

NO. 191 | SPRING 2026

AMERICAN
SOCIETY FOR
18TH-CENTURY
STUDIES

NEWS CIRCULAR

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

The prospect of our meeting at the Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown in a few short weeks brings me joy. I hope you too are finding joy where you can, whether in Bad Bunny at the Superbowl, in the approach of spring, or in the restoration of the installation detailing the lives of the nine enslaved people, so recently scraped from the walls of Independence National Historic Park, just 11 blocks from our conference hotel. If you have not yet registered and reserved your hotel room in our room block, please do so and join in the conversation. You can read more about conference plans below.



As we mark a return to an in-person conference, we also celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Women's Caucus. Ruth Perry recounts the Caucus's origins in a narrative that makes clear the importance of access and belonging in her [recent ECS piece](#). In 1975, when ISECS had put forward an all-male slate for Board elections, Jean Perkins (French, Swarthmore) objected. R.S. Leigh retorted "which women could we possibly think could be eligible for this august body?" That moment crystalized an effort to present by petition a slate of women to run for the ISECS Board; every woman on that list was elected. It also launched the Caucus lunch which, this year, will be open to guests. T-shirts are also in the works.

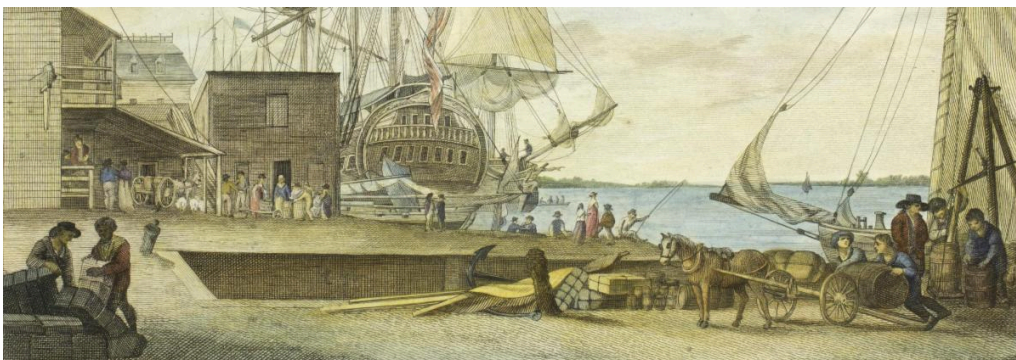
We continue to monitor the situation at [Bucknell UP](#), with thanks to Jeremy Chow for being our advocate on the ground. While on the theme of presses and publishing, I want to make a special plea on behalf of our journal and book review editors at *ECS* and *SECC*. We are all busy, but our continued ability to publish timely reviews and the new work that keeps the field vital depends on volunteer reviewers, so please say yes whenever you possibly can.

This year's [elections for our officers](#) will open March 13 on our new platform, which makes voting easier. We are fostering an ever-renewing eighteenth century studies for an age that never wanted it so much. The current search for our next secretary is also open, and the committee (Jeff Ravel, Elena Deanda-Camacho, and Al Coppola) welcome applications.

At a time when fear and nihilism are grave temptations, join us in Philadelphia and raise a glass to [joyful community](#), vibrant diversity, and endless curiosity about the eighteenth century.

In solidarity,

Misty G. Anderson



ASECS 56th Annual Meeting Philadelphia, April 9 - 11

The in-person meeting at the Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown is just a few weeks away! If you haven't registered yet, please jump over to our [Membership page](#), login or create a new login if this is your first time, and register now. Our wonderful program committee has put together a [transit guide](#), which is a paragon of lucidity, as well as [additional resources here](#), including a list of restaurants, sites, and museums offering free or discounted admission with your conference badge. Tickets for [The Contrast](#) are still available for each night of the conference; use the code ASECS2026 at checkout. Each night, groups will gather near the 17th Street entrance of the hotel to venture out together.

You can also look forward to social time at the Members' Reception on Thursday and at the [Caucuses](#) and [Affiliates](#) Reception on Friday, open to all and sponsored by the family of the late **Donald Mell**. These events and gatherings are good ways to find community and pursue conversations about your work, whether you are new or returning to the conference.

The updated program is live on our [website](#). The conference app is soon to follow, with new functions, such as the option to upload slides and images. We encourage accessibility copies. We will also have a rudimentary pdf of the program at the registration desk.

