

American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies

News Circular No. 175

Summer 2020

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

30 June 2020

On June 18, I attended the virtual discussion hosted by the Society's recently formed advisory committee on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA). The Executive Board established the DEIA last summer and the work the group has done this year has been wide-ranging and inspired. I am grateful to Kathryn Desplanques, April Fuller, Sue Lanser, Travis Lau, Mona Narain, Michael Yonan, and Eugenia Zuroski for their contributions to reforming our program selection process, drafting our harassment policy, helping the more vulnerable members of our Society, and much more. The June 18 session that the DEIA organized, with the support of the Business Office, allowed more than sixty Society members to discuss the future of ASECS in this moment of pandemic and expanding awareness of racial inequality. The discussion was sobering, yet also encouraging. In the breakout group in which I participated, we discussed ways to mentor graduate students, people of color, and others, building on the successful "Doctor Is In" model. We considered the need to diversify the field of eighteenth-century studies at the graduate level, in our hiring processes, and in our support for junior and non-tenure track faculty. That support needs to be financial, but it must also be emotional and collegial. People of color belong on our faculties, in leadership positions in our Society, on the editorial boards of our journals, and everywhere else where the agenda of eighteenth-century studies is being shaped.

These issues of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility are among several interlocking issues ASECS faces in the months and years to come. When I began my presidential term, I could not have anticipated the challenges that we now confront. The short-term consequence of the pandemic, the cancellation of our annual meeting in St. Louis in March, was bad enough. The medium and long-range effects on our field, and on the academy as a whole, remain to be determined. Diminished research agendas, cuts to positions and funding, the loss of colleagues and friends, and the frustrations of teaching remotely are some of the outcomes with which we will struggle for years to come. ASECS is better positioned than many comparable learned societies to grapple with these issues, in part because of the solid financial foundation we have built over our first fifty years, and in part because of the enthusiasm we have for our research and teaching agendas. Nevertheless, it is apparent that we will have to reimagine many aspects of our Society if we wish our field and our work to continue to be relevant to our students, our institutions, and the public at large.

EXECUTIVE BOARD 2020-21

President
WILLIAM WARNER
Professor of English and Comparative
Literature
University of California, Santa Barbara

First Vice President
REBECCA MESSBARGER
Professor of Italian
Washington University in St. Louis

Second Vice President
MEREDITH MARTIN
Associate Professor of Art History
New York University

Treasurer
JOSEPH BARTOLOMEO
Professor of English
University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Executive Director
LISA BERGLUND
Professor of English
Buffalo State College

Past President
JEFFREY S. RAVEL
Professor of History
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Members-at-Large

TITA CHICO
Professor of English
University of Maryland

LISA CODY
Associate Professor of History
Claremont McKenna College

JENNIFER GERMANN
Associate Professor of Art History
Ithaca College

CATHERINE JAFFE
Professor of Spanish
Texas State University

KATHARINE JENSEN
Professor of French Studies
Louisiana State University

MICHAEL YONAN
Associate Professor of Art History
University of Missouri

ASECS Business Office Manager
AIMEE M. LEVESQUE

In the rest of this column, I want to set out some thoughts about those changes by considering the future of our annual meeting. Over the summer we will need to make some difficult choices about our conference scheduled for next April in Toronto. Will we adopt a hybrid or remote model? Some of the factors, of course, are beyond our control. We cannot know whether the spread of the disease will be sufficiently controlled by then, nor is it known if there will be an effective, widely available vaccine. Lisa Berglund, our Executive Director, and Aimee Levesque, our Office Manager, are researching the various in-person and virtual options we may pursue, and will make a recommendation to the Executive Board in September about how we should proceed. Virtual gatherings have their merits, including accessibility for those without funding to travel to Toronto, and the elimination of health risks if COVID-19 has not been tamed. But they also have their drawbacks, including a substantial financial hit to the Society if we are unable to meet our contractual obligations with the conference hotel in Toronto, and the loss of the impromptu professional connections that occur when eight hundred of us gather in person to present papers, exchange ideas, and form new research agendas. At this point I cannot say what format our Toronto conference will take, although I am sure, based on our process for St. Louis, that we will make a decision in the best interests of the Society and its members.

