

THE SEASECS GAZETTE

August 2009

www.seasecs.net

CHARLOTTE A ROARING SUCCESS

MEETING MAKES CITY FORGET BANKING WOES

Our March 2009 meeting in the Queen City, Charlotte, NC was a banquet of intellectual and convivial pleasures for our handsome and well-dressed membership. Anticipating every need, local arrangements committee members **Jack DeRochi**, **Kelly Richardson**, **Carol Schlabach**, **Taylor Rollins**, **Dan Ennis**, and **Scott Pleasant** did a

stunning job of making all feel welcome & comfortable. Generous coffee breaks and receptions allowed us to do what we do so well-talk at length. Festivities



Hats off to DeRochi

started early and ended late, with beautiful receptions at the South Park Renaissance at the opening and close of our meeting.

Highlights included plenary sessions by **The Baroque Arts Project** (see p. 2), **Dan Morrill** and **Pat Rogers**, presentations which complemented the thoughtful papers and special sessions that populated the program. My inner literalist documented the passing of the gavel from President **Mary McAlpin** to President **Martha Bowden** which, I am pleased to report, was done with flair, joy, and without injury. You will find record of the rest of the officers, that pack of



Mesdames Présidentes

rogues, as well as a summary of this year's prizes, in the minutes that follow. We strongly suggest that you make plans *NOW* to attend the 2010 meeting of SEASECS in Johnson City, where you can keep a watchful eye on the shady SEASECS characters you know and love at our 36th meeting.

PLANS FOR JOHNSON CITY, SEASECS, FEB. 18-20

The 2010 meeting promises to bring together past and present as we explore the eighteenth-century roots of Appalachian and southern cultures through our theme, "Echoes of Heritage and Place." Like all eras of transition, the long eighteenth century prompted its creative and intellectual community to consider the consequences of change, often in meditative evaluation of the role of tradition, self, and society in an expanding world. In this spirit, the conference organizers welcome panels and papers that embrace the theme, as well as those on other topics. Very broadminded of them, we think. Please see the website www.etsu.edu/cas/English/seasecs for the current list of

All the dix-huitiériste news that's fit to print

panels, including contact information for panel chairs. Proposals for papers should be submitted to those panel chairs no later than October 8, 2009. Abstracts should be approximately 250-300 words; please include your school affiliation and both physical and e-mail addresses with your submission.

In addition to a performance of *Tartuffe*, the program will feature a presentation on eighteenth-century Scottish fiddle music and a performance of period Appalachian music by ETSU's world-renowned bluegrass ensemble. Our host at ETSU, the beautiful and talented Judy Slagle, is hard at work preparing a fabulous meeting for us at the Carnegie Hotel, which has a spa of its own.

Johnson City is served by the Tri-Cities airport for those who will need to fly. Delta and Northwest have regular flights; the rest of us will use trusty I-81. Did I mention that the hotel has a spa? You may want to step up your SEASECS planning and propose a panel or submit that paper sooner rather than later. You won't want to miss this meeting!



The Carnegie Hotel, Johnson City, TN

Baroque Arts Extravaganza in Charlotte

SEASECS members who attended the Charlotte meeting were treated to a delightful performance entitled "The Grand Tour: Baroque Music and Dance of Theatre and Court," by The Baroque Arts Project. The guiding creative lights behind the project are **Paige Whitley-Bauguess**, dancer; **Barry Bauguess**, baroque trumpets; and **John O'Brien**, harpsichord and organ. To see dances from the court of the Sun King as well as the English stage and the whimsical world of the *Commedia* was a true gift to their appreciative audience.

Our primary guide was Ms. Whitley-Bauguess. She provided an introductory explanation of Beauchamps-Feuillet notation, the most widely used dance notation form developed in France in the 1680s. Her performances from Baroque dance records, some published and some in



manuscript, included a minuet "Performd" by Mrs. Santlow, in the character of a Shepherdess. Hester Santlow was the most renowned and accomplished dancer on the eighteenth-century London stage. Her performances in *The Judgment of Paris* and *The Loves of Mars and Venus* were the stuff of

superstardom, and she branched into other dramatic roles, including Donna Isabella in Susanna Centlivre's *The Wonder, A Woman Keeps a Secret*. Whitley-Bauguess's delightful representations of Santlow's work were followed by "Les Folies d'Espagne," and a *Commedia dell'Arte* routine she choreographed herself, in which Erlicina (Harlequin) appears along with Scaramouche, Pulcinella, and Columbine.

