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

I would like to begin this column, and this new year, by thanking our outgoing President, Melissa Hyde, who has provided thoughtful, inspired leadership at the start of our fiftieth anniversary year. I could not have imagined a better mentor to prepare me for this role, and I am grateful that I will be able to call on her wisdom in the coming year as she continues to serve on the Executive Board. I am also delighted to thank our two outgoing board members, Misty Anderson and Douglas Fordham, for their service to the Society. Many other readers of this column also gave generously of their time and energy last year on the numerous committees and editorial boards that make up our Society. While I cannot list you all here, please know that the Executive Board, your fellow ASECS members, and I are grateful for your dedication to our common interests.

I am also pleased that I will be able to count on our tireless Executive Director, Lisa Berglund, and our wonderfully efficient Office Manager, Aimee Levesque, as I assume presidential duties. And I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge our diligent Treasurer, Jill Bradbury, who has done some remarkable behind-the-scenes work to clarify the financial structure of our Society and the endowments for our many prizes and awards. Her efforts will help direct our fund-raising work this year, a topic to which I will return at the end of this column. Sadly for us, Jill has decided to step down from this role at the end of the current academic year, in part to take on significant administrative responsibilities at her home institution. A search is underway for her replacement; we hope to be able to introduce our new Treasurer when we convene in St. Louis next March.

Under the leadership of Melissa, of her two predecessors, Sue Lanser and Dena Goodman, and of Lisa Berglund, the Society has made significant strides towards diversifying our membership and towards incorporating new faces and new views into our committees. Sue, who will chair our nominating committee this year, recently sent out a call for nominations for the post of Second Vice President (who then serves as First Vice President and eventually as President), and for coming vacancies on the Executive Board. The colleagues elected to these positions will play an important role in shaping the future of ASECS, so we ask you to nominate candidates who will bring views representative of our many constituencies to these positions. Last year the Executive Board approved the creation of a Disability, Equity,
Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) Advisory Committee, charged with suggesting to the Board ways to improve our response to DEIA issues the Society faces. This advisory committee consists of one representative each from the Women’s Caucus, the Graduate Student Caucus, the Race and Empire Caucus, the Gay and Lesbian Caucus, and the Disability Studies Caucus, as well as representatives from the Executive Board and the Society’s membership-at-large. As a first charge, I have asked the DEIA group to suggest strategies for diversifying panel submissions for our annual conference.

A major goal this year is to complete the transition from the Society’s web site formerly housed on a Johns Hopkins University Press server to our new site, now maintained by the Business Office at www.asecs.org. By the end of September, the old JHUP web site and another interim site at Texas A&M University were removed from the web. Lisa and Aimee have already populated the new site with much valuable information; over the course of the coming year, we will continue to build the site into an intuitive, easily navigated, online portal to all things ASECS. We welcome your comments on content and design as you explore our new web presence.

I will have more to say about our exciting plans for the St. Louis conference in my next presidential column, but for now I would like to share a few words about our Program selection process. Several years ago, the Executive Board decided to cap the number of panels at the annual conference at 195. This decision was driven in part by a concern that we were sponsoring too many sparsely-attended sessions each year. This year our Program Committee for St. Louis, consisting of Rachel Walsh (chair), Miriam Wallace, and Michael Yonan, was faced with a challenging task: we received over 270 submissions for the 195 Board-mandated slots. The Program Committee performed brilliantly, identifying a wide variety of proposals that will provide substantial intellectual fare for everyone in attendance in St. Louis. At the same time, however, difficult decisions had to be made and some of you have expressed concerns about our process. Over the course of this year, the Executive Board will be considering ways to improve the selection procedures for next year. We plan to have these reforms in place by the time we issue the call for panel proposals for the 2021 meeting in Toronto.

Finally, you will soon be receiving the first of several communications about our “50+50 Campaign for ASECS,” fundraising designed to coincide with our ongoing quinquagenary celebrations. Our Society is in good financial shape, thanks to the hard work and vision of our predecessors over the past half century. In order to honor the foundations they have laid, and to build on their work to ensure the strength of the Society for ourselves and our students in the future, we will be asking you to give generously, within your means, over the next year. Scholarship is a generational activity, in all the senses of that word. We are in constant dialogue with our predecessors who have shaped our views on the eighteenth century. We write and teach for ourselves and for those who will come after us, imagining that our voices will continue to be heard, just as we interpret the voices of the eighteenth century. This conversation across time is one of the great pleasures of our profession. I hope its echoes will inspire you to invest in our future.

Subscribe to ASECS News!

Visit our website at www.asecs.org, scroll down to the bottom of the main page, and submit your email address. You will receive an email whenever we post news of members, CFPs from affiliates or regional societies, and announcements about eighteenth-century studies.

Affiliate Societies Column:

Rivka Swenson, Virginia Commonwealth University

Since the publication of the spring newsletter, several affiliated societies held meetings that, by all accounts, left their members much the better and wiser for having attended: Defoe Society, Eighteenth-Century Scottish Studies Society, Rousseau Association, and Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, and Publishing; in addition, the British Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies hosted the meeting of the International Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (a joint meeting of ISECS and ECSSS). See below under Summer highlights for (some of the) details.
Other meetings are on the horizon: **Aphra Behn Society** (jointly with *Burney Society*), Canadian Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (jointly with Northeastern American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies), and East-Central American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies. Details about these meetings appear below, under “NEWS,” with other announcements and a host of looming deadlines ...

Please, two reminders for the affiliated and affiliate-regional societies as you begin planning new conferences:

First, the new ASECS website contains a Calendar of Affiliate and Regional Society Meetings that will be helpful. Is your information on this calendar? Please send updates to ASECS Project and Office Manager Aimee Levesque in the ASECS Business Office, so we can include you and ASECS members can access this information in one centralized place. (No need to limit yourself to 2019/20; if you have information for meetings two or more years out, we would love to include that information, too.)

