

# ALMANAC

SEPTEMBER 2014

AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

NUMBER 88

## National Humanities Medal Awarded to AAS

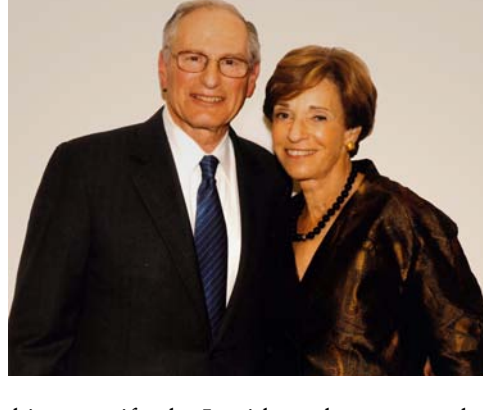
We are thrilled to announce that the American Antiquarian Society has been awarded a 2013 National Humanities Medal from the National Endowment for the Humanities for “safeguarding the American story.” President Barack Obama presented the medal to Ellen S. Dunlap, AAS president, at the White House on July 28. Sid Lapidus, AAS Council Chair, and William S. Reese, AAS Councilor and chair of the collections and programs committees, also attended the ceremony.

This award, inaugurated in 1997 and given to up to twelve recipients per year, “honors individuals or groups whose work has deepened the nation’s understanding of the humanities and broadened our citizens’ engagement with history, literature, languages, philosophy, and other humanities subjects.” A total of forty AAS members and only ten other organizations have received this award. It is a true honor for AAS to be among this prestigious group.



Photo by Jocelyn Augustino,  
courtesy of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

## SID AND RUTH LAPIDUS DOUBLE DOWN ON THEIR GENEROUS GIFT

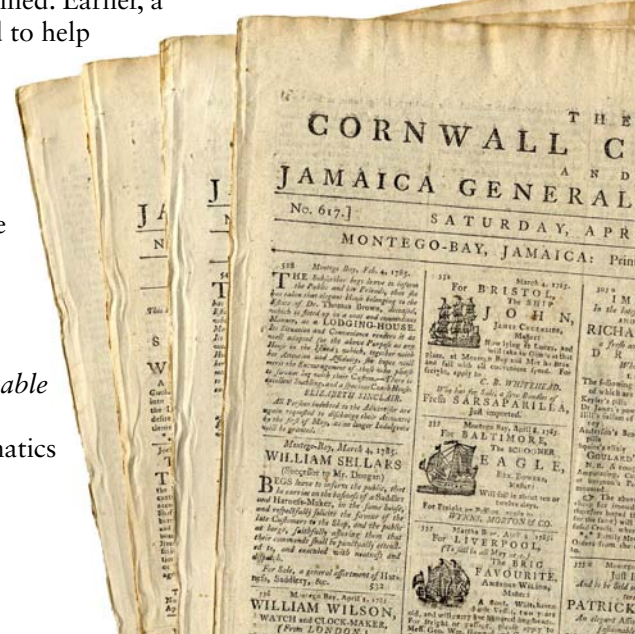


In another generous gesture, Sid and Ruth Lapidus have doubled their commitment to the Society’s Third Century Campaign with an additional \$1 million pledge. This most recent gift, increasing their Campaign total so far to \$2 million, is in direct response to Jay and Deborah Last’s gift of \$2 million last year, and is a strong indication of both families’ commitment to AAS as it moves into its third century.

As with the Lasts’ gift, most of the Lapidus gift remains undesignated at this time and can be assigned to the best uses for the Society as needs and opportunities emerge and are identified. Earlier, a portion of their gift was designated to help with the cost of renovation of the Scholars’ Residence next door to Antiquarian Hall. As part of

this new gift, the Lapiduses have created the Lapidus Pre-1801 Fund, which allows for the acquisition of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century materials for the collections. Items already purchased on the Lapidus Pre-1801 Fund include an unrecorded version of a broadside printed after a devastating fire in Boston in 1787 (see page 2 for details); five very rare 1785 issues of *The Cornwall Chronicle* (pictured right), a newspaper printed in Jamaica; an unrecorded children’s book in German, probably printed in Ephrata, Penn., in 1771; the second known extant copy of John Brown’s 1737 *A Relation of Some Remarkable Deaths Among the Children at Haverhill* (Massachusetts); and a copy of *Arithmetick Vulgar and Decimal* by Isaac Greenwood (1729), the first mathematics text printed in British North America.

Above: Sid and Ruth Lapidus.





## Recent Acquisition: LAPIDUS PRE-1801 FUND BRINGS FIRE TO AAS



### 11TH ANNUAL BARON LECTURE

Kenneth Silverman will deliver the eleventh annual Baron Lecture on Thursday, October 23, at 7 p.m. This lecture is named in honor of Robert C. Baron, past AAS chairman and president of Fulcrum Publishing in Denver. Each year, a distinguished AAS member who has written seminal works of history is invited to reflect on one book and the impact it has had on scholarship and society in the years since its publication.

Kenneth Silverman's book *The Life and Times of Cotton Mather*, published in 1984, achieved rare double honors, being awarded both the Pulitzer Prize for Biography and the Bancroft Prize in American History. Based on pioneering research in the court records of colonial Massachusetts, Silverman's biography revealed previously unknown facets of the life of the early American church's most prolific writer.

Silverman's biographies cover a broad range of American figures, across the full sweep of American history. His books published after his prize-winning biography of Cotton Mather include *Edgar A. Poe: Mournful and Never-ending Remembrance* (1991); *Houdini!!! The Career of Erich Weiss* (1997); *Lightning Man: The Accursed Life of Samuel B. Morse* (2003); and *Begin Again: A Biography of John Cage* (2010).