The challenge of the pandemic, however, has only accelerated an inevitable reckoning about our annual meeting. In St. Louis I was planning to organize an initial conversation with interested members about the Society's carbon footprint. ASECS can no longer ignore its contributions to climate change. Some have argued that our group is small in comparison to major industrial and national polluters, and that therefore we should not cut back on an event that we value so much. But given the rapidly increasing rate of natural disasters around the globe, each of us has an ethical responsibility to reduce their carbon footprint. We will all have to make painful sacrifices to repair the damage already done to the environment. ASECS has one built-in advantage that we can leverage - our roster of regional affiliate societies. We might, for example, hold the annual meeting every other year, and then encourage attendance at the meetings of the regional societies in years when we did not convene the national meeting. For both the national and regional conferences, we

might build a more robust remote system that would allow members without funding or those who do not wish to travel by plane or car to participate virtually. In informal conversations with some of you, I have heard valid objections to these ideas. Some have suggested that the regional societies may not provide reasonable substitutes for everything that transpires at the national meeting. Others have asserted that the three days of the annual meeting are the highlight of their academic year, and that without that gathering membership in the Society is less attractive. And, of course, there may be other options to explore in our quest to reduce our carbon footprint.



Joseph Wright of Derby, "Dovedale by Moonlight," 1784

We will not be making any hasty decisions about changing the frequency of our annual meeting, in part for very practical reasons. We have signed contracts with hotels for Toronto next year, for Baltimore in 2022, for a reprise of St. Louis in 2023, and for Philadelphia in 2026 for the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The earliest we might try this experiment, therefore, would be in 2024 or 2025. But we need to begin this conversation, and the lessons we learn from the format we adopt for Toronto next year will inform our deliberations. The COVID pandemic has disrupted almost everything about our professional and private lives. But it also presents an opportunity by forcing us into rethinking the format of our meeting. The views we put forth on the future of the annual conference will no doubt be varied and compelling. I believe, however, that we will reach a workable consensus, based on what I heard during the June 18 DEIA meeting, and what I have seen and

experienced throughout the past year as the president of this remarkable community of scholars. As I step down from this role, I look forward to continuing to work with you towards an ASECS that is safe for all; more diverse, equitable, inclusive, and accessible; and environmentally responsible.

Ramesh Mallipeddi to edit ***Eighteenth-Century Studies***



The Executive Board is pleased to announce that the next editor of *Eighteenth-Century Studies* will be Ramesh Mallipeddi, associate professor of English at the University of Colorado Boulder. His five-year appointment will begin in July 2021. The

Society wishes to thank the Department of English, the Eugene M. Kayden Gift Fund, and the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) at the University of Colorado Boulder for their financial support.

Professor Mallipeddi's research on sentimentalism, transatlantic slavery, and the British empire has appeared in *Eighteenth-Century Studies*, *ECTI*, and *ELH*. His monograph, *Spectacular Suffering: Witnessing Slavery in the Eighteenth-Century British Atlantic* (University of Virginia Press, 2016), was the subject of a stand-alone colloquy at the 2018 ASECS annual meeting in Orlando. Most recently, he contributed "Profit and Power: Literature and the English Commercial Empire, 1651-1714" to *Emergent Nation: Early Modern British Literature in Transition, 1660-1714* (Cambridge UP, 2019).

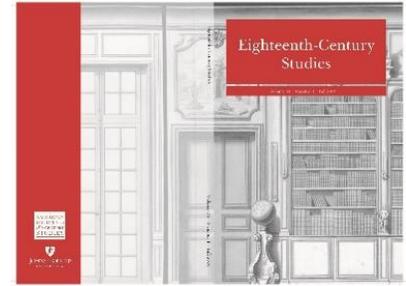
Presently he is at work on two book projects: *Expendable Lives, Disposable Lands: Racial Ecologies in Eighteenth-Century British Literature and Culture, 1627-1834* and *Indignity: Rights and Reparations*. His special issue of *English Language Notes* (co-edited with Cristobal Silva) on "[Memory, Amnesia, Commemoration](#)" was published in Fall 2019; another special issue of *The Eighteenth Century: Theory and Interpretation* on "Empire, Capital, and Climate Change" will appear in 2022.

