



The Colonial Society of Massachusetts

October 1999 Volume 4, Number 1

STARS IN THE MAKING: *Some Thoughts on the Colonial Society's April 1999 Graduate Student Forum*

MANY years ago Springfield, Massachusetts, boasted a minor-league baseball team called the Rifles which played its home games at Pynchon Park. The team, wooden grandstand, and bleachers are long gone, but for me the childhood memory of watching the sparkling play of one of the Alou brothers, who later made headlines as a major-leaguer, remains. As an observer at last spring's Graduate Student Forum, held at the Society's headquarters, I felt I was, once again, in the presence of youthful talent that would command widespread recognition and respect in years to come.

The topics discussed revealed an astonishing breadth and depth of scholarly interest. (See the list of presenters and their papers below.) I was especially interested to hear the questions presenters asked of their peers. Some sought suggestions on sharpening an approach, while others looked for additional resources to expand on material already developed. The responses of fellow presenters were supplemented by helpful comments from senior scholars in the audience.

The atmosphere of the discussion was friendly and relaxed yet most informative. I noted that some of the graduate students had already perfected a style of delivery that will captivate future audiences in the classroom and beyond. I would not be surprised if subsequent Society forums drew attendance from faculty recruiters ready to sign up top prospects on the spot. I should also mention the fine presentation of Fellow Member John Murrin which rounded out the day's program.

The Society is to be commended for providing a prestigious showcase for budding scholarly talent and a place where young people can learn from each other and a distinguished audience at the beginning of promising and productive careers. Kudos also to Linda Smith Rhoads, Patrick Leehey, and Len Travers for putting the forum together, the Society of Colonial Wars for its generous funding, and the *New England Quarterly*, the Paul Revere Memorial Association, and the Massachusetts Historical

Society for additional support. Next year, if the forum is scheduled on a day other than when the Colonial Warriors are at their monthly luncheon meeting, perhaps some will attend to see how wisely their grant funds have been spent.

CRAWFORD LINCOLN
Brimfield, Massachusetts



Graduate Student Forum Sponsored by the Colonial Society of Massachusetts 15 April 1999

PROGRAM

SESSION 1: *Challenges to Authority in Seventeenth-Century New England*

Denise Grosskopf, University of Connecticut at Storrs: "The Limits of Religious Dissent in Seventeenth-Century Connecticut: The Rogerine Heresy"

Jonathan Beecher Field, University of Chicago: "The Grounds of Dissent: Heresies and Colonies in New England, 1636-1688"

Carolyn Duckworth Fox, Salem State College: "Sexual Offenses in Early Essex County"

SESSION 2: *Representing the Under-represented*

Patrick Griffin, Northwestern University: "Exploring the Ulster Scot Experience in Ireland and America: The Promise and the Peril of Constructing a Transatlantic Narrative"

David Silverman, Princeton University: "The Cost of Working Off Debt: The Impact of Indentured Service and Wage Labor on Southeastern New England Indians"

Kirsten Sword, Harvard University: "Wayward Wives,

Runaway Slaves, and the Limits of Patriarchal Authority in Early America”

SESSION 3: *Biographies: From Singular to Plural*

Robert Martello, Massachusetts Institute of Technology: “Paul Revere and Colonial Metallurgy”

Tim Milford, Harvard University: “The Gardiners: Elites, Biographies, Problems”

Kyle F. Zelner, The College of William & Mary: “New England’s Two Militias: A Social History of English Military Precedent and American Militia Practice during King Philip’s War, 1675–1676”

John Murrin, Princeton University: Keynote Address to Conference Participants and Colonial Society Members (April Stated Meeting)

This conference was funded in part by the Society of Colonial Wars and received support from The New England Quarterly, the Paul Revere Memorial Association, and the Massachusetts Historical Society.



More Star Gazing To Come:

*Another Graduate Student Forum Set for
Spring 2000*

THERE will be another opportunity to observe the rising talent in the field of Colonial New England studies at next year’s Graduate Student Forum, scheduled for April or May 2000, on a day chosen not to conflict with the Colonial Society April Stated Meeting—or, as Crawford Lincoln has advised, with the Colonial Warriors’ monthly luncheon!

We are now soliciting proposals from qualified graduate students, and so we invite, indeed crave, your active participation in our search for an exciting and varied program for next year. If you have anyone to recommend, please let us know or encourage the student to contact us. As with last year’s inaugural forum, we are especially concerned that the day be of use to the students. We are not looking for conference-style presentations; rather, we expect students to be commenting on work in progress. After a description of that work and of the student’s expectations for its further development, we ask that a dilemma encountered—concerns like identification of sources, issues of definition, scope of argument—be presented for discussion.

We are looking for proposals of three to five pages

which characterize the student’s research project and identify a dilemma. Proposals are due by 15 January 2000. Thanks to the generosity of the Society of Colonial Wars, funding is again available for students traveling from a distance.

For further information or to offer suggestions, please contact Linda Smith Rhoads at the offices of the *New England Quarterly*, 239 Meserve Hall, Northeastern University, Boston, MA 02115, or at lrhoads@masshist.org; 617-646-0519.



