

# ALMANAC

The Newsletter of the American Antiquarian Society | Fall 2024 | Number 108



## THE STEAM BOAT OR *NORTH RIVER GRINDER*

NEWYORK Printed & Sold at J. HEWITT'S Musical Repository & Library N<sup>o</sup> 59 Maiden Lane

Allegro





# From the President's Desk

Earlier this year, the Worcester County Sheriff's Office discovered an enormous cache of jail records from its 300-year history. Rather than throw them in the dumpster, an all-too-common fate, the sheriff's general counsel contacted AAS. Did we want them? Of course! What ensued was more than a transfer of records between two institutions. Sheriff Lew Evangelidis and his team visited AAS to learn how we preserve materials and how their archive builds upon our existing collections. Six



staff colleagues and I returned the visit to learn how the jail operates, especially its rehabilitation programs. We left with crates of spaghetti squash grown on the jail's organic farm, its successful work-release program.



Curator of Manuscripts Ashley Cataldo (right) with visitors from the Sheriff's office (from left): Anna Laukaitis, Sheriff Lew Evangelidis, Kevin Gould, and Eric Eisner.

Several weeks later, an equally delicious delivery arrived: the first tranche of volumes documenting incarcerated people's and jailhouse visitors' identities and experiences. After AAS staff creates catalog records and finding aids, researchers studying the history of carceral systems, the lives of people otherwise unrecorded, and Worcester's own institutions will have a new, invaluable historical resource. A future public program will showcase not just the records but also the partnership with the Sheriff's Office that brought them to AAS.

Partnerships—national as well as local—are essential to our work. This year alone, we worked closely with the National Council for Teachers of English to develop our Historic Children's Voices initiative and summer K–12 teacher institute (see page 7). We hosted teams of researchers from the Black Bibliography Project (BBP), which is creating authoritative, web-based bibliographies of major African American authors. BBP is questioning how current practices need to change to accommodate Black print culture, disseminated in formats outside the usual purview of bibliographic scholarship. (AAS's new councilors include BBP co-director Meredith McGill; see page 11.) We joined the Digital Library of the Caribbean, an online repository that makes accessible Caribbean-produced materials held in libraries and archives in the islands as well as in the United States and Europe. And finally, for a new Pine Tree Foundation of New York grant to catalog and digitize nineteenth-century materials created in Hawaii and by Native Hawaiians, we will work with institutions on the Hawaiian Islands to share the digitized products.



BBP team members from left: Tajah Ebram, Jorden Sanders, Amanda Awanjo, Mara Caelin, and Meredith McGill (elected April 1997).

AAS collects and preserves the sources so that present and future researchers may better understand the complex American past. Our partnerships advance that mission, extend our collections and community, and increase our reach and impact.

With warm wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Scott Cooper".

**Cover:** First page of engraved sheet music, *The Steamboat or North River Grinder*, New York, ca. 1808. Gift of Michael Zinman, 2024.

*Almanac* is a publication of the American Antiquarian Society. All rights reserved.  
Editor: Julieane Frost; Designer: Jackie Penny; Photographer: Nathan Fiske

## Conservation internship trains thoughtful stewards

When Minyoung Kim began her summer conservation internship at AAS last June, she had not yet handled historical archival materials. “I stepped out of my comfort zone to broaden my perspective,” said Kim, a graduate student in the conservation of historic and artistic works program at New York University. During her eight-week immersion into paper conservation at AAS, she treated nearly two hundred issues of *The Patowmac Guardian* (1790–94), the first newspaper published in what is now West Virginia (see related article on page 4). “The experience has given me the confidence to enroll in a course on the conservation of library materials this fall,” she said.

Institutions such as AAS play a vital role in training the next generation of conservators, said Chief Conservator Babette Gehrlich, who oversees the interns. “The field needs it. And for me personally, it’s very stimulating, as these young people bring in fresh perspectives and knowledge.”

While AAS has hosted conservation interns since 1971, when it built its first conservation lab, the internship program was formally established in 2020 after the current state-of-the-art lab was completed. The competitive summer program provides hands-on training for students specializing in paper or book conservation who are currently enrolled in one of the five graduate programs in the United States, United Kingdom, and Canada.

Gehrlich works with the interns to align projects with their interests and goals. Interns have assisted in the conservation of a rare 1830s circus poster, employed a delicate paper splitting technique to strengthen an early nineteenth-century pamphlet with extreme mold and water damage, and conserved two fragile issues of *Herald of Freedom*, the only known copies of the weekly abolitionist journal published in 1855—among many other projects.

In 2023, intern Mitchel Gundrum, then studying book conservation at West Dean College in Chichester, England, focused on materials related to his interest in binding history. In addition to treating volumes from



Babette Gehrlich (left) looks on as Minyoung Kim treats issues of *The Patowmac Guardian*.

various time periods and made of different materials, he surveyed all the pre-1800 New England primers (269 items in total) in search of scaleboard bindings. He added his findings to the AAS catalog and to a comprehensive database on this binding style that he has been building.

While at AAS, conservation interns participate in a lively community that includes curators, fellows, and staff from across the organization. “Making connections over lunch or during a fellow’s talk can be just as important as time spent in the lab,” Gehrlich said.

