

ALMANAC

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AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

NUMBER 87

GENEROUS GIFT MEANS THE BEGINNING OF BIG PLANS FOR AAS'S THIRD CENTURY *Jay and Deborah Last's Gift*



Jay and Deborah Last

We are honored, humbled, and delighted to announce that Jay and Deborah Last have made a \$2 million philanthropic investment in the American Antiquarian Society!

In a letter that accompanied the donation, the Lasts explained that the gift was to be “spent at a rate of \$400,000 a year for the next five years” and that it should go towards “activities aimed to strengthen AAS for the future.” The Lasts are giving us a wide latitude in how to use the money, reflecting the faith they have in AAS, and—as importantly—challenging us to utilize the funds in such a way as to inspire other potential donors to the same level of trust and investiture.

Although there were no specific requirements listed, the Lasts did provide some excellent suggestions and noted particular areas of interest, which include keeping staff morale at a high level, expanding use of new technology, elevating the Society's profile in the scholarly community and among potential donors, and continuing to improve access to the collections. Each of these points touches upon fundamental parts of our mission.

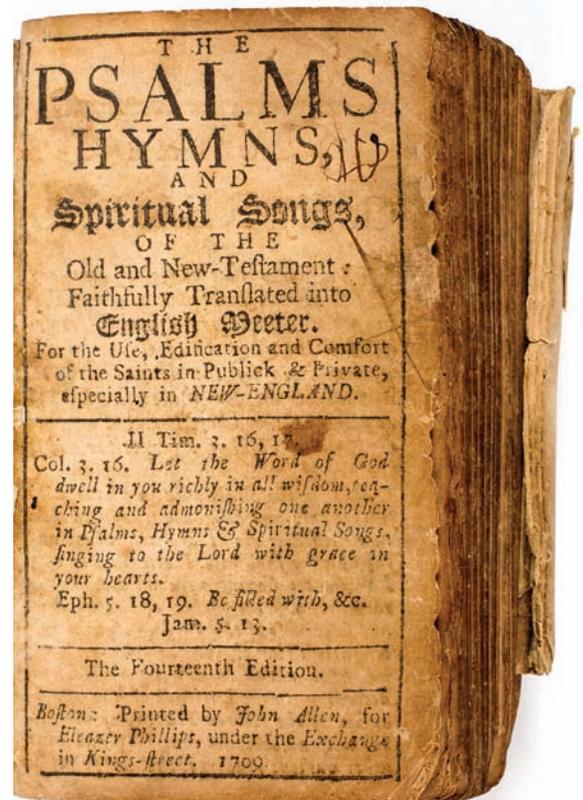
(continued on page 2)

EDITION ADDITION— DONATION BRINGS ANOTHER BAY PSALM BOOK TO AAS

When the hammer fell at this fall's Sotheby's auction of a first edition of *The Whole Booke of Psalmes* printed in 1640, it shattered all previous records for a printed book at public auction. Thanks to the foresight of AAS founder Isaiah Thomas, the Society already had one of the eleven known copies of the first book printed in British North America, more commonly known as the Bay Psalm Book. This is good news, since the final price achieved at the recent auction was more than \$14 million!

What AAS didn't have (because no one knew for sure one had survived) was a complete copy of another early American edition of the Bay Psalm Book: the 14th edition from 1709. It surfaced at a small local antiques auction, also held this fall, and was subsequently offered to AAS by the local dealers who identified it. The extraordinary generosity of the Fred Harris Daniels Foundation, which donated the funds for the book in memory of AAS member Bill Pettit, enabled the Society to purchase the volume. Thanks to other donations from AAS members, staff, and scholars, we will also have the means to preserve this valuable acquisition.

(continued on pages 4-5)



(continued from page 1)

After receiving the news, AAS president Ellen Dunlap sent an email to the staff informing them of the transformative gift and asking them to share any ideas they had about possible uses for the funds. At a meeting the following week, every department brought something to the table, ranging from ways to improve the work they were already doing to ideas for new initiatives that would extend the Society's national reach.

While we are still determining how all of these funds will be allocated, they have already had a significant impact on AAS. As Marcus A. McCorison librarian Thomas Knoles notes, "Jay Last's gift is already doing a great deal of good throughout the Society. In the library we are adding two new catalogers to help address uncataloged materials, work that we would have had to delay without additional staff. The Lasts are also funding travel to professional meetings and conferences, something that is important for staff development. We have also been able to purchase a new high-resolution digital camera to more swiftly and accurately make images and texts available to researchers."

Gifts like this are rare, and the opportunity provided by them is great. The Lasts' gift offers the Society the opportunity to advance a number of strategic goals that we otherwise might not have been able to undertake. The exciting opportunities made possible by this generous gift will help strengthen the Society as we make plans for our third century.

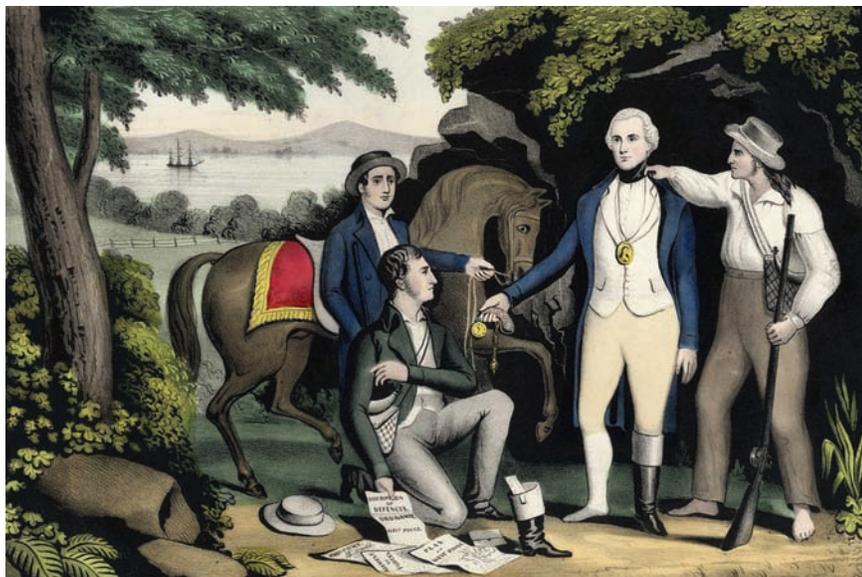
WELCOME TO RICHARD AND CLAUDIA BUSHMAN

Distinguished Scholars in Residence

AAS is delighted to announce that Richard and Claudia Bushman will be joining our community as Mellon Distinguished Scholars in Residence for the 2014-15 academic year. Richard Lyman Bushman is the Gouverneur Morris professor of history emeritus at Columbia University and has taught at Harvard, Brigham Young University, Boston University, and the University of Delaware, and served as the Howard W. Hunter visiting professor in Mormon studies at Claremont Graduate University. Richard received his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Harvard University, earning a Ph.D. in the history of American civilization. His books include the Bancroft Prize-winning *From Puritan to Yankee: Character and Social Order in Connecticut, 1690-1765* (1968), *The Refinement of America: Persons, Houses, Cities* (1992), and *Joseph Smith: Rough Stone Rolling* (2006). Claudia Bushman has taught at Columbia University, the University of Delaware, and Claremont Graduate Center, as well as served as director of the Delaware Heritage Commission. She earned her undergraduate degree from Wellesley College, her M.A. from Brigham Young University, and her Ph.D. from Boston University. She has published numerous works of local history and Mormon history, including *Mormon Sisters: Women in Early Utah* (ed., 1976), *America Discovers Columbus: How an Italian Explorer Became an American Hero* (1992), and *In Old Virginia: Slavery, Farming, and Society in the Journal of John Walker* (2002). Together Richard and Claudia published *Mormons in America* (1999) and *Building the Kingdom: A History of Mormons in America* (2001).

During their time at AAS, Richard will be at work on a book on eighteenth-century farmers, titled *Farmers in the Production of the Nation*, and Claudia will begin work on a study of Boston in 1870. We look forward to welcoming them to Worcester, and to their collegial presence under the dome.

Below: Capture of Major Andre, 1780, lithographed by Nathaniel Currier, 1846.