Devon Binder from Red Door Alliance will be on site with us for the whole conference, and is reachable at asecseventplanner@gmail.com. **Martine DiDonato**, our interim Executive Director, will be on site as well and can be reached through director@asecs.org. We're very grateful to both of them for all their help in making this historic gathering, during our nation's semiquincentennial year, a meeting to remember.

Image Credit: Detail, William Russell Birch, Arch Street Ferry, Philadelphia, 1800 (ca. 1860), [Library Company of Philadelphia](#).



It's important to make your reservation within the official contracted ASECS hotel block, which closes March 10! We receive concessions as part of the hotel contract, which allow us to offer lower room rates and support for NTT and graduate student attendees, while keeping the conference registration fees affordable.

By staying at the [Sheraton Downtown Philadelphia](#), you'll have better networking opportunities, easy

accessibility, and free wifi. Plus, you'll be supporting the financial stability of ASECS.

Image Credit: Robert Indiana, LOVE (1976)

French Studies Dinner

Society for Eighteenth-Century French Studies will be hosting its annual ASECS dinner at **Frieda**, 320 Walnut Street, on **Friday, April 10th at 7**, when dix-huitièmistes will gather for good food, good conversation and to discuss potential topics for SECFS panels at ASECS in Portland in 2027. A 40-minute walk or 15-minute drive from the conference hotel, the restaurant is BYOB, with Fine Wine and Good Spirits **nearby** at 724 South Street. Dinner will be \$60 for graduate students, contingent, part-time, and non-tenure-track faculty and \$75 for tenure-line faculty. The easiest way to pay is to **send Flora Champy a Zelle payment** in advance using the email address **fchampy@princeton.edu**. Otherwise, payment can be made with cash or check the night of the event. The restaurant is also able to accept a small handful of credit cards with a surcharge of 2.5%.

Philadelphia Archive Visit

Philadelphia boasts a wealth of archives and special collections that are of immense value to eighteenth-century scholars working on natural history, natural philosophy, medicine and other practical and technical arts. On the day before the conference program begins, the Science Studies Caucus has arranged a visit to the American Philosophical Society and Science History Institute to explore their collections and view some of their treasures.



On Wednesday, April 8, we will gather at the hotel at 1:30 and head over to the libraries, which are **located** across the street from each other next to Independence Hall. The outing is open to any ASECS member with an interest in the sciences of our period. Space is limited to 20, so please RSVP to caucus co-chair **Anita Guerrini** if you wish to attend.

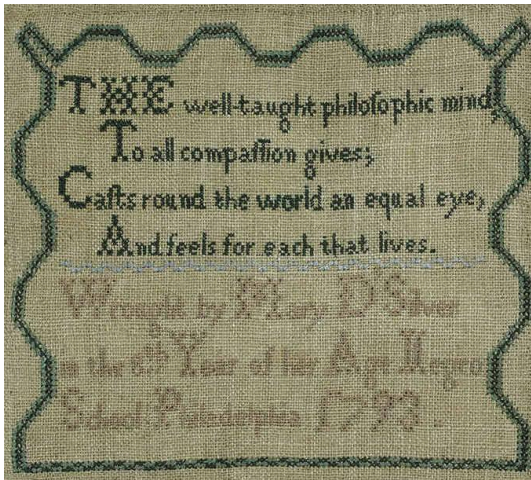
Image Credit: Amédée François Frézier, Traité Des Feux d'Artifice Pour Le Spectacle, 1706.

<https://digital.sciencehistory.org/works/mhwi7ch>

Featured in the Science History Institute exhibition "Flash! Bang! Boom! A History of Fireworks," opening April 10.

SPOTLIGHT: 50 YEARS OF THE WOMEN'S CAUCUS

The Women's Caucus of the American Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies is turning 50, and we are throwing a celebration! The Women's Caucus emerged from the efforts of women scholars in the 1970s who sought to increase representation in leadership at ISECS and ASECS. Since then, the Caucus has expanded its role by offering yearly prizes and scholarship support, sponsoring dedicated scholarly and professional panel sessions at ASECS, and raising travel funds for non-tenure-track faculty and independent scholars to attend the annual conference. At ASECS, the Women's Caucus hosts a yearly luncheon and business meeting that has historically served as a forum for women's issues. *Eighteenth-Century Studies* issued a Special Issue on the **Winter 2026**, entitled "The ASECS Women's Caucus at 50," with Guest Editors: Nicole Aljoe, Mona Narain, and Francesca Savoia.



