

American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies

News Circular No. 169

April/May 2018

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

I am not on Facebook, do not tweet, desist by choice from engaging with social media. That probably won't change, but I was most grateful when a friend sent me a link to the Twitter streams that reflect, and reflect upon, the 2018 Annual Meeting in Orlando. As I read through those tweets along with email messages from individual colleagues, I was impressed by a collective sense that eighteenth-century studies is moving in particularly exciting directions for which the conference program already provides a tantalizing showcase. I was struck too that the Annual Meeting provides so many members with a space not only for lively collaboration and engaged learning but for expansive sociability and generous collegial support. And if younger members are disproportionately represented in the Twitter stream, their enthusiasm predicts a lively future for eighteenth-century studies and underscores the importance of ASECS in helping to shape that future. Several tweeters also noted that attentiveness to issues of race and racism, so urgently needed both within the field and within the world, was notably intensified at this year's conference. That intensity embraced the galvanizing Clifford Lecture that Professor Barbara Fuchs of UCLA presented to a full ballroom of attendees, focusing on "Crusoe's Absence" through a paradigm-shifting lens that several people have told me will change the way in which they read and teach Defoe.

In post-conference conversations both tweeters and luddites have underscored the high quality of presentations throughout the Annual Meeting and pointed to new intellectual threads inaugurated in panel sessions. Members returned home energized despite long and, in some cases, weather-complicated travels. (We sorely missed those who were shut out from attending by the unexpected springtime storms.) In short, by all visible measures and despite the tribulations of weather, spring break crowds, and rather more disney-fication that some members may have wished, ASECS 2018 was an outstanding conference. I am deeply grateful to our new Executive Director Lisa Berglund and Office Manager, Aimee Levesque, for so successfully organizing their first Annual Meeting.

We also owe enormous thanks to the Women's Caucus leaders who organized, raised funds for, and hosted this year's Masquerade Ball; you'll find something of a masquerade fashion show in the twitter feed. The ball raised significant funds that will support travel to the ASECS Annual Meeting by contingent faculty, and I am happy to

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remind you that gifts of any size can be sent at any time to the ASECS office to enlarge the NTTFF Fund and, with it, our capacity to support colleagues who might otherwise be unable to attend.

ASECS receives royalties when you download material from our journals on Project Muse. When you assign essays from these journals, provide your students with a link rather than a PDF to increase the Society's revenues.

The intellectual ferment afforded by ASECS and its regional affiliates has become especially crucial at a time when few colleges and universities boast a critical mass of eighteenth-centuryists, and one challenge for ASECS is to help communicate the importance of studying our period. But we know that we also have work to do to make both our Annual Meeting and our field more diverse and inclusive and to ensure that every member of the Society experiences the conference in an environment that is not only free from all forms of harassment but fully welcoming to the respectful exchange of knowledge and ideas. As President, I am grateful to those who gave up their Thursday lunch hour in Orlando to attend the open discussion of our draft policy on professional conduct. In response to your valuable suggestions, we are revising the draft and will post it later this spring so that all ASECS members have the opportunity for a second round of response. During the summer, the Executive Board will also be drafting guidelines for accessibility in order to enable all members to benefit from conference presentations and events.

With Orlando behind us, ASECS has now entered its fiftieth year, and we look forward at our anniversary conference in Denver (21-23 March 2019) both to celebrating our past and exploring our future. At this stock-taking moment, we especially welcome panels that will reflect on the history of the Society, examine the state of eighteenth-century studies in general and within specific disciplines, and debate new directions both for the field and for ASECS itself. This conference will be an event not to be missed, and like all ASECS conferences its substance is in your hands. I hope you'll give serious thought to submitting a panel proposal by the May 15 deadline. Please note that only ASECS members can propose panels, so be sure to confirm that your membership is current or to renew it on line: <https://asecs.press.jhu.edu/membership/join>.

As the spring term winds down for most of our members, I hope you will have the pleasure of recapturing the research you've begun, or of finishing your next book, or of designing the new course you're planning to teach come fall. Please also consider submitting your work to the Society's journals! *ECS* is open to submissions on all eighteenth-century topics of wide interest; essays that employ interdisciplinary perspectives or address contemporary theoretical and cultural concerns are especially welcome. *SECC* encourages you to expand the paper you delivered at the 2018 Annual Meeting or at an affiliated conference and to submit your work for Volume 49 to editor **Eve Tavor Bannet** (etbannet@ou.edu) by August 18. As you doubtless know, both *ECS* and *SECC* are available electronically through Project Muse, but you may not know that ASECS receives royalties each time someone downloads material from our journals. When you assign essays from these journals for your classes, providing your students with a link rather than a PDF will significantly increase the Society's revenues. Those revenues, in turn, will enable us to expand our support for eighteenth-century teaching and scholarship as we launch our second half-century.

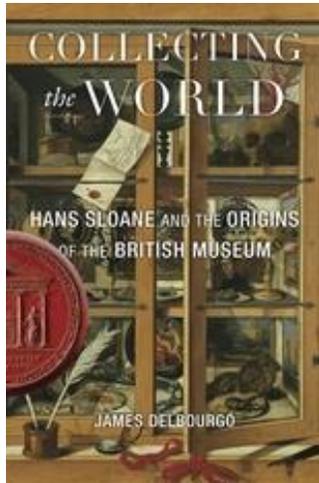
2017-2018 Louis Gottschalk Prize awarded to James Delbourgo

The annual Louis Gottschalk Prize is awarded by ASECS to the best scholarly book on an eighteenth-century subject. The 2018 Gottschalk Prize has been given to **James Delbourgo** for *Collecting the World: Hans Sloane and the Origins of the British Museum* (Harvard University Press, 2017). Honorable Mention was also awarded to **Jonathan Lamb** for *Scurvy: The Disease of Discovery* (Princeton University Press, 2017) and to **Jennifer Van Horn** for *The Power of Objects in Eighteenth-Century British America* (Omohundro Institute/University of North Carolina Press, 2017).