In mid-April 1787, a small fire broke out in a malt house in Boston where a kiln being used to process barley released sparks and set the entire structure ablaze. It was a very windy evening, just after sunset, and the fire burned out of control for three hours. More than fifty houses were destroyed, as well as thirteen stores (including the malt house and all of its outbuildings), eight barns, and the Hollis Street Church. Fortunately, no one was killed.

The bright light from the fire was visible up to fifty miles away. On April 26, 1787, the *Continental Journal* reported: "It raged on both sides of the street, with awful fury, as long as the current of wind was nearly parallel with the direction of it... till an opening of vacant land towards the bay on the west side of Boston Neck prevented further destruction." Because the fire began during a low tide, citizens were short of water to fight the blaze and had to watch helplessly as the wooden structures of that area caught and burned, one after the other.

Immediately after the event, Boston printer Ezekiel Russell published three versions of a poem describing the fire and its destruction. Titled *A Poem, Descriptive of the Terrible Fire, which Made such Shocking Devastation in Boston*, each broadside featured the same large wood cut of the blaze at the top (pictured above) with the stanzas of the poem below. Differing in type layout and size, each version was set and printed separately. Two versions (one owned by the Massachusetts Historical Society and the other by the John Carter Brown Library) were documented in early bibliographies. The third version was unrecorded before it was acquired by AAS this April.

The authorship of the poem is credited on all three broadsides to "H. W." The AAS printing significantly reveals that the author was an unmarried woman by crediting the text to a "Miss H. --- W.---." Consequently, all three sheets can be added to the just over 200 texts written by women in the United States before 1788.

Acquisitions of unrecorded pre-1800 broadsides of this caliber are infrequent, and we are very pleased to add this important and revealing variant to AAS holdings. The broadside came to our attention through an email inquiry from a cataloger working for bookseller and AAS member John Crichton. We expressed our interest in the piece and it was purchased, with a generous dealer discount, from the Brick Row Book Shop using the Lapidus Pre-1801 Fund.

— Lauren Hewes, Andrew W. Mellon Curator  
of Graphic Arts



## COME PLAY WITH US: AAS Collections Launch in Metadata Games

We at AAS have been playing a lot of games lately...Metadata Games! This project ([www.metadatagames.org](http://www.metadatagames.org)), developed at Dartmouth College with the support of the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Council of Learned Societies, is a digital gaming platform that entices players to contribute metadata, or in other words to describe or tag an image, while playing games, either against a clock or against other anonymous participants on the site. Images can only be found online when they are described with text that can be searched for on websites and in databases. But this tagging of hundreds of images is a herculean task for one person or even one institution, so the goal of Metadata Games is to collect high quality descriptions for images by harnessing the knowledge of citizen-archivist players. We are calling upon you, our community of early American experts, to please come play with us!

Starting on Wednesday, September 24, when you visit the games “Zen Tag” ([www.metadatagames.org/#zentag](http://www.metadatagames.org/#zentag)) and “Guess What?” ([www.metadatagames.org/#guesswhat](http://www.metadatagames.org/#guesswhat)), you will be able to tag two important AAS graphic art collections: the Collection of Election Ballots, 1827-1889 and Native American Photographs, 1859-1900. Exclusively AAS images will be featured for tagging until Friday, September 26. After that, AAS images will be integrated with those from other collections, such as the British Library and the Clark Art Institute.

We at AAS can't wait to see what our community does with this tool! The images you tag will be available for you to search on the Metadata Games search page, and your tags will be available to us as data files, which we would be happy to share with anyone who might like to conduct research with them. Depending on how useful our Graphic Arts Department deems them to be, we might even integrate these tags into GIGI to enhance keyword searching.

To find out more, please contact our digital humanities curator, Molly Hardy, at [mhardy@mwa.org](mailto:mhardy@mwa.org).

Right: Detail from the Official Ballot Diagram for the Myers Ballot Machine; portrait of Plenty Coups.



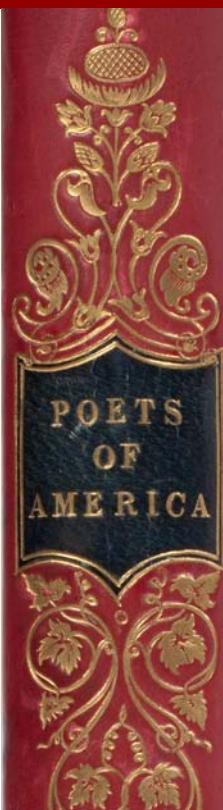
## WIGGINS LECTURE:

“DISAPPEARING MEDIUM: POETRY AND PRINT IN THE ANTEBELLUM UNITED STATES”

On Monday, October 6, in Antiquarian Hall, Meredith L. McGill will deliver the James Russell Wiggins Lecture in the History of the Book in American Culture for the 2014-15 year. Book historians have, for the most part, told the story of the rise of a mass-market for literature with reference to short fiction and the novel, leaving poetry curiously out of the picture until the arrival of America's great printer-poet, Walt Whitman. And yet poetry thrived in the antebellum marketplace, circulating across a wide range of popular and elite print formats. Moreover, poetry was understood as a test case for the viability of American literature itself; many writers and readers assumed that the very possibility of a democratic culture depended on the fate of American verse. In this talk, Professor McGill will ask how we might understand the explosion of mass print as a formative event in the history of American poetry, and how we might look to antebellum poetry as a primary means for taking the measure of the cultural impact of print.

Professor McGill is associate professor of English at Rutgers University. A member of the Society, she is the author of *American Literature and the Culture of Reprinting, 1834-1853* and the editor of *The Traffic in Poems: Nineteenth-Century Poetry and Transatlantic Exchange*. The Wiggins Lecture, inaugurated in 1983, honors James Russell Wiggins, former editor of the *Washington Post*, former United States ambassador to the United Nations, and editor of the *Ellsworth (Maine) American*, and from 1970 to 1977, the president of the American Antiquarian Society.

Left: Detail from The Poets of America. London: Charles Tilt, Fleet Street, c. 1840.





## ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO MOVE

### ROAD TRIPS BY CURATOR YIELD INVALUABLE ACQUISITIONS

It's an exciting day here at the Society when Vincent Golden, curator of newspapers and periodicals, returns from one of his cross-country trips with a van or truck full of new newspaper acquisitions for the collections. The trip is just the beginning; upon arriving back at Antiquarian Hall, the real work begins as staff sorts through and catalogs the finds, always hoping for a few intriguing surprises along the way. But if it weren't for Vincent's unflagging determination to find likely collection donations, and his willingness to make the drive to pick them up, they would never even reach the hands of AAS's cataloging staff.

All of the Society's curators actively search for new acquisitions, finding them through book dealers, book fairs, private donors, eBay, and a variety of other sources. For Vincent, it has proved very rewarding to target public libraries, historical societies, and even the publishers themselves. By searching through the Library of Congress's "Chronicling America" database, the *American Library Directory*, and various newspaper reference books to compare other institutions' holdings to ours, he's able to decide which organizations to approach. "Since many of these institutions are small or located in a downtown area without room to expand, they often don't have a lot of space or proper storage for collection items," he explained. This is particularly true of newspapers, the bulk, size, and fragility of which make them difficult to either store or move to a new location. Luckily for AAS, that's what makes the donation of these items a win-win for all parties: AAS frees up space for the organization by taking the collections, while also—thanks to the Reese Fund (see opposite bottom sidebar for details)—absorbing the time and money it would take for the donor to pack and ship the unwieldy newspapers. In return for the effort, AAS gets some wonderful new collection material. As Vincent likes to say, "If they're willing to give them, I'm willing to go get them."

Cultivating donations in this way takes time but also has big rewards. For example, one of Vincent's most recent trips

was to the Indiana State Library, to which he had first sent a donation inquiry back in 2003. Although the library was not ready to donate at that time, he followed up every so often. Finally, over a decade later, the library agreed to donate its non-Indiana newspaper holdings to AAS. Among the items were many bound volumes, as well as about a dozen bundles of loose issues. These loose issues proved to hold a few treasures, including an issue of *Frederick Douglass' Paper* covering the Dred Scott decision and some only known copies of campaign newspapers. When Vincent informed his contact at the Indiana State Library of what he had discovered, she was thrilled: "Amazing! I love hearing that we were sitting on the only known copies. I love even more that you are able to recognize the value in what we had always looked at as a big pile of mess!" One man's trash truly is another man's treasure.

In other cases, time is spent in creating packets to send to potential donors. In 2005, after realizing that AAS held examples of newspapers from 308 towns in New York but only had strong holdings for three (New York, Albany, and Buffalo), Vincent sent packets about AAS and its newspaper collection to libraries and historical societies all over the state, garnering seven new donors. Although this number may seem small, the donations significantly increased AAS's holdings for New York over a wide geographic area, for towns both large and small. "It's always neat to pick up piles of small-town newspapers," said Vincent, "because they're hard to find and they do get used here at AAS." One only need see the long line of shelves in the stacks holding the papers from Schenectady, which had previously fit on a small cart, to understand the impact of these acquisitions (see opposite top right).

When asked about his favorite trip, Vincent unhesitatingly answered, "In terms of acquisitions, the Missouri Historical Society in St. Louis. We had some very unusual finds come out of that trip." This included, among many other items, a previously unseen year of issues of a





humor newspaper out of New York and an Alexandria, Va., newspaper from 1787 that still retained its accompanying freestanding broadside of the Constitution; this is only the second known extant copy of this broadside. (His favorite trip for reasons other than acquisitions? “One of my favorite trips was to Vermont in 2005 to pick up the publisher’s file of the *Rutland Herald*. [Former AAS president] Marcus McCorison came along and pointed out where book dealers once had shops and told tales of dealing with them.”)

Tracking down newspaper publisher’s files—the official copies kept by the publishers—is another acquisition avenue Vincent actively pursues. He has contacted over 300 offices, about 80% of which no longer have their early files. But when they do have them and are willing to donate them, they prove to be very valuable acquisitions. “Publisher’s files are often the best or only known run of a newspaper, which means it is the only opportunity AAS has to acquire it,” Vincent explained. Among the files he has received are those of the *Observer Reporter* from Washington, Penn., which date back to 1808, and those of the *Centralia Sentinel* from southern Illinois. The latter—whose offices are decorated in Egyptian décor as a nod to the area’s sobriquet, “Egypt”—only had one bound volume with 200 issues dating from their first four years, 1863 to 1867. Of those 200 issues, however, 198 proved to be unique.

It’s difficult to put a price tag on this combination of generosity, dedication, and resourcefulness, but it is exactly this combination that continues to attract an increasing number of readers and makes the Society the esteemed repository that it is. “By adding so many important volumes and issues from around the country under one roof,” said Vincent, “AAS has strengthened its ability to provide a greater variety of material for researchers, who often can’t travel all over the country.”

— Kayla Haveles, Outreach Coordinator

*Above: A haul of newspapers from Golden’s recent western travels; the exterior of the Centralia Sentinel office; Schenectady newspapers used to fit on a single cart and they now line an entire section of the stacks.*

## NEWSPAPER ROAD TRIPS MADE POSSIBLE THANKS TO THE REESE FUND!



It is through the generosity of AAS Councilor and owner of the William Reese Company, Bill Reese, that the trips described above are made possible. Bill established the Reese Fund in 2003 with the purpose of providing financial support to these newspaper acquisition trips. The fund does not operate by fiscal year, but rather remains in place to be available when the right opportunities arise. “Bill astutely recognized that these opportunities only come around once,” said Vincent Golden, “and that the cost of a vehicle, gas, and a hotel room is far less than the great benefit to AAS.” Of the fund Bill has himself noted that “Vince Golden’s indefatigable efforts at gathering to AAS the newspaper heritage of the United States have happily required many rental vans and trucks to bring home the goods. For some years now I have greatly enjoyed participating in his endeavors by funding the van rentals and expenses to get him back to Worcester with the good news. Seldom has money been better spent!” This viewpoint has contributed greatly to the Society’s ability to build an unparalleled newspaper collection of over two million issues.