HENCH FELLOW FOR 2014-15 NAMED

The Hench Post-Dissertation Fellowship for the 2014-15 academic year has been awarded to Trenton Cole Jones, a doctoral candidate in history at Johns Hopkins University. Cole's dissertation, "Deprived of Their Liberty": Enemy Prisoners and the Culture of War in Revolutionary America," examines how revolutionaries treated their captured enemies and asks what their treatment can tell us about the American Revolution more broadly. We look forward to welcoming Cole to Worcester this coming summer.

Collaborative Exhibition Provides an Early American Look at the World

This spring, the American Antiquarian Society is participating in an exhibition at the Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Art Gallery at the College of the Holy Cross. The exhibition, *Global Encounters in Early America*, opened on February 20 and closes on April 6, 2014. It features books, maps, prints, and ephemera from the Society's collection.

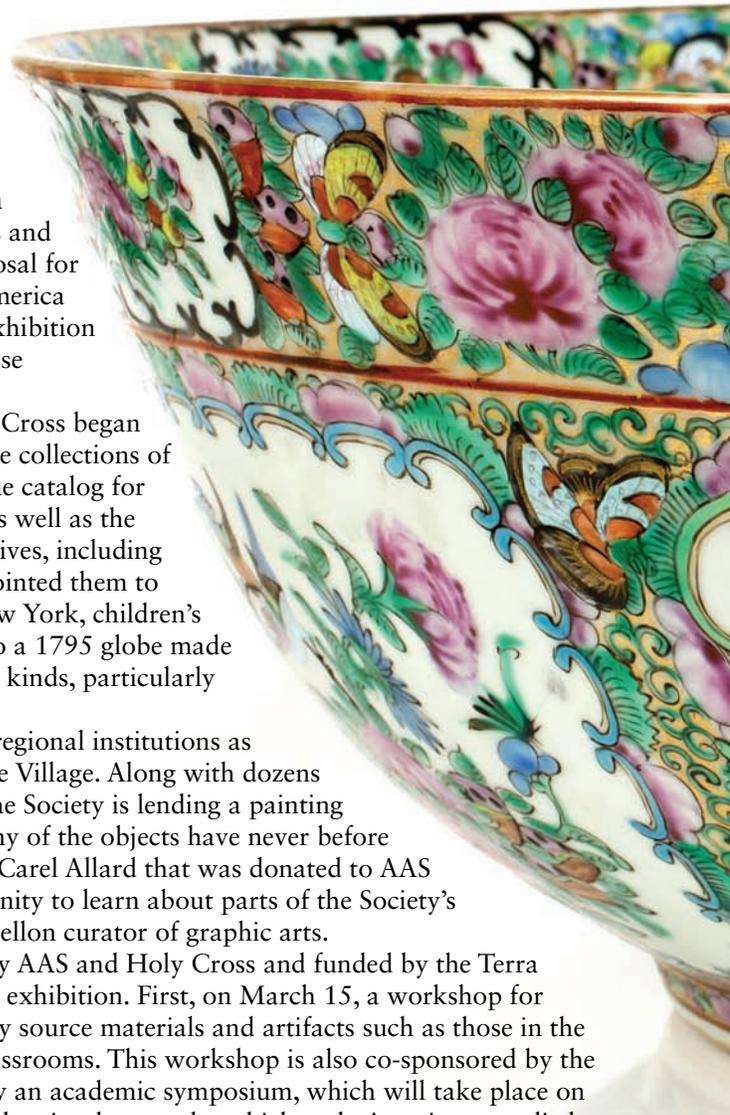
The project began in the spring of 2013 when Professor Patricia Johnston, the Rev. Gerard Mears S.J. chair in fine arts at Holy Cross and a former AAS fellow, approached the Society's curators with a proposal for a student-organized exhibition looking at global visual culture in America after the American Revolution and before 1840. The theme of the exhibition would be to investigate how Americans saw the world, and how those perceptions were influenced by trade and commerce.

At the start of the 2013 fall semester, seven students from Holy Cross began the process of selecting material for the exhibition from the extensive collections of the Society. Working with the reference staff, they searched the online catalog for travel books, maps, and material related to the tea and silk trades, as well as the importation of porcelain. They found atlases and exploration narratives, including volumes about Captain Cook and Captain Carteret. The curators pointed them to ephemera from merchants selling imported goods in Boston and New York, children's books illustrated with people from all nations in native attire, and to a 1795 globe made in London and used in the United States. They looked at maps of all kinds, particularly those of Asia, Africa, and the Pacific nations.

They selected forty-five pieces in all, and borrowed from other regional institutions as well, including the Worcester Historical Museum and Old Sturbridge Village. Along with dozens of bound volumes, twelve pieces of ephemera, and six large maps, the Society is lending a painting of Canton, a Chinese punch bowl, and the 1795 London globe. Many of the objects have never before been loaned by AAS, including a hand-colored 1696 world atlas by Carel Allard that was donated to AAS in 1848. "This is a wonderful opportunity for the Worcester community to learn about parts of the Society's collection which are rarely seen," says Lauren Hewes, Andrew W. Mellon curator of graphic arts.

There will also be two major collaborative events—organized by AAS and Holy Cross and funded by the Terra Foundation for American Art—which will explore the themes of the exhibition. First, on March 15, a workshop for K-12 teachers at Holy Cross will examine the ways in which primary source materials and artifacts such as those in the exhibition can be used to enrich world history, art, and literature classrooms. This workshop is also co-sponsored by the New England History Teachers Association. This will be followed by an academic symposium, which will take place on April 4 and 5 at Holy Cross and AAS. The symposium will explore the visual means by which early Americans studied and understood the world. Papers will investigate the global visual culture that circulated in early America—maps, atlases, engravings, paintings, decorative arts, and other visual forms—that instructed the emerging American mercantile class and shaped their geographic, cultural, economic, and aesthetic knowledge.

For more information on the exhibition and registration for the events, please visit: college.holycross.edu/projects/globalencounters/index.html or email globalencounters2014@gmail.com.



Right: Chinese Export Famille Rose Bowl, nineteenth century. Porcelain. Below: View of the Hongs in Canton, China, ca. 1847. Oil on canvas.



TIMELINE OF EARLY AMERICAN EDITIONS OF THE BAY PSALM BOOK

1638-1639

The first (and for many years the only) printing press in British North America is established in Cambridge, Mass., by the recently widowed Elizabeth Glover, who saw to its installation after her husband died during the crossing from England.

1640 [1ST EDITION]

About 1,700 copies of The Whole Booke of Psalmes are printed on Glover's press under at least the nominal direction of Stephen Day (or Daye), but probably with the help of his son Matthew Day, who had been apprenticed to a printer in England. AAS has one of the eleven copies known to have survived from this run of the first substantial book printed in British North America. (Massachusetts Bay Colony Governor John Winthrop reported that an earlier broadside and almanac had been printed, but no known copies survive.)

1647 OR 1648? [POSSIBLE 2ND EDITION]

Another edition may have been published in America.

1651 [POSSIBLE 3RD EDITION]

A revised edition (which Isaiah Thomas later refers to as the 3rd edition) is printed by Samuel Green in Cambridge, Mass. Revisions by Henry Dunster and Richard Lyon include additional hymns from other books of the Bible and a new title—The Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs, of the Old and New-Testament...Especially in New England—which leads to it becoming commonly known as the New England Psalm Book.