Collecting the World is the first major biography of Hans Sloane, the physician, collector, naturalist, and explorer whose vast holdings led to the creation of the British Museum after his death in 1753. In lucid and absorbing prose, Delbourgo reconstructs the global network of power and exchange that Sloane both designed and exploited, one reaching from London polite society to Jamaica slave

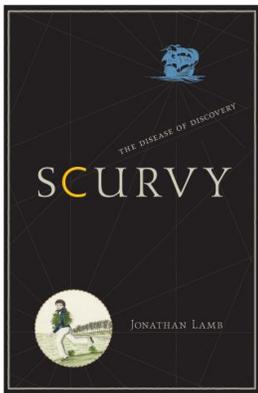
plantations and beyond. The result is a landmark achievement in the overlapping histories of science, empire, and anthropology as well as museum and curatorial studies.

The judges note the broad reach of Delbourgo's study. *Collecting the World* includes riveting attention to Sloane's writing, especially *A Natural History of Jamaica* (1707). It also includes a meticulous



analysis of the origins of Sloane's specimens and artifacts in slave labor at the imperial periphery. Delbourgo does a masterful job of showing why his subject is vital for our understanding of modern institutions of culture and knowledge, from the museum to the university and beyond. He does so finally in a manner that engages learned readers beyond the academy. This is a book that does not sacrifice rigor to accessibility, scholarship to clarity—a testament to the relevance of eighteenth-century studies to our world.

Jonathan Lamb's *Scurvy: The Disease of Discovery*, has been awarded Honorable Mention. The vast corpus produced from the era of overseas travel and exploration during the global age of sail has been commonly been read for information about the phenomena observed and the ideologies of the observers.

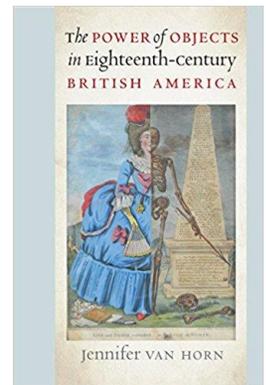


In *Scurvy*, Lamb gives us a dramatically revisionary view of this corpus by reading it through the lens of scurvy, the disease that plagued all who spent months at sea without vitamin C. The symptoms of scurvy, Lamb underscores, include not just physical decay but also mania, hallucinations,

and extreme melancholy. Lamb reveals how the psychology of scurvy left its traces in representations of extended overseas travel, notably celebrated accounts of Pacific exploration, and how such traces of perturbed perception in turn inspired literature and art. Further, Lamb extends the reach of scurvy from overseas travels to colonization with a chapter

on the impact of the disease in the settlement of Australia. Lamb's valuable account introduces pathology among the factors that cultural critics must consider, offering a disturbing conjunction of colonial and mercantile projects, discourses of knowledge, human biology, aesthetics and poetics.

Also awarded Honorable Mention is *The Power of Objects in Eighteenth-Century British America*, by Jennifer Van Horn. Published by the University of North Carolina Press for the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture, Van Horn's superb analysis of objects ranging from portraits of women in masquerade to Gouverneur Morris's wooden leg draws expertly on art history and material studies. She demonstrates persuasively how the complicated identity politics of eighteenth-century British Americans can be tracked in masks, dressing tables, boundary markers and even in George Washington's false teeth. The power of objects figuring in the title of the book is that they formed the "visual bonds" through which colonial British Americans constructed their civility—a civility shadowed by a fear of becoming savage or succumbing to animal urges in the wild new world of North America. Van Horn has produced a model for visually-centered historical inquiry, supported by extensive research in American, British, and Continental European eighteenth-century studies.



2018 Recipients of ASECS Prizes and Travel Awards

Thanks to the generosity of past and current ASECS members, the Society is privileged to recognize excellent scholarship in eighteenth-century studies and to support research travel by our members. Announced at the Awards Ceremony at the Annual Meeting in Orlando were the following:

The James L. Clifford Prize, for an outstanding article on some aspect of eighteenth-century culture: Richard Taws, "Conté's Machines: Drawing, Atmosphere, Erasure," *Oxford Art Journal*, Vol. 39

The inaugural **Srinivas Aravamudan Prize**, for an article that pushes the boundaries, geographical

and conceptual, of eighteenth-century studies, especially by using a transnational, comparative, or cosmopolitan approach: Ashley Cohen, "The Global Indies: Historicizing Oceanic Metageographies," *Comparative Literature*, Vol. 69

Innovative Course Design Competition: Anna Foy, University of Alabama in Huntsville, "Enlightenment Impartiality in the Age of Trump"; Aaron Santesso, Georgia Tech, "Enlightenment Technologies of Communication"; and Colleen Taylor, Boston College, "Queens, Cathleens and Wild Irish Girls: Women in Irish Literature before 1900"

Catherine Macaulay Prize, given by the Women's Caucus for a paper presented by a graduate student at the ASECS Annual Meeting or at a regional meeting: Kate Ozment, "Book History, Women, and the Canon: Theorizing Feminist Bibliography." Honorable Mention: Paris Spies-Gans, "'Exercising it as a profession': The Rise of the Female Artist in London and Paris, 1760-1815"

Graduate Student Research Essay Prize: Adam Schoene, "Rousseau's Mute Eloquence"

Race and Empire Caucus Graduate Student Essay Prize, for a paper that combines the legacy of post-colonial and/or critical race studies with the analysis of eighteenth century literature and culture: Henry Stoll, "*Peau blanche, masques noir*: Musical Theater, Rousseau, and Blackface in Colonial Haiti"

Emilie du Chatelet Award given by the Women's Caucus to support research in progress by an independent or adjunct scholar on a feminist or Women's Studies subject: Kristin O'Rourke, "Images of the *Toilette* and the Domestic Sphere in Eighteenth-Century France"

A. C. Elias, Jr, Irish American Research Travel Fellowship: Kelly Hunnings, "Ireland and the Laboring-Class Poetic Tradition: The Ecology of the Domestic in Mary Barber's Verse" and Kevin Murphy, "Coercion and Sworn Bond in the Eighteenth-Century British Atlantic"