A proud member of ASECS for more than a decade, Professor Mallipeddi recently completed a term on the Advisory Board of *Eighteenth-Century Studies* (2017-2020), co-chaired ASECS's Race and Empire Studies Caucus (2016-18), and served on the

Srinivas Aravamudan Prize Committee as member (2019) and chair (2020).

Sean Moore of the University of New Hampshire will continue his outstanding service as Editor of

Eighteenth-Century Studies through 30 June 2021. Volume 53, Number 4, the most recent issue of *ECS*,



has just been published. It includes four interviews with ASECS members (part of a series celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Society), seven articles, and 17 book reviews.

Policy on Harassment Adopted

A new [Policy on Harassment](#) has been approved unanimously by the Executive Board and is effective immediately. Collaborating on the development of this policy have been three successive Executive Boards; the 2019-2020 Committee on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA); and the many individual members of the Society who shared their ideas and advice. The Executive Board is grateful to all who thoughtfully contributed to crafting this important statement of our Society's values and commitment to the wellbeing of our members.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Policy, the Executive Board is in the process of hiring an external Ombuds, who will be named in the near future. Once the Ombuds is appointed, their contact information will be posted on the ASECS website and shared with members. The Ombuds will be available to members seeking information or advice on issues related to the Policy on Harassment. Consultation with the Ombuds will be confidential. For a complete description of the Ombuds position, please consult the Policy on Harassment.

The Board has also begun the process of appointing the ASECS Committee on Harassment. As detailed in the Policy, the Committee is responsible for receiving, investigating, and adjudicating complaints about violations of the Policy on Harassment. This Committee, consisting of three members and two alternates, will receive training in matters pertaining to harassment, sexual misconduct, and conflict resolution from the Society's external Ombuds. The specific charge of the Committee is included in the Policy on Harassment.

The Board invites nominations, including self-nominations, for service on the ASECS Committee on Harassment. Nominations should be sent to the Executive Director at bergjul@buffalostate.edu. Review of nominations will begin on September 1. Membership on the Committee is for staggered three-year terms, and members must commit to attending the Annual Meeting while serving on the Committee. One member of the Committee must be a former member of the Executive Board; graduate students are not eligible to serve on ASECS committees (except DEIA).

The Policy on Harassment applies to all activities sponsored by ASECS. Participants in ASECS Annual Meetings and other events will be required to acknowledge that they have read and understood it. The Board has approved an amendment to the bylaws confirming the application of this policy to ASECS business, as follows:

“Bylaw 15: The Executive Board adopted a Policy on Harassment on 28 June 2020. In accordance with this Policy, the Board will hire an external Ombuds and will appoint a Committee on Harassment charged with receiving, investigating, and adjudicating complaints from any participant in an ASECS-sponsored activity regarding the violation of the Policy. The work of the Ombuds, the operation of the Committee on Harassment, and ASECS member activities will be consistent with the procedures outlined in this Policy.”

Members who wish to address this revision to the bylaws may raise this matter at the Annual Business Meeting of the Society, which will take place during the 2021 Annual Meeting.

Nominations Invited for Service on Executive Board

The ASECS Nominating Committee invites nominations for the positions of Second Vice-President and Member-at-Large of the ASECS Executive Board. ASECS exists entirely for and through its members, so we call on you to suggest names of ASECS members of diverse career paths who would be good leaders and responsible stewards of the Society. In considering candidates for the Board, the Nominating Committee seeks diversity, gender balance, and the inclusion of constituencies that are currently underrepresented both within and outside ASECS. Nominations and self-nominations from last year will be carried forward.