According to Kim, developing hands-on skills and familiarity with the treatment process was just part of what made her AAS internship beneficial. “Making appropriate treatment decisions requires a deep understanding of the collection and humanistic knowledge,” she said. “Learning Babette’s thought process on what to treat, how to treat it, and how to communicate with other stakeholders was one of the most valuable aspects of my internship.”

“My ten weeks at AAS were truly stellar in developing my skills as an early career conservator,” said Gundrum, who joined The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens in California this fall as a book conservator. “The treatments completed, skills tested, histories explored, connections made, all of these make me a more well-rounded, empathetic, and thoughtful steward of cultural heritage materials.”



## Recent Acquisitions

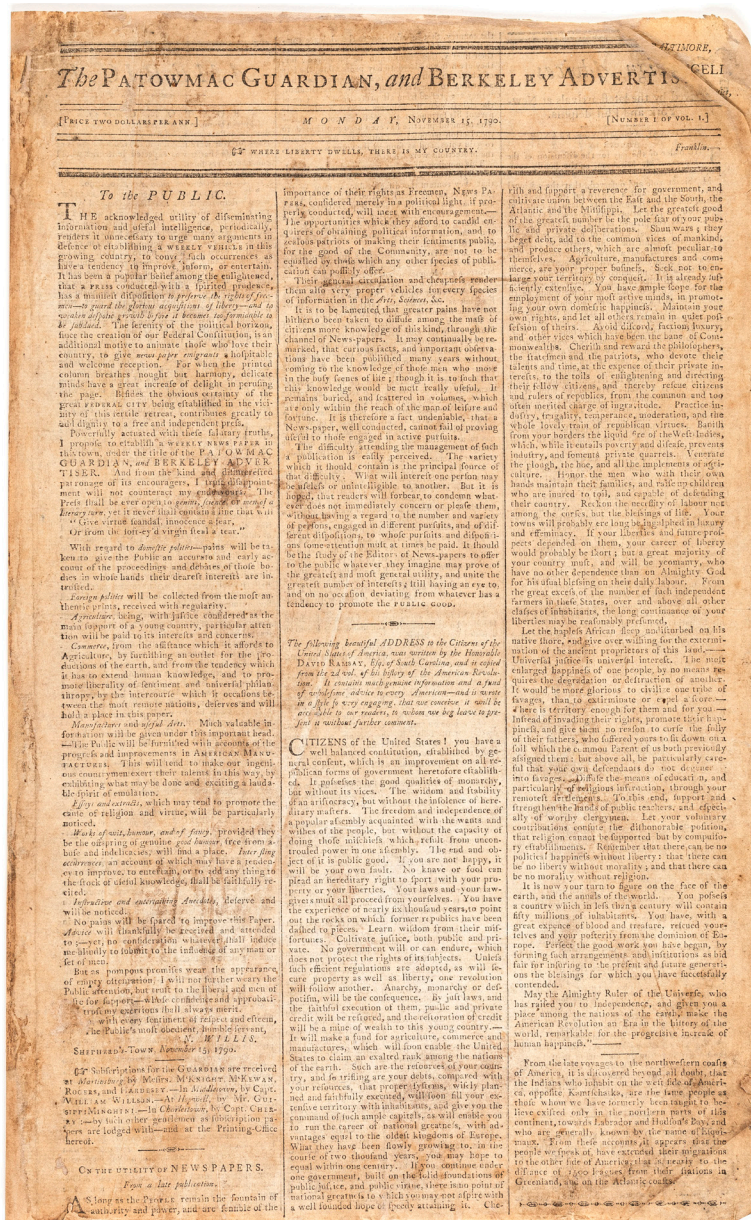
# First newspaper published in West Virginia is a rare discovery

Earlier this year, AAS acquired nearly 200 issues of *The Patowmac Guardian, and Berkeley Advertiser*, the first newspaper published in what is now West Virginia. The issues include the very first (vol. 1, no. 1), published in Shepherdstown, Virginia, on November 15, 1790. More than 160 issues are the only known copies.

Before he discovered and purchased the papers at auction earlier this year, the earliest known issue of *The Patowmac Guardian* was no. 33 (June 27, 1791), says Vincent Golden, curator of newspapers at AAS. "It's extremely rare that a state's first issue would become available, so this is a very exciting find."

Nathaniel Willis (1755–1831) published *The Patowmac Guardian* in Shepherdstown until 1792, when he moved the paper to nearby Martinsburg. Willis remained editor and publisher until 1799, when he left the area for Ohio. Like many newspaper publishers, Willis started out in a big-city printing firm—in his case, in Boston—where he learned the trade. *The Patowmac Guardian* reflects his Jeffersonian Republican views, and the pages are filled with news gleaned from papers printed in Baltimore and Philadelphia, as well as Jamaica and London.

The first issue includes a patriotic poem, "Where Liberty Dwells, There Is My Country," a chapter from a popular history of the American Revolution, and a statement outlining Willis's plan for the paper. For \$2 per year, subscribers would receive the weekly paper via post rider. Advertising space was available for \$1 for a "moderate length" ad that appeared over three weeks. In the first issue, all the ads are offerings from Willis himself, including promotion of his 1791 almanac, a call encouraging "a strong, active, lad" to apply as his apprentice, and a job posting for "an active, sober man, who will undertake the business of post riding."



*The Patowmac Guardian, and Berkeley Advertiser* (vol. 1, no. 1), Shepherdstown, Virginia, November 15, 1790.

