

AMERICAN
SOCIETY FOR
18TH-CENTURY
STUDIES

News Circular No. 186
June/July 2024



Past President's Column
LISA A. FREEMAN
University of Illinois Chicago

I sat down to write this final news circular column on the eve of my last day as President, with a view towards taking stock of the last year and all that we have accomplished as a Society. For many of us, it has been a very challenging time; and the conflicts that have roiled the world continue to trouble us and cause distress and outrage from any number of perspectives. I don't have any wisdom to impart on those fronts; I wish I did. But I can share with you the motto I have always tried to abide by in my own life, an adapted version of the Hippocratic oath: do no harm, and try to do a little bit of good in the world along the way. Guided by this ethos, I entered into my service on the ASECS Executive Board, and in particular my term as President, with the goal of doing some good for the Society and, when I stepped down from that office, leaving ASECS in even better shape than I had found it. Certainly, I had some big shoes to fill, following in the footsteps of our highly esteemed colleagues, Rebecca Messbarger and Wendy Wassying Roworth, who together set our Society on a path towards revitalization and reinvigoration in the wake of both a global pandemic and

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challenging years about the future of scholarly societies in general and the direction of ours in particular.

I am happy to report that ASECS has taken some major steps forward and accomplished a great deal over the last year, in large part due to the dedication, commitment, care, and generosity of so many of our fellow members and colleagues. Most significant among those accomplishments is a thoroughgoing revision of our Bylaws, their approval by the Executive Board, and their upcoming presentation to the membership for a vote. This was one of our major goals for the year, and its attainment was made possible by the incredible teamwork of Bylaws Task Force co-chairs, (then) 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents Paola Bertucci and Misty Anderson, working in partnership with our Parliamentarian, Nush Powell, and our Executive Director, Benita Blessing, along with the incredibly gifted and thoughtful cohort of colleagues who served as Bylaws Task Force members: Mark Boonshoft, George Boulukos, Jason Farr, Jennifer Germann, Monica Anke Hahn, Christy Pichichero, and Chunjie Zhang. Working across fields and affiliations, these colleagues took in the whole scope of ASECS, its operations, and its member interests, needs, and aspirations, and formulated a capacious set of bedrock principles that will guide and support ASECS, as an inclusive, mission-driven, multidisciplinary scholarly society dedicated to engaging all things eighteenth century in the twenty-first century. It is an accomplishment and

achievement of which we can all be tremendously proud. I know I am, and I encourage all of you not just to cast your vote but also to vote "yes" as soon as the first ballot notification is sent out on July 15.

In addition to the completion of our Bylaws revision, ASECS also made significant progress both in clarifying old policies and procedures and in formulating new ones that will provide for transparent governance in the conduct of ASECS business and operations. The Task Force was additionally charged with reviewing proposals for a number of new committees, including a Committee on Awards, a Career and Mentorship Committee, and a Membership Committee, all of which we hope, with Board approval in the coming months, will be put in place along with the implementation of the new bylaws in July 2025.

Other accomplishments of the Board over the last year include the passage of a new Policy on Public Statements, the appointment of a new editor of SECC, and the appointment of a new Treasurer (the latter effective July 2025). Each one of these accomplishments speaks to the active engagement of our membership and to the forward-looking progress of our Society. I was especially pleased as well with the extraordinary success of our Annual Meeting. The gathering in Toronto was tremendous, and the presentation and performance by poet M. NourbeSe Philip was a high mark for so many of our members. Just as significant, however, was the chance to engage with colleagues,

as they presented new scholarship and new ideas and techniques for teaching across any number of fields and panels. The immense fellow feeling and camaraderie on display throughout the conference, along with the intense commitment to research, teaching, and professionalism across the humanities will carry over into our Virtual Conference next year, at which you can expect all kinds of innovative, interactive, and dynamic programming. Our program committee, along with our Executive Board and Executive Director are already deep into the planning; and we welcome suggestions from you for different types of sessions that will leverage the modality and maximize the medium.

I want to express my gratitude to all of my fellow Executive Board members for their service: Wendy Wassing Roworth as Past President, Romita Ray and Ourida Mostefai, who have completed their terms as representative members-at-large, as well as continuing members-at-large Barbara Abrams, Emily Friedman, Meghan Roberts, and Karen Stolley; and to welcome new members-at-large Brian Cowan and Olivia Sabe as well as incoming 2nd Vice President Elena Deanda-Camacho. I look forward to serving with you next year as



PRESIDENT LISA A. FREEMAN DELIVERING THE PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS AT THE 54TH ANNUAL MEETING IN TORONTO. IMAGE CREDIT: PINPOINT PHOTOGRAPHY

Past President, alongside President Paola Bertucci, 1st Vice President Misty Anderson, Treasurer Joseph Bartolomeo, Parliamentarian Nush Powell, and our Executive Director, Benita Blessing, to whom I am grateful for her partnership and good humor throughout this very productive year.