1652—1694 [POSSIBLE 4TH THROUGH 7TH EDITIONS]

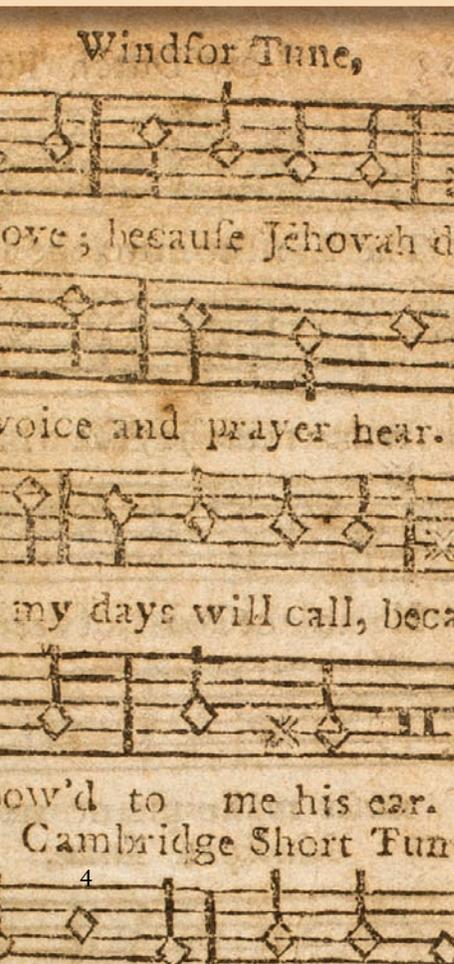
Most scholars agree that the surviving editions from these years, although intended for Boston booksellers, were actually printed in Cambridge, England.

1695 [8TH EDITION]

A regular sequence of surviving American editions begins with the 8th edition. Unlike earlier editions, these title pages clearly specify edition numbers and indicate all are printed in Boston by John Allen and/or Bartholomew Green.

1698 [9TH EDITION]

A musical supplement containing thirteen compositions for two voices is added, making it the first musical notation printed in British North America. An appendix by Cotton Mather is also added. It is printed by John Allen and Bartholomew Green.



(continued from page 1)

Although the 1640 Bay Psalm Book garners most of the attention from the public and scholars alike, other early editions can arguably be just as significant to scholars. These editions demonstrate change over time, and thus often provide the most insight into society. This 14th edition of the Bay Psalm Book from 1709 is especially significant to AAS because:

- It is the only known complete copy of this edition of the Bay Psalm Book.
- It contains the earliest music printed in British North America held in AAS collections.
- It is the second oldest American edition of the Bay Psalm Book at AAS (after our first edition).
- The book is remarkably complete with no loss of text or music.
- Unique manuscript additions of family genealogy information enhance this copy.

The duodecimo volume's diminutive format (roughly five by three inches) can make it appear unassuming, but it is among the rarest of the rare. It is part of a small coterie of little more than a dozen survivors from the earliest American editions of this incredibly popular "steady-seller," most of which are now known in only one or two (usually incomplete) copies, or seem to have vanished entirely. This rarity is perhaps not surprising given that the books were meant to be heavily used in congregations of worshipers. The book is a type of psalter—essentially a hymnal in which psalms from the Bible were put in metrical poetry to then be sung to various tunes as a congregation. The earliest editions of the Bay Psalm Book contained only text; it was only in later editions, starting in 1698, that tunes were added in a separate section at the end.

Given that early American music is already an area of great strength in the Society's collections, we are thrilled to add this 1709 Bay Psalm Book as AAS's earliest example of musical notation printed in what became the United States.

– Elizabeth Watts Pope, Curator of Books

1702 [10TH EDITION]

This edition, also printed by John Allen and Bartholomew Green, is issued with several variant title pages naming different booksellers.

1703 OR 1704 [11TH EDITION]

No known copies survive.

1705 [12TH EDITION]

Printer John Allen disappears from America between 1704 and 1707 (presumably he returned to his native England), so for this edition the printer is listed only as Bartholomew Green. The musical supplement is revised for one part instead of two and is titled “The tunes of the Psalms.”

1706 [13TH EDITION]

At least three variant title pages exist for this edition, all printed by Bartholomew Green, but for different booksellers.

1709 [14TH EDITION]

AAS now has the only complete copy of the 14th edition. (The Massachusetts Historical Society has an incomplete copy.) Printer John Allen had returned from England by 1707 (he printed the Boston News-Letter from that year until 1711). He published this edition alone, and Allen never again appears on the same title page as Bartholomew Green.

1711-1744 AND 1762 [15TH THROUGH 27TH EDITIONS]

A similar publication pattern continues through the early eighteenth century, alternating between printers John Allen and Bartholomew Green for the next four editions, and then other printers through the 26th edition in 1744. (One outlier, a 27th edition, was issued in 1762.)

1758

The history of what was then commonly referred to as the “New England Psalm Book” begins to be written when Thomas Prince introduces his revised edition with a history of the psalter. (The copy of the 1640 Bay Psalm Book sold by Sotheby’s this past fall was once part of the Prince Library at the Old South Church and may have been acquired by Prince to write this history.)

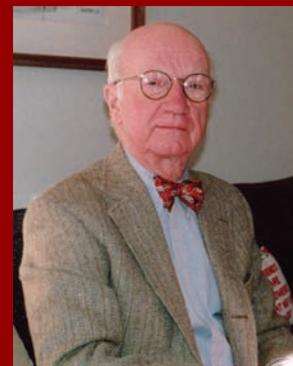
1810

Isaiah Thomas refers to the “Bay Psalm Book” in his History of Printing in America.

CONSERVATION PLANS

Even before AAS secured funding from the Daniels Foundation to acquire the 1709 Bay Psalm Book, donations had begun flowing in from eager members, scholars, and staff. Their generous donations will be used to conserve, house, and digitize the book in order to preserve its physical structure. Keep an eye on our blog, pastispresent.org, to learn more about its history and our conservation plans for this unique volume.

The Fred Harris Daniels Foundation, a family-run fund that gives to a wide range of science, medical, community, and cultural causes, generously donated the funds to purchase the 1709 Bay Psalm Book in memory of AAS member William O. Pettit, Jr. (elected 1979). Pettit moved to Worcester in 1947 after his discharge from the U.S. Navy and purchased the Gaychrome Company in 1957 after working there for ten years. An active member of the Worcester community, he served as a trustee and board member for many health and cultural institutions, including as a trustee of the Daniels Foundation and a Councilor at AAS. He also worked for several years as a volunteer at the Society organizing the Worcester Fire Society records. With such an active interest in history, culture, and the AAS in particular, it seems a particularly fitting gift to honor his memory!



William O. Pettit, Jr.

Looking to learn more about a favorite topic or gather teaching materials? WE HAVE YOU COVERED!

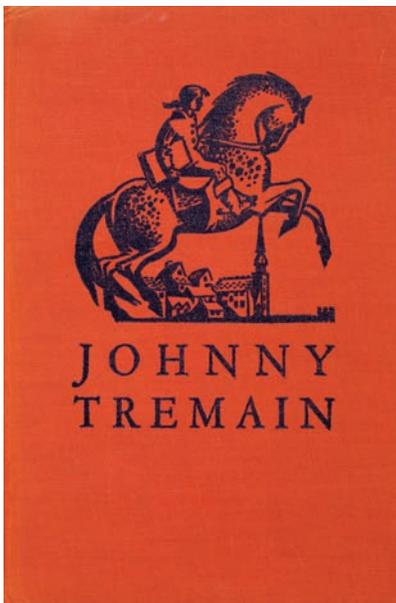
This spring, we will be combining our public and K-12 workshops into two daylong “Hands-On History” events, inviting everyone—students, teachers, general public, museum professionals, history buffs—to join us. The first, “Suffragists, Teetotalers, and Abolitionists: Social Reform in the Nineteenth Century,” will take place on Saturday, March 29. In this workshop, participants will learn about the wide array of social reform movements that were so integral to nineteenth-century society with a special focus on temperance, abolition, and women’s rights. These three movements affected wide swaths of the American population, and while remaining distinct, often intersected in interesting ways. Tom Augst, a current AAS-NEH long-term fellow, will join us for this workshop. He will discuss his latest work on temperance lecturer John B. Gough and how nineteenth-century mass media impacted reformers and their causes. This workshop is also aligned with the launch of the fully-digitized Abby Kelley Foster papers (see box below), allowing participants a closer look at this wonderful new resource.

Our second workshop on Saturday, May 10, will take us to Revolutionary Boston as we will explore the beloved children’s novel *Johnny Tremain*, written by AAS’s first female member, Esther Forbes (elected 1960). In this award-winning

novel, which has never been out of print since it was first published in 1943, Forbes follows a smart, charming, and somewhat reckless apprentice silversmith through a series of personal and political trials leading up to the Battles of Lexington and Concord. She not only paints a vibrant picture of Revolutionary-era Boston, but also tells a coming-of-age story that remains relevant today. Joan Rubin, Dexter Perkins professor in history and director of the American studies program at the University of Rochester, will serve as lead scholar for the day. We will examine original documents relating to the novel, putting the story in its literary and historical context. So whether you loved the novel as a child, are looking for ways to incorporate it into your classroom teaching, or are planning to introduce it to a child or grandchild of your own, you’ll find this workshop both enlightening and entertaining!

