

ALMANAC

The Newsletter of the American Antiquarian Society | Spring 2024 | Number 107



VANESSA XANTHOMELAS.



ERYCINA PERDITA.



PAPILIO ERITHONIUS.



CALLITHEA SAPPHIRA.



ARGUS ALCON.



PAPILIO PHELEGIA.



JUNONIA ASTERIE.



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JUNONIA ORITHYIA.



MECHANITES EUCRATE.



PAPILIO ALIONEA.

From the President's Desk

The pursuit of knowledge never sleeps at AAS. However, summer is by far our busiest—and most exciting—season. The reading room and guest houses fill to capacity with researchers from across the country. Inspiring summer seminars bring cohorts of scholars, librarians, and teachers to study specific topics, while drawing on the wealth of our collections and staff expertise (see page 6). Summer interns, eager to gain library or conservation experience, learn new skills and contribute to the work we do here. It's an enriching time, when conversations over meals, the exchange of ideas during programs, and new friendships add immeasurably to the intellectual vitality across our campus.



In March we began restoring the masonry and windows of 114-year-old Antiquarian Hall. During the summer, visitors will encounter scaffolding around the original structure, and staff and researchers will have to endure some noise from drilling. (We'll provide earplugs.) Ultimately, the building will be safer for all who use it. AAS received generous support for this essential restoration project from the George I. Alden Trust, the Cultural Facilities Fund of the Mass Cultural Council, and the Save America's Treasures program of the National Park Service. We are grateful for this local, state, and federal recognition of the significance of our institution and its historic building.



The exterior of 4 Regent Street.

AAS guest houses are vital to our fellowship program and community. Last fall we completed a major restoration of the residence at 4 Regent Street, including new stucco on the façade and chimneys, a repaved front entrance and stairs, and repairs to an upstairs bathroom. We are very grateful to Martha Pappas for providing funding toward these essential repairs, which restored this lovely 1916 residence to its Italian Renaissance Revival grandeur.

We are also tending to a different, equally important infrastructure: AAS's digital presence, which connects people around the world with our collections and programs. This month, we launched a website upgrade that includes a refreshed design, improved navigation, and updated content. The new site will make it easier to find and access our vast, ever-expanding digitized resources.

The staff members behind these projects often go unheralded, but their work makes possible what readers and audiences experience on-site and virtually. Andy Cariglia, head of buildings and grounds, has been at AAS since 2002; he is assisted by William Butler and Anthony Schiavone. Nick Conti, director of information technology, has been on staff since 1997, and Caroline Stoffel, online services librarian, joined AAS in 1990 and manages our web presence. It's a pleasure to thank them for their tireless endeavors on behalf of everyone who enjoys and learns from the Society's collections and programs.

I close this message with the sad news that our longtime colleague John Hench (elected October 1985) passed away on April 10. Please read a short tribute to John on page 8 and a longer one on our website.

With warmest wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Scott E. Cooper". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the text "With warmest wishes,".

Cover: Page from an album of 383 lithographs published by Louis Prang & Co., Boston, between 1862 and 1868. Acquired by AAS in 2023.

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American Studies Seminar is a rare opportunity for undergraduates

into the scholarly world of archival research and can ignite interest in further study after graduation, he says. “It’s a magical experience when they first handle a very old document. It’s always lovely to see students experience the wonder in the archive, when they have that ‘Aha’ moment.”

Clark University graduate Hannah Friend participated in the fall 2021 seminar, “A Second and More Glorious Revolution: Protest and Radical Thought in the Nineteenth-Century United States.” For her final presentation, “‘Toiling but to live, living but to toil’: Radical Thought in the Advertisements of Nineteenth-century Female Abortionists,” Friend consulted original newspapers, books written by physicians, and court proceedings. She says the seminar makes AAS more accessible. “If students are familiar with the space, they can better understand and appreciate its value, and they will know that it’s available to them when they need it.” Now completing a graduate program at Clark, Friend has returned to AAS to do research for her master’s thesis.

Abdi, who graduated from Assumption this May, is considering a career in library work after participating in the American Studies Seminar. “It opened my eyes to the world of archival study and keeping books and historical materials for people all over the world to study.”



Top (foreground, left to right): Hibo Abdi and Len Von Morzé, instructor for the fall 2023 American Studies Seminar, look over collection materials.

Bottom: Worcester State University student Nicholas Holm gives his final presentation for the fall 2023 American Studies Seminar.

Assumption University senior Hibo Abdi grew up in Worcester, but didn’t know about AAS. “I would see the domed building and wonder what it was,” she says.

Last fall, when she needed to fill a history requirement, one of her professors, John Bell, recommended the American Studies Seminar at AAS. An English literature and digital arts major, Abdi was initially concerned that the topic, “Water, Land, and Ecology: Doing Environmental History in Early America,” would be science-based. She found that the theme could be interpreted more broadly than she originally expected and focused her research on cartography and the historical weight of maps. Her final presentation was titled “Contours of Conflict: Cartography, Religion, and Power in the Holy Land,” a timely subject for the fall of 2023.

Now in its forty-fifth year, the American Studies Seminar is offered for twelve weeks each fall in a partnership between AAS and Assumption University, Clark University, the College of the Holy Cross, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and Worcester State University. Nan Wolverton, vice president for academic and public programs, says the theme and leader change each year to cover a wide range of early American subjects, but every seminar allows twelve undergraduates enrolled at one of the five participating institutions to do in-person research in a major research library. “Students learn how to interact with primary sources and experience the joy of finding materials for their individual research projects,” she says.

For Bell, who is assistant professor of history at Assumption and the university’s liaison to the American Studies Seminar, the program is a rare opportunity for students to take a course and form friendships with peers at other colleges in Worcester. The experience also gives undergraduates a window

Recent Acquisitions



Photographs spotlight working women

Three newly acquired albumen photographs help uncover the story of working women in the nineteenth century. As part of “Working Women, 1830–1900,” an initiative funded by the Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation, AAS staff have been collecting and cataloging images that depict women at work or were made by women. These three cartes de visite were taken by women photographers in midwestern towns, where Associate Curator of Graphic Arts Christine Morris says there was a need for photographers at that time.