William Hogarth, Canvassing for Votes (1755)

The **Second Vice President** is a member of the Executive Board and the Steering Committee of the Society and may take on other duties for the Executive Board, such as chairing or serving on ad hoc committees. The Second Vice-President will remain on the Board for four years, as Second Vice-President, First Vice-President, President, and Past President successively. As First Vice-President, she or he will serve on the Executive Board, the Steering Committee and the Finance Committee, and may take on other duties such as chairing ad hoc committees. As President, she or he presides at meetings of the Executive Board, convenes the Steering Committee, presides at the Society's Annual Business Meeting, formulates policies and projects for presentation to the Executive Board, and normally serves as one of the society's delegates to the ISECS Executive Committee. In the interest of fair representation of the disciplinary categories as defined by ASECS, preference will be given in this nomination cycle to candidates in English and American Languages and Literatures.

Two **Members-at-Large** are elected each year to serve three-year terms on the Executive Board. They are expected to attend meetings of the Executive Board (held just prior to the annual meeting) and may be asked to serve on the Steering Committee, the Program Committee for the Annual Meeting, the Media and Publications Advisory Committee, the Committee on Diversity, Inclusion, Equity, and Accessibility, or an ad hoc committee. In the interest of fair representation of the disciplinary categories as defined by ASECS, preference will be given in this nomination cycle to candidates in fields other than English and American Languages and Literatures. Between scheduled meetings, the

business of the Executive Board and the Steering Committee is conducted as necessary via email or conference call. Reasonable travel expenses to the Steering Committee and Executive Board meetings are covered by ASECS.

If you wish to nominate any ASECS members for these important positions, please forward a nominating statement to the committee chair, Melissa Hyde (ASECSNom20@gmail.com). Please include the candidate's name, institutional affiliation, discipline, previous contributions to the Society, and a brief description of the strengths you believe the nominee could bring to the Executive Board. Self-nominations are welcome. All nominations must be received by **Tuesday, September 15, 2020**. If you have any questions, contact Melissa Hyde.

Free Trials of Databases:

Eighteenth Century Collections Online

Are you enjoying the free trial of *Eighteenth-Century Collections Online* that has been provided to ASECS members by Gale Cengage? Would you like to learn more about the database and provide feedback about your research experience?

Executive Director Lisa Berglund will be leading an online roundtable, *Experiencing ECCO: Research and Curriculum*. It will take place Friday, 11 September, 2:00 – 3:15 pm EDT, on Zoom. Advance registration is required.

ASECS members are invited to propose brief presentations about using ECCO for their research. If you are interested in sharing your discoveries or evaluating your experience as a user of ECCO, provide a short description about the focus of your remarks on the registration form. Brian Cowan, a member of the History Department at McGill University, will give an informal presentation about curricular uses of ECCO and answer questions.

Representatives of Gale Cengage will participate in the *Experiencing ECCO* online roundtable. If you have questions or comments about the database, you may submit them in advance on the registration form, so that detailed responses can be prepared. The *Experiencing ECCO* session will conclude with a general question and discussion period.

By participating in this session, you can make sure that you get the most out of the ECCO free trial and help Gale Cengage to assess the value of this database to ASECS members! Please complete the registration form located [here](#).

If you have not yet signed up for the ECCO free trial, please click [here](#). The trial expires on 30 September 2020.



Oxford University Studies in the Enlightenment

Oxford University Studies in the Enlightenment (previously SVEC) is the foremost series devoted to Enlightenment studies. A partnership between the Voltaire Foundation and Liverpool University Press is making volumes from the series available through *Oxford University Studies in the Enlightenment ONLINE*. Until 31 October 2020, members of ASECS are being offered trial access to the 417 volumes currently available in this collection.