The Women's Caucus birthday luncheon will be held Saturday, April 11, 2026 at 12:30, during the ASECS Annual Conference in Philadelphia, PA. If you are attending, tickets can be purchased with your conference registration. In addition, there is a commemorative t-shirt! The deadline to order your "ASECS Women's Caucus: 50 Years Strong" t-shirt is March 1, 2026. The order form can be found [here](#). Shirts cost \$25 for pickup at the ASECS meeting, when you can also submit payment.

If you are not attending the annual meeting but are interested in finding out more about the Women's Caucus history and activities, information can be found on our [website](#), where it's easy to make a donation that will support our work.

Image Credit: Mary D'Silver, Sampler (Philadelphia, 1793), Winterthur Museum, [Object # 2014.0033](#)
[A](#), Museum purchase with funds provided by the Henry Francis du Pont Collectors Circle.

ASECS BOARD NEWS

The Board has been hard at work planning the Philadelphia conference, our 56th annual meeting ([reserve your hotel room now!](#)). We have been forging ahead

with our new 18th Century Today webinars. Nearly 60 members turned out for a Zoom discussion about “Enlightenment for All: Teaching the Eighteenth Century Beyond the Academy” on February 6. Additionally, the Board adopted the [ASECS Harassment, Ethics, and Professional Conduct Complaint Procedures](#), which provide crucial structural and procedural updates to matters previously managed by the Anti-Harassment Committee and Ombuds.

The Board looks forward to welcoming back **Michael Lynn** as our treasurer on 1 May 2026—and we extend our ineffable gratitude to **Joseph Bartolomeo**, who has been filling in with Mike on leave. Meanwhile, **Jeff Ravel** has our thanks for chairing the search for our new Board Secretary, with **Elena Deanda-Camacho** and **Al Coppola** serving as committee members. Interested candidates should send a letter of application by March 27 to ravel@mit.edu.

The Board has also been developing protocols for proposing joint sessions, voting to expand the SECC Board (and welcome new Associate Editor **Allison Cardon!**), and working hard to standardize our prize procedures and deadlines. We’re happy to reaffirm that [ECCO](#) remains one of our most important membership benefits. If you enjoy using it for your research and teaching, please consider [donating](#) to the future of ASECS—and plan to be with us in Portland, OR in 2027; and Richmond, VA in 2028.

2026 Elections

The 2026–2027 ASECS election cycle is now underway. The election slate was published on February 12, 2026. Nominations were closed on February 26, and electronic ballots will circulate on March 13. Members are encouraged to review candidate materials [here](#) and participate in the vote promptly, once electronic ballots are distributed.



Members will elect three new Executive Board officers: a Second Vice President and two Members-at-Large—their terms will begin in July 2026. The candidates for Second Vice President are **Tili Boon Cuillé** (Washington University in St. Louis) and **Mariselle Meléndez** (University of Illinois Champaign). Standing for Member-at-Large are **Jared Richman** (Colorado College) and **Downing Thomas** (University of Iowa), and **Yota Batsaki** (Dumbarton Oaks) and **Wendy Bellion** (University of Delaware).

In keeping with the Society’s Constitution and [Bylaws](#), the current Second Vice President stands for First Vice President, and the current First Vice President stands for President. Candidates for President and First Vice President are **Elena Deanda-Camacho** (Washington College) and **Amy Freund** (Southern Methodist University).

Executive Board continuing elected members are: **Pamela Ahern, Brian Cowan, Olivia Sabee, Al Coppola, Chloe Northrop, and Misty G. Anderson** (as Past President, ex officio and non voting).

Please mark the key dates and cast your ballot when required. Member participation is essential to the Society's governance, to the broad representation of its members across fields, areas, and constituencies, and to its future direction.

Image Credit: Benjamin West, Benjamin Franklin Drawing Electricity from the Sky (c. 1816), Philadelphia Museum of Art.

Treasurer's Report

As of February 15, ASECS's invested funds totaled \$2,260,527.88. Restricted funds now amount to nearly 60% of the total. In this fiscal year, we will need to withdraw some from unrestricted invested funds to help cover the costs of the conference and meet other expenses. Income from our funds allows us to keep registration and membership fees lower, but we have to stretch to cover all of our operating, management assistance, travel prize, and conference costs.