Gwin J. and Ruth Kolb Research Travel Fellowship: Elizabeth Cross, "The French East India Company and the Politics of Commerce in the Revolutionary Era"

Robert R. Palmer Research Travel Fellowship: Richard Siegler, "A Revolution in Duties: Political Legitimacy, Public Goods, and the French Revolution"

Paula Backscheider Archival Fellowship: Soren Hammerschmidt, "Modular Pope: Portraits, Poems, and Recycled Print"

Richard H. Popkin Research Travel Fellowship: Nicole Mahoney, "Liberty, Gentility, and Dangerous Liaisons: French Culture and Polite Society in Early National America, 1770-1825"

Aubrey Williams Travel Fellowship: Bridget Donnelly, "Accidents Waiting to Happen: Plotting the Unexpected in the Eighteenth-Century Novel"

Theodore E. D. Braun Travel Fellowship: Daniel Watkins, "Berruyer and His Book: A Cultural History of the Catholic Enlightenment in France, 1700-1830"

ASECS WEBSITE PRO TEM

The old ASECS website is decaying. Our new website is under construction. We have set up a temporary site at <https://asecsoffice.wixsite.com/asecsoffice> to post the most up-to-date information on ASECS as well as information on our upcoming 50th Annual Meeting, news circulars, and news from our members, affiliates, and caucuses. Other announcements (formerly Weekly Announcements) may be reached by clicking the "Member News" or the "CFPs" sections of the new website.

Affiliate Societies Column

Rivka Swenson, Virginia Commonwealth University

It was great to have representatives from so many of the regional societies and other affiliated societies—in all, twenty-six societies were represented, although we missed those whose attendance was stymied by weather—at the Affiliates' Luncheon in Orlando earlier this spring. The previous Affiliates Coordinator, maestro **Catherine Parisian**, was toasted and applauded roundly in absentia, news was shared by all and sundry, and important conversations were carried forward while still other conversations, which promise to bear fruit in good time, were begun.

In the meantime, (a) read below for winter highlights and for news from the rich regional-and-affiliate constellation, and (b) consider [submitting an essay for publication](#) in the ASECS annual peer-reviewed journal *Studies in Eighteenth-Century Culture* (edited by **Eve Tavor Bannet** and **Roxann Wheeler**). Eligible is any essay developed from a paper that was given at the 2018 ASECS Annual

Meeting or at any of this year's regional or affiliated society meetings, so long as the essay is not under consideration elsewhere. Essays, maximum length 5,000 words, should follow the *Chicago Manual of Style*. Contributions from underrepresented disciplines are invited. Essays are typically in English, although other modern European-language submissions are welcome. Deadline: 18 August.

WINTER HIGHLIGHTS - Western Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies

The Western Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies - or WSECS, pronounced "Wessex" - is thriving. Raised from dormancy in 2014 with a conference at UC Davis organized by **Alessa Johns** and **Julia Simon**, WSECS has been building momentum since, with conferences organized by **Regulus Allen** and **Kathleen Murphy**, **Linda Tomko** and **Aurora Wolfgang**, and **Rachael King** and **Renan Larue**. The 2018 conference, "Conversing among the Ruins: The Persistence of the Baroque," held at University of Nevada-Las Vegas on 16-17 February brought the energy forward handily.



Co-organized by **Tim Erwin** (English) and **Gregory Brown** (History), the meeting had a uniquely interdisciplinary flavor that was furthered by joining forces with the Las Vegas Baroque Festival during the latter's own annual event. During the two conference days, thirteen robust panels of (typically) four panelists apiece were complemented by a plenary lecture from **Steven D. Zohn** on "Morality and the 'Fair-Sexing' of Telemann's *Faithful Music Master*." Fueled by an opening reception, a plenary luncheon, a closing reception, and snacks at key moments, delegates were also treated to the delights of the Baroque Festival; on hand were performances by the UNLV Early Music Ensemble (pictured), UNLV Concert Singers, UNLV Chamber

Orchestra, in addition to related opportunities such as a demonstration of traditional baroque dances and musical recitals and masterclasses.

Upcoming Meetings, Events, and Deadlines

[*Aphra Behn Society*](#) will hold its next biennial conference in 2019; organized by **Emily Friedman**, ABS will take place at Auburn University. Details and CFP to follow.

[*Bibliographical Society of America*](#), currently seeking a new full-time Executive Director, will hold its annual meeting on Friday, 29 January 2019, in New York City. Details and CFP to follow. Graduate students and untenured faculty may apply for subventions and complimentary memberships through the [*New Scholars Program*](#) (deadline: 31 July).

The application deadline for the BSA's [*Schiller Prize*](#) (\$3000 and year's membership in BSA) is 15 October; submissions should concentrate on any children's book printed before 1901. The deadline for the [*St. Louis Mercantile Library Prize*](#) (\$2000 and a year's membership in BSA), which honors work on American history, literature, and culture, is 1 November.

[*British Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies*](#) will hold its 48th annual conference 4-6 January 2019 at St. Hugh's College, Oxford, on "Islands and Isolation," with a program organized by **Penny Pritchard**. Details and CFP to follow this summer.

BSECS also will host the International Congress of the Enlightenment, on behalf of ISECS, in Edinburgh, 14-19 July 2019. Theme: "Enlightenment Identities"; the slate of plenary addresses includes one by ASECS Past President **Dena Goodman**. Details and CFP to follow.

[*Burney Society*](#) has a deadline of November 30 for the [*McGill-ASECS Fellowship*](#) (a \$3000 month-long visiting fellowship for research on Burney, her family, or their extended circle). The deadline for [*The Hemlow Prize*](#) for the best essay by a graduate student (registered within the last year) on Burney or members of her family is 1 September (consideration for publication, and \$250).