The cost of these one-day workshops is \$65 for AAS members and K-12 educators and \$75 for general admission. Registration includes pre-readings, materials, refreshments, and lunch. Professional development points will be available for K-12 educators. For further information please check the AAS website or contact Jim Moran, director of outreach, at jmoran@mwa.org.

Right: The Plain Dress. Lady of Fashion. Partial Reform. The Extreme of Innovation. Lithographed by Thomas Bonar, 1851. Left: Esther Forbes, Johnny Tremain (New York: Dell, 1943).



ABBY KELLEY FOSTER PAPERS NOW AVAILABLE DIGITALLY!

AAS and the Worcester Historical Museum have completed work on an exciting partnership that will bring the papers of Abby Kelley Foster to the world. Foster was a noted mid-nineteenth-century reformer, involved in both the antislavery and women’s rights movements. Both AAS and the Worcester Historical Museum hold substantial collections of Foster’s correspondence and papers, and although located less than two miles apart, the collections have been separated from each other—and the wider world—by brick and mortar. But now, thanks to the efforts of Tom Knoles and Tracey Kry (AAS curator and assistant curator of manuscripts, respectively), Cade Overton (AAS digital photographer), and Robyn Conroy (librarian and archivist at the Worcester Historical Museum), all of the manuscripts at both institutions have been digitized and are now freely accessible and available to researchers around the world. The collections can be viewed from anywhere, at any time, through AAS’s digital image archive, GIGI, at gigi.mwa.org/res/sites/AKFoster.



Drama, Poetry, and Prose— SPRING PUBLIC PROGRAMS HAVE IT ALL

Our spring public program series begins on Tuesday, March 25, when we will once again collaborate with the Hanover Theatre. This program, to be held at the Hanover, will feature readings of selected scenes from the nineteenth-century melodrama *The Drunkard; or The Fallen Saved* by William A. Smith. A discussion about nineteenth-century theater conventions and past and present attitudes about alcohol use will follow the readings. *The Drunkard* was one of the most popular plays in the nineteenth century, and the Society holds a copy that includes production notes. The play was particularly famous for its on-stage depiction of the *delirium tremens*. And, as the full title suggests, it features a virtuous hero who, despite his battle against the demon rum, prevails and gets the girl in the end!

AAS member Lawrence Buell will return to Antiquarian Hall on Tuesday, April 22, to talk about his latest book, *The Dream of the Great American Novel* (2014). In the book he reanimates the often obsolete notion of the great American novel to demonstrate that its history is a key to understanding the dynamics of both our country's literature and our national identity. The concept of this book originated with Buell's 1994 Wiggins Lecture. (For information on the 2013-14 Wiggins Lecture, please see page 10.)

On Tuesday, May 13, AAS member and College of the Holy Cross instructor Thomas Doughton will speak about the lives of African Americans during the Revolutionary War era. He will bring to light the previously hidden stories of men and women who helped to shape our national independence while simultaneously struggling to secure their own freedom and legitimacy within colonial society. This presentation is part of *The Worcester Revolution of 1774* project (see page 10).

Contemporary literature will also be featured in our spring series on Thursday, May 29, with poet Tess Taylor, who will relay how she researched her latest book of poetry, *The Forage House* (2013). Taylor was an AAS Creative Artist Fellow in 2006 and mined the Society's collections for material about her ancestors—including Thomas Jefferson—as she fashioned a chapbook of poems that explores both personal and national histories.

Our public programs will conclude on Tuesday, June 10, with a talk by well-known AAS member John Demos, who will describe the process of creating his latest book, *The Heathen School: A Story of Hope and Betrayal in the Age of the Early Republic* (2014), while he was the AAS-Mellon Distinguished Scholar in Residence during the 2011-12 academic year. This book explores the story of a special school for "heathen youth" who were brought to New England from all corners of the earth in the early nineteenth century. Demos charts the early brilliant beginnings of the school, the scandal that forced its closing, and the lives of some of its more influential students, including two of the leaders of the Cherokee Nation who led the process of Indian removal—and paid for it with their lives.

For more information about the spring public programs visit: www.americanantiquarian.org/publicpro.htm.

Above: Nathaniel Philbrick at his public program in October 2013.

FULL CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR SPRING 2014

Please see the key at the bottom of the page for event classifications and details.

MARCH

- 15 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., K-12 Workshop: “Global Encounters in Early America: Teaching World History through Art and Objects” in association with the *Global Encounters* exhibition at Holy Cross (will take place at Holy Cross) ±
- 25 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m., at the Hanover Theatre (see AAS or Hanover website for ticket prices) “The Drama of the Dram: A Play Reading and Conversation about Nineteenth-Century Theatre and Alcohol Past and Present” *
- 29 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Hands-On History Workshop: “Suffragists, Teetotalers, and Abolitionists: Social Reform in the Nineteenth Century” ±

APRIL

- 4-5 Academic Symposium: “Global Encounters in Early America” in association with the *Global Encounters* exhibition at Holy Cross (will take place at AAS and Holy Cross) ±
- 6 Closing of the exhibition *Global Encounters in Early America* at the Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Art Gallery at Holy Cross
- 10 2013-14 Wiggins Lecture: “The Incredible Journey of Franklin’s ‘Way to Wealth’” by Kenneth Carpenter *
- 22 “Dreaming up a Nation Forever on the Move: The Strange Quest for the ‘Great American Novel’” by Lawrence Buell *

MAY

- 2-3 2014 Semiannual Meeting for AAS members in the Pioneer Valley ±
- 6 6 p.m. – 8 p.m., 7th Annual Adopt-a-Book
- 10 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Hands-On History Workshop: “Exploring *Johnny Tremain*” ±
- 13 “‘Slavery in the Bowels of a free & Christian Country’: People of Color and the Struggle for Freedom in Revolutionary Massachusetts” by Thomas Doughton *
- 29 “Sifting the Uneven Archive: Researching the *The Forage House*” by Tess Taylor *

JUNE

- 10 “On the Trail of the ‘Heathen School’: Local History, American History, and World History” by John Demos *
- 15-20 PHBAC Summer Seminar: “Books in the Larger World of Objects” **

JULY

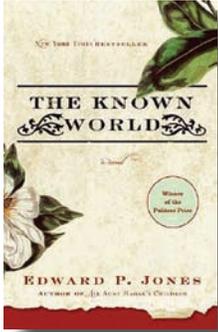
- 13-17 CHAViC Summer Seminar: “The Art of Science and Technology, 1750-1900” **

KEY:

- * *Public programs: All 7 p.m. at AAS, free of charge, unless otherwise noted*
- ** *Require acceptance of application and payment of fee (please see our website)*
- ± *Require registration and payment of fee (please see our website)*

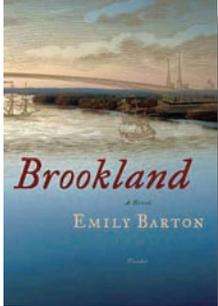
Recommended Reading

We invited several AAS members, staff, fellows, and Councilors to recommend “historical fiction set in the United States, Canada, or the Caribbean before 1900.” These recommendations take us all over the Atlantic, from New England to Haiti and even across to Britain.



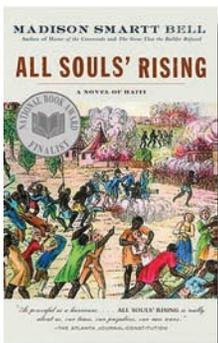
The greatest of many great achievements in Edward P. Jones’s Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *The Known World* (2003) is the subtle complexity of its moral vision. Jones locates the struggle between good and evil not in the diabolical slaveholding system of the American South, but in the heart of each person, black or white, slave or free, who populates this complicated and beautifully told story set in antebellum Virginia. How could a black man born into slavery himself become a slave owner, and what does this tell us about the underpinnings of that “most peculiar institution”? Read this marvelous novel and see.