Cartes de visite were popular worldwide from the 1850s to about 1874. An early form of social media, these affordable cards were traded with friends and visitors, as well as used for advertising, with individuals showcasing their collections in photo albums specially designed to hold the cards. Meeting the high demand for cartes de visite provided a business opportunity for women who had easy access to photographic equipment. “There wasn’t a huge outlay for buying equipment, which is a big reason that women were set up in photography early on,” says Lisa Unger Baskin (elected October 1989), a longtime collector of books, manuscripts, photographs, and artifacts about working women.

Charlotte Randall, a mother of six, was a photographer in the small town of Clyde, Ohio, and Elizabeth J. Merrill was active in the coal mining town of Oskaloosa, Iowa, during the 1870s and 1880s. Minerva Gainsford, one of the earliest residents of Great Bend, Kansas, not only ran her photo studio, but also sold ice cream and sewing machines in her storefront. Their albumen photographs are among the pre-1900 photographs made by women in more than twenty states that Morris has acquired in the past year.

Baskin says it’s important to collect and preserve these materials, because “it shows that women were working. Women were productive people. They had access to photography and could do it independently.”

Morris explains that adding these works to the collection is crucial for telling a more complete story of women in early America. “You don’t think of women being photographers in the nineteenth century. We’re providing resources that show they were contributing to the economy in ways we might not have thought of.”

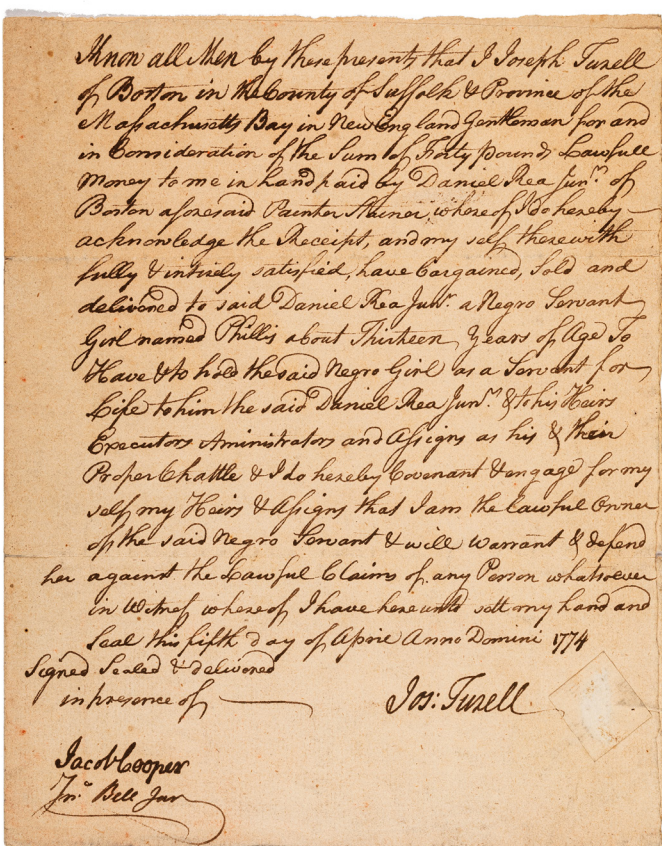
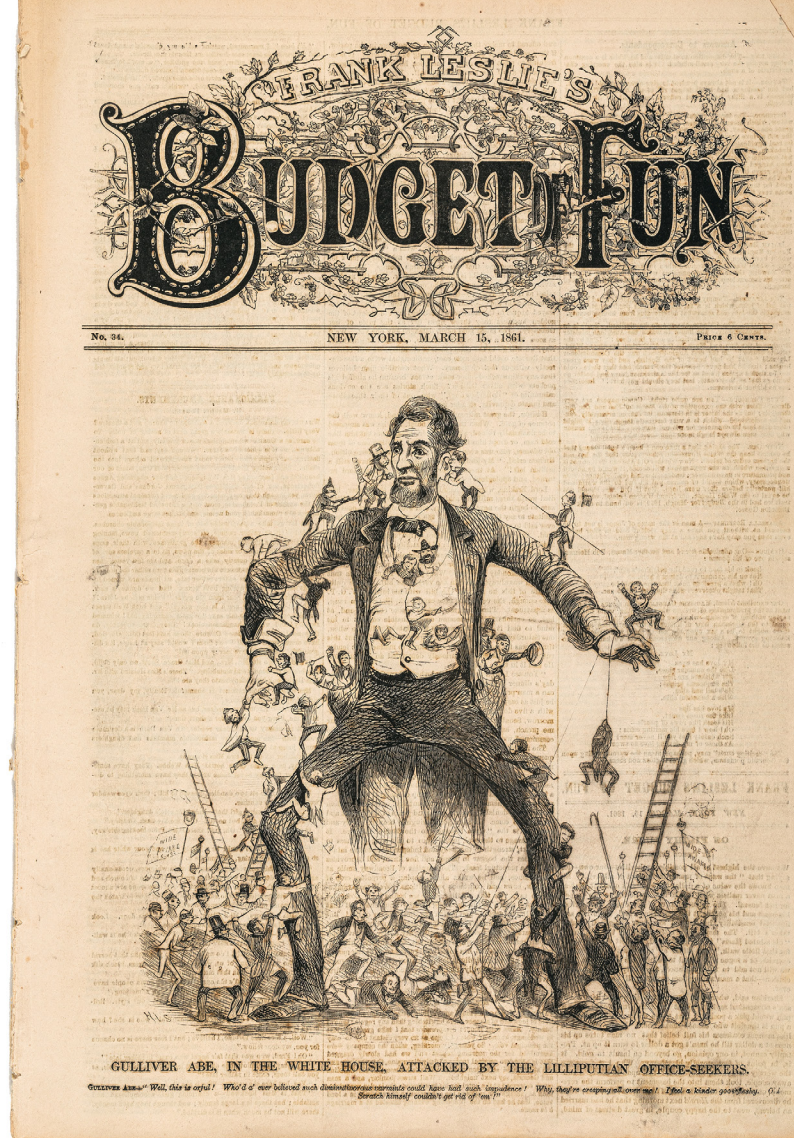
Top (from left): Charlotte Randall, Man pruning a plant, albumen carte de visite, Clyde, Ohio, ca. 1880; Elizabeth J. Merrill, *Mary Winslow*, albumen carte de visite, Oskaloosa, Iowa, ca. 1880; Minerva Gainsford, *Compliments of Mrs. M. Gainsford*, trade card with albumen photograph, Great Bend, Kansas, 1877.