Brian Luskey (elected April 2024), professor of history at West Virginia University, says, "AAS's acquisition of so many issues of Nathaniel Willis's newspaper offers scholars the opportunity to study contentious national politics from a rare vantage point in northwestern Virginia in the decade after the United States's ratification. It also provides a rare chance to trace the work of a prominent printer geographically from the Atlantic coast to Appalachia in the early republic."

Scan QR code to read the first issues of *The Patowmac Guardian*.





*Sir Tom & Lady Thumb*, New York: Solomon King, ca. 1822.

Tom Thumb takes center stage as both sword-wielding hero and object of royal curiosity in this early nineteenth-century picture book. Although this rhymed tale is set in the early medieval court of King Arthur, the ladies and gentlemen of the court are dressed in Regency-era attire that would have been familiar to young readers. New Yorker Solomon King (1791–1832) was a prolific picture book publisher in the early American republic, and this new acquisition is a fine example of his output.

—Laura Wasowicz, curator of children's literature

SIR TOM & LADY THUMB



Pub. by S. King, 386 Broad Way, N.York.

Little Tom Thumb,  
Danc'd on a drum,  
Before King Arthur's court,  
And being so small,  
He pleas'd them all,  
For they were fond of sport.

June 25. 1710 } John Copeland of Braintree the Father, (and Lydia Copeland the sister) of Ruth Copeland, both of them, of full Age— Testifieth and saith: that after samuel Hayden of said Braintree Jurid<sup>o</sup>. came to understand that the said Ruth Copeland was with child, he being in the house of the aforesaid John Copelands, after some discourse with him, we heard him say, that he would have his punishment up and as soon as it was out he would be married. and taking her by her Arm, said come cheer up be not cast down you will undoe your selfe and me too, tis done and it can't be helpt. tis never the near to be so concern'd about it, if the said John Copeland withdrawing into the next room, my aforesaid daughter Lydia, presently following of me asked for an Almanack. I asked her, what would you do with it. she answered me samuel wants it to know the time, when Ruth will lye in, I thereupon drew near the door of the room where said samuel was, and did then my selfe as well as my said daughter Lydia hear him say. to my daughter Ruth, Ruth, you won't lye in, untill next march, tis a devilish while to it. —

we also further Testifie and say, that we heard — Nehemiah Hayden (the father of the said samuel Hayden) say (sometime since) tho' the child be samuel's he must deny it, when he comes to Court, to save his fine,

Made on July 5. 1710. in Court of Gen. Sessions of the Province of the Mass. by the said John Copeland the Father, Lydia Copeland the Sister, and Ruth Copeland the Daughter of the said John Copeland.

**Boston, Massachusetts, Ruth Copeland Affidavit, 1710.**

This handwritten affidavit describes the plight of unmarried Ruth Copeland, who became pregnant by Samuel Hayden in 1710. After learning that Ruth was to have his child, Samuel promised in front of her family to marry her. Moments later, however, he rescinded his offer. He was overheard saying to Ruth, “You won’t lye in untill next March, tis a devilish while to it.” Sometime later, Samuel’s father, Nehemiah Hayden, also advised that “tho the child be Samuel’s he must deny it, when he comes to court, to save his fine.” (By denying his fatherhood, Samuel could avoid paying the fine for bastardy that was required in eighteenth-century Massachusetts.) These interactions are documented in the affidavit, which was presented by Ruth’s father, John Copeland, and her sister, Lydia, to the Court of General Sessions in Boston on July 5, 1710.

—Ashley Cataldo, curator of manuscripts



## Program Highlights



On June 18 Danielle Legros Georges (elected October 2024), Boston's poet laureate from 2015 to 2019, read from her book, *Wheatley at 250: Black Women Poets Re-Imagine the Verse of Phillis Wheatley Peters* (2023). She was joined by Worcester poets Serenity Jackson (the city's youth poet laureate for 2024–25), Xaulanda Thorpe, and Ashley Wonder, who read their own poems inspired by archival materials written by and about Phillis Wheatley Peters and held in the AAS collections.

The thirty-sixth James Russell Wiggins Lecture in the History of the Book in American Culture on July 15 featured a talk by Joseph Rezek (elected April 2023) on *Haiti's Media Revolution and the Racialization of Print*. Rezek traced the historical emergence of the idea that a single printed book, by virtue of its author's racial identity, might reveal profound truths about an entire race of people.



On October 8, Jen Manion (elected November 2020) and K. J. Rawson (elected April 2024) presented *Trans History and Historicism in the Digital Age*, a conversation about the history of gender and sexuality, with a focus on the Digital Transgender Archive, of which AAS is a partner. The archive is an online hub for digitized historical materials, born-digital materials, and information on archival holdings throughout the world. The program was the inaugural LGBTQ+ history event at AAS.

On October 17, Jack Rakove (elected October 2000) delivered the 2024 Robert C. Baron Lecture, reflecting on his Pulitzer Prize-winning book, *Original Meanings: Politics and Ideas in the Making of the Constitution* (1996), twenty-eight years after it was published. The Baron Lecture features a distinguished AAS member who has written a seminal work of history, reflecting on the book's impact on scholarship and society in the years since its appearance.