It has been one of the greatest honors of my career to serve as President of ASECS. I am grateful for the collegiality and support of our members and for all of your many and varied contributions to this lively, complicated endeavor we call Eighteenth-Century Studies. My life as a scholar has been greatly enriched by my involvement with ASECS and most importantly by all that I have learned from so many of you over these years. I look forward to what is still to come, as we continue to forge our shared commitment to humanities research and teaching and to the thriving community of scholars and teachers that is the very heart of ASECS.

LISA A. FREEMAN
Past President

Executive Director's Column

BENITA BLESSING

What an amazing ASECS year it has been! Consider just the following:

- **Toronto Annual Meeting 2024**
 - 700 attendees
 - \$10,000+ in donations in just 72 hours via new QR donation codes
 - Over 250 people attended M. NourbeSe Philip's reading of Zong!, organized by Program Chair Daniel O'Quinn
- **Proposed Bylaws Revisions:** ASECS members will vote on new Bylaws July 15-Oct. 10, 2024
- **Policy on Statements:** ASECS now has clear guidelines for making and signing onto statements
- **George Boulukos** appointed Editor of *Studies in Eighteenth-Century Culture*
- **Michael Lynn** (pictured at right) appointed New Treasurer (to begin July 1, 2025)
- **Membership dues** have been simplified; some categories saw a slight rate increase, but graduate students members still pay just \$45
- Two new endowed awards: The **George E. Haggerty Prize in LGBTQ+ Studies in Eighteenth-Century Scholarship** and the **ASECS/Ibero-American Studies in Eighteenth-Century Studies** awards
- **ASECS in Oregon:** The Business Office has an official home in Oregon. Will you be in the area? Let me know!



There's so much to look forward to this year, too!

- The **Virtual Annual Meeting** will take place March 28-29 and April 4-5, 2025.
 - You'll find the **Call for Proposals** and other key information on our [Annual Meeting page](#).
 - New this year! ASECS has a **new submissions system** for the 2025 Annual Meeting
 - **Marisa Fuentes** (Rutgers University) will deliver the Clifford Lecture
- **Nominations** for the 2025-2026 Executive Board have begun. [Propose someone](#) (or nominate yourself!)

If I could ask one thing from you this summer, it would be to make sure you vote on the proposed new Bylaws – help ensure that ASECS' governance structures broaden the definition of fields of scholarship, promote more inclusivity, and provide representation for graduate students and early career scholars on the Executive Board.



ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING AT THE 54TH ANNUAL MEETING IN TORONTO. IMAGE CREDIT: PINPOINT PHOTOGRAPHY

I am so grateful to all of you for your commitment to the society, your passion for the field, and your engagement with the oftentimes overwhelming challenges that face humanities scholars today. Thank you for all you do!

VOTE!

FOR YOUR NEW BYLAWS

WHAT?

ASECS membership will vote on whether to pass revised Bylaws, as reviewed and approved by the Executive Board and legal counsel.

WHY?

These changes broaden the definition of fields of scholarship, promote more inclusivity, and provide representation for graduate students and early career scholars on the Executive Board.

[Click here](#) to access a summary of the reasons and types of changes we are voting on.

WHEN?

The voting period will take place from **July 15-Oct. 10, 2024**, in accordance with our [Constitution and Bylaws](#) (see Article X).

WHO?

Only current (dues paid) ASECS members may vote.

You can check the status of your membership by logging in to your profile, as well as make changes to your profile here: [Membership Profile](#) or by emailing the [Executive Director](#), Benita Blessing.

HOW?

20% of current members must take part in the vote for it to be valid; 2/3 of voting members must vote in favor of the new Bylaws for the measure to pass.

Current members will receive a ballot via email from "director@asecs.org." Check your spam folder if you did not receive a ballot, or contact the Executive Director for assistance.

