Enlightenment Identities: Definitions and Debates,” which took the form of a roundtable and the other four—“Enlightenment Scotland: International Resonances,” “Enlightenment Networks: Scientific and Intellectual Exchanges” (featuring ASECS past president Dena Goodman, University of Michigan), “Fashioning Enlightenment Identities: Citizens and Celebrities,” and “Enlightenment Legacies: Praxis and Principle”—were composed of two papers each so as to foster interdisciplinary exchanges. Alongside academic programming, conference goers could participate in a number of tours in the environs of Edinburgh and were also invited to a lovely opening reception at the National Museum of Scotland as well as a Cèilidh dance and gala dinner of traditional Scottish fare. Having filled their bellies with haggis (and downed a bit of champagne for courage), members of ASECS took to the dance floor to learn how to “strip the willow,” do a “Fergus McIver” jig, and many other favorites.

The meeting was also host to an important administrative development which was the decision to create a new legal body, the International Association

of Eighteenth-Century Studies (IAECS), composed of ISECS elected officers, that acts as the legal and financial arm of ISECS. Following a vote in the General Assembly and Constituent Assembly of delegates on July 17 and 19, respectively, on August 4, 2019, IAECS was granted official recognition under the 1901 French law of civil association and is domiciled at the Faculté des Lettres de Sorbonne Université in Paris. The next ISECS meeting will occur in Rome, Italy in 2023.

*—Christy Pichichero, George Mason University*

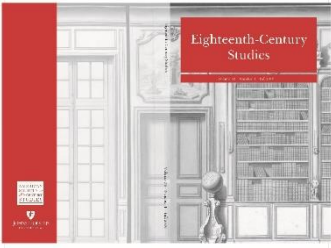
## Graduate Student Caucus News

This year, the Graduate Student Caucus Chair April Fuller and Co-Chair Megan Cole drafted a set of formal bylaws for the caucus. Once these bylaws are approved, they will be sent to all members of the caucus through the listserv. If you are a graduate student and would like to be added to the listserv, please email [asecs.gradcaucus@gmail.com](mailto:asecs.gradcaucus@gmail.com) so that we may be able to update you with any of our latest news.

Over the course of the 2019-2020 academic year, the Graduate Student Caucus has featured a new faculty interview each month and guest blog posts on our [website](#). For the upcoming academic year, we seek to interview graduate students to promote your accomplishments and scholarship. If you would like to be featured, email [asecs.gradcaucus@gmail.com](mailto:asecs.gradcaucus@gmail.com); we look forward to hearing from you!

The Graduate Student Caucus is now accepting applications for the two-year executive position. During the first year, the successful applicant will serve as the Graduate Student Caucus co-chair and will be responsible for organizing the Caucus's scholarly panel at the 2021 ASECS meeting. During the second year, the co-chair will move into the chair position and will organize the Caucus's professionalization panel. Candidates must have at least two years remaining in their graduate program. To apply, submit your C.V. and a CFP for the GSC ASECS 2021 scholarly panel you would like to organize. Send these materials to the 2020-2021 Chair, Megan Cole ([meganec2@illinois.edu](mailto:meganec2@illinois.edu)). Applications are due on or before Monday, April 13, 2020, by the end of the day. For more information, please visit the co-chair application on the website [here](#).

## Editor and Host Institution Sought for *Eighteenth-Century Studies*



Applications are invited for a new Editor and a new home for *Eighteenth-Century Studies*. Published quarterly by the Johns Hopkins University Press for ASECS, the journal is

dedicated to maintaining and developing the Society's special mission of inter-disciplinarity and publishing the best in eighteenth-century scholarship. The Society will also accept applications from a team of two editors at the same institution but representing different disciplines. The new Editor(s) will begin their duties for a five-year term beginning 1 July 2021.

The Society shares financial support for *Eighteenth-Century Studies* with the host institution. The journal's Editor(s) can also rely on the support of an excellent team of book review editors, editorial board, and advisory editors.

Candidates should submit a letter of application describing their interest in and plans for the journal, together with a *curriculum vitae* for each prospective editor. In addition, the application should include a statement signed by the appropriate institutional officer pledging support for the journal for a term of five years, with the possibility of renewal dependent on review by both the Society and the host institution. Institutional support shall include space, utilities, custodial services, release time for the editor(s), and graduate student editorial support. It would be desirable if the host institution would also provide computer equipment and computer support facilities. Review of applications by a committee composed of the current President, the First Vice President, the Executive Director of the Society, an at-large member of the Executive Board, and the current Editor of the journal will begin 15 May 2020, and will continue until a new Editor and host institution for the journal are identified. Please send applications to the ASECS Business Office at [asecsoffice@gmail.com](mailto:asecsoffice@gmail.com). If you would like more information in order to prepare an application, please contact ASECS President Jeff Ravel at [ravel@mit.edu](mailto:ravel@mit.edu).

The Officers and Executive Board of ASECS wish to thank Professor Sean Moore of the University of New Hampshire for his outstanding service as Editor of *Eighteenth-Century Studies*. He will continue in this role through 30 June 2021.