## Touching historical materials is “mind-blowing”

Teachers from seventeen states traveled to AAS for the Historic Children’s Voices K-12 Teacher Institute, held from August 5–9 and sponsored by Dorothy Hurt (elected October 2018). The two dozen educators participated in hands-on workshops using the Society’s collection of early American books for children and nineteenth-century children’s own writings. They explored what children read, as well as young people’s diaries, letters, stories, poems, and self-published books and newspapers. “It was great to have time in the archive and mind-blowing to touch the materials and be part of history,” said Amanda Perschall, a high school government teacher from Lebanon, Missouri.

Texts written by children have long been invisible in collections of family papers, but thanks to a National Endowment for the Humanities grant, hundreds of these materials have been digitized and cataloged. They are now available to everyone, including classrooms around the country, on the Society’s website.

According to Beth Douma, a Denver, Colorado, educator, having access to the texts is both enlightening and timely. “To have primary sources that we can share with children is magical. It brings these historical voices to life,” she said. “In 2024, we have been hyper-focused on the twenty-four-hour news cycle. You can rest in voices that came before us. You can learn so much.”

Every institute participant also created an original lesson plan inspired by the recently digitized materials—revealing innovative and creative ways to connect students with children who lived long ago. The twenty-four plans designed for grades K–12 cover a variety

of themes, including news and media literacy, daily life, humor, expressions of identity, slavery and abolition, and even creation of a museum exhibit, titled “187 Days on a Sailing Ship in 1858.”

Douma was inspired by the memoirs of girls who worked in the Lowell textile mills in the 1800s and by the *Anti-Slavery Alphabet*, published in 1847, which she read in person during the institute. Her plan asks students to create their own alphabet book using opinionated language about the working conditions and lives of the girls who worked in the mills.

“The variety of lesson plans is impressive and exciting,” said Nan Wolverton, AAS vice president for academic and public programs. “This is exactly what we aimed for: teachers using the voices of nineteenth-century children to invigorate their classrooms and facilitate critical thinking by comparing the lives, thoughts, and creativity of children then and now.”



Top: Institute sponsor Dorothy Hurt, in white shirt, talks to participants; bottom, l-r: Aimee Ferguson, Carolyn Martin, and Nan Wolverton discuss materials written by children.



# Unlocking the Past: Darlene Taylor

Darlene R. Taylor (Robert and Charlotte Baron Fellow, 2022) is a master instructor and faculty advisor to *The Amistad* literary and arts journal at Howard University, as well as a multidisciplinary artist and fiction writer. Here she reflects on her 2022 creative writing fellowship, when she conducted research for a novel that follows the lives of two people fighting for freedom and trying to restore their lives after the Civil War.



## How did you initially become interested in your topic?

I came to this project nourishing an idea for storytelling to help me better know the interior lives of people whose unheard stories are pushed to the margins of public records of historic moments. Often, I found public archives exacerbate silences, and I wondered about the lives of Black women during the 1800s and how the stories of that time were passed from one generation to the next. So, my project began as a search through archives. Sometimes the archives revealed names—a first name or nurse name—but little else. Therefore, I sought to write the stories of women I could not know. My approach was a multidisciplinary approach of visual art, prose, and poetry to imagine those unheard stories.

## How did your fellowship experience at AAS influence your work?

During my fellowship, I explored artifacts to help me understand the everyday lives of Black nurses and soldiers during the 1800s. I wanted to know about the work life of Black women, the paths they traveled, the people they cared for, and the things these women might have carried during their journeys.

I examined the art of silhouette practiced by Moses Williams and the assemblage of valentine boxes located in the AAS collection. The artifacts illuminated paths to visualize the inner stories, and I imagined the stories a Black nurse might tell of her experiences as she embroidered in a circle of women.

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

The valentine boxes and silhouettes by Moses Williams were crucial as they inspired the materials, paper cutting, and hand stitching I employed in the heirloom series. I began threading memories of the imagined homelife, ritual, and kinship bonds using vintage and antique textiles. I collected passed-down heirlooms, materials such as handkerchiefs, lace, and buttons to create vignettes in silhouettes. *(See example at left.)*

## How might your work resonate for today's readers?

The assemblage of textiles and poetry in my work creates pathways for readers to imagine the lives of people who have too long lived along the margins of history.

## What are you currently working on?

I am reflecting on nature and the landscapes of slavery and collecting artifacts of Black family life. My work continues to build narratives through heirloom textiles Black mothers once pressed against their bodies, wore, or held. I am studying artifacts from domestic spaces to imagine the lingering presence in homes where ancestors lived and the ways they displayed and articulated identity, self, family, and love.



*A silhouette from Darlene Taylor's series, Archive Mothers, which was inspired by valentine boxes in AAS's collection.*



## Member Spotlight: Diana Korzenik

Diana Korzenik (elected April 1995)—AAS member, donor, and respected collaborator—has been engaged with the Society for nearly forty years. The long and fruitful relationship began in 1985 after Korzenik, an artist and art educator, acquired the New Hampshire Cross family’s collection of their ancestors’ nineteenth-century wood engravings, woodblocks, paintings, photographs, letters, ephemera, and child art. The materials informed the writing of her first book, *Drawn to Art: A Nineteenth-Century Dream* (1985), the study of the promise of artmaking to New Englanders. In 1993 Korzenik chose AAS as the collection’s permanent home. Crucial to her decision was the Society’s intention to acquire the whole collection, not just parts of it. “The wise people at AAS understood the value of keeping it intact,” she said.