Second, the fewer conflicting dates the better it is for everyone – just something to be mindful of. Please let me know how I can help by liaising/coordinating/advising.

**Summer highlights**

The sixth biennial meeting of the *Defoe Society*, organized by Chloe Wigston Smith and Gabriel Cervantes, was conceived to mark an important tercentenary date: the 1719 publication of *Robinson Crusoe*. The conference, “300 Years of *Robinson Crusoe*,” was held in York, England, on the University of York campus. The setting was ideal (Crusoe’s own birthplace, York), and the organizers assembled a masterful celebration, befitting the anniversary occasion. The meeting, which began with an Open House at Thin Ice Press and ended with a gala dinner, included plenaries by Barbara M. Benedict and Nicholas Seager: fifteen panels and roundtables on Defoe and/or his contemporaries, and a range of extras and comestibles, intellectual and otherwise, to guard against conference fatigue.

**NEWS – Announcements, Events, Deadlines**  
**Aphra Behn Society** is preparing for its next biennial conference on November 6-9 (jointly with *Burney Society*); organized by Emily Friedman, ABS/BS will take place at Auburn University. Topic: “Public Goods.” The keynote will be Patricia Matthew, and conference goers will doubtless enjoy a free Friday night performance of *The Belle’s Stratagem*. Note: now is a great time to join or to renew your membership with ABS’s recently-adopted biennial dues structure. Also take a look at the most recent issue of *ABO: Interactive Journal for Women in the Arts, 1640-1830,* a special issue on “Eighteenth-Century Camp” co-edited by Ula Lukszo Klein and Emily MN Kugler (essays by Julie Beau lieu. Ertsy Contogouris, Freya Gowley, Devoney Looser.

**Bibliographical Society of America** is the happy sponsor or co-sponsor of a number of events and opportunities this fall in DC, Houston, Los Angeles, and New Haven. Meanwhile, the BSA Fellowship Committee is accepting applications now (until Nov. 1) for their annual round of numerous generous fellowships.

**British Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies** hosted the International Congress of the Enlightenment, on behalf of ISECS (and in conjunction with ECSSS), this summer in Edinburgh: Edward Taylor was awarded the BSECS President’s Prize. The next conference will be held at Oxford, Jan. 8-10, 2020; the CFP will be circulated soon. Meanwhile, the Society’s journal, *The Journal for Eighteenth-Century Studies*, still solicits essays and reviews on the range of the period’s topics. The current issue contains essays by Serena Dyer, Victoria S. Tietze Larson, Ja Yun Choi, Marlena Laterza, Richard Terry, Pat Rogers. Note: *JECS* is currently soliciting for a special issue on “Enlightenment Identities,” edited by Brycchan Carey and Caroline Warman. Deadline: Dec. 2. Reminder: Boydell and Brewer, in association with BSECS, invites multidisciplinary monograph manuscript submissions for the series “Studies in the Eighteenth Century” on the global eighteenth century.

**Burney Society** will hold its next biennial conference from November 6-9 (jointly with Behn
Society); organized by Emily Friedman, ABS will take place at Auburn University. Topic: “Public Goods.” The keynote will be Patricia Matthew. Meanwhile, The Burney Journal is accepting submissions for its annual issue.

Canadian Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (CSECS) holds its next conference (organized by Thierry Belleguic, Charlene Deharbe, and Nicholas Dion) from October 16-19 in Quebec City (jointly with NEASECS) on the topic of “Ethic(s) in/of the Enlightenment.” Check out the 2019 issue of Lumen, CSECS’s official journal, with a preface by Sebastien Drouin, Andreas Motsch, Craig Patterson, and essays by Barbara Adams, Michele Bocquillon, Lorna Clark, Eric Miller, Laetitia Saintes, Adam Schoene, David Smith, Leila Tnainchi, Isabelle Trembla, Constantine Vassiliou, Maria Zytaruk.

The Defoe Society held its 6th biennial conference July 10-12 in York, England (see above under “Summer highlights”). The next conference, July 22-24, 2021, organized by Manushag N. Powell, will take place in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The Board announces the naming of its student bursaries: The John Richetti Bursary, for students who travel domestically to the conference, and The Paula R. Backscheider Bursary, for students who travel internationally to the conference.


Goethe Society of North America will hold its triennial conference in 2020; details to come. David Wellbery received the Golden Goethe Medal from the Goethe Society in June.

Historians of Eighteenth-Century Art and Architecture (HECAA) HECAA keeps members up to date on relevant CFPs, exhibitions, and the like via Enfilade.

International Adam Smith Society (IASS) will hold its next conference in Tokyo from March 15-17, 2020. The Society invites submissions to The Adam Smith Review.

International Herder Society is currently making plans for its next biennial conference and is putting together the next Herder Yearbook.

Midwestern American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (MWASECS) meets in October 2020 with CSECS (joint meeting) in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Details/CFP to follow.

Mozart Society of America enthusiastically invites membership from anyone who shares an interest in Mozart and the goals of the Society. Signing up for their newsletter is a place to start.

North American British Music Studies Association (NABMSA) has published the spring 2019 issue of NABMSA Reviews, containing reviews of seven new books in the field.

North American Kant Society currently encourages all scholars who are interested in Kant to learn more about their four active regional study groups (Midwest, Pacific, Eastern, Southern).

