



For Immediate Release

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Thirty-five individuals elected to membership in the American Antiquarian Society

October 21, 2024 (Worcester, MA) —Thirty-five individuals from fifteen states and District of Columbia have been elected to membership in the [American Antiquarian Society](#) (AAS), a 212-year-old national research library and community of learners dedicated to discovering and sharing a deeper understanding of the American past. The individuals, who were elected this month, join a [distinguished roster](#) of nearly 1,200 AAS members from forty-nine states, the District of Columbia, and six other countries. Elected for their achievement in academic or public life, members range from scholars, collectors, and librarians to artists, writers, and history enthusiasts. Since the Society's founding in 1812, fourteen United States presidents, more than seventy-five Pulitzer Prize winners, scores of Bancroft Prize winners, many Guggenheim fellows, and several MacArthur Award winners have been elected to membership.

The new American Antiquarian Society members are:

Erica Ball (Los Angeles CA), professor of Black studies at Occidental College;

Kimberly D. Blockett (Philadelphia, PA), professor of Africana studies at the University of Delaware;

Gregory L. Childs (Boston, MA), assistant professor of history at Brandeis University;

Salvatore G. Cilella (Atlanta, GA), former president and chief operating officer of the Atlanta History Center and collector of American prints, maps, and writings;

Mary W. Cilella (Atlanta, GA), retired educator and school administrator and collector of American prints, maps, and writings;

Sara R. Danger (Valparaiso, IN), professor of English at Valparaiso University;

Stephanie Kimbro Dolin (Portola Valley, CA), printer, bookbinder, fine press book collector, and owner of First Bite Press;

Joe S. Fay (New Haven, CT), partner in McBride Rare Books;

Kathleen M. Gagne (Worcester, MA), executive director of Mechanics Hall;

Eric S. Gardner (Midland, MI), professor of English at Saginaw Valley State University;



- Ashley M. Glassburn** (Ypsilanti, MI), associate professor of women's and gender studies at the University of Windsor, Canada;
- Amy E. Gore** (Fargo, ND), assistant professor of English at North Dakota State University;
- Gloria D. Hall** (Worcester, MA), preservationist and public art administrator;
- Adria L. Imada** (Irvine, CA), professor of history and associate dean for diversity, equity and inclusion, graduate division at the University of California, Irvine;
- Declan D. Kiely** (New York, NY), executive director of the Grolier Club;
- Taylor C. Kirkpatrick** (Denver, CO), president and chief operating officer of Babson Farms;
- Frederick C. Knight** (Washington, DC), professor of history at Howard University;
- Nancy Kuhl** (Bridgeport, CT), curator of poetry of the Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University;
- Brian Lamb** (Washington, DC), founder and retired chief operating officer of C-SPAN;
- Danielle Legros Georges** (Boston, MA), writer, editor, poet, and translator and Boston's poet laureate in 2015-19;
- Kay Wright Lewis** (Glenn Dale, MD), associate professor of history at Howard University;
- Allison N. Madar** (Claremont, CA), history teacher at the Webb Schools;
- Catherine A. Mastrovito** (Clinton, MA), proprietor of Cheshire Cat Antiques;
- Donald P. Mastrovito** (Clinton, MA), proprietor of Cheshire Cat Antiques;
- Don James McLaughlin** (Tulsa, OK), assistant professor of nineteenth-century American literature at the University of Tulsa;
- Philip C. Mead** (Ambler, PA), retired founding chief historian and curator of the Museum of the American Revolution and independent curator;
- Uchenna B. Okeja** (Worcester, MA), director of the Emengeni Institute for Comparative Global Studies;
- Solimar M. Otero**, professor of folklore, ethnomusicology, and gender studies at the University of Indiana, Bloomington;
- Laura L. Powell** (San Francisco, CA), principal of Laura Powell, LLC;
- Daniel M. Radus** (Manlius, NY), associate professor of English at the State University of New York, Cortland;
- Douglass G. Scott** (Brookline, MA), book designer and faculty member at the Rhode Island School of Design and Northeastern University;
- Abby Smith Rumsey** (Stanford, CA), independent historian and chair of the Center for Advanced Studies in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University;
- Randy J. Sparks** (New Orleans, LA), Clement Chambers Benenson Professor in American Colonial History at Tulane University;



Jacqueline M. Vossler (Chicago, IL), founder and retired president of the Core Group;
Megan E. Walsh (Machias, ME), dean and campus director at the University of Maine at Machias.

In addition, three existing members were elected to three year terms on the AAS governing board: **Jesse Alemán** (Albuquerque, NM), professor of English and Presidential Teaching Fellow at the University of New Mexico, who was the Mellon Distinguished Scholar in Residence at AAS in 2023-24; **Samantha McDonald** (Worcester, MA), a partner in the Worcester law firm, Bowditch; and **Meredith L. McGill** (Jersey City, NJ), professor of English at Rutgers University and co-director of the [Black Bibliography Project](#). **Nick Aretakis** (Guilford, CT) was elected recording secretary; **George W. Tetler III** (Worcester, MA) was elected treasurer, **Paul S. Sperry** (New York, NY), **Rosalind Remer** (Glenside, PA), and **Craig S. Wilder** (Cambridge, MA) were reelected chair, vice chair, and secretary for domestic correspondence, respectively.

About the American Antiquarian Society

Located in Worcester, Massachusetts, the American Antiquarian Society holds the world's largest and most accessible collection of original printed, handwritten, and visual sources from before 1900 in what is now the United States. The library of over four million items includes books, pamphlets, broadsides, newspapers, periodicals, children's literature, music, and graphic arts material. AAS connects people across the globe with these collections through its digital catalog and resources, online exhibitions, and virtual learning experiences. In addition, it supports dozens of researchers, artists, and writers each year with a variety of fellowship programs. In 2013, President Obama presented the Society with the National Humanities Medal in a White House ceremony.

The American Antiquarian Society is located at 185 Salisbury Street in Worcester, MA. The library is open Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The library is free and open to anyone with projects or interests related to the collections. All are welcome to join its free public programs held throughout the year. To learn more, visit americanantiquarian.org.

High resolution press images for the American Antiquarian Society are available [here](#).