



The Book

Newsletter of the Program in the History of the Book in American Culture
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AAS Seeks Nominations for Wiggins Lecturers

The American Antiquarian Society seeks nominations for the James Russell Wiggins Lecturers in the History of the Book in American Culture for 2000 and 2001. The annual lecture (given in the fall) is one of the principal activities of the Society's Program in the History of the Book in American Culture.

Wiggins Lecturers are scholars from a variety of disciplines touching on the history of the book (defined broadly to include all forms of printed matter). Their lectures are statements on important, broad methodological and interpretive issues in the field. Although the focus of the series has been on the book in what became the United States, two past lectures have provided an international dimension. Previous Wiggins lecturers include historians David D. Hall, Robert A. Gross, and Mary Kelley; literary scholars Larzer Ziff, Cathy N. Davidson, Nina Baym, Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Lawrence I. Buell, and Carla Peterson; bibliographers James M. Wells and John Bidwell; communications historians Michael Schudson and David Paul Nord; and foreign specialists Roger Chartier and Ian Willison. Jennifer Monaghan and Michael Winship will be Wiggins Lecturers in 1998 and 1999, respectively.

Nominations will be considered by the Committee on the Wiggins Lecture, chaired by David Waldstreicher (Yale University). Members of the committee are Alice Fahs (University of California at Irvine), Jeff Groves (Harvey Mudd College), Elizabeth McHenry (National Humanities Center), Bertrum MacDonald (Dalhousie University), and Deirdre Stam (Drew University).

Please send nominations (giving a brief rationale for the choice) as soon as possible (and no later than November 15, 1998) to Committee on the Wiggins Lecture, American Antiquarian Society, 185 Salisbury Street, Worcester, MA 01609-1634. Fax (508) 754-9069. E-mail: <cfs@mwa.org>.

Hall Leads Twelfth Summer Seminar

Taking advantage of an adjacent conference in Worcester on early American history (the fourth annual conference of the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture) and building as well on the newly completed *The Colonial*

Book in the Atlantic World (to be published in 1999 by Cambridge University Press), the first chronologically of the five-volume series *A History of the Book in America (HBA)*, the 1998 seminar focused on the book trades and the practices of reading and writing in early America.

Another basis for the seminar was Harold Love's *Scribal Publication in Seventeenth-Century England*, newly reprinted in paperback by the University of Massachusetts Press and retitled *The Culture and Commerce of Texts*. Love's careful narrative of publication via the reproduction and distribution of handwritten manuscripts, together with his analysis of the intersecting of politics, self-censorship, and reading communities, alerted us to some of the distinctive aspects of the history of the book in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. So did a session on orality and literacy; the relationship between these two problematic terms, and especially the argument that "print" (or writing) superseded or suppressed orality, was reconsidered in a session led by Sandra Gustafson (English, Notre Dame), who shared with the seminar a portion of her forthcoming book on the continuing presence of orality in American political and literary culture. *Performing the Word* will be published by the University of North Carolina Press for the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture. A chapter written for Volume 1 of *HBA* by James N. Green on the book trades in mid-eighteenth-century Philadelphia served as a springboard for identifying trade practices among printers and booksellers (highlighting the importance of the latter); another chapter drawn from Volume 1 on reading in the eighteenth century provided an introduction to bookstore studies, literacy, and schoolbooks, the emergence of social and circulating libraries, modalities of reading (e.g., sentimentalism), and the much-contested question of whether a "reading revolution" was occurring as part of a wider "consumer revolution." A closing session, with the dedications to and prospectus for John Smith's *General History of Virginia* as our starting point, took up aspects of authorship in the context of rights to copy, the transmission of texts, patronage, and self-censorship.

The competencies and forms of expertise that each member of the seminar brought to our temporary community—our common table—were crucial to its success. In this respect, the flourishing of the seminar reflected the underlying dynamics of the history of the book as a provisional, ever-experimental testing of disciplinary and topical relationships.