Northeast American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (NEASECS) holds its next conference from October 16-19 in Quebec City.
Researchers from all fields of eighteenth-century studies are invited to submit an application for this weekend event. The 2020 meeting will take place in Lausanne, Switzerland, from Monday, May 25 to Friday, May 29, 2020. It is organized by the International Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (ISECS), of which ASECS is a member, along with the University of Lausanne, the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM), the Groupe de recherche en histoire des sociabilités (GRHS), and the Centre interuniversitaire de recherche sur la première modernité, XVIe-XVIIIe siècle (CIREM 16-18). The directors are Pascal Bastien (History, UQAM), Marc André Bernier (Literature, Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières), Bela Kapossy (College of Humanities, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne), Dave Lüthi (Art History, SHC UniL) and Danièle Tosato-Rigo (History, SHC UniL) and Simone Zurbuchen (Philosophy, Literature UniL).

Under the theme of “Memory and (Un)remembrance” the seminar will explore the practices of collective and individual memory in all aspects of Enlightenment society, such as distortion, distanitation of the contemporary from the past, and even Damnatio memoriae.

Proposal submissions should be based on original research (e.g. a doctoral dissertation) that addresses an aspect of the theme. Because this is a seminar rather than a conference, each participant will be given approximately one hour to present their research, followed by a group discussion. The official languages of the Seminar are French and English. Preference will be given to scholars who are at the beginning of their academic career (PhD or equivalent of fewer than six years). The Seminar is limited to 15 participants. Hotel accommodation will be covered and booked by the organizers. However, participants must cover their own travel costs.

Application requirements and additional information is available here: https://oraprdnt.uqtr.uquebec.ca/pls/public/gscw030?owa_no_site=304.

Applications must be submitted by January 10, 2020. Please email proposals to the principal organizers of the Seminar, Pascal Bastien (bastien.pascal@uqam.ca) and Danièle Tosato-Rigo (Daniele.Tosato-Rigo@unil.ch).
Hotel registration for ASECS 2020 St. Louis is now open!

To make your reservations, visit: https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/STLRS/G-AMSO. If you need assistance, contact the hotel at 877-803-7534. If the group rate is no longer available, prevailing rates may be offered for some or all of your dates. NOTE: The last day for ASECS guests to make reservations is February 25, 2020. After this date, the hotel can no longer guarantee your discounted room rate or hotel room availability.

The draft program for ASECS 2020 will be posted in early November and online registration will open on December 1, 2019. Paper registration forms also will be available for download from the ASECS website and upon request. In addition to an outstanding array of panels and roundtables, the Meeting will feature a production of Marivaux’s The Triumph of Love, several workshops, three plenary talks, professional development and mentoring sessions, and optional special trips before and after the conference itself. As details about these events become available, they will be added to the Meeting website (https://asecsoffice.wixsite.com/asecs2020); information on events and activities also will be published in the Winter 2020 News Circular.

In order to appear in the ASECS Annual Meeting Program, you must be a member of ASECS or of an ISECS-affiliated society. Information on ASECS membership levels is available at https://www.asecs.org/asecs-membership. Your membership must be current as of December 1, 2019.

ASECS asks faculty to encourage applications from their students for the Traveling Jam Pot, the Graduate Student Research Paper Prize, and the Graduate Student Conference Paper Competition, as well as ASECS Travel Awards.
The Dr. Is In 2020

The Dr. Is In is a mentorship program that supports scholars at all stages of their academic careers, from students in MA and PhD programs to faculty at the junior and senior levels. Founded in 2013 by Rebecca Shapiro (CUNY), the program offers drop-in mentoring and a physical space where ASECS members can ask informal questions on all manner of topics related to navigating the profession-from managing a dissertation committee to writing a book proposal, advocating for fair labor practices for adjunct/lecturers/graduate students, balancing work and family or the two-body problem, and/or combating post-tenure ennui.

Now organizing the program’s seventh year, we are excited to work with the ASECS office to list all participating mentors in the program, a move that not only recognizes the important role of mentorship at our conference and in the profession but also allows more of our participants to receive institutional travel support through this official listing. We are also excited to be partnering for the first time with the ASECS Graduate Student Caucus to support the GSC Coffee Hour and enhance the topics and opportunities we provide (thanks to GSC co-chairs April Fuller and Megan Cole for their leadership in this partnership!).

The 2020 Dr. Is In team is Joel Sodano, Adela Ramos, Danielle Spratt, Kathleen Alves, and James Reeves. If you have any questions, you may reach us at doctorisin18c@gmail.com. See you in St. Louis!

2019 ASECS Graduate Student Conference Paper Prize

The 2019 ASECS Graduate Student Paper Prize has been awarded to Julia Ptacek, PhD Candidate at Western Michigan University, for her essay “‘All women his description fits’: Jonathan Swift in the Transgender Classroom,” which was presented at the 2019 Annual Meeting in Denver. The Graduate Student Prizes Committee reports that they were “particularly impressed by this paper's originality; its illuminating deployment of trans* theory showed us something new about how to read closely and about how to understand our students’ receptions of canonical texts. It offers a bracing challenge to our pedagogical practices, but it’s also a pleasure to read.”

Graduate Student Caucus News

ASECS Graduate Student Caucus chair April Fuller and co-chair Megan Cole invite new graduate students to join the Caucus and participate in GSC events and programming in the 2019-2020 academic year. Currently, the Caucus’s primary initiative is drafting our bylaws and governance structure. We are seeking input from the Caucus’s members over the next few months.

This year, the Graduate Student Caucus website https://asecsgradcaucus.wordpress.com/ is featuring a new faculty interview each month and guest blog posts. We ask graduate students, early career researchers, and faculty to send any of your accomplishments to asecs.gradcaucus@gmail.com; we want to promote your hard work!

At the 2020 Annual Meeting, the Graduate Student Caucus will host the roundtable “I’m First: First-Generation Graduate Students and Mentors” with April Fuller (amfuller@umd.edu) and will sponsor a Coffee Hour in conjunction with The Dr. Is In mentoring program. We ask graduate students interested in joining the GSC to send their email addresses, along with their areas of research/specialization(s), to asecs.gradcaucus@gmail.com.