- David Tebaldi
Executive Director, Mass Humanities
AAS Member, 2009



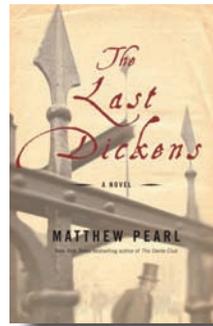
Brookland (2006), Emily Barton’s novel about a female gin distiller in eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century Brooklyn who engineers the bridge of her dreams across the East River, brims with period detail and rich descriptions of everything from taverns to tidal straits. Sibling rivalry, women who defy convention, ferrymen, fires, and my beloved home, Brooklyn, all shine in this wonderful historical novel.

- Amy Brill
Author of *The Movement of Stars*
Baron Fellow, 2005



Fiction can tell truths that history can’t always document. I have been enormously stimulated by Madison Smartt Bell’s trilogy about the Haitian Revolution—*All Souls’ Rising*, *Master of the Crossroads*, and *The Stone the Builder Refused* (2004-2006). Bell brilliantly interweaves the perspectives of Africans and Frenchmen, revealing the inner conflicts of these complex and remote historical events with stunning immediacy. I wish our history exhibitions could emulate Bell’s powerful rendering.

- Richard Rabinowitz
Founder and President, American History Workshop
AAS Councilor, AAS Member, 2003



Called “a gimcrack genre not exactly jammed with greatness” by the critic James Wood, the historical novel—including the contemporary American version—seems thin to my amateur eye. However, *Johnny Tremain* (published in 1943 and my favorite for its all-ages appeal), *Burr* (1973), *Killer Angels* (1974), and *The Confessions of Nat Turner* (1967) are outstanding works that “pressure the blank spots of history,” as Matthew Pearl has described the genre’s potential. Pearl’s *The Last Dickens* (2009) does just that for the mid-nineteenth-century transatlantic book trade.

Wood admires Hilary Mantel, the author of the novel *Wolf Hall* (2009) set in Tudor England, for shrewdly writing “a very good modern novel” then changing “all her fictional names to English historical figures.” What better place than AAS for a novelist to follow suit using our kaleidoscopic pre-1877 American collections!

- Jock Herron
President, Herron Farms LLC
AAS Councilor, AAS Member, 1989



I recommend *March* by Geraldine Brooks. In this 2005 novel, Brooks reimagines Louisa May Alcott’s *Little Women* by telling the story of the absent father, a liberal, reform-minded chaplain, serving the Northern Army in the Civil War. Brooks’s great strength is her ability to capture the cadences of the past and incorporate them into her own potent and stunning contemporary prose. This gift is the hallmark of all her work, much of which ranges over different historic time periods, but it is most evident in this Pulitzer Prize-winning book. *March* contains a grand panorama of characters and events and a slow burn of revelation. The final payoff is a quiet and powerful lesson about forgiveness and redemption that I found achingly beautiful and profound.

- James David Moran
AAS Director of Outreach

September 1774.

5. Another Town meeting, upon or public Difficulty - they agree to go to Worcester all other Towns of this County off Court under new Act - and talk of superseding - and talk of superseding - following upon holding a (choosing men from arms mine Capt. Squire led the Agreement. - Mr. West

6. A gen^l Company march to Dorchester Col. Diney was on a present measure

7. Break give me all the y^{er} cesses 4722 persons wth their particular stand without Arms: Those & other Officers of y^e Court with Com^{rs} of Correspond^{ts} fashed & guarded. The Court vⁱⁿ to y^e Court House wth a paper being read, signi^{fy} but this not satisfying, and y^e y^{er} would not sit the 2^d of new Regul^{ts}. by y^e late act understand that there was an thus, Worcester 200 Princ

Between the Ranks,

This, except Worcester & Spencer is y^e Order in w^{ch} y^e Company's stood from y^e Court House & South ward. viz. Uxbridge 156 Harva
Woburn 200 Hubb
Rutland 130 Lunen
Athol 51 Wafter
Royalton 39 Winche
New Braintree 140 South
Brookfield 216 Cham
Dunstable 130 Linc
Grafton 210 Spenc
Holden 100 Sturbr
Hardwick 220 Bolton

THE WORCESTER REVOLUTION OF 1774

On September 6, 1774, 4,622 militiamen from thirty-seven surrounding towns marched into Worcester, the shiretown for the county, to close the Crown's courts. Forming two lines, they forced each court official, hat in hand, to disavow the recent act of Parliament that revoked the colony's charter and disenfranchised its citizens. With this dramatic act, all British authority vanished from Worcester County, never to return. While the war for American independence started in Lexington and Concord, the revolution—the actual transfer of political and military authority—occurred here in Worcester nine months earlier.

Now, AAS has joined a coalition of individuals and organizations to commemorate this historic episode with a series of public programs, culminating in a reenactment of the event on September 7, 2014. The project, called *The Worcester Revolution of 1774*, will be a region-wide celebration that will include activities across the cultural and historical organizations of Worcester and the thirty-seven towns that participated in 1774.

The Society's collections contain the key evidence of this momentous event. Westborough minister Ebenezer Parkman recorded the court-closing in his diary. The Salisbury Family Papers document the Worcester Revolution with letters written by Stephen Salisbury to his brother in Boston recounting how many muskets and how much gunpowder and ammunition he is selling. Reactions to the event are detailed in Boston newspapers, many of which AAS possesses. (There were no newspapers published in Worcester until Isaiah Thomas arrived in 1775.) The Society also holds the complete records of the American Political Society, a secret organization created to gain control of local politics and protest the actions of the colony's Royal authorities.

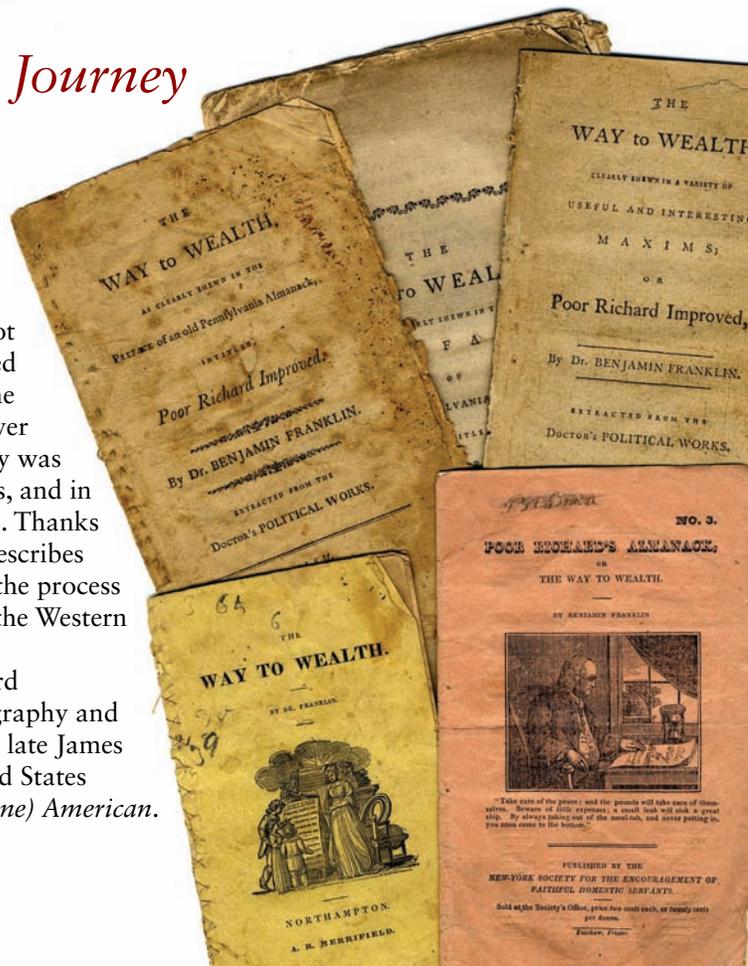
AAS will participate in this project by sponsoring workshops and lectures and providing digital facsimiles of its collection materials. Additionally, AAS director of outreach James David Moran has been commissioned to write a play about the Worcester Revolution that will be the centerpiece of the September 7 celebration. For a calendar of events and more information visit: www.revolution1774.org.