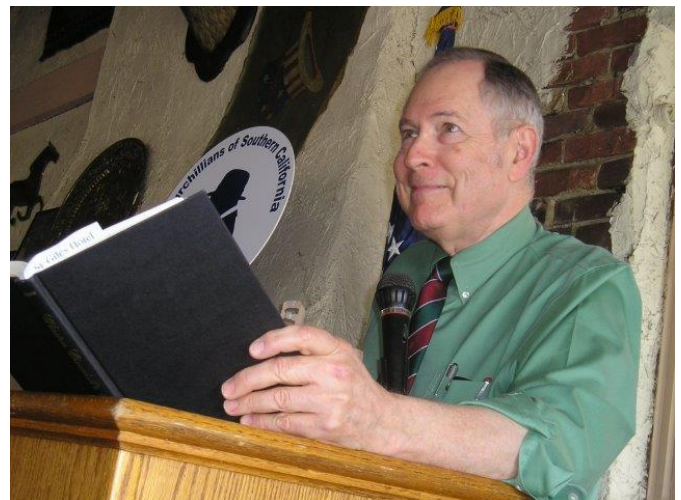
## In Memoriam

### Paul K. Alkon

My dear friend Paul K. Alkon died from cerebral bleeding on January 13, 2020. Paul received his AB from Harvard in 1957 and his PhD from the University of Chicago in 1962. He went on to a distinguished career, with positions at the University of California, Berkeley, the University of Maryland, the University of Minnesota, a visiting professorship at the Ben Gurion University of the Negev, and finally as Leo S. Bing Professor at the University of Southern California, 1980-2007, and Emeritus thereafter. There was special honor in that endowed chair: Paul Alkon was Donald J. Greene's successor.

Alkon indeed was a worthy heir of the Bing professorship. He was a founding member of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, a convener of its national meeting at the University of Maryland in 1971, and a major force responsible for moving the Society's archives to the Clark Library of UCLA, where they were properly organized and currently remain.

Paul Alkon also was a brilliant, clear, learned teacher and writer with broad ranging interests, at which he regularly excelled. He published numerous articles, five books, and one co-edited volume: *Samuel Johnson and Moral Discipline* (1967), *Defoe and Fictional Time* (1979), *Origins of Futuristic Fiction* (1987), *Science Fiction before 1900* (1994), and *Winston Churchill's Imagination* (2005). He co-edited *Transformations of Utopia: Changing Views of the Perfect Society* (1999). His awards suggest the breadth of his distinction: a Guggenheim Foundation award in 1983-1984, the University of California Eaton Award for the Origins of Futuristic Fiction



(1987), the Somervell Award for his study of Lawrence of Arabia in *The Finest Hour*, 119 (2003), and the University of Southern California Phi Kappa Phi Faculty Recognition Award in 1982 and again in 1988.

Alkon was part of the generation of graduate students and professors during a golden age of eighteenth-century studies in the early to mid-1960s. Paul and I were friends and colleagues hard at work on dissertations on Samuel Johnson, with the good fortune of having the late Gwin J. Kolb as our director, guide, philosopher, and friend. Within a three year period he placed one doctoral student at Berkeley, one at Yale, and one at Cornell. Jobs were available and major departments were there to fill them with uncommonly able and well-trained students.

It is not surprising that Paul Alkon was among that group. One of his special talents was anticipating work that predicted the direction of subsequent research. *Samuel Johnson and Moral Discipline*, for example, included a major chapter on Johnson's sermons. *Defoe and Fictional Time* anticipated studies of time as perceived and used in eighteenth-century literature and culture. *Origins of Futuristic Fiction* included Franco-English texts. *Science Fiction before 1900* begins with this sentence, elaborated upon in many later studies: "Science Fiction starts with Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*. Its first critic was Percy Shelley." Paul's virtual monograph in a Clark Library Presentation *Samuel Johnson's Pictures and Words* was "Illustrations of *Rasselas* and Reader-Response Criticism." It moves the reader into material culture and book history, as well as the reception of Johnson's narrative.

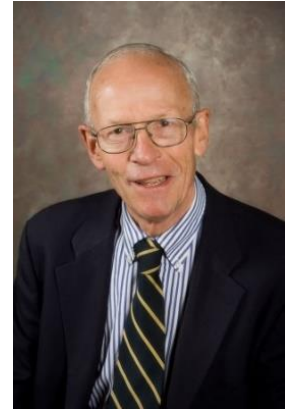
Paul Alkon was my friend from 1958-59, my first years in graduate school, until his death in January of 2020. My wife Dawn and I had the great pleasure of sharing Thanksgiving with him, his beloved wife Ellen, and their two also loved Pembroke Corgis, Brigitte and William. During those many years I saw Paul build ship models and a harpsichord, fill bookshelves with eighteenth-century books, books about science fiction, Winston Churchill, Lawrence of Arabia, Inuit art, and almost any other matter on which an ever-hungry mind could feed. I will remember him as a friend, colleague, paradigm of scholarly and pedagogical excellence, and indeed a husband, and father always in the hearts of his wife Dr. Ellen Alkon and his daughters Cynthia and Margaret. Margaret wrote an apt sentence about the grieving process for her father: "He will be

remembered. In lieu of flowers, reach out to a friend and discuss a book you love." *Esto perpetua.*

--Howard Weinbrot,  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

## Donald C. Mell

Donald C. Mell, Jr. died on November 9, 2019, following a short illness, at the age of 88. He was professor of English literature at the University of Delaware for 47 years, and before that taught Middlebury College (1965-68) and Rutgers University (1961-65).