ASECS Business Office Hires Graduate Student Assistant

The ASECS Business Office is pleased to announce that Julio Montalvo Valentin has joined the office as our Graduate Student Assistant. Julio is enrolled in the MA program at Buffalo State, studying English literature while pursuing a career as a poet and writer. His goal is to be a scholar focusing on cultural and disability studies. An author of three chapbooks, Julio is a SUNY Chancellor’s Award winner who is dedicated to increasing access to poetry for people of color. His latest project involves converting a school bus into a traveling literary vehicle that will host writing workshops and promote poetry.
Eighteenth-Century Studies began its third year at the University of New Hampshire (UNH) in July with a series of transitions, as we were joined by both a new Managing Editor and a new Reviews Editor.

New Editorial and Reviews Staff
Matthew Wyman-McCarthy departed the managing role for a research position at Wilfrid Laurier University in Ontario. He has been succeeded by Adam Schoene, a recent Romance Studies PhD from Cornell who brings with him multiple awards and publications, including an essay on Montesquieu’s Persian Letters published last year in our journal itself. The email address for submissions and other correspondence will continue to be ec.studies@unh.edu.

Reviews Editor Cheryl Nixon has moved on to a provost position at Fort Lewis College. She has helped Jennifer Thorn, associate professor of English at Saint Anselm College, transition into the role. ECS now envisions an expanded Reviews Section of 15-20 book reviews per issue, as well as reviews of performances, exhibits, and new archives and digital resources.

The latter changeover gives me the opportunity to encourage ASECS members to continue to volunteer for reviewing opportunities – work that should be regarded as essential service to the profession. Jennifer offers this particular encouragement to potential reviewers: “I welcome expressions of general interest in book reviewing as well as expressions of interest in specific titles. In addition, if you know of exhibits, performances, or new archives/digital resources that merit review, please let me know even if you don’t want to review them yourself. I’m grateful to those who have already been in touch in this way already, and I look forward to the conversations within, and about, our global, interdisciplinary field that the Reviews section helps to strengthen.” If you have a new book out yourself, please have your publisher send a copy to Jennifer Thorn, Reviews Editor, Eighteenth-Century Studies, Saint Anselm College, 100 Saint Anselm Drive #1784, Manchester, NH 03102.

We also have had transitions in the Advisory Board, to whom we avail for the first tier of peer review, and to the Editorial Board, to whom we appeal for the second tier of review. We thank Hans Adler, Nebahat Avcioglu, David Gies, James Harris, Philip Hoffman, Alan Houston, Krishan Kumar, Charles-Édouard Levillain, Richard Newman, Karen O’Brien, and Jeffrey Quilley for their years of service. They are succeeded by Lynn Festa, Barbara Fuchs, Jean Marsden, Anne Murphy, Daniel Purdy, James Schmidt, Caterina Seth, Kristel Smentek, Silvia Tatti, Roxann Wheeler, and Ali Yaycioglu. We thank Joanna Stalnaker and Rachel Weil for their service on the Editorial Board and welcome Ourida Mostefai and Michael Brown.

2018 Data on Readership
As I indicated in my introduction to the Empires in the Eighteenth Century special issue of Fall 2018 (52.1), I would like to periodically update the ASECS membership on the data concerning usage of the journal. For calendar year 2018, the most striking figures are the sheer number of hits on our articles in MUSE and JSTOR: 106,110 article views and 68,009 pdf downloads. How this measures up against other journals in the liberal arts is not known at the moment of this writing but suffice it to say that this is great news about the impact of the flagship journal of ASECS.

The top downloading institutions of the journal in 2018 on Project Muse were University of Toronto (#1), Savannah College of Art & Design (#2), University of Cambridge (#3), Oxford University (#4), and U. California Berkeley (#5). As in 2017, the most frequently downloaded articles were in racial and postcolonial inquiry. The leading one was Anne Lafont’s “How Skin Color Became a Racial Marker” (51.1, Fall 2017, Special Issue on Color) at 618 clicks, followed by Ramesh Mallipeddi’s “Spectacle, Spectatorship, and Sympathy in Aphra Behn’s Oroonoko” (45.4, Summer 2012) at 449 downloads and David Bindman’s “Representing Race in the Eighteenth-Century Caribbean” (51.1, Fall 2017, Special Color Issue) at 416 reads.

Nicholas Hudson’s “From Nation to Race: the Origin of Racial Classification in Eighteenth-Century Thought” (29.3, Spring 1996) continued to prove popular with a showing at fifth with 390 downloads, though Michael Taylor’s article on British conservatism and the Illuminati (47.3, Spring 2014) took fourth at 397 hits. This is not to say that articles on such topics as potatoes (#6), the Anthropocene (#7 and #22) and the public sphere (#8) do not continue to be popular, and rankings nine through twenty are dominated by women’s studies topics.
Data from JSTOR in 2018 tell a similar story, though with more emphasis on women scholars, somewhat different titles, and a much larger total number of downloads. Dena Goodman’s “Enlightenment Salons” (22.3, Spring 1989) led the way with 2,222 clicks, followed by Hudson’s article at 2,217 hits and Londa Schiebinger’s “The Anatomy of Difference: Race and Sex in Eighteenth-Century Science” (23.4, Summer 1990) at 1,386 downloads. Tiffany Potter’s “Writing Indigenous Femininity” (36.2, Winter 2003) ranks at 4 with 1,330 clicks and Martha Woodmansee’s “The Genius of Copyright” (17.4, Summer 1984) comes in at 5 with 1,245 hits. It should be noted that the single author study is down but not out, as Laura Brown’s “Reading Race and Gender: Jonathan Swift” (23.4, Summer 1990) ranked at 6 with 1,211 JSTOR downloads. What is striking about this JSTOR information is not only that five of the six leading authors are women, but also that most of these articles are from 1996 or before, indicating that the pioneering work done by our authors of the 1980s and 1990s continues to accumulate prestige for Eighteenth-Century Studies.