[*Canadian Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies*](#) (CSECS) will hold its next conference (CFP deadline has passed) 10-13 October in Niagara Falls, Ontario. Topic: "Wonder in the Eighteenth Century." Plenary addresses by **Sarah Tindal Kareem**, **Nathalie Ferrand**, **Sandro Jung**.

[*The Defoe Society*](#) will hold its 6th biennial conference 10-12 July in York, England. Organized

by **Chloe Wigston Smith**, the conference will celebrate the 300th anniversary of *Robinson Crusoe*.

[East-Central American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies](#) will hold its annual conference in Staunton, Virginia. Organized by EC-ASECS Executive Secretary **Peter Staffel**, the topic is “Performing the Eighteenth Century.” [CFP](#) deadline: 1 June. The 2017 [Molin Prize](#) for best graduate student paper was awarded to Chelsea Berry, for “Black Medical Practitioners and Knowledge as Cultural Capital in the Greater Caribbean.”

[Eighteenth-Century Scottish Studies Society](#) (ECSSS) will hold its annual conference at the University of Glasgow, 17-21 July (CFP deadline passed). From 14-19 July, ECSSS will host a joint conference with ISECS’s 15th International Congress, in Edinburgh. (Looking ahead: a 2020 conference at the Princeton Theological Seminary, 14-19 July, and a summer 2021 conference at the University of Ghent, Belgium.)

[Goethe Society of North America](#) will hold its triennial conference in 2020; its flagship publication, the [Goethe Yearbook](#), invites submissions.

[Historians of Eighteenth-Century Art and Architecture](#) (HECAA) will hold its first-ever conference 1-4 November 2018, at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, on “Art and Architecture in the Long Eighteenth Century” (CFP passed). [Subventions](#) available for graduate students and early career scholars (2 deadlines: 15 May and 15 November). Keynotes: **Melissa Hyde**, **Daniela Bleichmar**.

[International Adam Smith Society](#) invites submissions to [The Adam Smith Review](#).

[International Herder Society](#) will meet this summer in Turku, Finland, 8-10 June (CFP deadline passed). The next deadline for submissions to the society’s flagship annual publication, [Herder Yearbook](#), is 31 December 2018.

[Midwestern American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies](#) (MWASECS) will hold its next [conference](#) in Sioux Falls, 12-13 October. Theme: “Eighteenth-Century Frontiers.” [CFP](#) deadline: 15 June. Organizers: **Scott Breuninger**, **Sharon Smith**. Keynote: **Sean Moore**.

[Mozart Society of America](#) will hold its biennial [meeting](#) on Sunday, 29 July, at the Mostly Mozart Festival, at Lincoln Center, NY, NY. Theme: “Mozart the Maverick.” (CFP deadline passed.) The nomination deadline for the [Marjorie Watson](#)

[Emerson Award](#) is 30 June (\$500 for best publication on Mozart).

[North American British Music Studies Association](#) (NABMSA) will hold its 8th biennial [conference](#) from July 30-August 1, 2018, in Logan, UT. (CFP deadline passed.) The deadline for the [Ruth Solie Prize for Outstanding Article on British Music](#) is 1 June (\$200).

[North American Kant Society](#) awarded **Jessica Tizzard** the Markus Herz Prize for “Practical Reason and the Call to Faith,” presented at the NAKS Midwest Study Group. NAKS has four regional [study groups](#) (Midwest, Pacific, Eastern, Southern).

[Northeast American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies](#) will meet at University of Rochester from 11-14 October, on “Gods and Monsters.” John O’Neill Bursaries are available for graduate students. The [CFP](#) deadline has been extended. **Nick Allred** won the Edna Steeves Prize for Best Graduate Paper at the 2016 conference, for “American Waste: Analogies of Excess in Locke’s Second Treatise” (\$500); the next prize (for 2017) will be presented at the 2018 conference.

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



[The Samuel Johnson Society of the West](#) will hold its annual [dinner](#) at the Huntington Library on 18 November; **Claudia Johnson** will deliver the 25th Daniel G. Blum lecture.

The [Society for Eighteenth-Century Music](#) will hold its next biennial conference in 2020. Details and CFP to follow.

The [Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing](#) (SHARP) will hold its

annual [conference](#) in Sydney, at the State Library of New South Wales and the Western Sydney University Paramatta South Campus, 9-12 July. Theme: “From First to Last Texts, Creators, Readers, Agents.” Bursaries for students, early career researchers, and independent scholars are provided through the [Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation](#). Early bird conference registration closes in May.

The [Society of Early Americanists](#) will hold its 11th Biennial [Conference](#) at the University of Oregon, in Eugene, 27 February-2 March 2019. Proposals accepted beginning 1 May. Keynotes: **Michelle Burnham**, **Melinda Marie Jetté**. SEA is holding a [workshop](#), organized with the Obama Institute for Transnational American Studies, 4-6 October at Johannes Gutenberg University, in Mainz, Germany. Theme: “Transatlantic Conversations: New and Emerging Approaches to Early American Studies.” Keynote: **Maurizio Valsania**. The deadline for submitting an essay to the 20th Annual [Essay Competition](#) is 6 October; essays should be developed from papers on Americanist topics (broadly conceived) delivered during the 2017-18 academic year at an SEA meeting or at ASECS (\$100 honorarium).

[The South Central Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies](#) will hold its 44th annual [meeting](#) in Dallas, 21-23 February. Theme: “The Eighteenth Century in Perspective.” Panel proposal deadline: 30 August. CFP deadline for individual papers: 30 November.

The [Southeastern American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies](#) (SEASECS) invites submissions for the [Percy G. Adams Prize](#) for the

best article on an eighteenth-century subject published between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018 (\$500). Deadline: 15 November. **Terry F. Robinson** won the 2017 prize for “Becoming Somebody: Refashioning the Body Politic in Mary Robinson’s *Nobody*,” which appeared in *Studies in Romanticism* in Summer 2016. Submissions also welcome for the [Annibel Jenkins Prize](#) in Performance and Theater Studies (\$500). Deadline: 29 November. Winner for 2017: **Terry F. Robinson**, for “Becoming Somebody.” Submissions also welcome for the [Undergraduate Teaching Prize](#) (\$1000) for the best undergraduate panel proposed for the conference. Deadline: 15 November. 2017 winner: **Mary Crone-Romanovski**, for the panel “Cultural Encounters in Eighteenth-Century Castaway Tales.” Panelists: **Amanda Souchik**, **Jamie Kramer**, **Elizabeth Feins**, **Kelsey Abell**.