This digital collection contains over 100,000 pages in both English and French. Contributors to the series include Marc-André Bernier, Robert Dawson, Dan Edelstein, Marian Hobson, Colin Jones, Mark Ledbury, Christiane Mervaud, John Renwick, Ritchie Robertson, and Céline Spector. Notable volumes in the collection include *Interpreting the Ancien Régime* by David Bien, *Dramatic Battles in Eighteenth-Century France* by Logan J. Connors, *Sublime Disorder: Physical Monstrosity in Diderot's Universe* by Andrew Curran, *Ruins Past* by Sabrina Ferri, *The Encyclopedists as Individuals* and *The Encyclopedists as a Group* by Frank Kalker, *Lectures de Raynal* and *L'Histoire des Deux Indes* by Hans-Jürgen Lüsebrink, and *Madame de Graffigny and Rousseau* by English Showalter.

How to access *Oxford University Studies in the Enlightenment ONLINE*:

Create an account [here](#) and validate your email. Then, email asecsoffice@gmail.com with the heading 'ASECS OUSE TRIAL' and ask the office to confirm your membership and the **email address you used to create an account**. Once your ASECS membership is confirmed, your trial will be activated within 24 hours (excluding Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays). You will then be able to [access all the e-library through this link](#), as well as from the 'My Library' section in your account.

Graduate Student Conference

Paper Prize

The 2020 Graduate Student Conference Paper Prize has been awarded jointly to Daniel Froid, Purdue University, for “Cosmopolitan Christianity in John Webb’s *Historical Essay*,” and to Kevin MacDonnell, Rice University, for “Innovating the Eighteenth Century.”

The prize committee was impressed by Daniel Froid’s broad geographic approach and careful attention to religious discourse and historiography. Froid shows how engagement with Chinese history and culture pushed writers such as John Webb, who is rarely studied as a religious thinker, to unintentionally destabilize Christian onto-logies of world history.

The committee likewise admired Kevin MacDonnell’s exploration of eighteenth-century conceptions of innovation as both a negative and positive force. Through the example of changes in the Tyburn gallows, MacDonnell skillfully reveals how social, technological, and semantic innovations occurred simultaneously, but not necessarily interdependently.

2019-2020 Travel Fellowships:

Reports from the Road

Daiches-Manning Memorial Fellowship

I completed a three-month-long fellowship (September-November 2019) at the University of Edinburgh’s Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities (IASH) as the Daiches-Manning Fellow in 18th Century Scottish Studies. My project began as an extension of a three-week visiting research scholarship done at the Special Collections Library, University of Aberdeen about the duel between Garifuna Chief Joseph Chatoyer and Scottish soldier Major Alexander Leith on 14 March 1795. The duel has long been accepted not only as a key moment in St. Vincent’s colonial history (the British victory directly resulted in St. Vincent’s permanent and uninterrupted status as a colony until 1979), but also the end of the presence of a majority of the island’s indigenous people. Consequently, the duel has taken on symbolic significance – in his death, Chatoyer represented the end of the possibility of

autonomy for black and native people in the Caribbean and the beginning of permanent British control over the whole region – and Leith represented the strength of Empire in the telling of colonial history. The brief duration of my visit at Aberdeen meant working solely with a limited

number of original documents that focused on Alexander Leith’s life before he left for the West Indies. I realized that to fully tell the story of the duel I needed to tell the story of the worlds these two men inhabited. Research into a larger question that centers on

Scotland’s role in Caribbean slave societies during the eighteenth century required resources only available through libraries and institutions in Edinburgh.

At IASH, I divided my research into three areas: “The man who left Aberdeen, *then* killed Chatoyer”; “John Munro Leith and The Duel that Never Happened”; and “Sophia Ross: Race, Colonialism and the Creation of Family Narratives.” The goal was to connect the material found at the Aberdeen Library Special Collections with information found in books, archives, manuscripts, and historical material found at the University of Edinburgh Library and its affiliates. These included the Center for Research Collections, which holds nineteenth-century journals unavailable elsewhere like *The Crofter* and *The Highland Monthly*; the Scottish Studies Library; the New College Special Collections and SCRAN. The Edinburgh University Library also has a number of printed material (scattered across its libraries and online databases) on the subjects of eighteenth-century Scotland, Scottish immigration and forced migration to the Americas, and Scotland’s involvement in transatlantic slavery in the colonial Caribbean.

