

# The SEASECS GAZETTE

Southeastern American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies

September 2007

## Presidential Address:

Dear SEASECSers,  
On behalf of the officers and Board, I would like to welcome you to a new year of SEASECS activities.

A major event is of course our 34th annual meeting, this time at Auburn University, February 14-17, 2008. The tireless organizer, Dr. Paula Backscheider, has a full program in store for us [see below], including many extras, all in a very attractive hotel.

Our journal, *XVIII. New Perspectives on the Eighteenth Century*, will mark a milestone next spring as it celebrates its fifth birthday. Comments heard at ASECS and elsewhere suggest that the community of scholars, both national and international, appreciates this contribution to scholarship. Remember that the editor, Dr. Samia Spencer, is always eager to receive submissions in any of the many areas we represent.

SEASECS has always offered a warm embrace to younger scholars, and we continue to do so, with special sessions at the meeting for graduate students, significant cash prizes for the two best of these papers, nominal membership dues, and the opportunity to submit articles to *NPEC* or to review books for it. We senior members of the Society well remember the welcome we ourselves received when we were starting our careers (actually only yesterday), and hope that SEASECS will become the favorite professional organization for our newer colleagues, as it is for many of us.

The officers and Board will be working hard between now and February to make certain that our financial house is in as good order as our professional one. Please let us know of any suggestions you have.

Thank you.  
Kay Hardesty Doig, President, 2007-2008  
[MCLKHD@langate.gsu.edu](mailto:MCLKHD@langate.gsu.edu)

## -Auburn Conference

After a long wait, SEASECS is going to Auburn! As you most assuredly know, **Paula Backscheider** is planning a wonderful conference for us in 2008. All the information you need is on the SEASECS website ([www.auburn.edu/seasecs](http://www.auburn.edu/seasecs)), but here are the essential pieces of information. PLEASE NOTE the change in dates; this year's conference will be February 14-17, 2008. For the SEASECS Conference, **The Auburn University Hotel and Conference Center** has guaranteed a special rate of \$89 per night, a rate that will be held until January 25<sup>th</sup> 2008. To get this rate, simply mention your affiliation with the conference and all will be well. The hotel's phone number is toll free: (800) 228-2876.

See the "Special Announcement" below, but some highlights of the upcoming conference include two exciting plenaries—one given by Tim Harris (Brown University), the other by Donna Landry (University of Canterbury)—and a performance of the opening act from Benjamin Hoadley's *The Suspicious Husband*. In addition, *Scholar's Choice* and *Pickering and Chatto* have decided to provide a nice book display. Moreover, *Scholar's Choice* would like very much to highlight books by conference attendees.

## Annual Dues

Please remember that SEASECS membership is now a calendar year registration, and dues should be received no later than *January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008*. Membership will expire for us all (except for Lifetime Members) on December 31<sup>st</sup>. Please send your membership dues to Linda Szilagyi directly at 10014 Willow cove Rd., Huntsville, AL, 35803. If you have any questions, you may contact Linda at [lszilagyi@mindspring.com](mailto:lszilagyi@mindspring.com).

## 2007 Executive Board Meeting

Please visit [www.auburn.edu/seasecs](http://www.auburn.edu/seasecs) for a complete record of last year's Executive Board Meeting.

The Executive Board of SEASECS was called to order in Atlanta, Georgia at 12:45. on Thursday,

March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2007. Present were **Howard Irving** (Pres.), **Kathleen Doig** (1st VP), **Mary Mcalpin** (2nd VP), **Bill Edmiston** (Past President), **Stephen Szilagyi** (Past Pres. & Archivist), **Jack DeRochi** (Secretary), **Linda Szilagyi** (Treasurer), and Graduate Member **Bryan Hileman**. Also in attendance were Board Members **Joe Johnson**, **Zeyep Tenger**, **Reed Benhamou**, **Hugh Reid**, and **Marie Wellington**. **Byron Wells**, Executive Director of ASECS also attended.

The Minutes of the 2006 Meeting were approved after one amendment, changing the language of the previous meeting to note that funding for the SEASECS Journal will be reviewed annually.