[Western Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies](#) (WSECS) will hold its annual conference 15-16 February at Arizona State University. Theme: “The Global Eighteenth Century.” [CFP](#) is currently open. Organizers: **Sören Hammerschmidt**, **Victoria Thompson**. WSECS offers the Helene W. Koon Memorial Award for the best paper presented at the conference by a graduate student or junior faculty member (\$250). In 2017, three awards were conferred, to **Madelaine Schurch** (“The Duchess of Portland, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, and the Eighteenth-Century Herbarium”), **Erik L. Johnson** (“Dramatic Recognition in the Age of Empiricism: Congreve, Dennis, Trotter”), and **Katherine Richards** (“Fans, Fame, and Illness: The Medical Celebrity of Susannah Cibber”)

Proposals for Sessions
for the 2019 ASECS Annual Meeting
will be accepted through 15 May 2018.

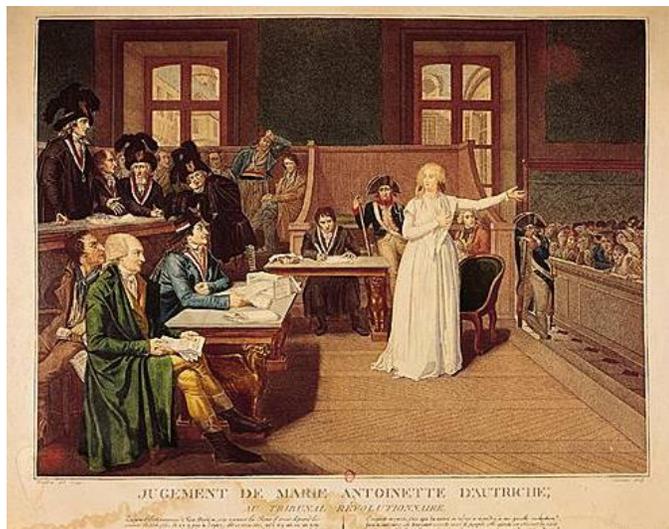
<https://asecsoffice.wixsite.com/asecsoffice/news>

Members, caucuses and affiliate societies may propose sessions. The Call for Papers will be posted 1 July and the deadline for submitting paper proposals to individual sessions will be 15 September.

RTTP Workshop Shocker: *French Revolution Crushed!* *Monarchy Restored!*

The ASECS pre-conference workshop was devoted this year to Reacting to the Past, a game-based pedagogy. Some twenty participants played a highly condensed version of [Rousseau, Burke and Revolution in France, 1791](#) by Jennifer Popiel, Mark Carnes and Gary Kates. Thanks to brilliant performances by the clergy, nobility and King Louis XVI himself, plus a favorable die roll, the game's outcome was ahistorical: the Austro-Prussian armies successfully invaded Paris, defeating the Revolutionaries, and absolute monarchy was restored!

The workshop also featured commentary from RTTP veteran faculty and administrators: Peggy Elliott, Georgia College; Dan Ennis, Coastal Carolina University; Diane Kelley, University of Puget Sound; and Diana Solomon, Simon Fraser University; and from student preceptors/panelists: Cayla Dwyer and Torey Tibbetts, Grand Valley State University. David Eick (GVSU) conducted the workshop.



Frédéric Cazenave, *Jugement de Marie-Antoinette d'Autriche* (1794)

Developed by historian Mark Carnes of Barnard College and Columbia University, RTTP is now used at over 400 colleges and universities. Informed by rich texts, games revolve around flashpoints from [ancient Athens](#) on the threshold of democracy to Title IX in the twenty-first century. Students are assigned roles with victory objectives; in order to “win,” they must do everything we’ve always dreamed they’d do: read closely, conduct library

research, write cogently, speak persuasively, solve problems, collaborate, and take initiative. Games not only teach general education skills; they also impart content knowledge effectively. Student engagement is enhanced, and the instructor cum game master may find students exceed expectations, as the classroom is infused with intellectual energy, fun and tension.

Games of potential interest to ASECS folk include *Stages of Power: Marlowe and Shakespeare, 1592* by Eric Mallin and Paul Sullivan; *Patriots, Loyalists and Revolution in New York City, 1775-76* by Bill Offutt; and *The Enlightenment in Crisis: Diderot's Encyclopédie in a Parisian Salon, 1750-?* by David Eick and Gretchen Galbraith (in development).

Caucusing Corner

The News Circular will profile two or three of the society’s caucuses in this regular column. ASECS members are encouraged to support caucus activities or to explore the formation of new caucuses. Use your membership renewal notice to indicate interest in learning more about particular caucuses; we will share that information with the caucus organizers.

Pedagogy Caucus (NEW!)

At the 2018 Annual Meeting, the ASECS Executive Board approved the establishment of a Pedagogy Caucus. The new caucus focuses on the important activity nearly every member of ASECS shares, regardless of discipline: teaching students about the long eighteenth century. It will give welcome visibility to one of our central tasks in the academy and demonstrate the public value of eighteenth-century studies, especially important given the direction that support for and enrollment in humanities courses have taken on campuses nationwide.

The caucus plans to sponsor sessions each year as well as promote activities by others, such as the ASECS Innovative Course Design Competition and sessions proposed by members and other caucuses. It can open a space where scholar-teachers can meet to exchange ideas and strategies, offer pedagogy workshops for junior faculty and graduate students, and provide opportunities for renewal for the seasoned professor. It will assume sponsorship of “Teaching the Eighteenth Century: A Poster Session,” a popular session that has been annually organized by ASECS members since 2009. Finally,

the caucus will advocate for the publication of scholarship on teaching eighteenth-century studies, in *Eighteenth-Century Studies* and *Studies in Eighteenth-Century Culture*, and in digital venues, including the new ASECS website. Contact Linda Troost at ltroost@washjeff.edu for more information.