Though race and gender are predominant in the top downloads on Project Muse and JSTOR, we must continue to think about what will be considered foundational today for our future readers - tastes difficult to predict, but not impossible to project. Put another way, the data I have presented here do not so much tell us where we are going as where we have been. Yes, essays in race and gender have been proven to have enduring staying power and we shall publish those that pass peer review, but we must think of emerging issues and how they will be confronting students and scholars twenty or even thirty years from now. We will continue to welcome submissions in all genres of essay from all kinds of scholars, from all over the world, in our quest to find new and enduring titles in our field.

New Cover Design
One last note concerns the new cover of our journal, an image from Jean-Baptiste Courtonne’s Cabinet de Bonnier de la Mosson (1739-1740), suggested by my UNH Art History colleague Susie Wager. This cover will commence this fall with issue number 53.1 (Figure 1). I and the ASECS Executive Board felt that we needed a new image after having many years of a figure of the globe. In consultation with the ASECS Media and Publications Advisory Committee, we have chosen an image of bookshelves as one that unifies us as a scholarly body regardless of discipline or field. As I have written in my new monograph Slavery and the Making of Early American Libraries (Oxford UP, 2019), the building of libraries in the eighteenth century is the most enduring material legacy through which the Enlightenment has been transmitted to the present. While their foundation was very much bound-up with the economies of slavery, colonialism, and the fiscal-military state that were the driving force of philanthropy in an era of pre-public cultural institutions, that does not mean that the books in them could not then or later be put to more emancipatory uses. Let ASECS continue to be the body that preserves and extends the Enlightenment library for future generations; may Eighteenth-Century Studies endure on its shelves.

2018-2019 Travel Fellowships: Reports from the Road
Richard H. Popkin Research Travel Fellowship
I completed a three-day research trip in June 2019 to the library of the Society of the Cincinnati in Washington, D.C. My dissertation, “Liberty, Gentility, and Dangerous Liaisons,” explores the transatlantic social, cultural, and material networks that connected Americans in the early republic to French genteel culture. The Society of the Cincinnati recognizes fourteen state societies: one for each of the original thirteen states plus one for France. Aside from the financial and military support that France pledged to the new United States during the war, what were the social and cultural benefits to Americans of an institutional alliance with aristocratic French officers after the war?
I spent my time at the library searching for
original members, eligible members, and honorary members of the Society who had served in the French military and joined American state societies as well as members who had served in the Continental army and navy and joined the short-lived French society under the patronage of King Louis XVI. These formal institutional networks form the basis of one of my dissertation chapters about the Franco-American social ties that undergirded the early American aristocracy. Tracing the transatlantic connections between French and American officers after the war helped to illuminate not only the ideological power of French courtly culture but also the precariousness of early American political culture as elites wrestled with Old World inequality and authority in their new democratic republic.

I had an exciting and productive visit to the library of the Society of the Cincinnati and I thank the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies for supporting my dissertation research.

--Nicole Mahoney, University of Maryland, College Park

2018-2019 Daiches-Manning Award

During my time at the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities (IASH) at the University of Edinburgh, I focused my broad research project on music in informal spaces in eighteenth-century Scotland to the musical events at the Cross Keys, where the Edinburgh Musical Society is believed to have started in the 1710s. This has been enormously productive research. Scottish music history tends to be overly reliant on antiquarian sources and the history of the so-called Musick Club is no exception. The same few “facts” have been repeated by so many writers, starting with William Tytler and Hugo Arnott, that they have become a part of the collective memory of Edinburgh. Some of these “facts” include that a group of aristocrats met weekly in the Cross Keys Tavern to play Corelli; that the landlord, either Patrick or John Steil, was a violin maker and singer; that the claret there was “wondrous cheap.” Through time in the National Library of Scotland, National Records of Scotland, Edinburgh Public Library, and Edinburgh University Library, I have determined that there is no evidence for any of this. No records or mentions of music have happened at the Cross Keys survive.

What do survive are the Sederunt Books of the Edinburgh Musical Society, formed in 1727. They met in Mary’s Chapel in Niddry Wynd, before building St Cecilia’s Hall later in the century. Entries in the books for the first year show charges to Steil’s. In 1729, John Steil’s books and musical instruments were sold at auction. These do suggest a relationship between Steil’s tavern and the Edinburgh Musical Society. The only other reliable contemporary source is Allan Ramsay’s famous poem, “To the Musick Club.” This is in fact the only contemporary reference to such a group. My conclusion is that the men who met informally at the tavern became good, or the crowd they attracted grew too large to be accommodated in the tavern, so they moved out and began to sell tickets, turning from something informal like a modern session and into a formal concert society.

This research is very significant to the understanding of informal musical culture in eighteenth-century Edinburgh, and its evolution into formal concerts, and will have a major impact on the historiographical issues surrounding eighteenth-century Scottish music.

In collaborating with the Mapping Edinburgh’s Social History project, I recreated the Cross Keys Tavern in virtual reality. More can be read about it here: https://www.iash.ed.ac.uk/news/musick-club-and-cross-keys.

--Elizabeth Ford, University of Glasgow

Richard H. Popkin Research Travel Fellowship

The Richard Popkin Travel Grant allowed me to research the eighteenth-century court and miscellaneous records held at the North Carolina State Archives. A state funded institution, this archive does not provide funding for researchers. My dissertation examines the ways Black, White, and Native American women in the eighteenth-century American south cared for their bodies during menstruation, pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding, and menopause, and how these actions shaped the formation of race and gender. These records have provided many invaluable examples of the ways everyday
women’s bodies and body care formed an important part of colonial life.