ACLS Delegate's Column
ELIZABETH KRAFT
 Emerita, University of Georgia

The annual meeting of the ACLS (American Council of Learned Societies) convened in Baltimore, MD, May 2-4. ASECS - a member since 1976 - is one of **81 member societies** in the organization, which was formed in 1919 in dedication to the advancement of knowledge about the human experience in pursuit of a more just and inclusive future. Each year, delegates meet to discuss issues facing the humanities and higher education. Highlights from the 2024 annual meeting included a fireside chat between Joy Connolly, ACLS president, and Ronald J. Daniels, president of Johns Hopkins University, and sessions on the collaboration of the humanities and the sciences, on academic



leadership, and on public engagement and humanistic scholarship. Winners of the ACLS Open Access Book Prize were announced, both of potential interest to ASECS members: Simon P. Newman's *Freedom Seekers: Escaping from Slavery in Restoration London* and Elsie Paul's *As I Remember It: Teachings (?9ms ta?aw) from the Life of a Sliammon Elder*. The meeting concluded with an inspiring speech from Professor Ania Loomba (University of Pennsylvania), winner of the 2024 Charles Homer Haskins award. The following link will take you to the ACLS website: <https://www.acls.org/> Recordings of some of the sessions, including the Haskins lecture, can be found on the [ACLS YouTube channel!](#)

SEARCH ANNOUNCEMENT: BOOK REVIEW EDITOR



Restoration: Studies in Literature and Culture is looking for a book review editor. We publish two issues per year, and are hoping to include 3-4 book reviews and/or review essays per issue. Book reviews are crucial to the continuing vitality of the discipline. We invite letters of interest from scholars at any career stage. Please send a message of inquiry and a CV to the editors, Laura Rosenthal lrosent1@umd.edu and Erin Keating Erin.Keating@umanitoba.ca. For best consideration, please contact us no later than July 22, 2024.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Session Proposals for the 55th Annual Meeting

Online, March 28-29 and April 4-5, 2025

The [American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies](#) (ASECS) is pleased to announce our Call for Proposals for the 55th Annual Meeting, to be held virtually over two weekends: March 28-29 and April 4-5, 2025. The Society, established in 1969, is the foremost learned society in the United States for the study of all aspects of the period from the later seventeenth through the early-nineteenth century.

Round 2 (General Session Proposals) is now open for submissions to panels, roundtables.

ASECS is committed to fostering an inclusive and welcoming conference environment in which all members participate fully in the exchange of knowledge and ideas. The society welcomes scholars pursuing all aspects of eighteenth-century studies and in all careers and career stages: in graduate studies; in tenured, tenure track, or non-tenure track academic positions; in part-time or temporary positions in the academy; and colleagues in contexts beyond the academy including libraries, museums, publishing, and teaching, as well as independent scholars. Please join us whether you are a long-time member, or new to ASECS!

Our call for submissions has 4 rounds:

- **Round 1**, due June 10, 2024 : Call for guaranteed sessions by caucuses and affiliate society chairs.
- **Round 2**, June 17-July 26: Open call for session proposals by chairs (panels, roundtables, project sessions, special sessions).
- **Round 3**, Aug. 5- Sept. 13: Open call for individual abstracts to chairs' sessions.
- **Round 4**, Sept. 23-28: Open call for individual papers to become part of sessions ("rehoming" abstracts that were not accepted and inviting new individual papers).

Please join us whether you are a long-time member, or new to ASECS!

The 2025 Program Committee:
Daniel O'Quinn, chair (doquinn@uoguelph.ca)
Hilary Havens, Advisor for Accessibility, Disability, and Inclusion
Monica Hahn
Mary Bath Harris
Emily Pearson

Questions? Contact Executive Director Benita Blessing (director@asecs.org)!

Congratulations to new SECC Editor GEORGE BOULUKOS!

Editor-in-Chief of [Studies in Eighteenth-Century Culture](#): George Boulukos is Professor of English and Affiliate Faculty in the School of Africana Studies at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Professor Boulukos has been an active member of ASECS since graduate school; highlights include his work with the Race and Empire Caucus and the Bylaws Task Force.

SECC Editors David Brewer and Crystal Lake will be helping in the hand-off to Professor Boulukos, whose term begins July 1, 2024. Their vision for the journal has helped establish it as a respected source of new and emerging scholarship that, thanks to SECC's inclusion in the [Project Muse](#) portfolio, reaches a broad and diverse readership. Please join the Executive Board in thanking

Professors Brewer and Lake for their contributions to ASECS and the field of eighteenth-century studies.

The Executive Board also thanks the SECC Search Committee (Karen Stolley – chair, Benita Blessing, Craig Hanson, and Ramesh Mallipeddi) for their work, and extends its appreciation to the number of qualified candidates eager to serve in this role.



GEORGE BOULUKOS, NEW SECC EDITOR

Call for Submissions: *Studies in Eighteenth-Century Culture*, Vol. 55 Deadline August 15, 2024.