Frank Leslie's Budget of Fun. New York, NY, 1859–1870.

The New York engraver, illustrator, and periodical publisher Frank Leslie published many illustrated journals in the mid- to late 1800s. These included newspapers (in English and German), a fashion periodical, and a family magazine. In January 1859 he added *Budget of Fun* to his stable of publications. Each issue ran sixteen pages and contained humorous woodcuts, including political cartoons. The cover illustrated here shows Abraham Lincoln at the beginning of his first term being swarmed by “pests” seeking appointments to government offices. Surviving copies of all issues of *Budget of Fun* are scarce, and when AAS had the opportunity last year to purchase a collection as large as this, it was unprecedented. The Society now holds more *Budget of Fun* issues than the Library of Congress.

—*Vincent Golden, curator of newspapers and periodicals*

This spring, Todd Thompson, Jay and Deborah Last Fellow, read through all 109 newly acquired issues of *Budget of Fun*. This research was for his project “Manifest Jestiny.”



Joseph Turrell Papers, 1774.

This 1774 bill of sale is an example of the ways slavery persisted in Massachusetts until its statewide end in the 1780s. For sale was an enslaved Black girl, Phillis, who was around thirteen years old. Joseph Turrell (1724–1778), who claimed to own Phillis, was born in Boston and worked as an insurance clerk there. Turrell sold Phillis to artist Daniel Rea (1743–1803), the son of a tailor who painted signs, houses, ships, and carriages for clients such as John Adams and John Quincy Adams.

—*Ashley Cataldo, curator of manuscripts*

To read a transcript of this bill of sale, scan the QR code:



Program Highlights

Summer seminars

This summer, we look forward to welcoming scholars, librarians, museum professionals, public historians, and book collectors to seminars sponsored by the Center for the Historic American Visual Culture (CHAViC), and the Program in the History of the Book in American Culture (PHBAC).

Disability Histories in the Visual Archive: Redress, Protest, and Justice June 9–14

Understanding the visual and material cultures of disability in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century North America is the focus of this year's CHAViC summer seminar. Using AAS's renowned graphic arts collections—and centering on the histories of diverse peoples—participants will explore disability as lived experience, analytical category, and ground for creativity and protest while also considering enslavement, colonization, indigeneity, gender, education, warfare, and disability rights. Discussions about disability justice will delve into understudied and obscured histories, the use of visual and material things to redress past injustices and dismantle ableism, and equitable archival access.

The interdisciplinary seminar will be led by Laurel Daen, assistant professor of American studies at the University of Notre Dame, and Jennifer Van Horn, associate professor of art history and history at the University of Delaware.



Comparative Migrations and Multilingual Cultures of Print July 14–19

Migration and print culture have long overlapped with the histories of early American communities. To meet the demands of multilingual publics, traveling printing presses produced pamphlets, books, and newspapers by and for immigrant populations in their home languages. This resulted in a substantial print archive from places such as Philadelphia in the colonial and early national eras, New Orleans in the mid-nineteenth century, California during the Gold Rush, and New York in the late nineteenth century.

This year's Program in the History of the Book in American Culture summer seminar will consider these multilingual print cultures through the lens of migration studies. Led by Rodrigo Lazo (elected October 2010), professor of literature at the University of California, Santa Cruz, and Patrick Erben, Professor of English at the University of West Georgia, it will look at migration histories and related topics such as borderlands, transnationalism, racialization, ethnic formations, and refugee studies. Discussions and sessions with AAS collection materials will focus on migrant group print cultures, considering how debates about border crossings and undocumented migrants can inform the study of earlier historical periods, as well as the possibilities and challenges arising from a diverse and multilingual print archive.

Top: Albumen photograph of siblings Richard and Sarah Storrs signing, ca. 1870.

Bottom: *Las Dos Repùblicas*, published by Carlos Tully in 1878, served the Arizona Territory's large Mexican community and was the territory's first newspaper in Spanish.

K–12 Teacher Institute: Historic Children’s Voices August 5–9

The voices of nineteenth-century children—found in their diaries, letters, stories, poems, and other writings—will be amplified in an institute for K–12 teachers this summer. The week long program corresponds with the launch of AAS’s new Historic Children’s Voices website, which makes these unique, child-authored materials freely and easily accessible in classrooms everywhere. The three hundred newly digitized primary sources created by children will inspire teachers and their students, reinforce the value of children’s perspectives, and empower their voices in the past and today.

During hands-on sessions, educators will explore and discuss diaries and letters in which children record the details of their daily lives, stories and poems that display their imaginative engagement with the world around them, and newspapers—most printed on home parlor presses—that demonstrate young people’s sophisticated understanding of the media norms and social and political concerns of their times.

The institute, a collaboration with the National Council of Teachers of English, will be led by Karen Sánchez-Eppler (elected October 2005), L. Stanton Williams ’41 Professor American Studies and English at Amherst College, and facilitated by Allison Bass-Ricco, chair of the English Department at Cheshire Academy in Connecticut.



The Monthly, a handwritten juvenile newspaper edited by John Quan and created by J. Corr and Solomen Lee in 1866.



Left to right: Artist Jo Hay and Ellen Dunlap pose beside Dunlap’s portrait, March 2024.

likeness greets visitors in the lobby of Antiquarian Hall. Dunlap’s portrait was unveiled in a formal ceremony on March 12 and installed in the reading room on May 14.