One of the most suggestive documents from this trip came from a miscellaneous county records file. This small slip of paper was a 1771 note from a man who leased an enslaved woman to her enslaver. It stated that the note would be “delivered by... Cashence” who seemed “to be big with child” and yet could not bear the child in his household, because he had neither the space nor a person to assist her. This small note gives us a look at how the spaces and circumstances of pregnancy and child-birth varied amongst southern women. Race was a key factor that shaped women’s embodied lives. The generous support of the American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies allowed this research into an important source base for my dissertation.

--Morgan McCullough, College of William & Mary

Aubrey Williams Research Travel Fellowship

As a recipient of the Aubrey Williams Research Travel Award for 2019, I recently completed a research trip to London and Oxford, United Kingdom. My dissertation project, “British Women Writers and Travel Literature in the Eighteenth Century,” examines British women’s increased mobility in the eighteenth-century and how women’s writing incorporated female explorations of the wider world. In it, I argue that early eighteenth-century women writers shaped their authorial identities as travel writers and thus innovated the genre of travel literature. In this research trip, I was planning to discover women’s unpublished, manuscript letters for my first chapter as well as to consult travel books written by Delarivier Manley, Mary Davys, Penelope Aubin, and Lady Mary Wortley Montagu.

I spent two weeks at the British Library and one week at the Bodleian Library. In both libraries, I studied women’s travel manuscript letters, which have not been discussed in the scholarship of women’s travel writing, such as Katherine Perceval’s letters written in France and Elizabeth Burnet’s travel journals during her tour in continental Europe. These manuscripts helped me to strengthen my argument that early modern women, more than we know, recorded their travel experiences and observations in the forms of letters and journals though unpublished. Also, I examined Mary Davys’s The Fugitive at The Bodleian Library, which complements the poorly scanned version on ECCO. This is useful for my second chapter in which I compare The Fugitive and a later revised version The Merry Wanderer. At the Bodleian, I also took a look at passports that were used in the eighteenth century to better understand the material aspect of travel cultures.

At the British Library, I studied a variety of materials related to my research question for chapter four: how Montagu was consumed and collected as an epitome of the female traveler by contemporaries and later generations. William Upcott’s album Distinguished Women shows how he collected Montagu’s portraits and facsimiles of her handwritings from the nineteenth-century edition of Montagu’s works and commemorated her as one of the most female travelers in his scrap book. I also consulted a collection of Lady Oxford’s letters and studied how she reacted, both positively and negatively, to Montagu’s residence in Italy. Furthermore, I compared editions of Montagu’s works and could have a sense of how her image was perceived and marketed differently in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

My archival research in the UK was immensely productive and helpful in discovering less known travel writings by early modern women as well as strengthening my argument for chapters on specific authors. It was also great to understand material aspects of travel and travel writing. Overall, my access to archives was invaluable in collecting archival evidence for my dissertation project and refining my arguments.

--Yoojung Choi, Texas A&M University

Research Inquiry: History of ESTC and ECCO

I’m currently researching the history of Gale’s database, Eighteenth-Century Collections Online, for a book on that topic for Cambridge University Press. The book intends to start with the 18thC STC, go through its microfilming, then its development as a database and digitization (and the subsequent developments and licensing such as the TCP, JISC, and print-on-demand). My hope is to include some first-hand accounts from people involved in these
As you can imagine, trying to find anyone still around is a challenge. This is particularly difficult from the microfilming stage, which took place from 1982 to the early 2000s. I'm hoping to locate anyone who might have been involved with the microfilming of the ESTC; for example, from the ESTC team, or someone who worked for the filming vendors (Research Publications International; later Primary Source Microfilms, then Gale Primary Source Media), or librarians who experienced their collections being filmed.

It's similarly tricky to find anyone who might have contributed to the development of ECCO, its interface, and its publication in 2003. While I'm aware of the published commentary on ECCO, I'm hoping to speak to anyone who might have tested the interface or contributed comments in its very early days.

--Stephen H. Gregg, s.gregg@bathspa.ac.uk

CFP: Critical Insect Studies and the Long Eighteenth Century (1660-1830)

We are seeking abstracts for an interdisciplinary collection of critical essays exploring insects in the long eighteenth century.

First, we are especially interested in work that explores the place of insects in eighteenth-century life: while we acknowledge the destructive capacity of insects, we also aim to consider how insect activity may have been crucial to human purposes, perhaps in invisible or unrecognized ways. Second, if indeed insects have always been useful to human thinking, how were they deployed in various forms of eighteenth-century literature and philosophy? Third, how were insects represented visually and to what degree were modes of picturing insects entangled with insects as collectable objects, specimens, and commodities? Fourth, our collection will engage with the history of science, acknowledging and exploring important (if at times problematic) processes of insect classification and taxonomy that occurred largely during the second half of the eighteenth century.

Our ultimate goal is to rethink human kinship with tiny terrestrial creatures, both in the eighteenth-century and now. Thus, we especially welcome work that showcases new materialist approaches, as well as other methodologies rooted in the environmental humanities. We seek in the process to find a way to knit together humanistic and scientific perception into a unified understanding of the agentic capacity of all materiality.

We especially welcome essays that address non-European texts and insect/human entanglements as well as essays from a range of disciplines, including art history, literary studies, the history of science, environmental history, and museum studies. Please submit proposals (no more than 500 words) and a brief cv by December 1, 2019. Final essays should run about 6,000-8,000 words in length and are due by August 1, 2020. Contact us if you have any questions about the collection at: btobin@uga.edu and kowalesk@bc.edu.

--Beth Fowkes Tobin and Beth Kowaleski Wallace

Free Access to The Literary Encyclopedia

Members of ASECS are entitled to free access to the volumes of The Literary Encyclopedia that cover English, French, German and Italian literature in the period 1680-1820, notably Volume 1.2.1.05: English Writing and Culture from the Glorious Revolution to the French Revolution, 1689-1789, edited by Pat Rogers, Nick Seager, Daniel Cook and Paul Baines.