I visited the National Library of Scotland to gain access to the *Scots Abroad* databases, physical copies of the *Journal of the Commissioners for Trade and the Plantations*, and archives like that of the Leith-Ross family of Arnage. The National Records of Scotland provided miscellaneous family papers, including those of the Ogilvy, Home-Robertson, Glasgow, Cruikshank, Hope, Leith of Leith-Hall, Hay, Turner of Turnerhall, and Gordon of Rothney families. I also examined various East Florida, Tobago and St. Vincent plantation titles and the trial papers of Sophia Ross’s children.

The Call for Papers
for the 2021 ASECS Annual Meeting
will close on 15 September 2020.
View the CFP at
<https://www.asecs2021.org/call-for-papers>.

Work on the first and second research area resulted in the revelation that the Leith-Chatoyer duel was embellished, if not fabricated, by British planter historians and based on a long-forgotten letter Leith penned to his family in Aberdeen. This revelation contributes to my exploration into how the blurred lines of public and private histories like these contribute to the formation of the historical imagination in St. Vincent. Records of nearly a dozen interconnected families revealed that Alexander Leith was one among hundreds of men from the North-East of Scotland (Aberdeenshire, Banffshire and the Buchan Coast, Angus and Kincardine) who left their homes between 1764 and 1800 to settle and colonise the Ceded islands of St. Vincent, Tobago, Grenada, Dominica, and the Grenadine islands – in addition to Britain’s short-lived colonies of East and West Florida. This is a connection never made before – and one that I believe extends and complicates emerging discourses



Chief Chatoyer of the Garifuna (right). Creative Commons.

of Scotland’s relationship to transatlantic slavery previously limited to cities like Glasgow. Having space to base this work at IASH’s Hope Park Square location facilitated my productivity. I did not have a laptop, so I worked Mondays through Saturdays at the computer and office provided. I was able to connect with fellows and researchers at IASH, the University and beyond. The weekly fellows’ lunches were anticipated events for scholarly exchange and a break from work. During one conversation I was given the recommendation to investigate Scottish church history as one factor in the North-East migration. It turned out that the Leith family were in fact Covenanters and Jacobites, which resulted in persecution from the Gordon family late into the eighteenth century.

The long-term goal of this project is to produce a monograph on the story of the Chatoyer-Leith duel. This will include all of the contextual and circumstantial research done to explore Leith’s childhood in Aberdeen, his extended family and later migration network in the WeSt. Indies; the war against the Garifuna and the lives and legacies of his two sons – children of an enslaved woman named Bella owned by Leith– who lived in both Scotland and St. Vincent and were ultimately responsible for the story of the duel. I am also preparing a separate article on the third research area about the world of Sophia Ross, also the child of an enslaved African woman and Scottish immigrant to the Ceded Islands, whose life mirrored that of Leith’s sons.

--Désha Amelia Osborne, Hunter College

Paula Backscheider Archival Research Fellowship

Thanks to the generous support from American Society for the Eighteenth-Century Studies, I am able to collect primary sources in research libraries in Guangzhou and Jinhua for three weeks from June 8 to 30, 2019. The Canton (Guangzhou) sources form an integral part of my dissertation research, and I am lucky to do research in Sun Yat-sen University Library’s special collections, Sun Yat-sen Library of Guangdong Province, and Zhejiang Normal University library. While there, I consulted and collected three categories of sources. The first one consists of government documents which shed light on the specifics of tea trade between Canton customs, Hong merchants, and their European counterparts. In particular, I found *Selected Qing-court Documents on Hongs in Canton* (*Qinggong Guangzhou shisanhang dang’an jingxuan* 清宮廣州十三行檔案精選) and *Ming and Qing Documents on Xiangshan* (*Xiangshan mingqing dang’an jilu* 香山明清檔案輯錄) to be of great help for my research. The second category of sources that I consulted are short works written by scholar-officials which talk about the European presence in Canton and Macau. *On the Merchant Ships in Eastern Guangdong* (*Yuedong shibo lun* 粵東市舶論) and *On Humen* (*Humen ji* 虎門記) are two great examples. The third one consists of official reports about China’s tea trade before 1840. These reports were authored and published in China’s Republican Era (1911-1949). They shed great insights on the categories of Chinese tea that were exported and provide sketches on the European merchants that

were doing business in Canton. International Trade of Chinese Tea (*Huacha de duiwai maoyi* 華茶的對外貿易) and *China's International Trade prior to 1840* (*Wukou tongshang Yiqian woguo guoji maoyi zhi gaikuang* 五口通商以前我國國際貿易之概況) are particularly helpful.