The Society celebrated Korzenik’s gift with a three-day conference that spring, followed by *The Cultivation of Artists in Nineteenth-Century America*, a compilation of the conference papers edited by Korzenik, along with Georgia Barnhill, then curator of graphic arts, and Caroline Sloat, then editor of publications.

In 2000, Korzenik created and endowed the Drawn to Art Fellowship to support historians’ use of the Society’s graphic visual treasures as primary sources in their research. “I am a picture person and wanted to support scholars who were looking at visual material to understand historical situations,” she explained. Five years later, the Society created the Center for Historic American Visual Culture (CHAViC), an initiative that promotes the extraordinary graphic arts collection at AAS through programs and an annual summer seminar.

More recently, having benefited from the burst of worldwide online lectures and programs, Korzenik again approached AAS. “I thought, since this has been such a rich time for me, let’s look at how the pandemic has affected institutions,” she said. She contacted

AAS President Scott Casper, and they put their heads together to design a fellowship program that would benefit researchers who cannot come to Worcester. The Diana Korzenik Virtual Fellowship was launched in 2022. To date, nine individuals from around the country have been selected for the three-month remote fellowship, which includes participation in AAS’s fellowship community, free access to the digitized collections, and specialized assistance from the librarians and curators.

“I’m very proud of the virtual fellowship,” said Korzenik. “Every institution has to survive financially, and virtual programming multiplies the constituencies extraordinarily. The whole ball game is so different now, and AAS offers a model of how to do it.”



Above: Henry Clay Cross (1852-1913), *Winter vegetables*, watercolor, no date; right: Emma Augusta Cross, Henry Clay Cross, and Joel Foster Cross, carte de visite photograph, c. 1875.



# Welcome new long-term fellows

This fall, we welcomed new long-term fellows Susan Schulten and BJ Lillis, who are spending this academic year in our AAS community.

## Susan Schulten Mellon Distinguished Scholar in Residence

Susan Schulten (elected October 2018), distinguished professor of history at the University of Denver, has long been interested in historical maps as rich artifacts in our shared history. At AAS, she is examining the collections around early national female education, where map drawing became essential to the curriculum. With the growth of printing, maps took on new familiarity and importance, notably as political weapons, as in the sectional crisis of the 1850s. The author of several books, including *Mapping the Nation: History and Cartography in Nineteenth-Century America* (2012), *A History of America in 100 Maps* (2018), and *Emma Willard: Maps of History* (2022), Schulten will serve as the state historian of Colorado during the 2025–26 academic year.



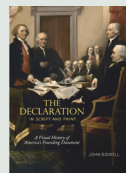
Susan Schulten (left) and BJ Lillis in the reading room.

## BJ Lillis Hench Post-Dissertation Fellow

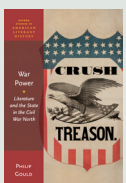
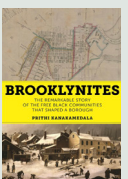
BJ Lillis, who received their doctorate from Princeton University earlier this year, specializes in early American history and the intersections between Indigenous history and Atlantic slavery. As a Hench Fellow, they will work on transforming their dissertation, *A Valley Between Worlds: Slavery, Dispossession, and the Creation of a Settler-Colonial Society in the Hudson Valley, 1674–1766*, into a book manuscript. Before beginning graduate work, Lillis worked in public history at the Museum of the City of New York, including as project assistant for its groundbreaking permanent exhibition on the past, present, and future of New York City. Lillis is also known for their collaborations with artist Lissa Rivera, *Beautiful Boy* and *The Silence of Spaces*, exploring the history and performance of gender.

# Recent books by members and fellows

**John Bidwell** (elected April 1987; Fred Harris Daniels Fellow, 1978–79; American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Fellow, 1994–95; Reese Fellow, 2020–21), *The Declaration in Script and Print: A Visual History of America's Founding Document* (Penn State University Press, 2024).



**Prithi Kanakamedala** (elected October 2021), *Brooklynites: The Remarkable Story of the Free Black Communities That Shaped a Borough* (New York University Press, 2024).

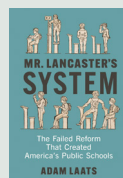


**Philip Gould** (elected October 2003; Northeast Modern Language Association Fellow, 1999–2000), *War Power: Literature and the State in the Civil War North* (Oxford University Press, 2024).



**Camille Owens** (Justin G. Schiller Fellow, 2018–19), *Like Children: Black Prodigy and the Measure of the Human in America* (New York University Press, 2024).

**Adam Laats** (Alstott Morgan Fellow, 2018–19; Lapidus Fellow in Pre-1900 Juvenile Literature and Ephemera, 2024–25), *Mr. Lancaster's System: The Failed Reform That Created America's Public Schools* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2024).



**Whitney Robles** (Jay and Deborah Last Fellow, 2017–18), *Curious Species: How Animals Made Natural History* (Yale University Press, 2023).





# Members elect new Council leadership at annual meeting

In advance of the Society's annual meeting on October 18, 2024, the following members were elected to three-year terms on the AAS governing board.