Theatre and Performance Studies

Theatre and performance studies is perhaps the most interdisciplinary field in eighteenth-century scholarship, encompassing academic disciplines such as literature, history, music, art history, dance, and architecture, and cutting across national traditions.

As a global commodity that circulated transatlantically and beyond, theatre and performance established networks of sociability and economic exchange, while at the same time enacting and resisting colonialism.

The stage was therefore at the center of eighteenth-century culture and is a major focus of eighteenth-century studies today.

Our caucus aims to bridge disciplines and geographies, bringing together scholars from the diverse fields mentioned above with the goal of deepening our understanding of Restoration and eighteenth-century performance culture through collaboration and the exchange of ideas from different scholarly perspectives and methodologies. Now moving into its third year of existence, the TaPS caucus is working on establishing a graduate student paper prize and hosting a performance event at the Annual Meeting. This year, we will sponsor panels on “Picturing the Stage” and “Liveness,” and we look forward to members proposing theatre- and performance-related panels in addition to these. We welcome new members—those who are interested can contact co-chairs Diana Solomon (dks@sfu.ca) and Jane Wessel (wesselj@apsu.edu).



Hyppolite Clairon.

2017 & 2018 Travel Fellowships: Reports from the Road

Thanks to the generosity of past and present members, ASECS supports a variety of travel awards and joint fellowships to libraries and archives. Please consider making a contribution to one or more of

our travel funds. Donations may be made through the ASECS website, where you also will find information on travel grants. Reports from recent recipients of ASECS grants and fellowships are now regularly featured in the News Circular. The following contributions have been edited for length.

Theodore E. D. Braun Travel Fellowship

For two months, I lived in Aix-en-Provence and conducted research on eighteenth and early nineteenth-century poison cases in Martinique at the Archives Nationales d’Outre-Mer (ANOM). As a piece of my larger project, comparing poison cases in Martinique, Virginia, Bahia, and the Dutch Guianas, this research was essential for exploring the particular topography in this colony of ideas about poison, medicine, and magic. My time at ANOM allowed me to not only build off of my early analysis of qualitative and quantitative information on poison cases, but also to gain new insights on multiple contemporary perspectives on poison by making links across different kinds of sources.

One of my main goals of my time at ANOM was to expand upon the work I had done in my preliminary scouting trip examining surviving poison trials. I picked up where I had left off with criminal case summaries in eighteenth-century reports from the Conseil Superieur to the Ministere de la Marine. I also spent time analyzing poison trials in the Cour d’assises records from 1830 to 1848. Between the two collections, I gathered valuable information on eighty-five poison cases, including both qualitative details on the circumstances of each case and quantitative demographic data. For example, I confirmed my earlier observation that poison cases were strongly gendered male, with an average of 75% of the accused being men, and built upon it with data showing an increasing ratio over time of women being accused. By comparing information on these cases with laws and colonial ordinances on poison, I have also been able to track shifts in the language that indicate a development of colonial understandings of poison that differed from those in contemporary Europe.

In addition to the trials and laws, I spent time working with collections of official correspondence between Martinique and the Ministere de la Marine. One particularly interesting attachment I found is a 1775 treatise on superstition and critique of poison trials in Martinique. The author gave detailed descriptions of practices planters used to identify

sorcerer-poisoners, some of which matched information in the trial summaries themselves. Some boxes in the correspondence collections contained a variety of different kinds of evidence particularly inviting for comparison. For example, a file on a nineteenth-century case of a planter tried for abusing his slaves—his successful defense built upon his claim that they were poisoners—included copies of newspapers with transcripts of the trial marked up by the prosecutor. The reporting in the newspaper, which included information on the reactions of the crowd to different pieces of testimony, combined with the content of the transcript, the prosecutor’s notation, and official reports to the colonial office together gave me multiple angles of analysis and rich detail on this case.

Finally, sharing my two months at the archive with other scholars was invaluable for the development of my project. The analyses and insights I developed from this working environment, as well as the practical gathering of sources itself, would not have been possible without travel to France. I would like to thank ASECS for helping make this opportunity a reality through your generous support.
—*Chelsea Berry, Georgetown University*

Richard H. Popkin Research Travel Fellowship

“Iced Sea: Arctic Explorations & Crystallized Violence” is the last chapter of my project, because it is historically latest. In examining Mary Shelley’s canonical *Frankenstein* (1818), I focus on the experience of the Arctic that bookends the novel. For Dr. Frankenstein and his transient creature, ice worlds make possible potential reunion or capture, and emphasize their violent relationship and history. I approach this chapter and Shelley’s novel in acknowledgment that Arctic expeditions were underway, most prevalently, in the eighteenth century. This is hinted at first by Coleridge’s “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner” (1798), which implicitly configures the South Pole as an area of adventure but also anguish and loss and then, only a year later, by William Cowper’s poems, “Ice Islands” (1799), which confer a similar reading. Scholars like Hester Blum and Siobhan Carroll have already begun to query American and British, respectively, voyages to the Arctic throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

I am interested in the exploration of the Arctic as a way of reading the evolution of colonial relationships, which had, outside of the Arctic, been

both effective and financially successful for the British Empire. However, in the Arctic, there are no mass populations to enslave, and the agricultural relationship is also pointedly different in the absence of mass crops for capitalist export. I plumb the continuity of early modern Arctic explorations, which might suggest different narratives about Britain’s relationship with colonialism, power, and violence.