Portrait of President Emerita Ellen Dunlap makes history

The portrait of President Emerita Ellen Dunlap has been added to the display of historic portraits in Antiquarian Hall. Dunlap was president of the Society for twenty-eight years, from 1992 until her retirement in 2020. For her official AAS portrait, she chose Provincetown artist Jo Hay, who rendered Dunlap in a very different way than is seen in the depictions of AAS’s previous presidents. In Hay’s contemporary style, which she says could be described as abstract impressionism, Dunlap’s head and shoulders are painted in broad, assertive brushstrokes, filling the large canvas in bright, modern colors.

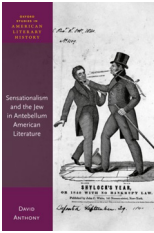
The practice of hanging portraits of past AAS presidents is a long-standing tradition, beginning with the Society’s founder and first president Isaiah Thomas (1749–1831), whose

To view a recording of the unveiling on March 12, scan the QR code:



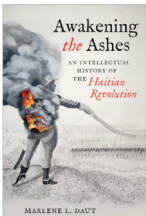
Recent books by members and fellows

Pictured are a selection of recent books by AAS members and past fellows.



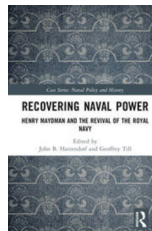
David Anthony (Kate B. and Hall J. Peterson Fellow, 1996–97; Northeast Modern Language Association, 2000–1, 2005–6; and National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow, 2012–13), *Sensationalism and the Jew in Antebellum American Literature* (Oxford University Press, 2023).

Robin Bernstein (Jay and Deborah Last Fellow, 2008–9; elected November 2013), *Freeman's Challenge: The Murder That Shook America's Original Prison for Profit* (University of Chicago Press, 2024).

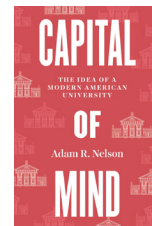
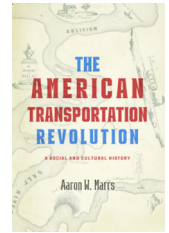


Marlene L. Daut (elected October 2022), *Awakening the Ashes: An Intellectual History of the Haitian Revolution* (University of North Carolina Press, 2023).

John B. Hattendorf (elected October 2016), *Recovering Naval Power: Henry Maydman and the Revival of the Royal Navy*, edited with Geoffrey Till (Routledge, 2024).

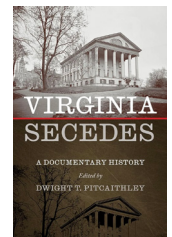


Aaron W. Marrs (Kate B. and Hall J. Peterson Fellow, 2010–11), *The American Transportation Revolution: A Social and Cultural History* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2024).



Adam R. Nelson (National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow, 2008–9), *Capital of Mind: The Idea of a Modern American University* (University of Chicago Press, 2024).

Dwight T. Pitcaithley (elected April 2012), *Virginia Secedes: A Documentary History* (University of Tennessee Press, 2024).

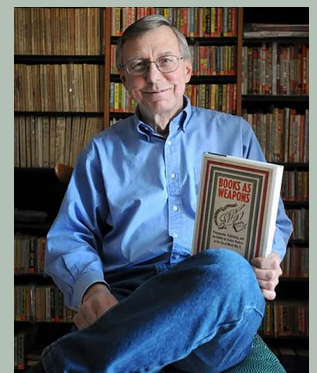


Manisha Sinha (National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow, 2004–5; Mellon Distinguished Scholar in Residence, 2020–21; elected October 2006), *The Rise and Fall of the Second American Republic: Reconstruction, 1860–1920* (Liveright, 2024).

Remembering John Hench

John Hench (elected October 1985) was the scholarly soul of AAS for more than three decades. A Minnesotan by upbringing and allegiance, John joined the Society as editor of publications in 1973. Over the next thirty-three years, John's portfolio expanded to include the fellowship program, as well as all academic and public programs. Hundreds of researchers—from graduate students to seasoned scholars—benefited from John's intellectual curiosity, support, and gift for community as he built the fellowship program into a nationwide model.

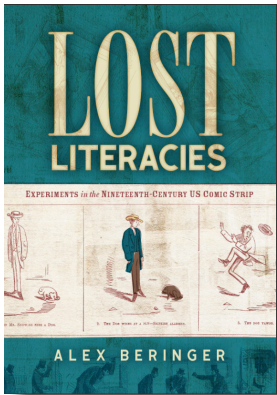
Among his many accomplishments, John fostered the creation of the Program in the History of the Book in American Culture (PHBAC) in 1983, cementing AAS as a leading center for the study of early American bibliography and printing and publishing history. John developed programs that welcomed new communities of readers, including K–12 teachers, creative artists, and more. He created and secured funding for the Andrew W. Mellon Distinguished Scholar in Residence program, which brings a senior scholar to AAS for a full year, and for the postdoctoral fellowship program that now bears his name.



Upon his retirement as vice president for collections and programs in 2006, John had transformed not only the Society, but every fellow, researcher, and colleague who had had the pleasure of working with him. John passed away on April 10, 2024, and all of us at AAS extend our sympathy to the Hench family. A full tribute to John is available on our website.

Unlocking the Past: Alex Beringer

Alex Beringer (Jay and Deborah Last Fellow, 2018–19), professor of English at the University of Montevallo, reflects on how his research at the Society helped to shape his recent book, *Lost Literacies: Experiments in the Nineteenth-Century US Comic Strip* (2024). The author will discuss his work in a public program at AAS on Thursday, September 19, at 7:00 p.m.



How did you become interested in your topic?

My book is the first full-length study of comic strips in America before the rise of the Sunday Funnies.

It's a story that not only involves little-known artists and editors like Frank Bellew and T. W. Strong, but also some well-known names in nineteenth-century U.S. literature and culture like Walt Whitman and Mark Twain. When I began the project, I had just finished my Ph.D. in nineteenth-century American literature and was looking for a way to combine that with my love of comics. When I started digging into the archive, I was stunned by the variety and ambition of nineteenth-century American comic strips.