Left: Ebenezer Parkman diary, September 1774.

WIGGINS LECTURE: "The Incredible Journey of Franklin's 'Way to Wealth'"

On Thursday, April 10, in Antiquarian Hall, Kenneth Carpenter will deliver the James Russell Wiggins Lecture in the History of the Book in American Culture for the 2013-14 year. Benjamin Franklin's "Way to Wealth" began its existence in Philadelphia as the untitled preface to *Poor Richard's Almanac* for 1758. Despite not having a formal title—or author's name—and despite being published on the periphery of the British Empire, it gradually spread around the world, eventually being published in twenty-six languages, in well over a thousand appearances. Franklin's paean to hard work and frugality was issued for a variety of audiences, from elites to peasants and servants, and in formats ranging from newspapers to advice manuals to schoolbooks. Thanks to digitization, it has been possible to produce a bibliography that describes distinct appearances, not just editions. Carpenter's talk will explain the process by which Franklin's anonymous text spread widely and deeply into the Western world.

Carpenter retired in 2000 after a thirty-five-year career in Harvard University's libraries and is the author of numerous works of bibliography and library history. Inaugurated in 1983, the Wiggins Lecture honors the late James Russell Wiggins, who served as editor of the *Washington Post*, United States ambassador to the United Nations, and editor of the *Ellsworth (Maine) American*. From 1970 to 1977, he also served as head of the Society's Council.





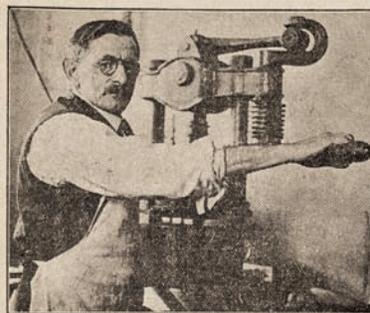
AAS HERITAGE: A CENTURY OF CONSERVATION AT THE AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

Behind the scenes at the American Antiquarian Society's conservation department today, you will find a busy lab with staff members using advanced scientific treatments to preserve collection materials for the future and make even the oldest, most fragile items accessible to researchers. "Conservation" at AAS as we know it now is the product of more than a century of growth and innovation. Its origins came decades before the science of conservation was promulgated and codified in the mid-twentieth century, and it has continued to evolve with the field ever since. Among the many people who have made their mark on the department over the years, the overlapping careers of three long-time conservators—Horace Phillimore, Kenneth Desautels, and Babette Gehrlich—cover that entire century and reflect AAS's continuous legacy of leadership in the conservation of America's printed treasures.

Soon after the construction of Antiquarian Hall in 1909, one of its new features—a bindery for collection care—caught the attention of Horace Phillimore, a bookbinder from England. He applied for a job and began working at AAS in 1910. At the time, the field of conservation as we know it now was essentially nonexistent, but the basic intent to mend, stabilize, and preserve fragile materials was already a guiding force for Phillimore. Having been trained in traditional bookbinding in London from the age of fourteen, he had the skill to repair books and bind thousands of volumes each year. He also employed an early method of what we would now call conservation, in which torn documents were mended with transparent silk. During his over forty-five-year career at the Society, Phillimore established the foundation for what became AAS's conservation department.

*Top: Babette Gehrlich in the Society's conservation lab, 2013.
Center: Horace F. Phillimore; Kenny Desautels, 1984.*

Near the end of his tenure, Phillimore—then in his mid-eighties—trained Kenneth Desautels, who came to AAS in 1954 with no formal background in bookbinding, but learned quickly and went on to become a fixture in the department for the second half of the twentieth century. This was a time when the science of conservation was rapidly developing, and many of the techniques that Desautels and his colleagues used were highly experimental. In 1971, Desautels brought the department's work to a new level when he designed the current conservation lab. At the time, the space and equipment were recognized widely in the field as innovative and state-of-the-art, allowing for more advanced treatments on AAS's collection and the training of interns from the new graduate conservation programs that were being established in the United States.



The department expanded again in the 1980s when Richard Baker was hired as AAS's first chief conservator, a position he held from 1982 until 1989. In 1990, he was followed by AAS's current chief conservator, Babette Gehrlich, who was first trained in hand binding and book conservation in Germany and Switzerland and then continued developing her expertise in the United States. Here at AAS, Gehrlich has led the continued expansion of the conservation department to the point where that 1971 lab is no longer sufficient for the level and volume of work required. Today, Gehrlich plays a leading role in efforts to renovate, expand, and modernize the lab and its equipment. The new design will blend tradition and innovation—much of the heavy equipment has remained the same over the years, so we will continue to use and treasure some of the same historic tools used by Desautels and even Phillimore, while also bringing in the latest technology. This renovation campaign is the natural next step in the continuing growth and evolution of conservation at AAS.

– Anna Moir, Coordinator of Development Operations

2014 SUMMER SEMINARS

PHBAC: Books in the Larger World of Objects

JUNE 15-20, 2014

The 2014 Summer Seminar in the Program in the History of the Book in American Culture (PHBAC) will explore what happens when we think about books in the context of the larger world of objects, rather than as special cultural relics, and what happens to book history when we place its approach alongside those of disciplines devoted to the examination of material objects, such as anthropology, material culture studies, and the history of science. The seminar, titled “Books in the Larger World of Objects,” will be led by David Brewer (associate professor of English at Ohio State University) and Lynn Festa (associate professor of English at Rutgers University), with Jennifer Roberts (professor of history of art and architecture at Harvard University) featured as a guest faculty member.

By considering books as material objects and putting book history in conversation with approaches from other fields, the seminar hopes to devise a new set of methods for book history that preserve its archival richness and descriptive precision while also offering us new ways to describe the relations between books and their readers, writers, and producers, as well as more sophisticated ways to think about how books move through time and space. Thinking about ways that people use books other than as reading material also promises to open up new approaches to materials in the AAS collections. Details about the seminar and application materials are available at www.americanantiquarian.org/summer-seminar-2014.

Right: Detail. Books and Bookmen. Andrew Lang, 1886.



CHAViC: The Art of Science and Technology, 1750-1900

JULY 13-17, 2014



This year’s Center for Historic American Visual Culture (CHAViC) Summer Seminar will explore the visual culture of science and technology in the era before academic and corporate institutions came to dominate both. In addition to the formal disciplines of scientific inquiry pursued by “gentlemen of science”—botany, geology, medicine, and the like—the group will also consider the popularity of science and pseudo-science in public life, along with the practical applications of scientific knowledge in everyday life, such as gardening and cooking, especially by women. Our investigation of technology will include both the large, transformative developments—factories and railroads, for instance—and also the smaller, more immediate technologies of the home and artisan’s shop. The goal of the seminar is to help participants see science and technology in ways that the American people might have done before 1900, and to bring those lessons to their research and teaching.

Through workshops and discussions the seminar will allow participants first-hand access to the Society’s rich collections of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century prints, photographs, book illustrations, periodicals, newspapers, maps, sheet music covers, and ephemera of all kinds. The seminar will include a field trip to an historic site exploring the American Industrial Revolution.

The seminar, coordinated by CHAViC director Nan Wolverton, will be led by Gregory Nobles, professor of history and director of the Honors Program at the Georgia Institute of Technology. Guest faculty will include Susan Branson, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Syracuse University, among others. Further details and application materials are available at www.americanantiquarian.org/chavicsummer2014.htm.

Left: Frontispiece. Outlines of Anatomy and Physiology. Frederick Hollick, 1847.

NEWS FROM MEMBERS, FELLOWS, & STAFF

MEMBERS

Two members were finalists for the 2013 National Book Award for non-fiction: **Jill Lepore** (elected 1998), with *Book of Ages: The Life and Opinions of Jane Franklin*, and **Alan Taylor** (elected 1995), with *The Internal Enemy: Slavery and War in Virginia, 1772-1832*.