**Jesse Alemán** (elected April 2012) is professor of English and Presidential Teaching Fellow at the University of New Mexico. He was the Mellon Distinguished Scholar in Residence at AAS in 2023–24, when he completed *Latinx Civil Wars: The Transformation of Nineteenth-Century U.S. Latinidad*, forthcoming from New York University Press. Alemán recovered and republished *The Woman in Battle*, the 1876 autobiographical narrative of Loreta Janeta Velazquez, who fought for the Confederacy as Lt. Harry T. Buford. He coedited *Empire and the Literature of Sensation* (with Shelley Streeby) and *The Latino Nineteenth Century* (with Rodrigo Lazo)—two foundational collections of U.S. Latinx literary and cultural histories.

**Samantha McDonald** (elected October 2023) is a partner in the Worcester law firm, Bowditch, concentrating on business and real estate property law. She has been actively involved in local cultural institutions, including as president of the board of ArtsWorcester and as a corporator for the Worcester Art Museum, Music Worcester, and the Greater Worcester Community Foundation. She serves on the Board of Trustees for New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill and on the Board of Directors for the Worcester Regional Research Bureau.



**Meredith McGill** (elected April 1997) is professor of English at Rutgers University and co-director of the Black Bibliography Project. She is the author of *American Literature and the Culture of Reprinting, 1834–1853* (2003; 2008) and the editor of two collections of essays: *The Traffic in Poems: Nineteenth-Century Poetry and Transatlantic Exchange* (2008) and *Taking Liberties with the Author* (2013). McGill served as president of C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists from 2018 to 2020. At AAS she was a Kate B. and Hall J. Peterson Fellow in 1995 and a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in 2003–4.

In addition, **Nick Aretakis** (elected April 2019) was elected recording secretary; **George W. Tetler III** (elected October 1996) was elected treasurer; and **Paul S. Sperry** (elected November 2013), **Rosalind Remer** (elected October 1997), and **Craig S. Wilder** (elected April 2013) were reelected chair, vice chair, and secretary for domestic correspondence, respectively.



Annual Meeting attendees included, left to right: Caroline Camougis (elected October 2023), Georgia Barnhill (elected October 1990), Jane Dewey (elected October 1994), Harriette Chandler (elected April 2018), Carol Donnelly (elected April 2018), and Alison Kenary (elected October 2012).



## Member and fellow news

**Jennifer Lyle Morgan** (elected October 2017) was named a 2024 MacArthur Fellow.

**Patrick Spero** (elected April 2019) was appointed chief executive officer of the American Philosophical Society.

**Lorne Bair** (elected April 2024) was elected president of the board of the Antiquarian Book School Foundation, previously held by Robert Rulon-Miller (elected November 2020).

The John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation awarded Guggenheim Fellowships to **Tiya Miles** (elected October 2011) in intellectual and cultural history, and **Ned Blackhawk** (elected October 2011) and **Christina Snyder** (Kate B. and Hall J. Peterson Fellow, 2012–13) in U.S. history.



*Jennifer Lyle Morgan; photo courtesy of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation*

**Andrew Porwancher** (National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow, 2023–24) was awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities individual research grant for *The Great Jewish Lunacy Trial*.

The Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR) awarded 2023 book prizes to: **Sharon Ann Murphy** (National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow, 2018–19), SHEAR Book Prize; **David Waldstreicher** (elected October 2005; Kate B. and

Hall J. Peterson Fellow, 1992–93), James Bradford Biography Prize; **Whitney Nell Stewart** (Jay and Deborah Last Fellow, 2015–16; National Endowment for the Humanities Long-Term Fellow, 2019–20), James H. Broussard First Book Prize; and **Kathleen Brown** (Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, 1997–98), Mary Kelley Prize.

## Staff news

Northern American Imprints Program Coordinator **Alan Degutis** (elected October 1996) celebrated his fiftieth anniversary working at AAS. During his long career, he has trained generations of catalogers and educated countless staff about cataloging. Degutis spoke about his five decades working in Antiquarian Hall during the Annual Meeting in October. (*photo right*)

**Ashley Cataldo**, curator of manuscripts, presented talks at the “Captivity: Assembling Nature’s Histories” conference at UCLA’s William Andrews Clark Memorial Library; at the “Archives of Revolution” conference organized by the John Carter Brown Library, Brown University, and the McNeil Center Archives of Revolution; and at Rare Book School at the University of Virginia.

Director of Scholarly Programs and Partnerships **John Garcia** taught a seminar, “History of the Book in America, 1700–1900,” at California Rare Book School in August.



Photographer **Nathan Fiske**’s work, *Digital Plants*, was on view in the ArtsWorcester exhibition, *Material Needs 2024* this fall.

Congratulations to the following staff members who also reached significant milestones at AAS since April 2024: **Babette Gehrlich**, thirty-five years (see related article on page 3); **Carol Fisher-Crosby**, thirty years; **Elizabeth Watts Pope**, twenty years; and **Alicia Murphy**, ten years.

In June, **Lauren Haveles** was promoted to programs coordinator. In September, Senior Cataloger **Carol Fisher-Crosby** assumed additional responsibilities as manager of workflows and staff training for the cataloging department, and Acquisitions Assistant **Alan Mendieta-Rivadeneira** began working part of his time in manuscripts. **Stephanie Corrigan**, public programs coordinator, departed in May.



## New members

*Thirty-five individuals, elected in October 2024, have accepted membership in the American Antiquarian Society.*

### Erica Ball

Los Angeles, California

Erica Ball, professor of Black studies at Occidental College, specializes in nineteenth- and twentieth-century African American history. She is the author of *To Live an Antislavery Life: Personal Politics and the Antebellum Black Middle Class* (2012) and *Madam C. J. Walker: The Making of an American Icon* (2021).