How did your fellowship experience at AAS influence your work?

At AAS, I was able to get up close and personal with extraordinary materials, including graphic albums (precursors to graphic novels) and the world's largest and most important collection of nineteenth-century American humor magazines. As if that weren't enough, I received invaluable guidance from curators Lauren Hewes, Vince Golden, and Laura Wasowicz and made important connections with other AAS fellows, many of whom have become close friends.

Was there one collection item that was crucial to your research?

The hand-drawn travel illustrations in the Augustus Hoppin Drawings Collection are some of my favorite items from the collection. Hoppin specialized in comics based on his own travels around the United States, Europe, and North Africa. The illustrations offer an incredible window into his process of creating sketches during his travels and then using those sketches as inspiration for comics in places like *Harper's Monthly* and lush graphic albums.



Augustus Hoppin (1828–1896). *Towards the Rhine—Arnheim*, pen and ink, July 1854.

How might your work resonate for today's readers?

I think readers will find my version of nineteenth-century comics history to be very surprising. When people hear “nineteenth-century graphic humor,” they may think of single-panel illustrations like Thomas Nast's political cartoons or E. W. Clay's racist caricatures of Jim Crow. The comic strips in my book are very different from that. These early playful, multi-panel comic strips emphasized stories and featured distinctive characters, settings, and plots. I am fascinated by the experimental approach of those early comics. Since the medium was so new, there were few rules for how to tell stories with pictures. Hence, we see an explosion of approaches to graphic storytelling that went far beyond the speech bubbles and panel grids familiar to us today.

What are you currently working on?

My next project is an article about David Claypoole Johnston, a cartoonist, who in the 1830s compared his comics to the visions “once conjured up by John Milton.” Johnston didn't lack ambition. AAS has the most complete collection of his work, so I am sure I will return to the reading room sooner rather than later.

Member Spotlight: David Doret

AAS member David Doret (elected April 2009) is a longtime contributor of materials to the Society, and his gifts have added significant strength to our collections, particularly in graphic arts. Doret first became interested in antiques when he needed to furnish an old house. That interest expanded to paintings and prints, and while doing research for his growing collection, Doret became familiar with AAS. By then he had assembled several works by artist David Claypoole Johnston (1799–1865), for whom the Society has sizable holdings. He contacted Georgia “Gigi” Barnhill, curator of graphic arts at that time. She looked over Doret’s collection in Philadelphia and gave him encouragement. “That was the start of my relationship with AAS,” he remembers.

Since then, Doret and his wife, Linda G. Mitchell, have given more than 3,500 objects to the Society. “Once I discovered that I could buy things that an institution might want—and experienced the thrill of being able to place them in a permanent collection—I got deeper into collecting, and my interest was cemented.

“I look for things that seem interesting. When I find something, I first ask if I have an exit strategy. Is there someone who will want the piece? AAS is very easy to deal with for American materials before 1900. If the item is not a duplicate of what is already in its collection, I have a high level of confidence AAS might want it.”

Institutional collecting is a collaboration between the collector and the institution, Doret explains. “They need each other. And there

is a third leg: dealers, who can assist with the process and feed materials to collectors. What gets saved for the future is the product of that triangle.”

Doret was inspired by the reputations of Charles Henry Taylor (1846–1921; elected April 1912) and Jay Last (1929–2021; elected October 1987), both giants in the collecting world and significant AAS donors. However, Society founder Isaiah Thomas most deeply influenced his passion for collecting. “Thomas believed that we of the present, who have benefited from the historical evidence that past generations collected, have an obligation to enlarge that record for future generations. You can’t study history without the historical record. The future is necessarily dependent upon us—the present—to pass it on.”

Sarah J. F. Johnston (1850–1925), Mother holding infant while reading a letter, charcoal, no date. David Claypoole Johnston Collection. Gift of David Doret and Linda Mitchell, 2010.



Ferdinand Moras scrapbook of tobacco labels, Philadelphia, 1854–66. Gift of David Doret and Linda Mitchell, 2016.



Member and fellow news

Two members were awarded the 2024 Pulitzer Prize: **Jacqueline Jones** (elected October 2008) in History for *No Right to an Honest Living: The Struggles of Boston's Black Workers in the Civil War Era* and **Ilyon Woo** (elected April 2023) in Biography for *Master Slave Husband Wife: An Epic Journey from Slavery to Freedom*.

For *Continental Reckoning: The American West in the Age of Expansion* (2023) **Elliott West** (elected April 2013) received the 2024 Bancroft Prize in American History and Diplomacy and was a 2024 Pulitzer Prize finalist in History.

Christopher Collins (elected April 2012) received the 2024 Isaiah Thomas Award on April 5 for his longtime dedication to Worcester as a civic leader.

Matt Cohen (elected October 2017) won the Modern Language Association's 54th annual James Russell Lowell Prize for *The Silence of the Miskito Prince: How Cultural Dialogue Was Colonized* (2022).

Kerri K. Greenidge (elected April 2021) won the American Historical Association's Joan Kelly Memorial Prize in women's history and/or feminist theory for *The Grimkes: The Legacy of Slavery in an American Family* (2022).

Kristen Silva Gruesz (elected April 2011) received the American Historical Association's Beveridge Family Prize in American History and the Early American Literature Book Prize for *Cotton Mather's Spanish Lessons: A Study of Language, Race, and Belonging in the Early Americas* (2022).

Brenton Simons (elected April 2008) was appointed an honorary officer of the Order of the British Empire for services to Anglo-American history and received the Washington Irving Medal for Literary Excellence from the Saint Nicholas Society of the City of New York.

Kelly Wisecup (Kate B. and Hall H. Peterson Fellow 2014–15; elected April 2022) received the 2023 Early American Literature Book Prize for *Assembled for Use: Indigenous Compilation and the Archives of Early Native American Literatures* (2021).