Lloyd Pratt (elected 2010), university lecturer in American literature at Linacre College, Oxford University, has been awarded the Norman Foerster Prize by the American Literature Section of the Modern Language Association of America for his essay “‘I Am a Stranger with Thee’: Frederick Douglass and Recognition after 1845.” The prize is given annually for the best essay published in *American Literature*. Pratt was a 2008-09 Northeast Modern Language Association Fellow and a 2009-10 AAS-NEH Fellow.

Jean O’Brien (elected 2000), a professor in history, American studies, and American Indian studies at the University of Minnesota, has been appointed by the Secretary of the Interior to the board of trustees for the Cobell Education Scholarship Fund. This fund was authorized by the Cobell Settlement to provide financial assistance to Native American students looking to pursue post-secondary education and training. O’Brien was also a former Peterson and AAS-NEH Fellow.

Robin Bernstein’s (elected 2013) latest book, *Racial Innocence: Performing American Childhood from Slavery to Civil Rights* (2011), has won several awards over the course of 2012 and 2013, including the Outstanding Book Award from the Association for Theatre in Higher Education, the Book Award from the Children’s Literature Association, the International Research Society for Children’s Literature Award, the Grace Abbott Best Book Award from the Society for the History of Childhood and Youth, and the Lois P. Rudnick Book Prize from the New England American Studies Association. It was also a runner-up for the John Hope Franklin Publication Prize from the American Studies Association and received an honorable mention for the Book Award from the Society for the Study of American Women Writers. Bernstein conducted research for this book as a 2008-09 Last Fellow.

FELLOWS

Amy Hughes’s book, *Spectacles of Reform: Theater and Activism in Nineteenth-Century America*, was awarded the 2013 Barnard Hewitt Award from the American Society for Theatre Research. She worked on the book as a Last Fellow in 2010.

STAFF

Several staff members have taken on new roles at the Society: In September, digital photographer **Cade Overton** moved from part-time to full-time. **Daniel Boudreau**, a senior at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, began working as a part-time page in September after spending the summer as an intern. In February, **Amy Tims** became project cataloger, **Ashley Cataldo** became a cataloger, and **Rebecca Morin** is now library assistant.

AAS was pleased to welcome several new staff members: **David Cohen** began as receptionist in January. In February, **Brenna Bychowski** joined AAS as a cataloger and **Lisa Sutter** as acquisitions assistant.

AAS also bid farewell to several staff members: **Katherine MacDonald** left the A New Nation Votes project in August to become director and Ruby Winslow Linn curator for the Old Colony Historical Society in Taunton. **Mary LaBombard** also left A New Nation Votes in September to become the archivist for the Nickerson Archives at Cape Cod Community College in West Barnstable. After seven years at AAS, **Janet Barakian** retired as receptionist in December. **Micaela Grant** left her position as clerk for the Clarence project in December to take a job in New Hampshire.

In September, curator of children’s literature **Laura Wasowicz** gave the keynote lecture at the Rhode Island Center for the Book’s annual cooperative program on book history at the John Carter Brown Library

on the history of the picture book publisher McLoughlin Brothers. In October, she also delivered her presentation on McLoughlin Brothers to a capacity crowd at the American Printing History Association’s conference held at the Grolier Club in New York.

Laura Wasowicz’s article “Monkeys, Misrule, and the Birth of an American Identity in Picture Books of the Rising Republic” was published in the Autumn 2013 issue of *Imprint*, and images from the article featuring monkeys in human dress graced both the front and back covers.

Congratulations to those staff members who reached significant milestones in their careers at AAS with the close of 2013: **Carol-Ann Mackey** and **Doris O’Keefe**, thirty-five years; **Carol Fisher-Crosby**, twenty years; **Peg Lesinski** and **Richard Wilson**, ten years; **Andrew Bourque** and **Ashley Cataldo**, five years.

Above: Amy Hughes delivering a talk during her May 2013 public program; illustration from Pug’s Tour Through Europe, Philadelphia, ca. 1824.



New Members

Twenty new members were elected at the annual meeting on November 8, 2013.

ROBIN BERNSTEIN

Cambridge, Massachusetts

Robin Bernstein is professor of African and African American studies and of studies of women, gender, and sexuality at Harvard University. Specializing in performance and theatre history, her most recent book, *Racial Innocence: Performing American Childhood from Slavery to Civil Rights* (2011), was the recipient of five major book awards and was supported by a short-term research fellowship at AAS. She has been an active participant in the Society's CHAViC conferences.

SUSAN CECCACCI

Worcester, Massachusetts

Susan Ceccacci is the education director at Preservation Worcester. An architectural historian and historic preservation consultant, she has been involved in a wide variety of preservation efforts in the greater Worcester area and has recently completed a book on the Massachusetts Avenue Historic District, in which Antiquarian Hall and the 9 Regent Street Scholars Residence are both located.

CHRISTY COLEMAN

Richmond, Virginia

Christy Coleman is the current president of The American Civil War Center at Historic Tredegar. Previously she served as president of the Wright Museum of African American History in Detroit. She has served as a consultant to many leading museums, is a senior advisor for the Arts Consulting Group, Inc., and has served on the boards of the American Alliance of Museums and the American Association for State and Local History.

JAMES DONAHUE

Cranston, Rhode Island

James Donahue is the president and chief executive officer at Old Sturbridge Village. Since coming to Sturbridge in 2007, he has been credited with stabilizing the finances, improving attendance rates, and enhancing the overall visitor experience through a reinvigorated emphasis on interactive programs. Previously, he served as CEO of the first charter school in Rhode Island.

LAURENT DUBOIS

Durham, North Carolina

Laurent Dubois is the Marcello Lotti professor of Romance studies and history at Duke University. He is the author of *Avengers of the New World: The Story of the Haitian Revolution* (2004), which was awarded the Frederick Douglass Book Prize; *Slave Revolution in the Caribbean, 1789-1804: A Brief History with Documents* (2006); and *Haiti: The Aftershocks of History* (2012). He was also co-editor of *Origins of the Black Atlantic* (2009).

FRANÇOIS FURSTENBERG

Baltimore, Maryland

After serving for the past decade as associate professor of history and J. W. McConnell Family Foundation chair in American studies at the Université de Montréal, François Furstenberg has returned to the United States to become an associate professor of history at Johns Hopkins University. He is the author of *In the Name of the Father: Washington's Legacy, Slavery, and the Making of a Nation* (2006). His research on the French Atlantic world has received several major grants from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council in Canada.

PETER GITTLEMAN

Boston, Massachusetts

Peter Gittleman is the visitor experience team leader at Historic New England. Since 1986 he has served as a museum teacher, school program developer, project manager, and overseer of the tour experience at Historic New England's thirty-six historic properties. He has helped develop all of the organization's school programs, which have experienced dramatic growth and have been recognized as outstanding models nationwide.

TIMOTHY LOEW

Worcester, Massachusetts

Timothy Loew is the director of academic planning and operations at Becker College. Since 2011, he

has also served as the executive director of Becker's Massachusetts Digital Games Institute (MassDiGI), a center for academic cooperation, entrepreneurship, and economic development across the state. Through his leadership, Becker has partnered with AAS to present public lectures in the series named for his late father and AAS member, Franklin M. Loew (elected 1990).

CHRIS LOKER

San Francisco, California

Chris Loker is an antiquarian bookseller and curator, specializing in children's literature. She started her own shop, the Children's Book Gallery, in 2006, with a focus on antiquarian children's books from 1750 to 1950. Currently, she is on hiatus from the store as she serves as curator for an upcoming exhibit (scheduled to open December 2014) at the Grolier Club in New York, *One Hundred Books Famous in Children's Literature*.

ELLEN MICHELSON

Atherton, California

Ellen Michelson is a major collector of children's books in Atherton, Calif. She is currently collaborating with Chris Loker on the Grolier Club exhibit *One Hundred Books Famous in Children's Literature*. A devoted philanthropist, she is president and co-founder of the Michelson Family Foundation, which supports particular initiatives in the arts and social services.

HAROLD MILLER, JR.

Cinco Ranch, Texas

Harold Miller is the president of Subsurface Consultants & Associates, LLC, in Houston, Tex., an upstream consulting firm in the oil and gas industry. Since the recent death of his father, AAS member Hal T. Miller (elected 1978), he has been active in distributing to libraries published sets of the extensive interviews his father conducted with authors, editors, and management of the Houghton Mifflin Company, documenting the rich history of that influential publishing firm.