Matriculants, faculty, and AAS staff. Front: Medico, Gustafson, McCarthy, Kerrison, Reinier; second row: Young, Simpson-Vos, Beatty, McIntire, Gordis; third row: Corman, Fliegelman, Hogan, Preyer; fourth row: Haulman, Baker, Pencak, Hall, Sloat, Ryden; top row: Fea, Haefeli, Griffin, Hench, Brown, Ramsey

This year's participants were: Thomas N. Baker, visiting lecturer, American studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Greg Beatty, Ph.D. candidate, English, University of Iowa; Matthew P. Brown, visiting assistant professor, English, Coe College; Catherine A. Corman, assistant professor, history, Harvard University; John Fea, Ph.D. candidate, history, State University of New York at Stony Brook; Jay Fliegelman, professor, English and American studies, Stanford University; Lisa M. Gordis, assistant professor, English, Barnard College; Edward M. Griffin, professor, English, University of Minnesota; Evan Haefeli, Ph.D. candidate, history, Princeton University; Clyde A. Haulman, professor, economics, College of William and Mary; Allegra Hogan, Ph.D. candidate, history, Yale University; Catherine Kerrison, Ph.D. candidate, history, College of William and Mary; Molly A. McCarthy, Ph.D. candidate, history of American civilization, Brandeis University; Sheila McIntire, Ottawa, Ontario; William Pencak, professor, history, Pennsylvania State University; Kathryn Preyer, professor emerita, history, Wellesley College; Colin T. Ramsey, Ph.D. candidate, English, University of Missouri; Jacqueline S. Reinier, professor, history, California State University at Sacramento; Kent C. Ryden, assistant professor, American and New England studies, University of Southern Maine; Mark Simpson-Vos, Ph.D. candidate, English, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

David D. Hall
Harvard Divinity School

AAS Calls for Papers On Book History For '99 ASA Conference in Montreal

Mary Kelley, who will serve as president of the American Studies Association during 1998-99, has been invited by AAS to be its guest of honor at the Society's biennial reception at the ASA annual meeting in Montreal, October 28-31, 1999. The Society also invites AAS friends and colleagues to consider submitting to the Program Committee proposals for papers or, better yet, entire sessions, based on research conducted at AAS or that has been stimulated by participation in AAS programs. In this way, the Society will recognize and highlight Mary's services to the profession and, in particular, to the Antiquarian Society and its Program in the History of the Book in American Culture.

Mary is the most recent of many American Antiquarian Society members to have led one or another of the major learned societies and professional organizations in the humanities. She has participated actively and widely in the affairs of AAS. She held a Peterson Fellowship during 1990-91 and was elected to membership in the Society in 1991. She has been a member of the Editorial Board of the Society's multivolume work of collaborative scholarship, *A History of the Book in America*, from its inception and, with Robert Gross, is co-editor of the second volume in the series. In 1995 Mary led the AAS summer seminar with Bob Gross and delivered the Society's annual James Russell Wiggins Lecture. She also is currently serving a term as a member of the Council, the Society's governing body.

The deadline for conference proposals is January 23, 1999. You will find further details on the submission process in the September ASA newsletter, or you may contact ASA at 1120 19th Street, NW, Suite 301, Washington, DC 20036; telephone (202) 467 4783; e-mail <asastaff@erols.com>. The Society would be grateful to have copies of program proposals that are submitted.

SHARP To Convene in Madison in 1999

The seventh annual conference of the Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing will take place, July 14-17, 1999, in Madison, Wisconsin, under the auspices of the Center for the History of Print Culture in Modern America, a joint program of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin and the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

In keeping with SHARP tradition, proposals are welcomed relating to the creation, diffusion, and/or reception of the written or printed word in any historical period and in any region of the world. Because of the multicultural, geographic, and chronological focus of the Center for the History of Print Culture in Modern America, proposals for papers and sessions that investigate print culture history in the United States since 1876, the role print has played in and among groups historically outside dominant cultures, and traditions of the written word in languages other than English in the Western Hemisphere are especially welcome.

Keynote addresses will be delivered by Nicolas Kanellos, director of the Recovering the U.S. Hispanic Literary Heritage Project at the University of Houston, and Jan Radway, Department of Literature, Duke University. Co-chairing the conference are James P. Danky and Wayne A. Wiegand, co-directors of the Center for the History of Print Culture in Modern America.

Single-page proposals should be submitted, preferably in original hard copy, by November 19, 1998, to Maureen Hady, Conference Coordinator for SHARP 1999, Center for the History of Print Culture in Modern America, 816 State Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53706-6598.