**Linda Szilagyi** reported a closing balance of \$29,619.86 as of the meeting. The ASECS Fund as of the previous June totaled \$14,615.69, with Total Cash on Hand at \$16,455.10. Our Treasurer warned the Board, however, that the forecast for 2007 is a loss of income at -\$4,825.00, due mainly to the loss of registration fees for this year's conference, as well as an anticipated additional \$2,000 allocation for the SEASECS Journal for 2007-2008. Also, SEASECS membership is down once again this year, perhaps from the joint conference with ASECS, but also because members are forgetting to renew on a calendar-year basis.

The Board was informed that, while there were no submissions for the Graduate Student Prize, the winner of the 2007 Percy Adams Prize was Percy Adams prize was awarded to **Michael R. Lynn**, whose article "Sparks for Sale: The Culture and Commerce of Fireworks in Early Modern France" was chosen out of twelve submissions.

**Kay Doig** spoke on behalf of Samia Spencer and reported that the journal has sold over six hundred dollars of advertising, as well as five institutional subscriptions.

After much discussion regarding the future of the **SEASECS Journal**, as well as the upcoming loss of SEASECS income in 2007, the **Board** moved and approved (with one dissension) allocating up to \$2,000 for the 2007-2008 year of the journal.

The Board approved the following persons for nomination for the **2007-2008 SEASECS Executive Board**:

President: **Kay Doig**  
First Vice President: **Mary McAlpin**  
Second Vice President: **Martha Bowden**  
Executive Board Members: **Robert Craig**(Architecture, Georgia Institute of

Technology), **Christopher Hendricks** (History, Armstrong Atlantic University) .

### **2007 Membership Meeting**

The 2007 SEASECS Membership Meeting was called to order at 6:35 on Friday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2007.

**Linda Szilagyi** noted that the gain in the ASECS Fund Balance was misleading because it reflected the registration fees from the 2006 Conference but not the expenses. The membership discussed way to increase membership, including the subject of calendar-year membership dues. Two potential solutions were raised: one member suggested that return envelopes be provided with "Dues Reminder" notices; another suggested that SEASECS investigate using online payment methods such as PayPal.com.

The nominations for the 2007-2008 executive officers were brought to the membership and approved unanimously.

The membership pledged ongoing annual financial support for the SEASECS Journal of an amount up to \$2,000.00 with the caveat that the amount of support will be reviewed and considered annually by the Executive Board and SEASECS membership.

**Stephen Szilagyi** moved that a committee be formed to study the viability of making the SEASECS Journal an electronic journal, thus potentially saving SEASECS future expenses. The discussion that ensued covered issues ranging from the prestige of electronic journals, the future of SEASECS funding, as well as what level of institutional support was required for the journal to be held on JSTOR. The motion was defeated.

Newly elected President **Kay Doig** asked for ongoing input regarding the credibility of online publications.

### **Upcoming Gatherings**

Again, as we all know, the **2009 SEASECS Conference** will be hosted by **Winthrop University** in Charlotte, North Carolina. However, we have not yet decided on where to take our wonderful gathering for 2010. So, your beloved Secretary would like to simply suggest that you—yes, you—could easily host a conference, and garner the praise and affection of all forever. No pressure. Ok, well, maybe a little pressure.

### **SEASECS Journal**

As "New Perspectives" continues to grow, please contact **Samia Spencer** at The Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Auburn University, Auburn, AL 36849, [spencsi@auburn.edu](mailto:spencsi@auburn.edu),

or 334-844-6374. Institutional and individual subscriptions are remarkably inexpensive.

### **Graduate Student Prizes and Awards**

As always, it is always imperative that we encourage graduate students to submit their papers for the Graduate Student Prize. **Patty Hamilton** would like to remind everyone that one, often two, prizes of \$300 are awarded to the best graduate paper presented at the annual conference. The deadline for submissions is January 18, 2007.

Electronic submissions of papers (preferred mode) should be included as an attached Word or .rtf file and sent to [hamiltonpw@earthlink.net](mailto:hamiltonpw@earthlink.net) with "SEASECS" appearing as part of the subject line. Hard copies may be mailed to:

Dr. Patricia Hamilton  
191 Stonehaven Drive  
Jackson, TN 38305

### **Future News**

This section of the Gazette has been lacking the last few issues due, unfortunately, to the LACK of news offered by our membership. We would all love to know exactly what wonderful things *you've* been doing.

PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE forward any important announcements to your humble Editor at [derochij@winthrop.edu](mailto:derochij@winthrop.edu) or 803-323-4577.

Secretarily yours,

JD