Donations to ASECS help reduce the need to draw on these funds. 2025 saw a marked increase in contributions, led by the Women's Caucus. We encourage you to donate to ASECS, especially to the unrestricted Sustainability Fund and funds that support attendance at the annual meeting and keep costs down. Your support will help us maintain a stable financial position into the future.



GRANTS, AWARDS & PRIZES

ASECS sponsors 31 different awards and grants to recognize outstanding scholarship and support our members' research and conference travel. We are looking forward to announcing the winners of many competitions in Philadelphia, including the **James L. Clifford** and the **Louis Gottschalk Prizes**, which recognize the most outstanding article and book of eighteenth century studies published in the past year. This year, **we had to extend the application deadline** for a number of our awards to the end of February; the Board thanks the members of those prize committees, who had to meet a tight deadline.

Application season is generally late fall and early winter, but three deadlines are coming up soon. First, the Graduate and Early Career Caucus (GECC) is taking applications for the Mentor award. If you would like to nominate a mentor, reach out to at least two others who could write a short letter of recommendation and include the mentor's CV before **March 15 through the link on this page**. The **ASECS Graduate Student Conference Paper Prize** for the best paper presented at the ASECS annual meeting has a deadline of **April 20, 2026**. Last but not least, the **Race & Empire Caucus Graduate Student Essay Prize** is seeking



submissions of revised versions of papers read at ASECS and affiliate conferences during this academic year, with a deadline of **July 15, 2026**.

For full details on all 31 of ASECS's prize competitions, consult the [Awards, Grants and Fellowships](#) page on the ASECS website.

Image Credit: John Lewis Krimmel, Pepper-Pot: A Scene in the Philadelphia Market (1811), [Philadelphia Museum of Art](#).

JOURNALS



Eighteenth-Century Studies

Since the last newsletter, there have been two new issues of *Eighteenth-Century Studies*, ASECS's quarterly journal edited by **Ramesh Mallipeddi**. Volume 59, number 1, released in Fall 2025, features a special issue on "[Eighteenth-Century Coasts](#)," edited by **Alexander Dick** and **Eric Gidal**. A roundtable on "Geographies, Ecologies, Temporalities" includes contributions by **Claire Connolly**, **Samuel Diener**, **Isaac Land**, **Killian Quigley**, **Emma Hart**, **Miles Ogborn**, **Steve Mentz** and **Gerard Lee McKeever**. In addition, there are three articles: "Western Man's Animals, or, Slavery and the Extra-Human Energies of Oyster Shells on the West African Coast" by **Anna Feuerstein**, "Transverse

Specimens: Coral in Eighteenth-Century Science and Culture” by **Anna K. Sagal**, and “Brethren of the Coast: Interracial Community in William Williams’s *Mr. Penrose*” by **Patrick McBurnie-Nicolay**. Fall 2025 also includes reviews of 13 new books, edited by **Mark Vareschi**.

The most recent number of *Eighteenth-Century Studies*, Volume 59, number 2 (winter 2026) is a special issue devoted to “**The ASECS Women’ Caucus at 50**,” edited by **Nicole Aljoe**, **Mona Narain**, and **Francesca Savoia**. Essays by **Ruth Perry** and **Susan S. Lanser** reflect on “Beginnings and Continuities,” and a “Roundtable on Professional Issues” includes contributions by **Elena Deanda-Camacho**, **Miriam L. Wallace**, **Susan Dalton** and **Rebecca Cypess**. The “Roundtable on Pedagogy” features four essays, two of which were collectively authored. Nine of our colleagues, as well as four undergraduate students, contributed their perspectives to this conversation. In addition, the special issue features two articles of new research: “Oroonokos’ Rape Cultures” by **Jeremy Chow** and “Sisters but Not Women? Queer Kinship and Salvific Androgyny in Ephrata’s Celibate Sisterhood” by **Anca Wilkening**. The Winter 2026 issue also includes 12 new book reviews.

There is still time to respond to the call for papers for the next special issue of *Eighteenth-Century Studies*. Guest editors **Ruth Mack** and **Crystal B. Lake** are accepting proposals for “Practical Knowledge in the Enlightenment” through June 1. Research papers of 7,500 to 9,000 words for consideration should be sent to ec.studies@ubc.ca.