*Left: Bill Reese (left) shakes hands with curator Vincent Golden in the Council Room of Antiquarian Hall.*





## 2014 FALL CONFERENCE CONSIDERS IMAGE AND TEXT IN AMERICAN PRINT CULTURE

On November 21 and 22, 2014, AAS will host the conference “The Visual and the Verbal: Image/Text in American Print Culture to 1900.” Co-sponsored by the Society’s Center for Historic American Visual Culture (CHAViC) and the Program in the History of the Book in American Culture (PHBAC), the conference will feature an interdisciplinary group of nineteen speakers who will address the role of image and text in a wide variety of printed material, including illustrated novels, periodicals, gift books, cookbooks, postcards, maps, and atlases. Panel topics will include Publishing Strategies; Remediation of Race; Representation/Reading of Art; Didactic Motives; Intersections of Photography and Text; and Cartographic Discourses. The conference promises to be a lively and engaging look at some of the latest scholarship on the relationship between image and text in early American print culture.

The keynote speaker for the conference, who will give his talk on Friday evening, will be Christopher J. Lukasik, associate professor of English and American studies at Purdue University. Professor Lukasik was a former Last fellow at AAS and is the author of *Discerning Characters: The Culture of Appearance in Early America* (2011).

The \$75 registration fee (\$50 student fee) includes a Friday night reception and lunch on Saturday. More information about the conference and registration can be found on the AAS website at [www.americanantiquarian.org/conference2014](http://www.americanantiquarian.org/conference2014).

Above: *The Times*. Lithographed by Edward Williams Clay. New York, c. 1837.

## SOCIAL MEDIA EXPANDS THE AAS NETWORK



AAS has created a strong and synergistic presence on social media through Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Since we began making daily contributions to these sites last October, we have seen incredible results: we now have more than 3,000 likes on Facebook, over 2,000 followers on Instagram, and over 1,000 followers on Twitter. We use these platforms to promote our collections, projects, and programs; to reach out to a number of communities; to show some of what goes on behind the scenes; to welcome visitors and fellows; and to generally spread the word that AAS is a thriving, relevant, and vibrant place.

We also love the almost instantaneous feedback that we receive on these platforms. One Instagram follower commented on curator Lauren Hewes’s carefully timed posts of graphic arts materials, “Following you merges history with a calendar in real time.” On Twitter, a former fellow praised his time at AAS, “Research is always boom or bust, unless you’re at, say, @AmAntiquarian in which case it’s pretty much all boom.”

There is a team of AAS staff who regularly post to these sites, and with the click of a button, they can share each other’s content across the platforms. For example, the latest posts from our blog, *Past is Present* ([pastispresent.org](http://pastispresent.org)), and the newest issues of our quarterly online magazine, *Common-place* ([common-place.org](http://common-place.org)), are publicized on all three platforms. Links to each of the three feeds are available on the “Digital AAS” page of our website. If you are active on any of these platforms, please follow or like us and join in the conversation! Also know that you can view our activity without an account in any of the three platforms, making it easy for all to enjoy this new and continually changing content.



# Recommended Reading

For this issue we invited several AAS members and staff to recommend “books about a pre-1876 local history topic.” These recommendations take us from New England to Florida to the Old West and focus on how people deal with new frontiers and challenging changes in their communities.

Many people traveled through Colorado in the last two centuries and went home. They include Francisco de Escalante (1776), Edwin James (1822), John Fremont (1843), Francis Parkman (1849), Horace Greeley (1860), and Artemus Ward (1865).

I recommend *Broken Trail* by Alan Geoffrion. This is the story of the British purchase of horses to send to South Africa during the Boer War, and two horsemen, one old and one young seeking their fortune on a last, long drive across the West. Their path crosses those of five kidnapped Chinese girls. This is a book that infuses sensibility and humor into the grim realities of the Old West. Published by Fulcrum in 2006, *Broken Trail* won numerous awards, was a Book of the Month and History Book Club selection, and was made into an AMC movie starring Robert Duvall and Thomas Hayden Church.

— Bob Baron

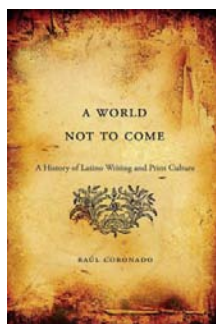
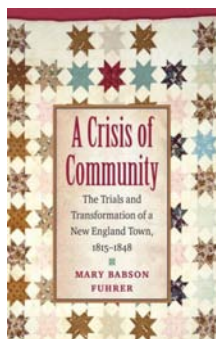
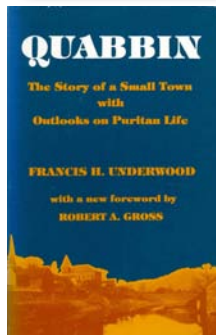
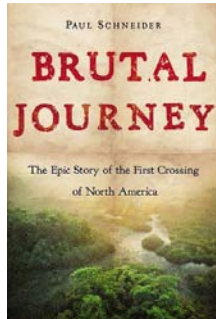
Founder and President, Fulcrum Publishing  
AAS Council Chair, 1993-2003; AAS Member, 1989

As Florida becomes the nation’s third most populous state, Paul Schneider’s very readable book *Brutal Journey – Cabeza de Vaca and the Epic First Crossing of North America* (2007) describes the expedition led by Spanish conquistador Panfilo de Narvaez and the King’s representative, Cabeza de Vaca. The expedition’s 1528 arrival in what is now the Tampa Bay area began the first European exploration of interior Florida and the first transcontinental crossing of North America. The eight-year “brutal journey” resulted in the survival of only four of the original four hundred.