Whitley-Bauguess's energetic presentation of these dances and her wide array of costumes were delights



matched by the musical talents of Barry Bauguess and John O'Brien. Mr. Bauguess explained the military history of the Renaissance trumpet, a "natural" trumpet, meaning it has no valves. But Bauguess demonstrated its range and versatility in his rendition of a Charpentier prelude and James Weldon's "Suite from *The Judgment of Paris*." Mr. O'Brien's performance included selections from Pachelbel, Scarlatti, and others. His French double harpsichord, made by Richard Kingston, an internationally acclaimed



harpsichord maker based in Mooresboro, NC, was as lovely as O'Brien's playing. O'Brien also explained the operation of the chamber organ, a continuo organ, which originally required a bellows operator but, for convenience, had been fitted with an electric bellows. The single manual and the limited voicing of the instrument creates a more intimate sound, while its portability brings the possibilities of organ repertoire to smaller spaces for concerts such as this one.

The Baroque Arts Project is one of the many projects of Whitley-Bauguess and company. Their useful website, www.baroquedance.com, includes information about booking as well as an impressive cache of teaching materials, Quicktime video of reconstructed Baroque dances, and sound files, highly recommended to the membership.

PERCY ADAMS PRIZE DEADLINE APPROACHES: NOVEMBER 15

The Percy Adams prize, named for the late SEASECS founding member, includes an award of \$500 for the best article on an eighteenth-century subject published in a scholarly journal, annual, or collection between September 1, 2008 and August 31, 2009. Authors must be or become members of SEASECS.

Submissions written in a language other than English must be accompanied by an English translation. Three copies must be submitted by November 15, 2009. Articles may be nominated by the author or by another member.

Prizes, Minutes and other useful information

PRIZES ABOUND, WELL DESERVED

This year's SEASECS Graduate Student Essay Prize went to two individuals for their outstanding work: **Claire Taylor Jones**, University of Pennsylvania, for "Prelude to the New World: The Role of Voice in Early Pennsylvania Mysticism" and **Sara Schotland**, Georgetown University, for "Man as Brute and Beast as Exemplar: Man and Animals in Wordsworth's Poetry" Each winner received a prize of \$300.

The 2009 **Percy Adams Essay Prize** went to **Kathleen DuVal**, Assistant Professor of History at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, for "Indian Intermarriage and Métissage in Colonial Louisiana," which appeared in *William and Mary Quarterly* in April of 2008.

SEASECS Graduate Travel Grants were awarded this year to **Claire Taylor Jones, Marisa Iglesias, Ayanna Jackson, Jennifer Daniel Osborne, and Nicole Boucher Spottke**. Congratulations to one and all.

OLD BUSINESS: SEASECS BUSINESS MEETING MARCH 17TH, 2008 MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 8:37 by president Mary McAlpin and the 2008 minutes were approved. Catherine Parisian, ASECS affiliates coordinator, came to encourage us to think of better ways we can coordinate with ASECS to our mutual benefit. She offered membership materials for ASECS.

Treasurer's report: Dan Ennis. SEASECS carried over a balance after Auburn's significant profit of \$4315, which was subsequently voted to the SEASECS account. Winthrop and ETSU have received or will receive support for those meetings, thanks to Auburn and Paula Backscheider. We allocated \$1800 to the journal for last year. This leaves us a current checking account balance of \$5791, a money market fund of \$9069.85, and an additional reserve fund with the ASECS endowment fund currently valued at \$18620. This endowment fund amount fluctuates. Ennis is happy to report that we are financially sound.

Journal Report: Editor Samia Spencer encouraged all members to be persistent about asking libraries to subscribe. Barbara Schorrenburg, Alex Pettit, and Martha Bowden, among others, were thanked as readers. With 17 submissions this year, *New Perspectives on the Eighteenth Century* is proving to be an important venue for scholarship. Book review editors Katie Greene and Kathleen Doig, as well as Managing Editor Stephen Epley are to be commended.

Auburn's generous support subvents the production of the journal, to which SEASECS plans to add an endowment fund of sorts, to support its publication. Soon, contributions to the journal will be a line-item option on membership renewal forms. Back issues are available to libraries and individuals.

