



Press Release

For Immediate Release

Early American book specialist named Director of Scholarly Programs and Partnerships at the American Antiquarian Society

March 3, 2023 (Worcester, MA) The American Antiquarian Society (AAS) in Worcester, Massachusetts has announced that John J. Garcia will join the organization as director of scholarly programs and partnerships on April 3, 2023. Garcia comes to the Society from Donald Heald Rare Books, Prints & Maps in New York, where he has served as director since 2022. Previously, he was assistant professor of English at Florida State University and at California State University, Northridge. Garcia earned his B.A. and M.A. from the California State University, San Bernardino, and his Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley. While in graduate school, he taught college courses at San Quentin State Prison.

A specialist in the history of the book in America from the colonial era to 1900, Garcia will oversee the Society's Program in the History of the Book in American Culture and its Center for Historic American Visual Culture, both of which attract groups of scholars to Worcester in the summer to discuss relevant topics in pre-twentieth-century American history. He will also build the Society's relationships with scholars, organizations, and institutions across many fields and disciplines of study.

Garcia is currently at work on two books: *Without Order: Booksellers and the Failures of the Early American Book Trade, 1679-1840*; and the critical edition *Graphic Madness: The Illustrated Diary of Charles A. Beach*. Garcia serves as president of the Andrew W. Mellon Society of Fellows in Critical Bibliography at Rare Book School. A Ford Foundation Fellow at AAS in 2015-16 and a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow in 2019-20, he was elected to membership in the Society in April 2022.



AMERICAN
ANTIQUARIAN
SOCIETY

A national research library of American history and culture

About the American Antiquarian Society

The American Antiquarian Society (AAS) cultivates understanding of the American past, grounded in its ever-growing collection of printed and manuscript sources from the colonial period through 1876. Through wide-ranging programs, community engagement, and generously supporting researchers and students of early American history, the Society works to cultivate a broad community of inquiry—locally and nationally.

Since its founding in 1812 by Revolutionary War patriot and printer Isaiah Thomas, AAS has assembled what is today the world's largest and most accessible collection of books, pamphlets, broadsides, newspapers, periodicals, children's literature, music, and graphic arts material printed before the twentieth century in what is now the United States. The library of over four million items also includes a substantial collection of secondary texts, bibliographies, digital resources, and reference works. AAS is also a learned society with over 1,200 members, who are elected based on distinctive achievement in academic or public life. The Society was presented with the 2013 National Humanities Medal by President Obama in a White House ceremony.

The American Antiquarian Society is located at 185 Salisbury Street in Worcester, MA. The library is open Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. To learn more, visit americanantiquarian.org.

#