The theme is early American exploration, and I chose the book because most people today don’t think of Florida as having any “early” American history. In fact, Florida’s history is some of the very earliest recorded American history, but it often is not mentioned because history is often written by the victors, and the British (not the Spanish) were the “victors” in North America—so they influenced so much of what appears in our history books.

— J. Thomas Touchton

Managing Partner, Witt-Touchton Company  
AAS Member, 2003



Local histories often allow one to learn more about a place one knows in a different time. It’s less common to find a history of a place that no longer exists. Such is Francis H. Underwood’s *Quabbin: The Story of A Small Town with Outlooks upon Puritan Life*, originally published in 1893. The book is an account of the rural town of Enfield, Massachusetts, in the author’s youth, long before it was submerged in the 1930s along with other towns for the construction of the Quabbin Reservoir. The book is an entertaining read and a remarkably detailed picture of the town, its inhabitants, and their manners. It’s worth looking for the 1986 reprint, which includes a valuable introduction by AAS member and Councilor Robert A. Gross.

— Thomas Knoles

Marcus A. McCorison Librarian & Curator of Manuscripts

Post-Revolutionary Americans found themselves in a world of change. Change had to be confronted in religion, government, and the social structure. In *Crisis in Community: The Trials and Transformation of a New England Town, 1815-1848* (2014), former AAS fellow Mary Babson Fuhrer illustrates this struggle by focusing on the town of Boylston, Massachusetts, and in particular on the family of Aaron and Mary White. I was delighted with the author’s reliance on the six extant diaries of Mary White, written between 1798 and 1860, and on her use of other family diaries and letters. What is better than a work based on good solid research among the facts and figures, enlivened by the thoughts and feelings of real human beings!

— Jane K. Dewey

AAS volunteer; AAS member, 1994

The best book that I have read recently about pre-twentieth-century Texas is Raul Coronado’s *A World Not To Come: A History of Latino Writing and Print Culture* (2013). Most writers about Spanish-language literature in Texas seem to think it began with the Chicano movement of the 1960s. Coronado traces it to the pamphlets that spread the ideas of the French Revolution through New Spain at the end of the eighteenth century. My all-time favorite book about Texas is Noah Smithwick’s *The Evolution of a State* (1983), the recollections of a blacksmith who came to Texas in the 1820s. Smithwick was a superb raconteur and he captured the flavor of the plain people, mostly Southerners, who came to seek a new life in Texas. It is a salty book.

— Lonn Taylor

Historian (retired), Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History  
AAS Member, 2013



# FALL PROGRAMS SPOTLIGHT THE RICHNESS OF SOCIETY COLLECTIONS

Maps, local histories, and food are all part of the mix for this fall's public program series. We begin with an exploration of how mapmaking developed in the early nineteenth century with a talk by Susan Schulten on Friday, September 12. Schulten, who teaches at the University of Denver, is the author of *Mapping the Nation: History and Cartography in Nineteenth-Century America*, which was awarded the Norris and Carol Hundley Prize for historical scholarship in 2013. Her talk at AAS, titled "Cartographic Innovation in the Early Republic," explores how the early nineteenth century represents a new era of visual thinking as several individuals sought to uncover patterns in the human and natural world to make sense of complex systems.

On Thursday, October 16, Mary Babson Fuhrer will discuss the remarkable stories of conflict and transformation that reshaped local communities in the decades leading up to the Civil War. Diaries, letters, and account books from Boylston, Mass., form the basis of her recent book, *Crisis of Community: Trials and Transformation of a New England Town, 1815-1848* (2014). Fuhrer is a public historian and independent scholar who recently completed a Last Fellowship at the Society. She was also recently honored by Mass Humanities with their 2014 History Commendation for twenty years of contribution to public history.

We will conclude our fall programming with the foodways of New York City when Cindy Lobel presents "Sampling *Urban Appetites*" on Thursday, November 6. Based on her recently published book, *Urban Appetites: Food and Culture in Nineteenth-Century New York* (2014), this program discusses the rise of New York City and the evolution of its food culture in the nineteenth century as it grew from a small seaport to a booming metropolis. Lobel teaches in the History Department at Lehman College, CUNY, and conducted research for *Urban Appetites* as a Hench Post-dissertation Fellow at AAS during the 2004-05 academic year.

For more information about the fall public programs visit [www.americanantiquarian.org/publicpro.htm](http://www.americanantiquarian.org/publicpro.htm).

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR FALL 2014

Please see the key at the bottom for event classifications and details.

### SEPTEMBER

- 12 "Cartographic Innovation in the Early Republic" by Susan Schulten \*

### OCTOBER

- 5 Deadline for applications for 2015 Creative and Performing Artists and Writers Fellowships (visit [www.americanantiquarian.org/artistfellowship.htm](http://www.americanantiquarian.org/artistfellowship.htm))
- 6 2014-15 Wiggins Lecture: "Disappearing Medium: Poetry and Print in the Antebellum U.S." by Meredith L. McGill \*
- 15 Deadline for applications for the 2015-16 Hench Post-dissertation Fellowship (visit [www.americanantiquarian.org/longterm.htm](http://www.americanantiquarian.org/longterm.htm))
- 16 "Old Towns in a New Nation: New England Village Life in the Early Republic" by Mary Babson Fuhrer \*
- 23 11th Annual Robert C. Baron Lecture by Kenneth Silverman \*
- 24 2014 Annual Meeting for AAS members ±