Staff news

Ashley Cataldo, curator of manuscripts, published "Manuscript Newspapers" in *Manuscripts* vol. 75 (Fall 2023); and "Before the Reporter's Notebook: The Oblong Book in the Long Eighteenth Century," in *Eighteenth-Century Life* vol. 48 (January 2024).

John Garcia, director of scholarly programs and partnerships, won the Walter Muir Whitehill Prize in Early American History from the Colonial Society of Massachusetts for "Sent 'Without Ordre': John Dunton, the London Book Trade, and the Provincialized Reader of Late Seventeenth-Century New England." Garcia's essay will be published in *The New England Quarterly* this year.

"My Favorite Print(s)," by **Christine Morris**, associate curator of graphic arts and registrar, was published in the *AHPCS News Letter* vol. 48 (Fall 2023).

"Chronicling the Lava Wave: My Adventure Unearthing the Amateur Press," by **Laura Wasowicz**, curator of children's literature, was published in *Caxtonian* vol. 32, no. 2 (March/April 2024).

Congratulations to staff members who reached significant milestones at AAS since October 2023: **David Cohen**, ten years, and **Lisa Sutter**, ten years.

We welcomed **Stephanie Corrigan** in January as the new public programs coordinator.



Lynn Swain joined AAS on February 1 as vice president for advancement. In this role, she oversees development, membership, marketing, and communications for the Society. Prior to coming to AAS, Swain served as director of development at Cornell Botanic Gardens since 2016. Before that, she was membership director for the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum; and previously, registrar at Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library, and executive director and curator at the Estes Park Area Historical Museum in Colorado. Delighted to return to Massachusetts where she grew up, Swain looks forward to both learning about and becoming part of the Worcester community.

New members

Twenty-nine individuals, elected in April 2024, have accepted membership in the American Antiquarian Society.

Elizabeth Bacon

Sutton, Massachusetts

Elizabeth Bacon is coordinator of the Clemente Course in the Humanities in Worcester. She is the founding director of two extracurricular civics programs for Worcester students—The Blackstone Canal Horse and Wagon Tours and This is MyCity!—and serves as president of the Worcester County Poetry Association. Bacon received the Massachusetts Governor’s Award in the Humanities in 2023.

Lorne Bair

Winchester, Virginia

Lorne Bair, a leading antiquarian bookseller, specializes in material from the eighteenth to twenty-first centuries relating to American social movements, including radical politics, civil rights, proletarian literature, and related fields. Bair decided to pursue this specialty full-time in 2002 after running a general bookshop for six years. He is a former board member of the Antiquarian Booksellers’ Association of America and a member of the faculty of the Antiquarian Book Seminars.

Melissa Barton

New Haven, Connecticut

Melissa Barton is curator of prose and drama at Yale University’s Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, and curator of the James Weldon Johnson Collection of African American Arts and Letters at the Beinecke. She has worked on Yale’s Black Bibliography Project and is a leader in building a world-class collection, in acquiring both individual items and larger collections.

Ben Bascom

Muncie, Indiana

Ben Bascom, assistant professor of English at Ball State University, is a scholar of early and nineteenth-century American literature. He draws upon a queer studies methodology that follows the relationship between power and desire, gender, and sexuality in American literary cultures. He is the author of an upcoming book entitled *Feeling Singular: Queer Masculinities in the Early United States*. Bascom was a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow at AAS in 2018–19.

Jay Cantor

Woodstock, Connecticut

Jay Cantor is an independent historian and curator and president of Jay E. Cantor, Fine Art Consulting Inc. Previously he ran the American painting department

and museum services at Christie’s auction house and was a founding director of the Georgia O’Keeffe Museum. Cantor is a member of the Grolier Club and a contributor to *American Fine Art Magazine*.

William R. Cross

Manchester-by-the-Sea, Massachusetts

William Cross, a retired chartered financial analyst, works as an independent scholar and consultant to art and history museums. He has many years of leadership experience managing investment portfolios and investment teams, and serving museums and other nonprofits. Cross curated the nationally renowned 2019 exhibition, *Homer at the Beach: A Marine Painter’s Journey, 1869–1880*, and wrote the biography, *Winslow Homer: American Passage* (2022). He also serves as chairman of the advisory board of the Yale Center for Faith and Culture.

Christian Ayne Crouch

Rhinebeck, New York

Christian Crouch is dean of graduate studies and associate professor of history and American and Indigenous studies at Bard College. Her research focuses on early modern Atlantic history, Native American and Indigenous studies, Atlantic slavery, empire, and visual and material culture. She is the author of *Nobility Lost: French and Canadian Martial Cultures, Indians, and the End of New France* (2014), which received the 2015 Mary Alice and Philip Boucher Prize.

James Cummins III

New York, New York

James Cummins is the proprietor of James Cummins Bookseller, which recently absorbed William Reese Company and Waiting for Godot Books. He is a member of the Antiquarian Booksellers’ Association of America and the Grolier Club. Cummins’s father, James Cummins Jr., is a longtime AAS member (elected 1989).



Chief Conservator Babette Gehrich is filmed in the Conservation Lab for a documentary produced by Northeastern University, February 2024.



Left to right: Nan Wolverton, vice president for academic and public programs; Jesse Alemán (elected April 2012), Mellon Distinguished Scholar in Residence 2023–24; and Carlos Alemán at the Semiannual Meeting, April 2024.

Cate Denial

Galesburg, Illinois

Cate Denial is the Bright Distinguished Professor of American History and director of the Bright Institute at Knox College. She received the American Historical Association's 2018 Eugene Asher Distinguished Teaching Award. Her research on the early nineteenth-century experience of pregnancy, childbirth, and child-rearing in upper midwestern Ojibwe and missionary cultures grew from her book, *Making Marriage: Husbands, Wives, and the American State in Dakota and Ojibwe Country* (2013). Her new book, *A Pedagogy of Kindness*, will be published this year.