### Kimberly Blockett

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Chair and professor of Africana studies at the University of Delaware, Kimberly Blockett is a leading scholar of African American women's history and literature. Her books include *Race, Religion, and Rebellion in the Nineteenth-Century Travels of Zilpha Elaw, Black Woman Evangelist* (2023).

### Gregory L. Childs

Boston, Massachusetts

Gregory Childs is assistant professor of history at Brandeis University with a focus on Latin American, Caribbean, and African Diaspora studies. He was a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow at AAS in 2018–19.

### Marifred Cilella

Atlanta, Georgia

Longtime educator and school administrator Marifred Cilella collects American prints, maps, and writings. She was director of continuing education at the American Alliance of Museums and head of the Howard School in Atlanta.

### Sal Cilella

Atlanta, Georgia

Former president and chief operating officer of the Atlanta History Center, Sal Cilella collects American prints, maps, and writings. He served as president and chief executive officer of the Indiana Historical Society and executive director of the Columbia Museum of Art.

### Sara R. Danger

Valparaiso, Indiana

Sara Danger is professor of English at Valparaiso University with a research focus on nineteenth-century American juvenilia. She held a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship at AAS in 2022–23.

### Stephanie Kimbro Dolin

Portola Valley, California

Stephanie Kimbro Dolin is a printer, bookbinder, fine press book collector, and the owner of First Bite Press. She

serves on the boards of the Book Club of California and the Grabhorn Institute.

### Joe Fay

New Haven, Connecticut

Joe Fay is a partner in McBride Rare Books in Dobbs Ferry, New York. He began his bookselling career at Half Price Books and then worked as manager of rare books at Heritage Auctions. He worked at William Reese Company from 2014 until 2021.

### Kathleen M. Gagne

Worcester, Massachusetts

Kathleen Gagne is executive director of Mechanics Hall in Worcester. For nearly thirty years, she has worked to build awareness of and support for the nineteenth-century concert hall to preserve it for future generations.

### Eric Gardner

Midland, Michigan

Professor and chair of English at Saginaw Valley State University, Eric Gardner studies nineteenth-century African American literature and culture. He was a founding convener of the AAS online project, Just Teach One: Early African American Print.

### Danielle Legros Georges

Boston, Massachusetts

Writer, editor, poet, and translator Danielle Legros Georges was Boston's second poet laureate (2015–19). At AAS, she held a Hearst Foundation Fellowship in 2023–24.



Visitor during the Chat with a Curator Program, June 2024.



**Ashley Glassburn**  
Ypsilanti, Michigan

Ashley Glassburn is associate professor of women's and gender studies at the University of Windsor, Canada. She is a member of the Miami Nation of Indians of Indiana, whom she serves as a research consultant and Myaamia language educator.

**Amy Gore**  
Fargo, North Dakota

Assistant professor of English at North Dakota State University, Amy Gore specializes in nineteenth-century Indigenous and American literatures. She is an AAS Reese Fellow in 2024–25.

**Gloria D. Hall**  
Worcester, Massachusetts

Gloria Hall, preservationist and public art administrator, is the co-founder and project manager of the award-winning public art exhibit, Art in the Park.

**Adria L. Imada**  
Irvine, California

Adria Imada is professor of history and associate dean for diversity, equity, and inclusion, graduate division, at the University of California, Irvine. She specializes in U.S., Pacific, Indigenous, and disability histories.

**Declan D. Kiely**  
New York, New York

Declan Kiely is executive director of the Grolier Club. Previously he was director of special collections at the New York Public Library (NYPL), and the Robert H. Taylor Curator and Head of the Department of Literary and Historical Manuscripts at the Morgan Library & Museum.

**Taylor C. Kirkpatrick**  
Denver, Colorado

President and chief operating officer of Babson Farms, Taylor Kirkpatrick is an award-winning author and avid book collector. He established Colorado's first prize for book collectors under age thirty.

**Frederick Knight**  
Washington, D.C.

Frederick Knight, professor and chair of history at Howard University, is a specialist in the history of the African Diaspora. He is the author most recently of *Black Elders: The Meaning of Age in American Slavery and Freedom* (2024).

**Nancy Kuhl**  
Bridgeport, Connecticut

Nancy Kuhl is curator of poetry of the Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University. A poet herself, she has published four volumes of poetry.



From left: AAS Council Chair Paul S. Sperry (elected November 2013) and Alvin Patrick (elected April 2024) at the Annual Meeting reception in October 2024.

**Brian Lamb**  
Washington, D.C.

Founder and retired chief operating officer of C-SPAN, Brian Lamb worked as a U.S. naval officer in the Pentagon during the Johnson administration and in the White House Office of Telecommunications Policy during the Nixon administration. He received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2007.

**Kay Wright Lewis**  
Glenn Dale, Maryland

Kay Wright Lewis, associate professor of history at Howard University, studies slavery and abolition and African American intellectual history. She is the author of *"A Curse Upon the Nation": Race, Freedom, and Extermination in America and the Atlantic World* (2017).

**Allison Madar**  
Claremont, California

Allison Madar is a history teacher at the Webb Schools, a private boarding high school in Claremont, California. She previously served as assistant professor of history at California State University, Chico, as well as at the University of Oregon.