For the next volume, Volume 55, the journal invites provocative and rigorous essays that chart out new directions for research on the cultures of the long eighteenth century, including contributions to history, literary history, the history of visual art, theatre and performance studies, musicology, material culture studies, gender and sexuality studies, and the studies of race, indigeneity, and empire. Essays from under-represented areas of inquiry are particularly welcome.

The journal is committed to publishing not only individual essays, but also one or more “clusters” of contributions that stem from the same panel or

roundtable (or, in the case of double or triple sessions on a shared topic, the same series of panels or roundtables). If you are a session chair interested in pursuing this option, please contact the editor soon after your conference or other public event has concluded in order to confirm that your cluster is of an appropriate scope and to determine the best length for the individual contributions.

Guidelines for Submission to Volume 55

Revised versions of papers and roundtable remarks presented in any public venue by a member of ASECS or of a learned society [affiliated with ASECS](#) or [ISECS](#) between JULY 1, 2023 and JUNE 30, 2024 are eligible for consideration. Single essay submissions are typically between 5,000 and 10,000 words in length, including notes, although we will consider substantively revised contributions of other lengths. Submissions are normally in English and should follow the 17th edition of The Chicago Manual of Style. Submissions will be evaluated through blind peer review. Authors are therefore asked to avoid identifying themselves, and references to one’s own scholarship should be made in the third person. SECC cannot consider papers already submitted to other journals. The deadline for submission is AUGUST 15, 2024. Please send all inquiries and submissions to Editor-in-Chief George Boulukos at SECC@asecs.org.

Studies in Eighteenth-Century Culture is an interdisciplinary peer-reviewed journal published annually for the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (ASECS) by the Johns Hopkins University Press. SECC publishes revised versions of papers and roundtable remarks presented in any public venue in the previous two years by a member of ASECS or of a learned society affiliated with ASECS or ISECS. This includes papers given virtually or online. Digitized as part of Project Muse, SECC is a membership benefit of Patrons and Sponsoring Members of ASECS and is offered to all members at a discount.

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NOMINATIONS FOR EXECUTIVE BOARD POSITIONS

The ASECS Nominating Committee is accepting nominations for the following Executive Board positions:

**Second Vice President
2 Members-at-Large**

Terms begin on 1 July 2025. Members-at-Large serve 3 years; the Second Vice President is presumed to subsequently serve as First Vice President, President, and then Past President.

Nominations will be accepted through 1 October, 2024. You can find more information and the nomination/self-nomination form on the [Elections](#) page.

Address questions to Nominating Committee Chair Yann Robert (yroberty@uic.edu) or Executive Director Benita Blessing (director@asecs.org).

Note that, in accordance with the disciplinary guidelines of Bylaw 3, no nomination may come from category (b) for the 2025-2026 Board year. You can read the official details of ASECS nominating procedures in the Constitution and Bylaws on the [Governance](#) page.

Key for disciplinary categories (cf. Bylaw 3):

- (a) English and American Language and Literatures
- (b) Languages and Literatures other than English and American
- (c) Music, Visual Arts, and Performing Arts
- (d) History
- (e) All Other Disciplines

AWARDS & PRIZES

Louis A. Gottschalk Prize:

APRIL G. SHELFORD, *A Caribbean Enlightenment: Intellectual Life in the British and French Colonial Worlds, 1750-1792* (Cambridge University Press, 2023)

Honorable Mention: **KATLYN CARTER**, *Democracy in Darkness: Secrecy and Transparency in the Age of Revolutions* (Yale University Press, 2023)

James L. Clifford Prize:

LISA FORMAN CODY, "Marriage is No Protection for Crime': Coverture, Sex, and Marital Rape in Eighteenth-Century England, published in *Journal of British Studies*, 61

Honorable Mentions: **RAMESH MALLIPEDDI**, "Roads, Bridges, and Ports: Infrastructures of Plantation Agriculture in the British Caribbean, 1627-1840," IN *The Aesthetic Life of Infrastructure*, and **NANA OSEI QUARSHIE**, "Spiritual Pawning: 'Mad Slaves' and Mental Healing in Atlantic-Era West Africa" which appeared in *Comparative Studies of Society and History*, 65.3.

Srinivas Aravamudan Prize

THOMAS GLESENER and DANIEL HERSHENZON, "The Maghrib in Europe: Royal Slaves and Islamic Institutions in Eighteenth-Century Spain," *Past & Present* 259.1 (May 2023): 77-116.

