

THE SEASECS GAZETTE

October 2014

<http://seasecs.net/>

2015 IN GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA, FEBRUARY 26-28

*All the dix-huitiémiste
news that's
fit to print*

Sentimentality and Seduction: Love in the Eighteenth Century

For our **41st annual meeting**, SEASECS will be heading south to the balmy breezes of north central Florida. With an average February temperature of 70, Gainesville offers those of us in chilly climes an opportunity enjoy warm weather and warm company. **The University of Florida**, Laura Miller, and Rori Bloom will be our hosts. Our theme this year, “**Sentimentality and Seduction: Love in the Eighteenth Century**,” also promises warm (even heated) scholarly conversations. SEASECS plans to uphold its reputation for lively entertainments, witty colleagues, and fine scholarship. The conference will begin **Thursday, February 26, 2015** and conclude **Saturday the 28th**.

The conference hotel is the Hilton-University of Florida Conference Center, bordering the university campus and across from the Harn Museum of Art, the Florida Museum of Natural History, and the Phillips Center for the Performing Arts.

SEASECS is an interdisciplinary society promoting the interchange of ideas and information on the culture, history, literature, philosophy, politics, music, and art of the eighteenth-century world. We also encourage excellent teaching and innovative pedagogy.

Plenaries

We are delighted to announce that our plenary speakers will be **Peter Sabor and Mary Sheriff**.



Professor Sheriff is the W.R. Kenan, Jr. Distinguished Professor of Art History at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Among her publications are *J.-H. Fragonard: Art and Eroticism* (1990); *The Exceptional Woman: Elisabeth Vigée-Lebrun and the Cultural Politics of Art* (1996) and *Moved by Love: Inspired Artists and Deviant Women in Eighteenth-Century France* (2004). Professor Sabor is the Canada Research Chair in

Eighteenth Century Studies and the Director of the Burney Centre, as well as Professor of English at McGill University. Among his publications are *Jane Austen's Manuscript Works*, ed. with Linda Bree and Janet Todd (2012); *The Court Journals and Letters of Frances Burney* (Volume 1 - 1786), ed. (2011); *The Cambridge Companion to Frances Burney*, ed. (2007).

Submissions:

Open panels. See the list of panels on the website; submit proposals directly to panel organizer.

Panel or roundtable. Send proposals for a complete panels or roundtables to Laura Miller (seasecs2015@gmail.com).

Individual paper. Send a 150-250 word abstract to Laura Miller.

Deadline: November 1, 2014

We are indebted to the hard work of our 2015 program chair, Laura Miller, who is organizing the herd of cats that is SEASECS. Please direct questions about local arrangements to Rori Bloom (ribloom@ufl.edu), who also has our gratitude.

Conference participants must be members of SEASECS. To join the Society or renew your membership, go to <http://www.seasecs.net/index.html>

Knoxville Highlights: SEASECS 2014

Plenaries

We were treated to two fascinating talks by luminaries in our field:



Heather McPherson, Professor of Art History at the University of Alabama, Birmingham, presented a lavishly illustrated address, "Siddons Redux: Twilight and Afterlife of a Star," which traced Sarah Siddons's later performances (as an older and heavier woman) of public readings, including male roles like Hamlet.

Srinivas Aravamudan, Professor of English and Dean of the Humanities at Duke Universities, closed the conference with "Oriental Despotism Reconsidered."

Aravamudan reflected on the imaginative geography of governmentality after colonialism, in which despotism is linked to hot climates and monarchy presents as modernity's middle way, though always at risk of falling into despotism itself.

Graduate Student Events

Shelby Johnson, the graduate representative on the SEASECS board, organized several excellent events, continuing the SEASECS tradition of supporting graduate students. Grad students were treated to their own cocktail reception at the East TN Historical Society. A special mentoring session, featuring professors, addressed topics such as the job market and job placement, publishing, teaching, and working at different kinds of institutions. Brunch and coffee were provided, so the panel, perhaps in the best eighteenth century tradition, recalled the coffeehouses of London.



Entertainments

James Lipton to Mrs. Malaprop: What turns you on?

Mrs Malprop: Cutting words out of Mr. Johnson's dictionary,

wetting them, and sticking them all over my naked body—even on the forbidden places.

Lipton (stunned): Prurient—simply prurient. Lady Sneerwell?

Lady Sneerwell: Watching a foolish woman make a complete idiot of herself. Present company included.

True child of Restoration wits, John Vance dazzled us with such bon mots in his adaptation of *Inside the Actor's Studio*, featuring himself as James Lipton, Martha Bowden as Lady Sneerwell, and Misty Anderson as Mrs. Malaprop.

SEASECS again offered sometimes racy, but always delightful entertainments. Our fourth annual **Reader's Theatre**, which has become more elaborate each year, featured a smattering of rollicking scenes from *She Stoops to Conquer* and *The Rivals*, arranged and directed by John Vance.

Step, and step, honor your partner! **Eighteenth-century dancing lessons**, courtesy of our own Christopher Hendricks, were accompanied by a guest fiddler. (Rumor has it that

Christopher will be dance master again in 2014.) It seems likely that we'll have to host our own masquerade ball if we become increasingly adept at these dances. ASECS, watch out!