The Literary Encyclopedia was founded in 1998 by ASECS member Robert Clark with the aim of providing comprehensive, learned and detailed support to tertiary-level teaching and research. Its scope is world literatures and cultures from the classical to the present. For detailed information on this resource, please visit https://www.litencyc.com/.

To receive free access to the Literary Encyclopedia, contact the ASECS Business Office at asecsoffice@gmail.com. You will be given a unique...
alphanumeric password that you can use to create a personal user account valid until the end of your subscription year.

After two years, the free access offer will be assessed; the hope is that it will extended for the foreseeable future.

ASECS 2019 Treasurer’s Report:
Jill Bradbury, Gallaudet University

The Society’s finances have been examined and we are restructuring our funding for more accuracy and transparency. We have stable membership and conference attendance. Project MUSE income is an important source of revenue, so when assigning articles to students please do not provide them with .pdf files. Instead, have them access/download from the MUSE site; that way, ASECS receives the royalty income.

Our endowment is doing well; there has been some fluctuation due to the stock market. However, we are focusing on the long-term outcome and we continue to have the finances to pay our prizes and awards.

The Treasurer and the Executive Board are working to develop policies for using revenue for the benefit of the society and to examine how we should face the future financially. Also, many of the awards/travel funds have not been examined since the 1990s; the Finance Committee is examining how funds for prizes and funds are capitalized and generally reviewing policy and procedures for financials.

Investment Fund Report
Investment Fund Balance 6/30/17 $1,744,357.79
Investment Fund dividend 2017-2018 $29,553.86
Total Investment Fund Balance 6/30/18 $1,820,690.07

2017-2018 Operating Budget Report
Income (excluding investment income) $268,921
Expenses $321,049
Net Revenue <$53,028>

In Memoriam: Peter Hanns Reill

Peter Hanns Reill, longtime member of ASECS and its President from 2009 to 2010, died on August 19 due to injuries sustained by a fall at home.


His first monograph has stood the test of time; last year, it was reissued by the University of California Press. His second was ahead of the curve, anticipating recent interest in vitalism. Equally important was the work Reill did to facilitate the scholarship of others: as ASECS President, Director of the Clark, and co-editor of numerous books, he knew as well as anyone how to move forward the research of an entire field. John Bender, a predecessor as President of ASECS, recalled that “Peter staged the finest ISECS meeting in living memory at UCLA in 2003.” John Richetti, Reill’s immediate predecessor, remembered him as “a distinguished historian, a wonderful man, and a deeply learned scholar with a great sense of humor.”

Former Board Member Jeremy Popkin noted that “Peter Reill brought tremendous energy and enthusiasm to everything he did, including his scholarship and his work for ASECS, ISECS, and UCLA’s Clark Library. If sociability was one of the Enlightenment’s best features, Peter embodied it. He will be sadly missed.” Byron Wells, who served many years as Executive Director, said, “Peter was an engaging scholar, a generous colleague, a kind and genial friend. Beyond Peter’s professional achievements and contributions, I will always cherish the
memory of the warmth that drew me to him as a friend, as well as his graciousness, good humor, and ready smile.”

Reill is survived by his wife, Jenna Gibbs, presently a member of the ASECS Executive Board and Associate Professor of History at Florida International University, and his daughter, Dominique Reill, Associate Professor of History at the University of Miami.

--- Jason H. Pearl, Florida International University

**In Memoriam: Robert Folkenflik**

Robert Folkenflik, Erik A. Dickson Emeritus Professor of English at University of California, Irvine, passed away on July 20 at the age of 80, from lymphoma.

A longtime member of ASECS, Folkenflik joined UCI in 1975 as an English professor after beginning his career at the University of Rochester. He was an authority on biography, autobiography and memoir, with a specialty in 18th-century British narrative. His scholarship focused on Samuel Johnson, Laurence Sterne, Jonathan Swift, and Tobias Smollett and explored the interplay of literary and artistic themes.

Recognized for his expertise across the globe, Folkenflik held fellowships from the Guggenheim and Rockefeller foundations and visiting positions at the University of London, the University of Konstanz, and the University of Barcelona.

In a tribute on c18-l, George Justice wrote that, “Bob was always friendly, engaged, and supportive to colleagues, including me. He joked on his website at one point that his next book would consist of his collected letters for tenure and promotion. For so many of us, that is not a joke but a statement of the positive impact he has had on our careers.” A fuller obituary is available here:


**ASECS Prizes and Travel Awards: Deadlines through March 2020**

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

**November 1, 2019**

Traveling Jam Pot (Annual Meeting travel support for graduate students)
Non-Tenure Track Faculty Fund (Annual Meeting travel support)

**November 15, 2019**

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

**January 1, 2020**

James L. Clifford Prize
Srinivas Aravamudan Prize
ASECS 2019-2020 Travel Grants
ASECS Huntington Research Fellowship
Graduate Student Research Paper Award

**January 15, 2020**

Émilie Du Châtelet Award
Women’s Caucus Editing and Translation Fellowship

**February 1, 2020**

Graduate Student Caucus Excellence in Mentorship Award

**February 28, 2020**

Daiches-Manning Memorial Fellowship in 18th-Century Scottish Studies

**April 1, 2020**

Graduate Student Conference Paper Priz

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**New Huntington Fellowship**

The Huntington is pleased to announce that it is accepting applications for the new Howard and Dawn Weinbrot Research Fellowship for the Study of Eighteenth-Century British Society and Culture. The fellowship provides one month of support for research in politics, literature, religion, and art, among other germane eighteenth-century topics. To be eligible, fellowship recipients must be a member or agree to join the American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies. All applicants must demonstrate by competitive application and through appropriate selection criteria that research at The Huntington is critical to their project. Applicants must either hold the PhD or be graduate students advanced to doctoral candidacy. Application information may be found at www.huntington.org/available-fellowships.
**The 50+50 Campaign for ASECS**

The 50+50 Campaign for ASECS will celebrate the first 50 years of the Society by building our present research, travel, and prize endowments and make a commitment to the new 50 years of supporting eighteenth-century studies by raising funds for new initiatives. These new goals and programs will be identified through extensive consultation with the membership.