I used my stay in New York City to explore the rich archives available at the New York Public Library’s special collections. As has become clearer to me as I delve further into eighteenth-century Arctic voyages, the best resources available come from epistolary ephemera or diary entries. For example, the NYPL houses letters to Sir John Ross, whose Arctic voyages took place during the first quarter of the nineteenth century; Charles Hitch & Son Draft Books, which detail the experience of building, arming, and preparing American whaling ships in the Arctic Ocean; Sir John Barrow letters, which describes his experience on an Arctic voyage in 1819; and even early documents from the National Audubon Society, which make an early and prescient case for the Arctic as an area in need of animal and resource conservation. While most of these archives highlight the nineteenth century’s growing relationship with broader imperial goals of mapping and knowing the Arctic, the sketches and visuals, which often accompany these diaries or letters, participate in a process of utopian thinking regarding the Arctic. In this way, these letters and



diaries highlight both an imagined and real relationship with an unknown terrain that assuredly informs understandings of individual

success, colonial gain, and globalization. While descriptions of violence are more prevalent in the fictional narratives set in the Arctic, like *Frankenstein*, my project’s investment in grappling with how the environmental—in this case, the Arctic—affects the human affectively, socially, imaginatively is evidenced by these archives, which help position a literary history of ice worlds invaluable in framing my deeply theoretic project. —*Jeremy Chow, University of California, Santa Barbara*

ACLS Report

ASECS is a member of the American Council of Learned Societies, a federation of 75 national scholarly organizations that advocates for scholarship in the humanities and related social sciences by sponsoring fellowships and strengthening connections among its members. ACLS holds an annual meeting, attended by delegates and executive officers of the member societies. This year's meeting took place in Philadelphia, 26-28 April.

One of the highlights of the meeting, from ASECS's perspective, was a session at which four ACLS fellows presented their research. The speakers included **Mattie Burkert**, 2015 Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellow and assistant professor at Utah State University, who is a member of ASECS. She spoke on the "Theater-Finance Nexus" in the early eighteenth century, tracing ways in which excitement and anxieties generated by the South Sea Bubble found expression on the stage. Arguing that theater was a site for debating complex economic systems and illustrating the irrationality of the markets, Burkert challenged the convention of regarding the coffeehouse as the primary space for public discourse. Her presentation also discussed her work as Project Director for the NEH-funded *London Stage Database*, which aims to recover and revitalize the *London Stage Information Bank*, an early humanities computing project begun at Lawrence University in the 1970s. For more information, visit <https://mattieburkert.com/london-stage-project/>.

The ACLS meeting began with a lively discussion of "The Contested Campus: Speech and Scholarly Values"; the speakers were Leon Botstein, president of Bard College; Jerry Kang, vice-chancellor for equity, diversity and inclusion at the University of California, Los Angeles; Judith Shapiro, president of the Teagle Foundation and president emerita of Barnard College; and Ben Vinson III, dean of Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, at George Washington University. Friday afternoon included a grimly riveting presentation on "Democracy and the Contemporary Mediascape," by Tara McPherson, University of Southern California, and Siva Vaidhyanathan, University of Virginia; and breakout sessions on Free Speech and Scholarly Values, the Contemporary Mediascape, TOME (Towards an Open Monograph Ecosystem), Learned Societies and Professional Misconduct; and the Humanities at Community Colleges. The

Charles Homer Haskins Prize lecture was given by Sally Falk Moore, Victor S. Thomas Professor of Anthropology Emerita, Harvard University.

At the Conference of Executive Officers meeting on Saturday, topics included an update on the National Endowment for the Humanities; fundraising and planned giving; and transition planning. -*Lisa Berghund, Buffalo State College*

The Eighteenth-Century Novel

Albert Rivero and **George Justice** have re-launched *The Eighteenth-Century Novel*, the peer-reviewed scholarly annual formerly published by AMS Press. Rivero (Marquette) and Justice (Arizona State) accept articles ranging from 7,000 to 25,000 words. The journal will be published by the Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies (ACMRS), which operates a robust publishing program, including the well-known MRTS series and a number of journals, such as *Early Modern Women*.

As ASECS members who have published with the former AMS Press titles know, one drawback of the otherwise very useful publishing program run by the late Gabriel Hornstein was that AMS published only in hard copy. ACMRS, on the other hand, has an agreement with the University of Chicago to distribute titles not only in print, but online. Rivero and Justice are particularly eager to hear from less-established scholars with new work on any aspect of fiction in the global eighteenth century. One benefit of the "annual" format is the opportunity to publish

Graduate Students!

ASECS Graduate Student Caucus co-chairs **Kristin Distel** and **April Fuller** are compiling a listserv for GSC members. They are requesting contact information from students who would like to participate in GSC events and programming in the 2018-2019 academic year. Specifically, Kristin and April seek graduate student input for caucus initiatives, including the creation of mentorship relationships and the new iteration of the Excellence in Mentorship Award. Interested graduate students are invited to send their email addresses, along with their areas of research/specialization, to Kristin at kd484114@ohio.edu.

longer works—something in between a concise journal article and a monograph.

The AMS Press published a number of important journals in the field, and it is to be hoped that other AMS titles will find new homes as well. Information about *The Eighteenth-Century Novel* can be found on the ACMRS website at <https://acmrs.org/publications/journals/ecn/about>.

ASECS Awards and Prizes: Deadlines through 1 January 2019

Applications for the following prizes and fellowships should be submitted to the ASECS Business Office, asecsoffice@gmail.com, unless noted otherwise. For details, visit <https://asecsoffice.wixsite.com/asecsoffice>.

The Louis Gottschalk Prize

This prize for an outstanding historical or critical study on the eighteenth century carries an award of \$1,000. 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 in his scholarship the humanistic ideals that this award is meant to encourage. Scholarly books written in any modern language, including commentaries, critical studies, biographies, collections of essays by a single author, and critical editions are eligible. Books that are primarily translations and multi-authored collections of essays are not eligible.

To be eligible for this year's competition, a book must have a copyright date between November 2017 and October 2018, and its author must be a member of the Society at the time of submission. Submission must be made by the publisher, and *six* copies of the nominated book must be received at the Business Office by **15 November 2018**.