**Catherine A. Mastrovito**  
Clinton, Massachusetts

Catherine Mastrovito is proprietor, along with her spouse, Don, of Cheshire Cat Antiques in Clinton, Massachusetts. They are ephemera dealers with a special focus on nineteenth-century Americana and Worcester history.

**Don Mastrovito**  
Clinton, Massachusetts

Don Mastrovito is proprietor, along with his spouse, Catherine, of Cheshire Cat Antiques in Clinton, Massachusetts. They are ephemera dealers with a special focus on nineteenth-century Americana and Worcester history.



### Don James McLaughlin

Tulsa, Oklahoma

Don James McLaughlin is assistant professor of nineteenth-century American literature at the University of Tulsa. He was a Kate B. and Hall J. Peterson Fellow in 2015–16 and the Hench Post-Dissertation Fellow in 2018–19 at AAS.

### Philip Mead

Ambler, Pennsylvania

Philip Mead served as the founding chief historian and curator of the Museum of the American Revolution, which opened in Philadelphia in 2017. He was a lecturer in the history and literature department at Harvard University.

### Uchenna Okeja

Worcester, Massachusetts

Uchenna Okeja is director of the Emengini Institute for Comparative Global Studies in Worcester. He is also associate professor of philosophy at Rhodes University and fellow at the Stellenbosch Institute for Advanced Study, both in South Africa.

### Solimar Otero

Bloomington, Indiana

Solimar Otero is professor of folklore, ethnomusicology, and gender studies at the University of Indiana, Bloomington. She is the author of *Archives of Conjure: Stories of the Dead in Afrolatinx Cultures* (2020) and editor of the *Journal of Folklore Research*.

### Laura Powell

San Francisco, California

Laura Powell is the principal of Laura Powell LLC, specializing in recruitment and business management consulting. She is the development chair and a board member at Access Institute for Psychological Services.

### Daniel M. Radus

Manlius, New York

Associate professor of English at the State University of New York, Cortland, Daniel Radus specializes in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Indigenous literatures in North America. He was a Kate B. and Hall J. Peterson Fellow at AAS in 2014–15.

### Abby Smith Rumsey

San Francisco, California

Independent historian Abby Smith Rumsey researches the impact of information technologies on perceptions of history, time, and identity, as well as the nature of evidence and evolving roles of libraries and archives. Her books include *Memory, Edited: Taking Liberties with History* (2023).

### Douglass Scott

Brookline, Massachusetts

Douglass Scott teaches graphic design at the Rhode Island School of Design and Northeastern University. As creative director of the WGBH Educational Foundation in Boston, he worked on major projects such as *Masterpiece Theatre*, *This Old House*, and *Nova*.

### Randy J. Sparks

New Orleans, Louisiana

Randy Sparks, Clement Chambers Benenson Professor in American Colonial History at Tulane University, researches American religion, slavery, the U.S. South, and the Atlantic world. He wrote *Africans in the Old South: Mapping Exceptional Lives Across the Atlantic World* (2016).

### Jacqueline Vossler

Chicago, Illinois

Jacqueline Vossler is retired founder and president of the Core Group and immediate past president of the Caxton Club in Chicago. She serves on the advisory board of the Smithsonian Libraries.

### Megan Walsh

Machias, Maine

Megan Walsh is dean and campus director at the University of Maine at Machias. At AAS she was a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow in 2019–20 and a Northeast Modern Language Association Fellow in 2013–14.



From left: Jock Herron (elected April 1989); new member Uchenna Okeja; Caroline Sloat (elected October 2012); Richard Brown (elected April 1981); and Wendy Bellion (elected April 2011) attend Surprises from the Stacks at the 2024 Annual Meeting.



## Make your gift to the Annual Fund today!

You will join generous friends who provide critical funds for the Society's work—supporting research, building and caring for the collections, inspiring learners through free programs, and more! Thank you for helping our national research library and growing community thrive and evolve.

Scan the QR code or visit  
[americanantiquarian.org/give](https://americanantiquarian.org/give)



Participants in the PHBAC Summer Seminar in 2024.

## Join us in 2025 for all new public programs

**Tuesday, January 7 at 4:00 pm**

*Perspectives from the Collection: The Bay Psalm Book*

**Thursday, February 27 at 2:00 pm**

*Published by the Author: Self-Publication in Nineteenth-Century African American Literature*, featuring Bryan Sinche

**Thursday, March 20 at 7:00 pm**

*The Trials of Madame Restell*, featuring Nicholas L. Syrett

**Thursday, March 27 at 2:00 pm**

*Feeling Singular: Queer Masculinities in the Early United States*, featuring Ben Bascom

**Friday, April 11, from 1:30-4:30 pm**

*Isaiah Thomas Symposium*

**Saturday, April 12 from 12:00-4:00 pm**

*Start the Press! Celebrating the Newspaper that Sparked a Revolution*—Public open house commemorating 250 years since Isaiah Thomas brought his printing press and newspaper to Worcester

**Thursday, May 1 at 7:00 pm**

*The inaugural Julian L. Lapides Lecture*, featuring Justin Schiller

❖ To learn more about and register for these and other upcoming AAS programs, please visit our website at [americanantiquarian.org/programs-events](https://americanantiquarian.org/programs-events)