The **reception at the East Tennessee Historical Society** featured 18th c.-inspired foods such as mini beef Wellingtons, Stilton cheese, and chocolate fondue and pineapple. The star, however, was a rum punch meticulously researched and recreated by Misty Anderson. *Recipe on last page!*



Prizes, Honors, and Accolades

PERCY ADAMS PRIZE

The **Percy Adams Prize** is an award of \$500 for the best article on an eighteenth-century subject published in a scholarly journal, annual, or collection.

Congratulations to 2013 Winner: **Rebecca Messbarger**, "The Re-Birth of Venus in Florence's Royal Museum of Physics and Natural History." *Journal of the History of Collections* (May 2012): 1-21.

ANNIBEL JENKINS PRIZE

Honoring the late Annibel Jenkins, founding member of SEASECS and distinguished scholar of eighteenth-century theatre, this award of \$500 recognizes the best article in performance or theatre studies. The prize was established in 2012. The 2014 award goes to **Helen E. M. Brooks**, "One Entire Nation of Actors and Actresses': Reconsidering the Relationship of Public and Private Theatricals." *Nineteenth-Century Theatre and Film* 38.2 (2011): 1-13. Congratulations!

UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING PRIZES

SEASECS established its first award to support and encourage undergraduate research. The prize money may be used to help offset the students' travel expenses. There were six undergraduate panels at the conference, and three winning panels. **First prize: Emily Friedman**, Auburn University, and her students, Benjamin Dillon, Shelby Chase, Erica Jones, Darcy Hall, and Jessica Brewer. **Second prize: Mercy Cannon**, Austin Peay State University, and students Tori Roberts, Christy Stamey, and Emily Pitts. **Third prize: Shea Stuart**, Gardner-Webb University, and students Molly Law, Brittney Clark, Allie Parrish, and George Millar.

For SEASECS 2015, submissions for the Undergraduate Teaching Prize should consist of a letter of presentation from the SEASECS member and a one-page talk proposal from each of the 3-4 undergraduate presenters. Please send submissions electronically by October 31, 2014, to Laura Miller at lmiller@westga.edu.

2015 PRIZE SUBMISSIONS

Current submissions for the **Percy Adams Prize** or the **Annibel Jenkins Prize** are welcome for articles published between September 1, 2013 and August 31, 2014. Authors must be or become

members of SEASECS. Submissions written in a language other than English must be accompanied by an English translation. Articles may be nominated by the author or by another member. Please send submissions as PDF files, and address any queries about the prize to the Committee Chair. Deadline for submissions: **November 15**.

Percy Adams Prize committee chair: Rori Bloom, ribloom@ufl.edu. Annibel Jenkins Prize committee chair: Martha Bowden, mbowden@kennesaw.edu.

2015 GRADUATE STUDENT PRIZES

SEASECS offers two graduate student awards to meeting attendees.

1) Up to four grants of \$300.00 each for travel to the conference. Details available on the website. Send your name, institutional affiliation, email address, paper title and abstract to ribloom@ufl.edu by November 1, 2014.

2) Two graduate student essay prizes of \$300.00 each. The deadline for this year's awards is February 3, 2015 by 5pm. Please send submissions as PDF files and address any other queries about the prize to the chair of this year's committee: Chloe Wigston Smith at CWS3@uga.edu



END MATTER

THE PUNCH!

Thrill your friends, impress your colleagues, poison your enemies — here is the infamous 18th-c. punch recipe from SEASECS 2014!



Dissolve 2 cups of Demerara or Turbinado sugar in 1 cup water over a low flame (about 5 minutes). Let this cool.

Squeeze 12 limes into a large bowl and add 12 oz of the Demerara sugar syrup and stir.

Add 2 750-ml bottles of Black Strap Rum (Cruzan, with 1760 on the bottle, is the magic. Don't compromise.) Add 2 quarts water, stir again and refrigerate.

Half an hour before serving, ice it generously. Add a large block of ice (this can be made by freezing 2 quarts of water in

a bowl overnight) and some sliced lime to go traditional. Grate a wee bit of nutmeg over the top. Serves 20 polite persons, or 10 SEASECSers.

Thank you!

To our 2014 SEASECS program organizers: Mary McAlpin (chair) and Misty Anderson, University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Truly a memorable weekend of intellectual stimulation and convivial relaxation. Thanks as well to the generous subvention of UTK's English and Modern Foreign Languages and Literature depts, College of Arts and Sciences, East TN Historical Society, and the journal *Restoration*. And thanks to the many hands that made the conference run smoothly.



2015 ASECS

The annual ASECS meeting will be held in Los Angeles, CA, March 19-21. For more information: [ASECS site](#).



Summary of Prize Deadlines

Annibel Jenkins Prize November 15

Percy Adams Prize November 15

Graduate Essay Prize February 3

Graduate Travel Prizes November 1

Research Opportunity:

Shirley White Johnston, a very fine eighteenth-century scholar with an emphasis on Samuel Johnson and his edition of Shakespeare, bequeathed her materials to John Vance. She had been preparing a book about the subject at the time of her death. Anyone who is interested in having these materials, with the aim of publication, should contact John, jvance@uga.edu.

SEASECS OFFICERS

President: Chris Johnson

Vice President: Keith Pacholl

Secretary: Mercy Cannon

Treasurer: Dan Ennis

Immediate Past President: Joe Johnson

Archivist/Historian: Elizabeth Kuipers

Journal Editor, Samia I. Spencer

Graduate Student Member: Shelby Johnson

Members at large:

David Eick, Michael Rex, Marie Wellington, Emily Friedman, John Barrington, Jack DeRochi