Prize reports:

Bryan Hileman (Graduate Travel Grants Chair), Saralyn DeSmet (Graduate Student Essay Prize Chair) and Chris Hendrix (Percy Adams Prize Chair) made their reports. The results appear above. Saralyn DeSmet will serve as chair again next year, and she urges professors to encourage their graduate students to submit papers for next year's prize. Chris Hendrix noted in his report that a variety of disciplines were represented among the 16 submissions, with most submissions (9) coming from history. The submissions were evenly divided between men and women from 10 states and 2 foreign countries.

SEASECS Meetings: Jack DeRochi thanked Scott Pleasant and Dan Ennis for their indispensable assistance with the conference. With a total registered attendance of around 120, this was a very successful meeting that ends its financial business in the black. DeRochi hopes that programs with an eye toward participation in the whole conference will continue to encourage our members to come early and stay late.

2010: Judy Slagle, ETSU. Next year's conference dates are slated for Feb. 18-20 in Johnson City, TN, at the

Carnegie Hotel and Spa, which is adjacent to ETSU. The conference hotel is across the street from the university, and the theater department will build *Tartuffe* into their schedule with us in mind. Expect fabulous bluegrass music from the only bluegrass program in the United States.

- 2011:** Byron Wells and Claudia Kairoff, Wake Forest
2012: SEASECS is still looking-care to volunteer?

Nominations: Past president Kay Doig presented the following slate for next year:

- President: Martha Bowden
- 1st Vice President: Joe Johnson
- 2nd Vice President: Chris Johnson
- Secretary: Misty Anderson
- Treasurer: Dan Ennis
- Members at Large: W. B Gerard and Heather McPherson

The slate was approved unanimously. A new graduate student representative to replace outgoing representative Bryan Hileman will be presented to the board for approval subsequent to the meeting.

President's Reports:

The listserv has now been in operation for a year. If you're new, you should be added. The *Gazette* is now a color electronic publication, which saves a great deal of money.

Due to Stephen Szilagi's need to step down, we are presently without an archivist. We also need a place for the archives to reside. Mary McAlpin is serving as temporary archivist, but this is a matter for the board's consideration.

We have created an endowment for NPEC, which presently exists as a separate account with \$1000 seed money. Members should expect to see donation forms through the *Gazette* and future registration materials.

New Business:

The primary new business was the proposed changes to the constitution. The changes are all connected to the extension of the presidential term to 2 years. The changes are as follows:

- 1) Remove the second vice president. One VP will now serve 2 years, the president for 2 years, and the immediate past president 1 year, to coordinate with the new president's first term.

- 2) Combine the description of vice presidential duties.
- 3) Remove the reference to 2 past presidents.
- 4) Change the terms of president and vice president to 2 years.
- 5) Add the graduate student prize to standing committees.
- 6) Correct a misprint to executive board.
- 7) Change a reference to first vice president to read vice president.

In discussion, Kay Doig pointed out that Chris Johnson, who was just elected 2nd vice president, agreed to stand for the office so that in the event that the changes were voted down, we would still have a full slate. Martha Bowden observed that we will still need a nominating committee chair. Barbara Schnorrenburg pointed out that in the past, the outgoing chair has recommended chairs to the president. The winner of the Percy Adams prize also is sometimes asked to serve as the chair of the prize committee for the next year. The changes were moved and seconded, and they passed unanimously.

As per discussion at the Executive Board meeting Thursday, the president proposed raising life memberships from \$200 to \$500. Samia Spencer also reminded us that we discussed raising institutional subscriptions from \$40 to \$50. This change would take place immediately. Moved by Chris Johnson and seconded by John Vance, the motion passed unanimously.

In closing remarks, past president Howard Irving, outgoing immediate past president Kay Doig, and archivist Stephen Szylagi were all thanked for their outstanding service to the organization.

Dues are, as of this meeting, going back to a meeting to meeting dues year, rather than the January to January dues year for the sake of simplified bookkeeping. The membership year begins with the conference.

For the Good of the Order:

John Vance recognized Mary McAlpin for her service to SEASECS as outgoing president.

The meeting adjourned 9:14, with the handing of the gavel from President McAlpin to President Bowden.

**SEE YOU IN
JOHNSON CITY!**