Donate Your Journals to Asia

Bridge to Asia (BTA) makes it possible to help libraries in developing countries in Asia to acquire journals that U.S. scholars no longer wish to keep in their collections. BTA requests that anyone wishing to donate journals, pack the journals tightly in covered boxes and ship them to one of their warehouses. On the West Coast, donations should be sent to Bridge to Asia, c/o Osgood Warehouse Services, San Francisco, CA 94111. From the Midwest or East, the address is Bridge to Asia, c/o Follett Campus Resources, 2211 West Street, River Grove, IL 60171-1800. More information is available on the BTA Website,

<<http://www.bridge.org/Books.html>>. Bridge to Asia is a nonprofit organization, and all donations and shipping costs are tax deductible.

Reprints Available of Recent Proceedings Articles

Reprints of three articles from the *Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society* (Volume 107, part 1) may be ordered directly from AAS. In "James Fenimore Cooper: Entrepreneur of the Self," April Alliston (Princeton University) and Pamela Schirmeister (New York University) show that Cooper's venture with the whaling ship *Union* in the years 1819-23 was a financial success, which is contrary to the accepted view and unlike any of his other entrepreneurial undertakings at this time. The dividends of this project allowed Cooper to underwrite the costs of publishing his first two novels, *Precaution* and *The Spy*, and in imaginative terms, the whaling venture helped to liberate Cooper's literary powers from beneath the weight of a troublesome family inheritance. "All Right!': The Narrative of Henry Box Brown as a Test Case for the Racial Prescription of Rhetoric and Semiotics" by Marcus Wood (University of Sussex) interprets the image of Henry "Box" Brown emerging from the packing case in which he was successfully transported from slavery to freedom as a central icon of mid-nineteenth-century abolitionist publicity. A comparative reading of the two major editions of Brown's narrative, one extensively ghost-written, the other authored solely by Brown, shows that Brown had his own

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cultural and stylistic agenda, an agenda at odds with many of the assumptions of the abolitionist establishment. The popular imagery generated by Brown's narrative further reveals his problematic relationship with his abolitionist mentors. The author suggests that one way to read Brown's behavior as a self-publicist is to relate it to late twentieth-century techniques of performance art.

In "Memorials of great & good men who were my friends': Portraits in the Life of Oliver Wolcott, Jr.," Ellen Miles (National Portrait Gallery) offers the first study of the portraits of Wolcott (1760-1833), secretary of the treasury and governor of Connecticut. The artists John Trumbull, Gilbert Stuart, Thomas Sully, John Vanderlyn, and Rembrandt Peale, among the most noted of the early republic, painted portraits of and for Wolcott, many of which have remained uncatalogued, even misattributed. Wolcott's papers offer explanations for the geometric rise in the number of portrait commissions and the role of American political portraits in the late-eighteenth and early-nineteenth centuries.

To obtain copies, send \$6.50 for either the Alliston/Schirmeister or Wood booklets or \$8.50 for the Miles reprint, plus \$3.00 postage and handling, to the Department of Academic and Public Programs at AAS.

New Center for London Print Culture

James Raven, Mansfield College, Oxford University, announces the establishment of the Centre for the Print Culture of Eighteenth-Century London. With funding for seven years from the British Academy, Humanities Research Board, and Oxford University, the center is under the joint sponsorship of Mansfield College, the Oxford University History Faculty, and the Cambridge Project for the Book Trust. The project is designed to produce new maps of the sites of all print and book trades in London in the eighteenth century, including details of the succession of occupants at each location, personnel, surviving building plans and elevations, mapping of associated trades and literary meeting places, with links to other data bases and book trades and topographical projects in progress. The idea behind the project appears in a chapter by James Raven published in *Order and Connexion*, ed. Robin Alston (Boydell and Brewer, 1996). Central to the project is computer-aided design, with the goal of recreating the streetscape, interiors, and new mappings of commercial relationships. A regular seminar and events offering presentations of progress to date will begin in 1999. Further information may be obtained from James Raven <jr42@cus.cam.ac.uk> or c/o Mansfield College, Oxford University, Oxford OX1 3TF, United Kingdom.

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