Non-tenure Track Fund

ERIK JOHNSON
LISE GASTON
ROSS NEDERVELT

Theatre and Performance Studies Graduate Student Paper Prize

CALLUM BLACKMORE, "Staging Paris's Commercial Revolution: Capitalist Form and the Merger of the Comédie-Italienne and the Opéra-Comique (1762)"

Traveling Jam Pot

HARVEY SHEPHERD
KEENAN BURTON
YIO KYUOUNG (ESTHER) KIM

Honorable Mentions:

HAMPTON SMITH
TAMMY HONG
CHRISTOPHER CATANESE
AUDREY RODRIGUEZ

Graduate Student Conference Paper Prize

HAMPTON SMITH, "Insurgent Making: Tools as Weapons in Slave Revolts"

Honorable Mention: **JENNIFER STRTAK**, "S(paces) of Policing: Urban Vehicles of Population Control in Eighteenth-Century Paris"

Women's Caucus Awards & Prizes

Macaulay Graduate Student Prize
NATASHA SHOORY

Émilie du Châtelet Award
KELLY PLANTE

Editing/Translation Award
JULIETTE PAUL

Gender and Intersectional Prize
FAITH BARRINGER

CALL FOR STATEMENTS OF INTEREST

HISTORY IN AFRICA EDITORSHIP

The African Studies Association Publications Committee announces a Call for Statements of Interest for Editor-in-Chief of the ASA's journal, *History in Africa* (HiA), published by Cambridge University Press, for the 2026-2030 editorial term. Statements will be reviewed, and finalists will be notified in October 2024.

The ASA is looking for individuals with creative ideas about the future of *History in Africa*. It seeks an Editor-in-Chief actively committed to the following strategic priorities for the journal:

1. Interdisciplinary, topical, and geographic diversity of articles
2. Inclusion of work from established and emerging scholars
3. Expansion of submissions, readership, and access from Africa
4. Continued promotion of HiA's bilingual initiative, and pursuance of articles in French
5. Capitalizing on digital capabilities with respect to the editorial process, content dissemination, and engagement.
6. Use of journal as a significant teaching resource

The responsibilities of the Editor-in-Chief include the following:

- Maintain and enhance HiA's stellar reputation in the field by soliciting and enhancing cutting edge articles.
- Receive and manage new manuscripts year-round. Select multiple reviewers for each submission once a manuscript is received, and follow-up with reviewers to ensure articles are blind-reviewed in a timely fashion.
- Assemble accepted pieces into issues, including working directly with authors to ensure that revisions are done in a timely manner.
- Maintain a database of reviewers and continually recruit and identify new reviewers.
- Work in close collaboration with the ASA Publications Committee, the ASA Secretariat, and the CUP team on all aspects of the journal's production.
- Compile an Annual Report to circulate ahead of the Fall and Spring ASA Board Meetings.
- Participate as an ex-officio member of the ASA Publications Committee throughout tenure.
- Present an annual report to the Board of Directors, attend the ASA Annual Meeting, and meet with the Publications Committee to discuss the journal.
- Engage with and recommend appointments to the Editorial Review Board.
- Work with the ASA Executive Director to manage the HiA budget.
- Utilize ASA systems to streamline communication, support management, and maintain institutional history.
- Support and/or grow the journal's social media presence.
- Oversee the administration of the Paul Hair Prize (awarded in odd years) with ASA Secretariat and Board.

The ASA provides both financial and in-kind support including:

- Travel funds for the editorial team to attend the ASA Annual Meeting
- Funds to subsidize copy-editing expenses, translations, and management support
- A project fund to support international and domestic conference attendance to promote the journal and/or other initiatives identified by the Editorial Team to increase outreach and encourage submissions.

Qualifications:

PhDs in African History. Successful applicants will be respected scholars with

- Demonstrated ability to think creatively, explore innovation, and implement new initiatives.
- Demonstrated ability to work proactively, under tight deadlines, and with close attention to detail.
- Strong leadership, interpersonal and teamwork skills, with an ability to communicate and collaborate effectively.

Questions and Statements of Interest must be sent to the Executive Director, Alix Saba at alix@africanstudies.org with the subject line HiA Editor-in-Chief Statement **by September 15, 2024** and must include the following:

1. Copy of professional CV.
2. A 400-700-word proposal including the Editor's evaluation of the current state and proposed future direction of the journal.
3. A description of any institutional support that might be available to the Editor.

HISTORY IN AFRICA



Clockwise from top left: Mary and John O'Neill, ASECs President Paola Bertucci, Women's Caucus Luncheon, GECC co-chair Taylin Nelson at the GECC 18th-Century Café, Olivia Sabee at the Book Exhibit, and Nicole Aljoe at the Book Table for the M. NourbeSe Philip event. Photo credits: Pinpoint Photography.

More 2024 Toronto Annual Meeting Photos can be found on the [Past Conferences Page!](#)

THE NEWS CIRCULAR OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY STUDIES (ASECS)

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