Your contribution and your advice can shape the future of the organization as well as secure the foundation created in during the Society’s first half-century. Please consider a contribution in support of the primary mission of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies: to advance the study and teaching of the eighteenth century and encourage scholarly work that crosses the boundaries between academic disciplines.

Endowed and other funds enable members to travel to special collections and research libraries, recognize achievements in scholarship and teaching, and support the participation of graduate students and contingent faculty in the Annual Meeting. Other funds underwrite arts programming at the Annual Meeting, such as a production of Marivaux’s *The Triumph of Love* planned for 2020 in St. Louis, and they pay for special projects for *Eighteenth-Century Studies* and subsidize memberships for graduate students.

These programs are not funded through your membership dues. They are made possible by the generosity of our members, as well as foundations and other grant-making institutions.

If your research at a library or your travel to the Annual Meeting has been supported by an ASECS fellowship, if your teaching has been influenced by the Innovative Course Design presentations or pedagogy sessions at the Annual Meeting, if your scholarship has been recognized by an ASECS award—or if you have a stake in the future of eighteenth-century studies—help to ensure that other scholars have the same opportunity by donating to one or more of the funds described below.

### ENDOURED TRAVEL FUNDS

The Founders Fund supports the Society’s 24 joint fellowships with research libraries.

**Aubrey Williams Fund** supports the research of a U.S.-based doctoral student at work on a dissertation in the field of eighteenth-century English literature.

**Irish-American Fund** supports travel for scholars researching eighteenth-century Irish topics. The fund helps a U.S.-based scholar consult primary research materials in Ireland and, in alternate years, enables an Ireland-based scholar to travel to North America to consult materials or to present findings at the ASECS Annual Meeting.

**Robert R. Palmer Fund** provides a travel grant to an ASECS member who wishes to study, conduct research, or perform professional duties related primarily to the history and culture of France.

**Gwin J. and Ruth Kolb Fund** provides small grants to assist early career eighteenth-century scholars with travel to distant collections in North America and abroad.

**Theodore E. D. Braun Research Travel Fellowship Fund** provides a travel grant to support documentary research on Jean-Jacques Le Franc de Pompignan or to support non-tenured persons working on Voltaire or to support researchers, regardless of rank, who are working in French literary studies.

**Richard H. Popkin Research Travel Fellowship Fund** provides a travel grant to support research travel to collections in North America and abroad.

**Paula Backscheider Archival Fellowship Fund** supports researchers whose projects necessitate work in archives, repositories, and special collections (public and private) in the U.S. and/or abroad.

**Mary D. Sheriff Research and Travel Award** supports research in feminist topics in eighteenth-century art history and visual culture.

**Non-Tenure Track Faculty Now and Later Fund (NTTF)** provides travel grants for contingent faculty presenting at the Annual Meeting.
ENDOWED PRIZE FUNDS

Lous A. Gottschalk Award Fund recognizes annually the ASECS member who writes the best book-length study in any field related to the eighteenth century.

James L. Clifford Award Fund supports an annual prize for the best article on an eighteenth-century subject published during the preceding year. In addition, the fund supports the Clifford Lecture, which is presented each year at the Annual Meeting.

Annibel Jenkins Biography Prize Fund supports a biannual prize for the best book-length biography of a Restoration or eighteenth-century subject.

Shirley Bill Fund supports three competitive awards given annually to recognize distinguished, creative teaching (Innovative Course Design). Contributions to the fund are made in Honor or in Memory of a teacher, whose name is thereafter listed in the Annual Meeting Program. A minimum contribution of $300 (from an individual or a group) is required.

Women’s Caucus Fund supports the Catharine Macaulay Graduate Student Award, the Émilie Du Châtelet Award, and Women’s Caucus Translation/Editing Award.

Hans Turley Prize in Queer Eighteenth-Century Studies Fund supports a biennial award for the best paper on a topic in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, or Queer Studies delivered at the Annual Meeting by a graduate student, an untenured faculty member, or an independent scholar.

Srinivas Aravamudan Prize supports a prize for an article published in the previous year that pushes the boundaries, geographical and conceptual, of eighteenth-century studies, especially by using a transnational, comparative, or cosmopolitan approach.

OTHER FUNDS

ECS Enrichment Fund supplements Eighteenth-Century Studies for special projects.

Art, Theater and Music Fund supports presentations in the visual and performing arts at Annual Meetings.

The Traveling Jam Pot provides a travel stipend and free registration to graduate students who are presenting at the Annual Meeting. Donations to this fund are spent annually and the first $2,500 in contributions each year are matched by ASECS.

Sponsor a Student provides free one-year memberships to graduate students. Donations are $40.

President’s and Executive Board Fund supports special needs in programs and operations as they arise from year to year. At present it also supports the Graduate Student Research Paper Award and the Graduate Student Conference Paper Competition.

Unrestricted donations are always welcome and will be directed to areas of need identified by the Executive Board.

How to Donate to ASECS

Checks in US dollars may be sent to ASECS, Buffalo State College, KH213, 1300 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14222. Credit card payments may be made using the PayPal button on the ASECS website, www.asecs.org, or via the membership site: https://asecs.press.jhu.edu/membership/contribute. ASECS is a not-for-profit organization; contributions are tax deductible. If you would like to learn more about any of the funds or would like to discuss other options for supporting ASECS, contact Lisa Berglund at berglund@buffalostate.edu.

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