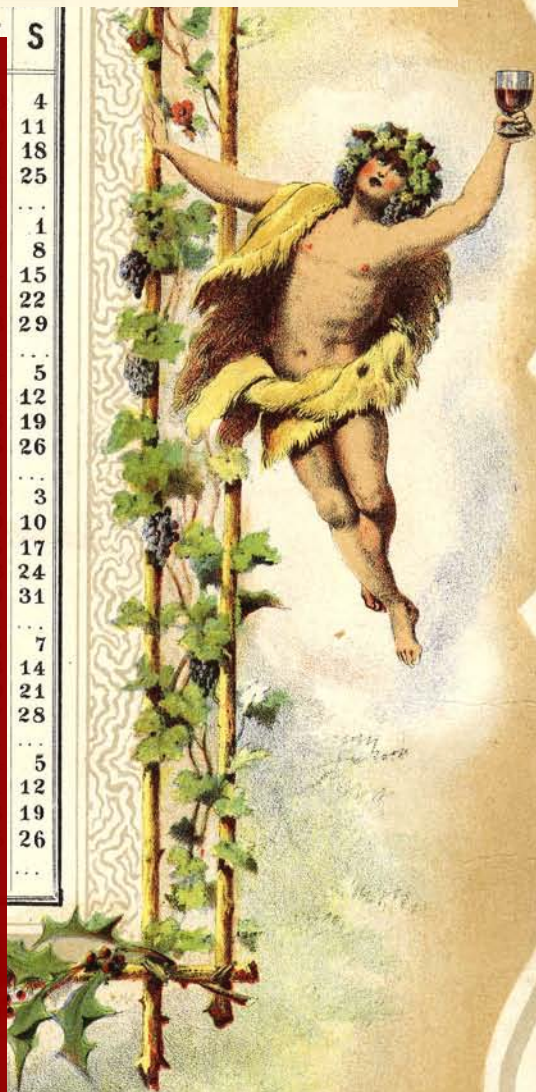
### NOVEMBER

- 6 "Sampling *Urban Appetites*" by Cindy R. Lobel \*
- 21-22 CHAViC and PHBAC Conference: "The Visual and the Verbal: Image/Text in American Print Culture to 1900" ±

### KEY

- \* Public Programs: All 7 p.m. at AAS, free of charge
- ± Require registration and/or payment of fee (please see our website)

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# NEWS FROM MEMBERS, FELLOWS, & STAFF

## MEMBERS

**Wendy Bellion** (elected 2011), associate professor of American art and material culture at the University of Delaware, was awarded the 2014 Charles C. Eldredge Prize for Distinguished Scholarship in American Art by the Smithsonian American Art Museum for her book *Citizen Spectator: Art, Illusion, and Visual Perception in Early National America* (2011).

AAS member and Councilor **Richard D. Brown** (elected 1981), with co-author Doron S. Ben-Atar, recently published *Taming Lust: Crimes Against Nature in the Early Republic* with the University of Pennsylvania Press.

**David Brion Davis** (elected 1975), a leading historian of slavery and abolitionism and founding director of the Gilder Lehrman Center, and **Anne Firor Scott** (elected 1979), a distinguished historian of Southern women's history, were awarded 2013 National Humanities Medals from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

**Karen Sanchez-Eppler** (elected 2005), professor of American studies and English at Amherst College, was awarded a 2013-14 fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies to conduct research on her project titled "In the Archives of Childhood: Personal and Historical Pasts."

**Honorée Fanonne Jeffers**, an associate professor of English at the University of Oklahoma, a newly elected AAS member, and a Baron Fellow at AAS in 2009, has been awarded a Witter Bynner Fellowship from the Library of Congress. Selections for the fellowship are made by the United States Poet Laureate, Natasha Tretheway.

In April, **Mary Kelley** (elected 1991 and 2014 Distinguished Scholar in Residence) and **Jill Lepore** (elected 1998) were elected to membership in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, one of the highest honors in American scholarly life.

**Jay Last** (elected 1987) was awarded Historic New England's 5th Annual Prize for Collecting Works on Paper.

**Andrew Jackson O'Shaughnessy** (elected 2008) of the University of Virginia has been awarded several prizes for his book *The Men Who Lost America: British Leadership, the American Revolution, and the Fate of the Empire* (2013), including the New-York Historical Society's annual American history book prize for 2014, the Fraunces Tavern Museum Book Award for histories of the Revolutionary period, the 2013 Great Midwest Book Festival award in the regional literature category, the Cincinnati History Prize, and the prestigious George Washington Book Prize. The work was also voted best book of the year by the New York Roundtable of the American Revolution, was short-listed for the Guggenheim-Lehrman Prize for Military History, received an honorable mention for the 2013 American Publishers Awards for Professional and Scholarly Excellence, and was nominated for the British Broadcasting Corporation's History Magazine Book of the Month.

## FELLOWS

**Sari Altschuler**, an assistant professor of English at the University of South Florida and 2013-14 Hensch Post-dissertation Fellow at AAS, won the 2014 Society of Early Americanists' essay contest for the essay "Ain't One Limb Enough? Historicizing Disability in the American Novel."

**Ansel Elkins**, a poet based in North Carolina who held a Hearst Fellowship at AAS in 2012, has been selected as the winner of the 2014 Yale Younger Poets Prize for her manuscript "Blue Yodel." The competition is one of the oldest literary awards in the United States.

**Jessica Lepler**, 2008-09 Hensch Post-dissertation Fellow and assistant professor of history at the University of New Hampshire, was awarded the James H. Broussard Best First Book Prize from the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR) for her book, *The Many Panics of 1837: People, Politics, and the Creation of a Transatlantic Financial Crisis* (2013).

## STAFF

AAS summer page **Dan Boudreau** was one of twenty recipients of Worcester Polytechnic Institute's prestigious Salisbury Prize last May, given to "the most meritorious seniors at the university."

AAS is happy to welcome to the staff **William Harrity**, who started as maintenance assistant in May. The Society also welcomes back a former staff member, **Kathy Major**, as a volunteer in the manuscripts and acquisitions departments.

The Society bid farewell to **Emily Shafer**, a data entry clerk on the A New Nation Votes project, in June, and **Rebecca Morin**, library assistant, at the end of August. We also said goodbye **Elena Despotopoulos**, who joined AAS as a data entry clerk in March but left in early September to take a full-time position at the Uxbridge Courthouse.