—*Yiyun (Malcolm) Huang,*
University of Tennessee-Knoxville

In Memoriam: Philip Harth

Phillip Harth (1926-2020) died peacefully on April 28, 2020 at the Attic Angel Community in Middleton, Wisconsin. Phil received his MA from the University of Chicago in 1949, and his PhD, with Honors, in 1958. R. S. Crane was one of his mentors. From 1954 to 1956 Harth was a Fulbright Scholar at University College, London, and spent much of his time at the old North Library of the British Museum. That concentrated effort nurtured his doctoral dissertation, earned his position at Northwestern University (1956-1965) and evolved into his first book, the still invaluable *Swift and Anglican Rationalism: The Religious Background of 'A Tale of a Tub'* (Chicago, 1961). The importance of his book was made plain in 1966 when the University of Wisconsin English Department tempted him to Madison to replace the retiring and distinguished Ricardo Quintana. Harth's appointment assured Wisconsin's enduring importance as a center for the study and teaching of eighteenth-century British literature and culture.

Harth's subsequent books were *Contexts of Dryden's Thought* (Chicago, 1968), and *Pen for a Party: Dryden's Tory Propaganda and its Contexts* (Princeton, 1993), and an edition of Mandeville's *Fable of the Bees* (Penguin, 1989). Harth made plain that religion and politics are necessary to understand ancestral achievement. This uniformly admirable body of research, together with numerous articles and reviews, was supported by major grants: the Guggenheim Foundation, ACLS, the Clark Library, the Wisconsin Institute for Research in the Humanities, the Reed College Humanities Institute, the University of Virginia as visiting professor, and the Graduate School of the University of Wisconsin. In 1977 Philip Harth was named the Merritt Hughes Professor of English and a permanent member of the Institute for Research in the Humanities. He also served for a year as Interim Director of the Institute,

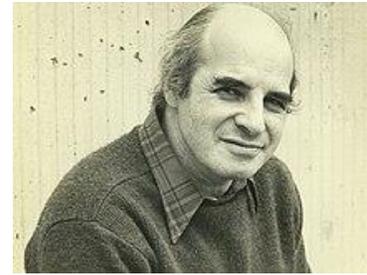
and for three years as Chair of the English Department.

In 1999 the university's William Freeman Vilas Trust supported a major dinner and conference in honor of Harth's seventy-fifth birthday. The consequent festschrift was *Eighteenth-Century Contexts: Historical Inquiries in Honor of Philip Harth* (Wisconsin, 2001). The subtitle reflected Harth's scholarly mode of proceeding: inquire into contexts the better to understand texts. His festschrift has been called "an enduring work" (James Engell, Harvard University) and "a tribute to the high quality of Phillip Harth's publications" (W. A. Speck, Northumbria). Each term reflects the shared opinions of specialists in scholarly method, and in Dryden, Swift, and their broader cultures.

The term "he will be missed" has become a cliché because it is true. We thank Phillip Harth for his extensive contributions to eighteenth-century British studies at the University of Wisconsin and far beyond. I join his family and many others in mourning the loss of so exemplary a guide, colleague, and friend.