Marisa J. Fuentes

New Brunswick, New Jersey

Marisa Fuentes is associate professor of history and women's and gender studies at Rutgers University. Her scholarship brings together critical historiography, historical geography, and Black feminist theory to examine gender, sexuality, and slavery in the early modern Atlantic world. Fuentes is the author of the award-winning *Dispossessed Lives: Enslaved Women, Violence, and the Archive* (2016) and coeditor of *Scarlet and Black: Slavery and Dispossession in Rutgers History, Volume I* (2016).

Michael S. Green

Las Vegas, Nevada

Michael Green is professor of history at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. A scholar of nineteenth-century America, he has written several books on the Civil War era, including *Politics and America in Crisis: The Coming of the Civil War* (2010) and *Lincoln and the Election of 1860* (2011). He has authored several books on Nevada, including a college-level textbook titled *Nevada: A History of the Silver State* (2015).

Barbara Elizabeth Heritage

Charlottesville, Virginia

Barbara Heritage is director of collections, exhibitions and scholarly initiatives for Rare Book School, where she has worked for more than two decades. She cofounded the Mellon Society of Fellows in Critical Bibliography and has served in leadership roles for bibliophilic groups such as the Bibliographical Society of America, Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, and Publishing, and the Antiquarian Book School Foundation. Heritage curated the Grolier Club exhibition, *Building the Book from the Ancient World to the Present Day*, featured in the *New York Times*.

Rana Asali Hogarth

Champaign, Illinois

Rana Hogarth, associate professor of history at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, studies the medical and scientific constructions of race in the Atlantic world during the era of slavery and beyond. Her first book, *Medicalizing Blackness: Making Racial Difference in the Atlantic World, 1780–1840* (2017), examines how white physicians “medicalized” blackness, the process by which they defined blackness as a medically significant marker of difference in slave societies of the American Atlantic.

Sherita L. Johnson

Hattiesburg, Mississippi

Sherita Johnson is associate professor of English at the University of Southern Mississippi, with a research focus on nineteenth-century African American literature, Southern literature, and cultural studies. The author of *Black Women in New South Literature and Culture* (2010), she is currently tracking Frederick Douglass's activism in the Colored Conventions movement and examining the works of African American writers during the Reconstruction era. Johnson is the director of the Center for Black Studies at the University of Southern Mississippi. She was a Diana Korzenik Equity Access Fellow at AAS in 2022–23.

Jacob Loewentheil

New York, New York

Jacob Loewentheil is an archivist, author, rare bookseller, and photography dealer, as well as managing partner of The 19th Century Rare Book and Photograph Shop and curator of the Marcel Sternberger Collection. In the latter role, he focuses on returning public attention to one of the great portrait photographers of the last century. His book, *The Psychological Portrait: Marcel Sternberger's Revelations in Photography* (2016), explores the work of Sternberger through previously unpublished photographs and documents.

Brian P. Luskey

Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

Brian Luskey, associate professor of history at West Virginia University, has produced significant scholarship in nineteenth-century U.S. cultural history and the history of capitalism. This includes two monographs, one edited volume, and numerous articles. Luskey was a Kate B. and Hall J. Peterson Fellow in 2003–4 for his dissertation, which became his first book, *On the Make: Clerks and the Quest for Capital in Nineteenth-Century America*. He was also a Joyce Tracy Fellow in 2012–13.

Koritha Mitchell

Northborough, Massachusetts

Koritha Mitchell is professor of English at Ohio State University and visiting professor of English at Boston University. Her monograph, *From Slave Cabins to the White House: Homemade Citizenship in African American Culture* (2020), was named a best book of the year by *Ms.* magazine and *Black Perspectives* and became a Choice Outstanding Academic Title in 2021. Mitchell is also editor of scholarly editions of Frances E. W. Harper's 1892 novel, *Iola Leroy*, and of Harriet Jacobs's *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* (1861).

Alyssa Mt. Pleasant

Buffalo, New York

Alyssa Mt. Pleasant is principal of ATW Research + Consulting, which focuses on projects at the intersection of history and Native American and Indigenous studies. Mt. Pleasant (Tuscarora) researches Haudenosaunee history during the Revolutionary War era. Mt. Pleasant has been a faculty member in history, American studies, and interdisciplinary ethnic studies departments at Yale University and the State University of New York at Buffalo. She served as founding program director of the Native American Scholars Initiative at the American Philosophical Society, connecting campus- and community-based Indigenous researchers with archival collections.

Megan Kate Nelson

Boston, Massachusetts

Megan Nelson, a writer and independent historian, is the author of *The Three-Cornered War: The Union, the Confederacy, and Native Peoples in the Fight for the West* (2020), a finalist for the 2021 Pulitzer Prize in History. Her book *Saving Yellowstone: Exploration and Preservation in Reconstruction America* (2022) was one of *Smithsonian Magazine's* Top Ten Books in History for 2022, and the *Colorado Sun's* Fifty Books about the West.

Deirdre Cooper Owens

Hartford, Connecticut

Deirdre Cooper Owens is associate professor of history at the University of Connecticut, specializing in African American historical experiences ranging from slavery to contemporary reproductive justice. Her first book, *Medical Bondage: Race, Gender, and the Origins of American Gynecology* (2017), won the Darlene Clark Hine Prize from the Organization of American Historians. Cooper Owens has won several prestigious honors and awards for her scholarly and advocacy work in history and reproductive and birthing justice.

Alvin Patrick

Easton, Connecticut

Alvin Patrick is executive producer of CBS News Streaming Originals and the CBS News Race and Culture Unit. His work has earned him numerous awards, including six national Emmy nominations, six National Association of Black Journalists awards, a Gabriel Award, and a Freddie Award. He also shared two Edward R. Murrow Awards with his colleagues at CBS News. Patrick is a collector of nineteenth-century African American literature and is a member of the Grolier Club.

K.J. Rawson

Grafton, Massachusetts

K. J. Rawson is associate professor of English and women's, gender, and sexuality studies and the codirector of NULab for Texts, Maps, and Networks at Northeastern University. He studies the rhetorical work of queer and transgender archival collections in brick-and-mortar and digital spaces. Rawson is founder and director of the Digital Transgender Archive, an award-winning collection of trans-related historical materials, and partners with AAS in this work. Additionally, Rawson chairs the editorial board of the *Homosaurus*, an LGBTQ+ linked data vocabulary.