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 Annibel Jenkins, 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 2017-2019 competition, a book must have a copyright date

between November 2016 and November 2018, and the author must be a member of the Society at the time of submission. Nominations must be made by the publisher, and six copies must be received at the Business Office by **15 November 2018**.

The James L. Clifford Prize

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

To be eligible, the article should be no longer than 15,000 words, and must have appeared in print in a journal, festschrift, or other serial publication between July 2017 and June 2018. The article may be nominated by a member of the society, by its author, or by an editor of the publishing journal. Self-nominations are limited to one article per year.

Nominations should be submitted in pdf format to the ASECS Business Office and must be received no later than **1 January 2019**. The author must be a member of the ASECS at the time of submission.



The Srinivas Aravamudan Prize

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

the publishing journal. Nominations must be submitted in pdf format and received no later than 1 **January 2019**. The author must be a member of ASECS at the time of submission.

Turley Prize in Queer Eighteenth-Century Studies

The Hans Turley Prize is awarded biannually for the best paper on a topic in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, or Queer Studies delivered at the ASECS Annual Meeting by a graduate student, an untenured faculty member, or an independent scholar. The prize, which carries a \$100 award, honors the late Hans Turley, who helped to found the ASECS Lesbian and Gay Caucus. For the 2017-2019 prize, papers read in Minneapolis 2017 and Orlando 2018 are eligible. The deadline for submission is **1 September 2018**; nominations should be emailed in pdf format.

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. Specific proposal requirements are provided on ASECS website. Applicants must be current members of ASECS. The deadline for submitting proposals is **1 October 2018**. Three winners will be asked to give presentations in the Teaching Competition seminar at the Annual Meeting. Winners are awarded \$500 each, and invited to submit an account of the unit or course, with a syllabus or other supplementary materials, for publication on the (new) ASECS website.

ASECS 2018-19 Travel Grants

The grants listed below support research in eighteenth-century studies that requires travel. Only current members of ASECS are eligible. Applicants should submit only one application and will be considered for every grant for which they are eligible. To be considered, applications must be complete and received by the ASECS Business Office by **1 January 2019**. Application forms and requirements are available online at <https://asecsoffice.wixsite.com/asecsoffice/blogger>.

Gwin J. and Ruth Kolb Research Travel Fellowship - \$500: supplements costs for younger

eighteenth-century scholars to travel to distant collections in North America and abroad.

Robert R. Palmer Research Travel Fellowship - \$500: supports documentary research related primarily to the history and culture of France.

Aubrey L. Williams Research Travel Fellowship - \$1500; supports documentary research in eighteenth-century English literature, by American-based doctoral students.

Richard H. Popkin Research Travel Fellowship - \$250; supplement costs for scholars to travel to collections in North America and abroad.

Theodore E.D. Braun Research Travel Fellowship - \$1000; supports researchers, regardless of rank, who are working in French literary studies.

Paula Backscheider Archival Fellowship - \$1000; supports researchers whose projects necessitate work in archives, repositories, and special collections (public and private) in foreign countries and/or in the United States.

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 2018** 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). More information and application forms are available online at <https://asecsoffice.wixsite.com/asecsoffice/blogger>.

ASECS Library Fellowships

To promote and sustain research into the eighteenth century, the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies jointly funds fellowships with twenty research institutions. Contact information and links to each fellowship's website is available at <https://asecsoffice.wixsite.com/asecsoffice/library-fellowships>. To receive an ASECS fellowship, at the time of the award an applicant must be an ASECS member in good standing and either an ABD graduate student or post-doctoral, holding the PhD

or equivalent degree, and must be working on a project concerning the eighteenth century.

Awards for Graduate Students

Race and Empire Caucus Graduate Student Essay Prize

Essays that are revised versions of papers read at the regional and national conferences of ASECS and its affiliates between 1 July 2017 and 30 June 2018 are eligible. The prize-winning essay will be considered for publication in *Studies in Eighteenth-Century Culture*, Vol. 48, and the prize will be awarded at the 2019 ASECS meeting. The competition is open to papers that combine the multifarious legacy of post-colonial and/or critical race studies with the analysis of eighteenth-century literature and culture. The deadline is **2 July 2018**. For further guidelines, visit <https://asecsoffice.wixsite.com/asecsoffice/blogger>.

The Catherine Macaulay Graduate Student Prize

This \$500 award recognizes a paper presented by a graduate student that helped to advance understanding of gender dynamics, women's experience, and/or women's contributions to eighteenth-century culture, or that offered a feminist analysis of any aspect of eighteenth-century culture and/or society. The paper must have been read at the 2018 ASECS Annual Meeting or at a regional meeting between 1 July 2017 and 30 June 2018. Nominations should be submitted in pdf format to the ASECS Business Office no later than **1 September 2018**. More information can be found at the Women's Caucus

website: <http://www.asecswomenscaucus.com/catherine-macaulay-graduate-student-prize.html>

Graduate Student Research Paper Award

Recognizing the pioneering research contributions of the next generation of eighteenth-century studies scholars, this \$200 award is given to an outstanding research essay of 15-30 pages that has not been previously published. A pdf copy of the essay, and a letter of endorsement from a mentoring professor outlining the originality and contributions that the essay makes to the field of eighteenth-century studies, are required. The deadline for applications is **1 January 2019**.

Travelling Jam Pot

The Jam Pot provides a waiver of the registration fee for the ASECS Annual Meeting and an award of \$300 toward the cost of attending. Applicants should send the following information in pdf format to the Business Office no later than **1 November 2018**: 1) statement of need; 2) description of other sources of funding sought; 3) budget; 4) letter of endorsement from a faculty member; and 5) number of professional conferences attended in the past year.

The Jam Pot is supported by annual contributions from ASECS members, which are matched by ASECS; the size of the Jam Pot determines the number of awards available each year. In 2017, six awards were given, and in 2018, 12 students received awards. In order to be eligible for the Traveling Jam Pot, applicants must be ABD or within one year of receipt of the doctoral degree, and must be current members of ASECS.

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