Don attended Yale University, where he earned his BA in 1953. Upon graduation, he served in Korea as an Army PFC from 1953-55. He returned to Yale to earn a MAT in 1956 and a MA in 1959, and he completed his PhD at the University of Pennsylvania in 1961.

He was the author of *A Poetics of Augustan Elegy: Studies of Poems by Dryden, Pope, Prior, Swift, Gray, and Johnson* (1974), *English Poetry, 1660-1800: A Guide to Information Sources* (1982), and *Man, God and Nature in the Enlightenment* (1988).

A founding member of the East-Central American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies, he was honored in 2012 with that society's Leland Peterson Award for service to the organization and in recognition of his contributions to 18<sup>th</sup> century studies.

Don Mell will be fondly remembered by members of ASECS as chair of the University of Delaware Press Board of Editors, from 1999-2016, and in that capacity as the host of many a jolly gathering at the Annual ASECS Meeting.

## Jack Undank

Jack Undank, a member of ASECS since its inception, died on January 23, 2020 at the age of 91. He taught in the French Department of Rutgers University for more than 40 years, retiring as Distinguished Professor in 1998. His career also included visiting professorships at Williams College and the University of California, Santa Barbara, and direction of a faculty seminar at the Folger Institute in Washington, DC. His excellence as a teacher and



mentor was recognized by university awards and by the Shirley Bill Award from ASECS.

Born in 1928, Undank grew up in the Bronx and received his BA from the City College of New York in 1949. He earned an MA in Spanish from Rutgers University, and a PhD in French from Harvard in 1956. In 1952-53 he spent a research year in Paris on a Fulbright Fellowship. From an early age he was also a proficient abstract painter.

Jack Undank's scholarship on French literature has remained central to the field for many decades. As one critic wrote, his seminal book *Diderot: inside outside & in-between* (1979) "rewards one richly with a cornucopia of surprising connections and insights." He edited two works of Diderot: *Est-il bon? Est-il méchant?* (1956) and *Jacques le fataliste* (1981) and wrote numerous essays on such figures as Voltaire, Graffigny, Chardin, Rousseau, Beaumarchais, and Laclos. His articles have appeared in journals that include *Eighteenth-Century Studies*, *French Forum*, *MLN*, *French Review*, *SubStance*, *Studies on Voltaire in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century*, *Degré Second*, *Diderot Studies*, and *Modern Language Review*.

Jack is survived by his partner of 71 years, Alan Wilde, Professor Emeritus of English at Temple University. They were married in 2013, as soon as same-sex union became legal in New Jersey. Alan welcomes contributions to ASECS in Jack's memory.

—Susan S. Lanser, Brandeis University

## Dora Wiebenson

Dora Wiebenson passed away on August 20, 2019. Professor Wiebenson received her Ph.D from New York University's Institute of Fine Arts and taught 18th and 19th century architectural history at the University of Virginia. She was a distinguished scholar in her field, a pioneer of 18th-century visual studies, and was also one of the first female full professors in the discipline. It was Professor Wiebenson who had the inspired idea in 1993 to

establish the ASECS affiliate group Historians of Eighteenth-Century Art and Architecture; HECAA recently celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with an immensely successful conference, hosted by SMU. She had a major role in composing HECAA's first constitution and the ASECS/HECAA Wiebenson Prize was named in her honor.

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## Racism in the Face of COVID-19

*The ASECS Executive Board has unanimously endorsed the following statement prepared by the Society's DEIA (Diversity, Equity, Inclusiveness, and Accessibility) Advisory Committee:*

The CDC has recently declared that the spread of the coronavirus is a public health emergency of international concern. We trust that our members are seeking information from experts, following national guidelines, and taking personal care of your health. We also enlist your support as educators and as scholars of the eighteenth century in addressing the racism, xenophobia, and nationalism that have emerged in the wake of the current health concerns. Viruses, of course, do not discriminate by nationality, region, gender, race or ethnicity. Yet in ways reminiscent of past discourses of plague and "yellow peril," many Asians and Asian-Americans are once again experiencing discrimination, hostility, and exclusion both in person and on social media platforms. Suspicion and hostility have also fallen on individuals who choose to wear masks in public whether for cultural reasons or from concerns for personal health. We ask all those attending the annual meeting or engaging with colleagues on line to ensure a fully professional environment for every member of our Society during this health crisis and to be cognizant of the burden that persons of Asian identities may be experiencing at this time. ASECS condemns all prejudicial and racialized responses to the current viral outbreak.

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