Jay and Deborah Last Fellow Todd Thompson reads a newly acquired issue of *Budget of Fun*, March 2024 (see page 5).

Jessica Rosenberg

Ithaca, New York

Jessica Rosenberg, associate professor of English at Cornell University, is a scholar in both the history of science and the history of the book. Her research examines the literature and culture of early modern England, with additional focus on science and literature, the history of material texts and media forms, and the aesthetic dimensions of everyday life. She is the author of *Botanical Poetics: Early Modern Plant Books and the Husbandry of Print* (2023) as well as articles on husbandry, hospitality, poetry and plants, and the poetics of practical address.

Sarah Sanders

Worcester, Massachusetts

Sarah Sanders is a Worcester Public Schools teacher and freelance writer. Dedicated to creating conversations around food, women, and education, she produces *Pop It*, a podcast and radio show dedicated to elevating women's voices.

Sanders's weekly lifestyle column appears in the *Telegram and Gazette*. She was a member of Leadership Worcester's class of 2018, was named "Worcester's Best Columnist" in 2019 by *Best of Worcester*, and appeared on *Worcester Business Journal's* "40 Under Forty" list in 2020. She is a Worcester Public Library Foundation trustee.

Terri L. Snyder

Pasadena, California

Terri Snyder, professor and chair of American Studies at California State University, Fullerton, studies the history of gender, race, and the law in British North America. She has written two books: *The Power to Die: Slavery and Suicide in British North America* (2015) and *Brabbling Women: Disorderly Speech and the Law in Early Virginia* (2003). Snyder's work has also appeared in the *Journal of American History*, the *Law and History Review*, and the *William and Mary Quarterly*.

John Stauffer

Cambridge, Massachusetts

John Stauffer is the Sumner R. and Marshall S. Kates Professor of English and of African and African American Studies at Harvard University. A leading authority on antislavery, the Civil War era, social protest movements, and photography, he has written nineteen books, including *Giants: The Parallel Lives of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln* (2008) and *The Battle Hymn of the Republic: A Biography of the Song That Marches On* (2013). He also has advised three award-winning documentaries and has been a consultant for feature films, including *Django Unchained* (2012) and *Free State of Jones* (2016).



Students from Worcester State University study collection materials during a class visit, March 2024.

Ben Vinson III

Washington, D.C.

Ben Vinson III is president of Howard University and a historian of Latin America. He received the 2019 Howard F. Cline Book Prize in Mexican History for *Before Mestizaje: The Frontiers of Race and Caste in Colonial Mexico* (2017). A member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences' Commission on the Practice of Democratic Citizenship, he was elected vice president of the research division of the American Historical Association in 2020 and is the current president-elect.

Xine Yao

London, England

Xine Yao, a lecturer in American literature to 1900 at University College London (UCL), is co-director of qUCL, an initiative that focuses on LGBTQ+ studies, gender and sexuality studies, queer theory, and related fields. Yao was named a "New Generation Thinker" by the BBC and Arts and Humanities Research Council. Their first book, *Disaffected: The Cultural Politics of Unfeeling in Nineteenth-Century America*, was partially researched at AAS during a CHAViC summer seminar in 2015. Yao is the founding chair of the podcast initiative for C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists.

Kurt Zimmerman

Conroe, Texas

Kurt Zimmerman has collected books for thirty years, specializing in association items related to American book hunting and first editions of Latin American literature. At the University of Texas, he spent three years as an intern and assistant at the Humanities Research Center learning bibliography and books, worked in the book trade for noted Americana dealer Dorothy Sloan, and ran the rare book and manuscript department at Butterfield and Butterfield auction house in San Francisco. He is founder and president of the Book Hunters Club of Houston, established in 2014.



Summer and Fall Program Highlights

Tuesday, May 21, 7:00 p.m.

Citizens of a Stolen Land: A Ho-Chunk History of the Nineteenth-Century United States, featuring Stephen Kantrowitz (elected April 2019).

Wednesday, June 5, 7:00 p.m.

The Lives of John Jacobs, featuring Jonathan Schroeder in conversation with Manisha Sinha (elected October 2006).

Tuesday, June 18, 7:00 p.m.

Wheatley at 250: Black Women Poets Re-Imagine the Verse of Phillis Wheatley Peters, featuring Danielle Legros Georges.

Wednesday, June 26, 7:00 p.m.

Chat with a Curator. View collections materials related to the Historic Children's Voices project and learn how to bind your own book.

Monday, July 15, 7:00 p.m.

Haiti's Media Revolution, featuring Joseph Rezek (elected April 2023).

The James Russell Wiggins Lecture in the History of the Book in American Culture.

Tuesday, July 30, 7:00 p.m.

Edward Duffield: Philadelphia Clockmaker, Citizen, Gentleman, 1730-1803, featuring Bob Frishman (elected October 2023).

Exciting news!

In April, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) announced it has awarded funding for another three years of NEH fellowships at AAS, providing stipend support for up to six fellows each year. This is the twentieth consecutive NEH grant, spanning nearly fifty years of fellowships.

Thursday, September 26, 2:00 p.m.

Book Anatomy: Body Politics and Materiality in Indigenous Book History, featuring Amy Gore.

Tuesday, October 8, 7:00 p.m.

Trans History and Historicism in the Digital Age, featuring K.J. Rawson (elected April 2024) and Jen Manion (elected November 2020) in conversation.

Thursday, October 17, 7:00 p.m.

Original Meanings: Politics and Ideas in the Making of the Constitution, featuring Jack Rakove (elected April 2000).

The Robert C. Baron Lecture allows a distinguished AAS member who has written a seminal work of history to reflect on the book's impact on scholarship and society in the years since its appearance.

To learn more about and register for these and other upcoming AAS programs, please visit our website at:

americanantiquarian.org/programs-events