Image Credit: Detail, Louis François Gérard van der Puyt, Portrait of Thomas Payne with His Family and Friends (1787), [Philadelphia Museum of Art](#).

Studies in Eighteenth-Century Culture



There is a new volume of *Studies in Eighteenth-Century Culture* coming in March. This annual publishes scholarship originally presented at an ASECS-affiliated conference, or any work publicly presented by an ASECS member, in the past two years.

Volume 55, 2026 features clusters of shorter essays derived from conference panels on Free Indirect Discourse, Indigenous Critique, and the representation of queer eighteenth-century pirates in the HBO show *Our Flag Means Death*. Individual essays cover the possibilities of gender-fluid play in early nineteenth-century paper dolls

(**Marlis Schweitzer**); Chardin’s pastels (**Heather McPherson**); taste-making women art collectors in Paris (**Natasha Shoory**); a reassessment of the taste debate between artists and antiquarians (**Sarah Carter**); the importance of commonplacing in Ignatius Sancho’s letters (**Moinak Choudury**); an Islamic Traveller’s view of Ranelagh (**Humberto Garcia**); the social and economic theory of prostitution in Paris (**Cecilia Feilla**); as well as **Lisa A. Freeman’s** 2024 Presidential Address, an analysis of race and performance in Edward Young’s play, *The Revenge*.

SECC editor **George Boulukos** is pleased to announce that **Allison Cardon** has come aboard as a new Associate Editor for the annual. She is the Mellon Public History Fellow at the Henry Sheldon Museum of Vermont History, having previously held appointments at Middlebury College, Hamilton College, and the College of Wooster after earning her Ph.D. in English Literature from SUNY Buffalo. A co-chair of ASECS' Race and Empire Caucus, she currently serves on the MLA Executive Committee for Law and Humanities. Allison reports that she looks forward to fostering rigorous, timely scholarly conversations and critical inquiry in the pages of *SECC*.

The annual has also expanded its advisory board to eight members, and we thank the following scholars for the generosity of their time and expertise: **Scott Brueninger**, Virginia Commonwealth University, History/Enlightenment; **Rachael Givens Johnson**, Brigham Young University, Spanish; **Tracy Rutler**, Penn State University, French/Queer Theory; **Jeanne Britton**, University of South Carolina, Material Culture; **Miles Grier**, Queens College, CUNY, Theater/Restoration; **Sarah Cohen**, University at Albany, Art History/French; **Jennifer Van Horn**, University of Delaware, Art History/American; and **Rebecca Geoffroy-Schwinden**, University of North Texas, Music.

Submissions for the next volume of *Studies in Eighteenth-Century Culture* are due on August 15, and they should be sent to secc@asecs.org. The editors welcome clusters based on panels or individual essays.

Image Credit: *Detail, Unknown, Listening to the News (17th century), Philadelphia Museum of Art.*



ASA – ASECS 18th-Century Africa Publication Fellowship

With the generous **funding** of the American Council of Learned Societies (**ACLS**), the African Studies Association (**ASA**) and the American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies (**ASECS**) have collaborated for two years in the joint 18th-Century Africa Publication Fellowship. In the 2025 edition, twelve fellows participated in publishing mentorships at both ASA and ASECS meetings and prepared their work for submission to each associations' journals. The 2025 **Fellows** are: **Justine "Tola" Ajao** (University of Toronto), **Jessica M. Johnson** (University of Oregon), **Deena Al-halabieh** (University of California, Santa Barbara), **Ethan Key** (Boston University), **Allegra Ayida** (Yale University), **Umar Sheikh Tahir** (Columbia University), **Jack Casey** (New York University), **Tim Soriano** (University of Illinois, Chicago), **A. Véronique Charles** (Columbia University), **Matthew Steele** (Yale University), **Myriam Carmen Iuorio** (University of Toronto), and **Duangkamol Tantirungkij** (City University of New York).