## ANNUAL MEETING October 23 - 24, 2014

The annual meeting of the Society will occur on Friday, October 24, 2014, at 4:00 in the afternoon. There will also be an orientation for new members and a special collector's roundtable earlier that day.

The annual Robert C. Baron Lecture, traditionally held the night before the annual meeting and open to the public free of charge, will be delivered by Kenneth Silverman on Thursday evening, October 23, at 7 p.m. (see page 2 for more details).

Formal invitations forthcoming.



# New Members

Seventeen new members were elected at the semiannual meeting on May 2, 2014.

## **WILLIAM P. BRYSON**

**Bath, Michigan**

In addition to his work as principal at Bryson Gas Properties, LLC, William Bryson is a longtime bibliophile, collector, and member of the Grolier Club in New York. His research has brought him to the AAS reading room, among other libraries and collections, for his work on a bibliography of nautical fiction from 1748 through 1920, as well as nineteenth-century publishing and printing practices.

## **LANE WOODWARD**

**(“WOODY”) GOSS**

**North Andover, Massachusetts**

A now-retired senior executive of State Street Bank, Woody Goss actively participates in and supports a number of organizations involved with the preservation and interpretation of early American history and culture. He is a trustee of Historic Deerfield, and by virtue of deep family roots in New England, he is also a member of the Society of the Cincinnati.

## **ELIGA GOULD**

**Durham, New Hampshire**

Eliga Gould is a professor of history at the University of New Hampshire. His most recent book, *Among the Powers of the Earth: The American Revolution and the Making of a New World Empire* (2012), received the Book Prize from the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic and was a finalist for the George Washington Book Prize. His *The Persistence of Empire: British Political Culture in the Age of the American Revolution* (2000) won the Jamestown Prize from the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture.

## **BARBARA HOCHMAN**

**Jerusalem, Israel**

Barbara Hochman is a professor of foreign literatures and linguistics at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. Her books include *Getting at the Author: Reimagining Books and Reading in the Age of American Realism* (2001) and *Uncle Tom’s Cabin and the Reading Revolution: Race, Literacy, Childhood*

*and Fiction, 1851-1911* (2011), which received the 2012 DeLong Book Prize from the Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, and Publishing. Her work has brought her on a variety of trips to AAS over the years, including as a research fellow in 2001 and as both a participant and a leader (2003) at several Program in the History of the Book summer seminars.

## **HONORÉE JEFFERS**

**Norman, Oklahoma**

Honorée Jeffers is an associate professor of English at the University of Oklahoma and the author of three books of poetry: *The Gospel of Barbecue* (2000), which won the 1999 Stan and Tom Wick Prize for Poetry; *Outlandish Blues* (2003); and *Red Clay Suite* (2007). She held an AAS Creative Artist Fellowship in 2009 and a Witter Bynner Fellowship at the Library of Congress in 2014. She is currently working on a book of poems about and a biography of Phyllis Wheatley.

## **DAVID KARPELES**

**Santa Barbara, California**

A retired mathematician and real estate investor, David Karpeles is founder and CEO of the Karpeles Manuscript Library Museums, a network of a dozen primary sites around the United States and more than 200 “mini-museums” in schools and universities, at which he displays selections from his collection of more than one million manuscripts in the fields of history, literature, science, music, art, and religion. Among his Americana treasures are an original draft of the Bill of Rights, Washington’s Thanksgiving Proclamation, and letters from Lincoln and Jefferson.

## **RODGER KROUSE**

**Boca Raton, Florida**

Rodger Krouse is the co-founder, co-CEO, and managing director of Sun Capital Partners, a private investment firm. A 1983 graduate of the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, he has taken an active interest in supporting the libraries of his alma mater and serves on the Penn

Libraries Board of Overseers. His personal collecting focus has led him to have a keen interest in the rare books and manuscripts there.

## **BRENDA LAWSON**

**Boston, Massachusetts**

Brenda Lawson is the director of collections at the Massachusetts Historical Society, an institution she has served in a variety of positions since 1988. Active in the Society of American Archivists and the New England Archivists, she also serves on the board of the Northeast Document Conservation Center and was co-founder of the Archival Research Program of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

## **SANDRA MACKENZIE LLOYD**

**Flourtown, Pennsylvania**

As the historian at Historic Philadelphia, Inc., Sandra Mackenzie Lloyd worked on the storytelling program “Once Upon a Nation,” which was granted a Leadership Award of Merit by the American Association of State and Local History in 2009. She was also the audio story writer for the “7 Steps of Freedom Cell Phone Tours” and the storytelling of the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts. She has developed interpretive plans for historic sites across the country and is co-author of *Great Tours!: Thematic Tours and Guide Training for Historic Sites* (2002).

## **MEGAN MARSHALL**

**Belmont, Massachusetts**

Megan Marshall is an associate professor of nonfiction writing at Emerson College. Her writings have appeared in the *New Yorker*, the *Atlantic*, the *New York Times Book Review*, *Slate*, and the *London Review of Books*. Her first biography, *The Peabody Sisters: Three Women Who Ignited American Romanticism* (2005), won the Francis Parkman Prize and the Massachusetts Book Award in Nonfiction. Her most recent book, *Margaret Fuller: A New American Life*, was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in Biography in 2014.



**NADIA MCGOURTHY**  
**Worcester, Massachusetts**

Nadia McGourthy is an attorney and partner at the Worcester firm Dresser & McGourthy, LLP. In addition to maintaining professional specialties in estate planning and professional ethics, she is committed both personally and professionally to the field of historic preservation. She has served as a member of the Board of Directors of Preservation Worcester, Inc., chairing its Urban Design Committee, and as a member of the Regional Advisory Council of Preservation Massachusetts.