MARLA MILLER

Hadley, Massachusetts

Marla Miller is a professor of history and director of the department's Public History Program at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Her book *The Needle's Eye: Women and Work in the Age of Revolution* (2006) won the Costume Society of America's Millia Davenport Publication Award. In 2009, she published the edited collection *Cultivating a Past: Essays in the History of Hadley, Massachusetts*. Her most recent book, *Betsy Ross and the Making of America* (2010), was a finalist for the Cundill Prize in History at McGill University and was named to the *Washington Post's* "Best of 2010" list.

CHERYL NEEDLE

Pepperell, Massachusetts

An experienced antiquarian bookseller with a focus on nineteenth-century American book and literary culture, Cheryl Needle exhibits at antiquarian book fairs and has a selection from her stock for sale at Hobart Village Antiques in West Townsend, Mass. In addition to having a knack for finding great items for the Society to purchase, she has also been particularly generous in giving materials which she feels just have to be in the collections here.

MICHAEL O'BRIEN

Worcester, Massachusetts

Michael O'Brien just recently retired from his post as city manager of Worcester and is joining property developer WinnCompanies as executive vice president. During his tenure as city manager from 2004 to 2014, he was credited with improving economic development, public safety, and core services, as well as addressing the long-term financial stability of the city. Under his leadership, Worcester has been rated one of the safest cities of its size in the country and is experiencing more than \$1.3 billion in economic development activity city-wide.

ANNE ROSE

University Park, Pennsylvania

Anne Rose is the distinguished professor of history and religious studies at Pennsylvania State University. Her work focuses on the impact that modern society has on religious belief and scientific thinking, and her books include *Transcendentalism as a Social Movement, 1830-1850* (1981), *Victorian America and the Civil War* (1992), *Beloved Strangers: Interfaith Families in Nineteenth-Century America* (2001), and *Psychology and Selfhood in the Segregated South* (2009).

PAUL S. SPERRY

New York, New York

Paul Sperry is the co-founder and president of the New York investment banking firm Sperry, Mitchell & Company. He received a master's degree in American history from Columbia University in 1981 and has maintained a lifelong interest and involvement in the field. Currently, he is a member of the leadership advisory council of the Organization of American Historians and the executive board of the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture.

JANET H. SPITZ

Boston, Massachusetts

Janet Spitz is the executive director of the Norman B. Leventhal Map Center at the Boston Public Library, which not only collects and preserves maps and atlases, but also develops innovative uses of geographic materials to engage young people's curiosity about the world. Previously, she worked at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, the Worcester Art Museum, and the Perkins School for the Blind.

DEIRDRE C. STAM

Syracuse, New York

In 2011, Deirdre Stam retired from her position as director of the Rare Books and Special Collections Program at the Palmer School of Library and Information Science at Long Island University. She served previously as chief executive for the Bibliographical Society of America and the Museum Computer Network, and as director of the Drew University Library. She is

currently a trustee at the Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation in New York.

SAM BASS WARNER, JR.

Needham, Massachusetts

Sam Warner is a noted urban historian and citizen scholar active in urban reform. His many books include *Streetcar Suburbs: The Process of Growth in Boston, 1870-1900* (1962); *The Private City: Philadelphia in Three Periods of Its Growth* (1969); *The Urban Wilderness: A History of the American City* (1972); and most recently *American Urban Form: A Representative History* (2012). Over his long career, he has taught at Boston University, Brandeis, and MIT.

NINA ZANNIERI

Boston, Massachusetts

Nina Zannieri has served as executive director of the Paul Revere Memorial Association since 1986. She has also served as president of the New England Museum Association, as a member of the governing council of the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH), and most recently as chair of the AASLH committee that developed online tools to help small- and mid-sized history organizations meet national standards.

2014 SEMIANNUAL MEETING

SAVE THE DATE!

**MAY 2ND AND 3RD
IN THE PIONEER VALLEY OF
MASSACHUSETTS**

DETAILS FORTHCOMING



Connecticut Valley from Mount Tom.
Engraved by J.D. Woodward, 1873.

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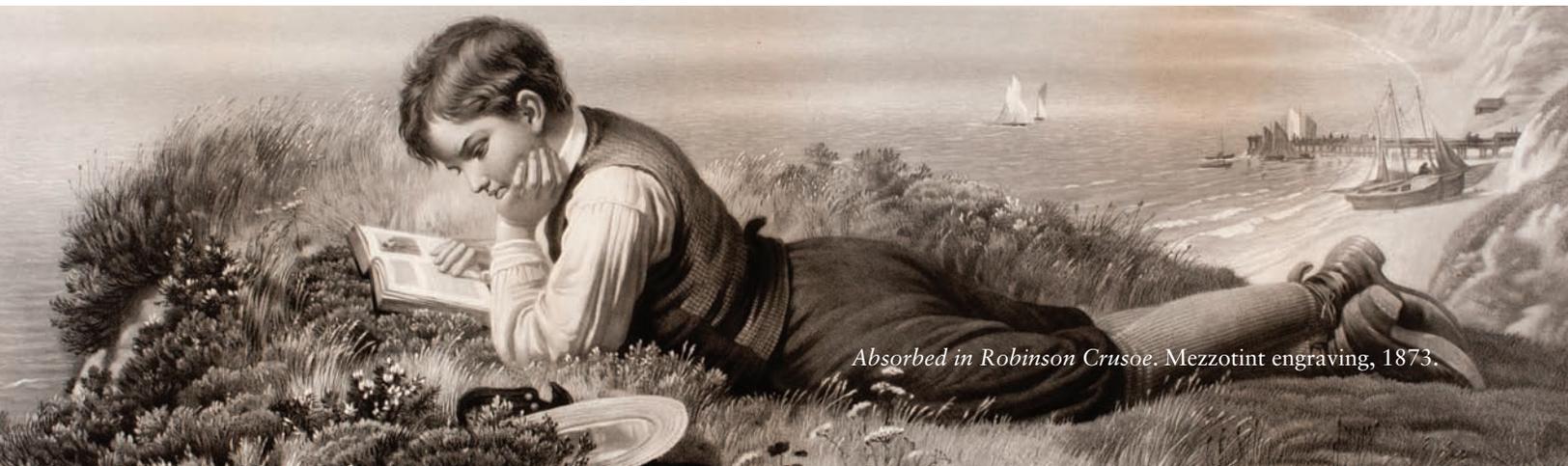
The American Antiquarian Society is funded in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency that supports public programs in the arts, humanities, and sciences.

ADOPT-A-BOOK IS BACK MAY 6, 2014

It's almost time to adopt—a book, that is! The Society's 7th Annual Adopt-a-Book event, which raises funds for library acquisitions, will take place on Tuesday, May 6, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Since 2007, we have raised nearly \$90,000 through this event. During the evening, participants have the opportunity to view rare books, pamphlets, newspapers, prints, and manuscripts that have been acquired by AAS during the past year. They can adopt one or more of these items in their own name, a friend's name, or in honor of a special person. An AAS curator will then use the gift to buy something equally interesting in the coming year, thus perpetuating the value of the adoption. The Society's curators always look forward to this event and will present historic objects that they have purchased with funds raised during the previous year.

Among the treasures included in this year's event are lithographs of costumes worn in Norway, engravings of people reading, children's books illustrated with colorful images, and broadsides selling everything from newspaper subscriptions to corsets. We will also have a raffle featuring AAS tote bags and hats, reproductions from the collections, and an admission to one of our popular Hands-On History workshops (see page 6). The event is scheduled to correspond with Worcester Gives, the inaugural crowdsourcing day that encourages charitable giving to local non-profits, providing the perfect opportunity for guests to take part in the city-wide philanthropic venture.

As in previous years, it will be possible to adopt selected items online in advance of the May event, so watch your email and our website for the launch of the digital Adopt-a-Book catalog in early April. Save the date and please plan to join us on May 6 for drinks, hors d'oeuvres, and conversations with the Society's curators and other book-loving history enthusiasts!



Absorbed in Robinson Crusoe. Mezzotint engraving, 1873.