At the ASECS conference in Philadelphia, Ajao, Key, Soriano and Iuorio will present their work at the panel "Africa's Eighteenth Century," chaired by **Steven W. Thomas** (Tennessee Tech University), along with **Rebecca Mitsein**, who was one



of the 2025 ASA-ASECS mentors. This panel will take place on Friday, April 10 at 4:30 PM on Freedom H at the Sheraton Hotel in Philadelphia. Applications for the [2026 cohort](#) closed on February 27, 2026. This grant fosters collaboration between ASECS and ASA members, and, in that spirit, we encourage ASECS membership to submit panel proposals and papers to ASA's conference on December 3-6, 2026 in New Orleans (the deadline is [March 15, 2026](#)). For questions, please email director@asecs.org, and members@africanstudies.org.

Image Credit: *Raphaelle Peale and Moses Williams, Moses Williams, Cutter of Profiles (1803), [Library Company of Philadelphia](#).*

ACLS

The American Council of Learned Societies, of which ASECS is a member, recently made some major constitutional and structural changes, which include a series of four delegate forums across the year, intended to identify and prioritize goals for the group moving forward. At the most recent (third) forum, ACLS President Joy Connolly announced DASSH (Defending the Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities), an initiative that will kick off in March 2026 with networking events in San Francisco and Los Angeles. DASSH seeks to widen our circle and build community and alliances outside of academia. Email dassh@acsls.org for more information. Please see also the ACLS [update](#) on their new Strategic Framework: Bold Action for Growth and Strength. The deadline for the ACLS [Leading Edge Fellowship](#) Program, which places recent humanities PhDs with nonprofit organizations committed to promoting justice and equity in their communities, is March 11, 2026. Thanks to our ASECS delegate to ACLS, **Manushag N. Powell**, for keeping us informed.

ISECS

The International Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies ([ISECS](#)) sponsors a wide range of conferences that might be of interest to members. Please see this [link](#) for details. Also, in July 2027 the ISECS International conference will celebrate the 60th anniversary of ISECS in Zaragoza, Spain in three official languages (Spanish, English, French) and will encourage more delegates from Latin America. Please consider applying when the CFP is available later this year. [Zaragoza](#) is a gorgeous, historically rich, and easily navigable city that can be reached by train from Madrid (1.5 hours) and Barcelona (2 hours). **Susan Carlyle** (California State University, Long Beach) is the ASECS representative at ISECS.


CALLS AND CONFERENCES

Open Calls

2026 Seventh Illustr4tio International Symposium, St. Bride Library, London, September 23-25, 2026. The theme is “Gulliver’s Travels at 300: Global Afterlives of a Bestseller in Print, Transmedial Adaptations, and Material Cultures.” Deadline is March 15, 2026. Details [here](#).

2026 IFESXVIII Conference on “Feijoo, Three Centuries,” Oviedo, Spain, June 24-25, 2026, Deadline is March 27, 2026. Email is admifes@uniovi.es. Details [here](#).

2026 ECASECS Conference in Virginia State University, November 5-7, 2026. The theme is “Beginnings: Restarts, Revisions, and Reinventions in the Eighteenth Century.” Deadline for panels is April 30, 2026, and for papers June 1, 2026. Email proposals or queries to ecasecs2026@gmail.com. Details [here](#).

Upcoming Conferences

2026 SEASECS Conference, Jax State University in Jacksonville, Alabama, March 5-7, 2026. The theme is “Through the Screen Darkly: The 18th Century in the Digital Age.” Details [here](#).

2026 Bloomington Center for Eighteenth-Century Studies Workshop in Bloomington, Indiana, May 21-23, 2026. This year’s topic is “1776 in the World.” Details [here](#).

2026 Journée d’étude “Croisements culturels franco-autochtones,” Université York, Montréal, May 22, 2026. Details [here](#).

2026 Conference of the Society for Eighteenth-Century Music (SECM) and the Centro de Estudos Musicais Setecentistas de Portugal, Mafra, Portugal (Royal Building and the National Music Museum of Mafra), May 28-31, 2026. The theme is transnational musical and theatrical influence in the 18th century Atlantic world. Details [here](#).

2026 Conference on 18th Century Spanish Censorship, Oviedo, Spain, May 27-28, 2026. Details [here](#).

2026 ISECS - SIEDS Conference in Paris, June 10-12, 2026. The conference will focus on the question of how research into the historical Enlightenment and contemporary references to or critiques of the Enlightenment challenge each other. Details [here](#).

2026 Slavery North Conference at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, July 9-12, 2026. The theme is “Rebellion, Resistance, and Refuge: Slavery and Border-Crossing during the American Revolution.” Details [here](#).