**FREDERIC H. MULLIGAN**  
**Worcester, Massachusetts**

Frederic Mulligan is the chairman of Cutler Associates, a design construction firm. He is also the past president of the New England Chapter of the Design-Build Institute of America, has taught in the Master Builder Program at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and has served on many boards, including the Greater Worcester Community Foundation, the Massachusetts Alliance for Economic Development, the Worcester Regional Research Bureau, and the Massachusetts Port Authority.

**DALE ROSENGARTEN**  
**Charleston, South Carolina**

Dale Rosengarten is the founding director of the Jewish Heritage Collection and special collections curator at the College of Charleston Library. She developed the traveling exhibition *A Portion of the People: Three Hundred Years of Southern Jewish Life* with the McKissick Museum at the University of South Carolina (2002-2003), for which she received the first Governor's Archives Award in 2003. She is also an expert on African sweetgrass baskets and the tradition of coiled basketry in Africa and America, about which she has developed a traveling exhibition.

**LESLIE MARMON SILKO**  
**Tucson, Arizona**

Widely regarded as one of the most significant contemporary American Indian writers, Leslie Marmon Silko is noted for her lyric, storytelling style in her novels, stories, and poetry, inspired by her multiethnic heritage and

Laguna Pueblo roots. Among other works, she is the author of the novels *Ceremony* (1977), *Almanac of the Dead* (1991), and *Gardens in the Dunes* (1999), as well as the memoir *Turquoise Ledge* (2010). She has taught creative writing and English at the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, and the University of Arizona, Tucson.

**SUSAN JAFFE TANE**  
**New York, New York**

Susan Jaffe Tane is a collector with a focus on nineteenth-century writers, particularly Edgar Allan Poe, Mark Twain, and Herman Melville. She sits on the Board of Directors of the Edgar Allan Poe Museum Foundation in Richmond, Va., and is a sponsor of the Poe Studies Association. She is also a sponsor of Boston University's Favorite Poem Project Summer Institute for Educators, a member of the leadership council for SHARE, and a member of the Grolier Club in New York.

**SARAH THOMAS**  
**Cambridge, Massachusetts**

Sarah Thomas is the vice president for the Harvard Library and Roy E. Larsen librarian of the faculty of the arts and sciences at Harvard University. Before coming to Harvard in 2013, she served for six years as Bodley's Librarian at Oxford—the first woman and first non-British citizen to hold the four-century-old post—and for eleven years as the chief librarian at Cornell University. She currently serves on the board of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Smith College President's Council.

**LISA WILSON**  
**Mystic, Connecticut**

Lisa Wilson is the Charles J. MacCurdy professor of American history at Connecticut College, where she has taught since 1987. Her books include *Life After Death: Widows in Pennsylvania, 1750-1850* (1992) and *Ye Heart of a Man: The Domestic Life of Men in Colonial New England* (1999). In 2010-2011, she held a long-term NEH fellowship at AAS to conduct research for a book, forthcoming in 2014, on stepfamilies in early America.

## MUSIC AND COOKBOOK MANUSCRIPTS DIGITIZED

Thanks to a pair of foundation-backed collaborative initiatives, the Society has recently been able to digitize and make available two significant portions of its manuscript collections.

With funding from the Pine Tree Foundation of New York, AAS has digitized all of its handwritten cookbooks, a total of twenty-three volumes and 2,047 pages. In addition to being available in the Society's digital asset management system, GIGI, at [gigi.mwa.org/MSSCookbooks](http://gigi.mwa.org/MSSCookbooks), they will be incorporated into the Manuscript Cookbook Survey, an online survey of pre-1865 manuscript cookbooks held in American repositories, a project also funded by the Pine Tree Foundation.

Volumes containing manuscript music have also been digitized as part of a project titled American Vernacular Music Manuscripts, ca. 1730-1910, a collaboration between AAS and the Center for Popular Music at Middle Tennessee State University. With funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities, this project is creating a title-level index of manuscript volumes held by both institutions. The Society has more than 200 volumes containing handwritten music, and the digitization project here has yielded almost 12,000 images. These images are already accessible in GIGI at [gigi.mwa.org/MSSMusic](http://gigi.mwa.org/MSSMusic) and will also be uploaded to the Internet Archive ([archive.org](http://archive.org)).



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## AAS HERITAGE: *A Wartime Call to Preservation*

As the United States marks the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, it's worth noting how AAS responded to the conflict. During the war years, 1861 to 1865, AAS continued to collect and make historic material available while paying close attention to national events. The son of Samuel Foster Haven, the Society's librarian, was a medical doctor and bibliographer serving at the front, so the impact of the war was felt quite keenly in the library, particularly when he was killed at Fredericksburg in December 1862.

In October 1861, the Society's Council observed that "whatever may be the termination of this extraordinary and fearful revolt, its occurrence and progress will constitute a new and most important epoch." The Council specifically called on its members to work to collect material from the seceding states, stating that the library would welcome newspapers and "all books, pamphlets, and whatever else may tend to explain or establish their claims and pretension."

On November 10, 1860, after a decade of political divisiveness and just four days after Lincoln's election, South Carolina had called a secession convention for the following month. Considered by virtue of timing to be the first Confederate imprint, this *Charleston Mercury Extra...The Union is Dissolved!* broadside announced the convention's declaration on December 20, 1860, that South Carolina would secede. This copy was removed from a wall in Charleston by the Boston-born author Caroline Howard Gilman (1794-1888), who had moved to South Carolina following her marriage. Gilman mailed the broadside to her daughter Eliza in Salem, Mass. In 1861, Eliza in turn presented the document to AAS member Nathaniel Paine who, heeding the Society's call to preserve all printed material relating to the unsettling national events, donated the broadside to AAS for preservation.

— Lauren Hewes, Andrew W. Mellon Curator of Graphic Arts

Right: Detail of an unmounted tintype of Samuel Foster Haven, Jr.; Charleston Mercury Extra... The Union is dissolved!, broadside, c. 1860.