—*Howard Weinbrot*

Roy S. Wolper



A longtime member of ASECS and co-founder of the review journal *The Scriblerian and the Kit-Cats*, Roy S. Wolper died July 10, 2020 of prostate

cancer, a disease he had been battling for two decades. An emeritus professor at Temple University, Roy Wolper (along with Peter A. Tasch and Arthur J. Weitzman) co-founded *The Scriblerian* in 1968 and continued to serve as its editor until his retirement in 2017; he personally contributed more than 1,500 reviews to the journal. A tribute published in *The Scriblerian* on the occasion of his retirement noted that "Roy could be merciless with copy"; his insistence on high academic standards for critical reviews was celebrated as "so much more desirable and useful to our readers than the laudatory and obscurantist blurbs that book reviewing has too often become." (*The Scriblerian and the Kit-Cats* 49:2 [Spring 2017]). In reviewing articles as well as books *The Scriblerian* has long been an indispensable resource for scholars of eighteenth-century English literature.

ASECS Prizes and Travel Awards: Deadlines through November 15

Applications for the following prizes and fellowships should be submitted to the ASECS Business Office, asecsoffice@gmail.com, unless noted otherwise. **All applicants must be current members of ASECS.** For application guidance, visit <https://www.asecs.org/awards-information>.

ASECS Innovative Course Design Competition

To encourage excellence in undergraduate teaching of the eighteenth century, the Society invites course design proposals from members in any of its constituent disciplines. Proposals should be for a new approach to teaching a unit on the eighteenth century within a course, or for an entire course. The deadline for submitting proposals is **15 October 2020**. Three winners will give presentations in the Teaching Competition seminar at the Annual Meeting. Winners are awarded \$500 each and asked to submit an account of the unit or course, with a syllabus or other supplementary materials, for publication on the (new) ASECS *Teaching the Eighteenth Century* website.

The Louis Gottschalk Prize

This prize for an outstanding historical or critical study on the eighteenth century carries an award of \$1,000. The scholarship of Louis Gottschalk (1899-1975), second president of ASECS, president of the American Historical Association, and for many years Distinguished Service Professor at the University of Chicago, exemplified the humanistic ideals that this award encourages. Scholarly books written in any modern language, including commentaries, critical studies, biographies, collections of essays by a single author, and critical editions are eligible. Translations and multi-authored collections of essays.

To be eligible for this year's competition, a book must have a copyright date between November 2019 and October 2020. Submission must be made by the

publisher, and *six* copies of the nominee must be received at the Business Office by **15 November 2020**. Due to the current situation with the United States Post Office, a .pdf of a book may be emailed by the deadline to secure the nominee's eligibility until the printed copies arrive.

The Annibel Jenkins Biography Prize

The biennial Annibel Jenkins Prize is given to the author of the best book-length biography of a late seventeenth-century or eighteenth-century subject and carries an award of \$1,000. The prize honors the Annibel Jenkins (1918-2013), Professor of English (Emerita) at the Georgia Institute of Technology and a founding member of the Southeastern American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies. To be eligible for the 2019-2021 competition, a book must have a copyright date between November 2018 and November 2020. Nominations may be made by the author or the publisher, and *six* copies of the book must be received at the Business Office by **15 November 2020**. Due to the current situation with the United States Post Office, a .pdf of a book may be emailed by the deadline to secure the nominee's eligibility until the printed copies arrive.

A.C. Elias, Jr. Irish-American Research Travel Fellowship

Projects conducting original research on any aspect of eighteenth-century Ireland qualify for consideration. The fellowship is \$2,500 and may be given to one applicant or shared. Recipients must be members of ASECS who have permanent residence in the United States or Canada, or members of the Eighteenth-Century Ireland Society, residing in Ireland. Applications for the Elias fellowship are due on **15 November 2020** to Jason McElligott, The Keeper, Marsh's Library, St. Patrick's Close, Dublin 8, Ireland (jason.mcelligott@marshlibrary.ie) and James May (jem4@psu.edu; 694 Coal Hill Road / Clearfield, PA 16830 / USA). For application forms, visit <https://www.asecs.org/awards-information>.

The News Circular of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (ASECS)

Published three times each year.

Editor: Lisa Berglund, ASECS Executive Director

The American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies
c/o English Department, Ketchum Hall 213
Buffalo State College, 1300 Elmwood Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14222

Telephone: 716-878-3405
Fax: 716-878-5700
asecsoffice@gmail.com
www.asecs.org