2026 Fourth Nordic Conference for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Åbo Akademi University, Turku, Finland, Aug. 20-22, 2026. The topic: “The Eighteenth Century and the North.” Details [here](#).

2026 Colloque « Je le vis, je rougis, je pâlis à sa vue ». Les couleurs fugaces du visage dans la littérature française du XVIe au XVIIIe s. Sorbonne Université, Paris, Automne 2026. Details [here](#).

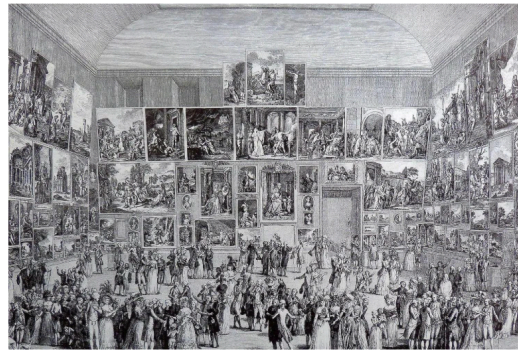


Map is a detail of Joshua Fry and Peter Jefferson, *A Map of the Most Inhabited Part of Virginia . . .* (London, 1755), Library of Congress Geography and Map Division. Images superimposed on map are of the following from left to right: Toussaint Louverture; Olaudah Equiano; Phillis Wheatley Peters; and Joseph Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges.

Beginnings: Restarts, Revisions, and Reinventions in the Eighteenth Century

EAST CENTRAL AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY STUDIES
2026 ECASECS CONFERENCE
Virginia State University, Petersburg, Virginia
5–7 November 2026
CALL FOR PAPERS

52nd Meeting of the Southeastern American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies



“Through the Screen Darkly: The 18th Century in the Digital Age”

CALL FOR PAPERS, EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY STUDIES SPECIAL ISSUE ON “PRACTICAL KNOWLEDGE IN THE ENLIGHTENMENT”

Guest Editors
 Ruth Mack (University at Buffalo, SUNY)
 Crystal B. Lake (Wright State University)



Henry William Bunbury, A tailor riding on the back of a goose; representing an exploited worker (1780?)

Famously and influentially, Aristotle severed theory from practice, epistēmē from technē. By epistēmē, Aristotle meant to designate those forms of knowledge derived by reasoning and characterized by universality; technē, in contrast, designates the kinds of hands-on know-how one acquires by labor and handcraft. This special issue of *Eighteenth-Century Studies* seeks to address the fate of Aristotle's division in formulations of Enlightenment knowledge and expand revisionary accounts of the Enlightenment recently advanced by Paola Bertucci's work on French artisan-philosophers, Abigail Zito's on practical aesthetics, and Ruth Mack's on handcraft philosophies, among others. Is empiricism as practical as Bacon's embrace of the artisan makes it out to be? At this historical moment, what kinds of thinking count as theory? What, after all, is the meaning of practice? How is practice related to work and society, and who has access to theory, to practice, or to creative combinations of the two?

We welcome essays from all disciplinary perspectives that document and reassess the kinds of practical knowledge that occasioned, responded to, or resisted the philosophical ideals we commonly associate with the Enlightenment. Contributions might focus on the period's genres of instruction; developments in labor, agriculture, and manufacturing; the material cultures of science and philosophy; the everyday experiences of church or state; the techniques employed in the literary, visual, and performing arts; or the recovery of Indigenous knowledges. We are keen to read essays that attend to the bodies, gestures, and skills implicated in acts of doing and making—and that specify how practical knowledge relates to broader structures of class, gender, race, and empire.

Given the inherently interdisciplinary nature of this topic, we hope to draw together scholarship from history, literary studies, art history, performance studies, and musicology. We aim to curate a conversation that not only investigates epistemic practices but also reflects critically on how practical knowledge operated within the Enlightenment—and how attention to such knowledge might reshape our understanding of the period's legacies in the scholarly work we do today.

The journal welcomes new research in papers of 7,500 to 9,000 words by June 1, 2026. Please submit to ecstudies@ubc.ca and feel free to contact special issue editors Ruth Mack (rmack@buffalo.edu) and Crystal B. Lake (crystal.lake@wright.edu), or journal editor Ramnesh Mallipeddi (ramnesh.mallipeddi@ubc.ca), with questions or ideas for this issue.

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