Meeting Dates

ANNUAL MEETING AND DINNER

Thursday, November 18, 1999, at 6:00 P.M.
(all meetings at 87 Mount Vernon Street
unless otherwise indicated)



SPECIAL JOINT MEETING

with the Museum of Our National Heritage
and the Massachusetts Historical Society
Sunday, December 5, 1999, at 3:00 P.M.
at the Museum of Our National Heritage
33 Marett Road
Lexington, Massachusetts



REGULAR STATED MEETING

February 17, 2000, at 3:00 P.M.



REGULAR STATED MEETING

April 20, 2000, at 3:00 P.M.



SECOND ANNUAL GRADUATE
STUDENT FORUM

Spring 2000
Date to be Announced



Ad Hoc Editors' Meeting

THIS past spring Publications Committee chair Linda Smith Rhoads convened an ad hoc meeting of documentary editors drawn from the membership of the Society to discuss ways in which the CSM can stimulate new submissions for documentary projects, insure that standards for CSM editions remain uniformly high, and help to train a new generation of documentary editors. Present at the meeting were Robert Anderson, Anne Decker Cecere, Linda Smith Rhoads, John Tyler, and Celeste Walker. Thus, at one table we had representatives from the Adams Papers, the Colonial Society, the Massachusetts Historical Society, the New England Historic Genealogical Society, and the *New England Quarterly* (with some people representing two or three organizations at once in good Boston fashion!).

All agreed that organizations like the Colonial Society were much less likely in the future to receive completed manuscripts for documentary editions unsolicited in the mail. In recent decades universities have set less value on documentary editions as a qualifying credential when making decisions about tenure and promotions. At the same time, standards for documentary editing have never been higher, making it harder for untrained editors to undertake documentary projects. Thus, if the Colonial Society and similar organizations are to continue to publish new volumes of documents, they will need to do more to prime the pump.

The editors recommended that the CSM work more closely in the future with the Association for Documentary Editing (ADE) by placing advertisements soliciting manuscripts in their journal and distributing handbills each year at the ADE convention, since ADE members are most likely to have the editorial training necessary to produce volumes that will meet CSM standards. Additionally, the CSM might also place similar announcements in other professional journals like the *New England Quarterly*.

The Ad Hoc Editors' Meeting also concluded that the Colonial Society will need to do more in the future to train prospective editors in current editorial practice. To that end, CSM Assistant Editor Anne Decker Cecere has drawn up guidelines for those wishing to submit projects to the Colonial Society for consideration, and although each project will need to generate its own editorial method, it was generally thought desirable that there should be a certain consistency of approach to routine problems among CSM projects. There was some talk, but no conclusion, about the CSM sponsoring a fellowship for aspiring young editors who would be willing to give the Society right of first refusal for their manuscript. A less expensive way in which the Society might help stimulate the profession of documentary editing would be to give

fellowships to those wishing to attend the National Historical Publications and Records Commission's annual Institute for Editing Historical Documents, better known as "Camp Edit."

The meeting concluded with some brainstorming of possible future CSM projects which included unpublished Boston church records, the account books of the Saugus Ironworks, miscellaneous court records, and perhaps a survey of local historical societies to see if they have any manuscripts in their collections which might be of sufficient general interest to warrant publication.



News of Members

RICHARD P. GILDREE, Professor of History, Austin Peay State University—His book *The Profane, the Civil, and the Godly: The Reformation of Manners in Orthodox New England* was published by the University Press of Pennsylvania in 1994.

PETER J. GOMES, Plummer Professor of Christian Morals and Pusey Minister in the Memorial Church, Harvard University—His recent publications include *The Good Book: Reading the Bible with Mind and Heart* (1996) and *Sermons: Biblical Wisdom for Daily Living* (1998). Gomes has received ten honorary degrees from American universities and had a special lecture established in his name at Emmanuel College, Cambridge University. He received the Earle B. Pleasant Clergy of the Year Award from *Religion and American Life* and the Elijah Mays Award from Bates College, both in 1998. He also gave the Lyman Beecher Lectures at Yale Divinity School that same year. Gomes is an Honorary Fellow of Emmanuel College, Cambridge University; a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of *The Living Pulpit*; and a Life Trustee of the Roxbury Latin School.

ROBERT A. GROSS, Forrest D. Murden, Jr. Professor of American Studies and History, College of William and Mary—Gross wrote "Communications Revolutions: Writing a History of the Book for an Electronic Age," *RBML* 13 (1998), which won that journal's award for best article. During the 1998–1999 academic year, he was Fulbright Chair of American Studies at Odense University, Denmark, and he continues as Book Review Editor of the *William and Mary Quarterly*.

PHILIP F. GURA, Professor of English and American Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill—Gura stepped down this year from the editorship of *Early*

American Literature, a position he has held for a decade. This fall the University of North Carolina Press will publish his foray into music history, *America's Instrument: The Banjo in the Nineteenth Century*, written with James Bollman of Arlington. For the Massachusetts Historical Society, he is now editing a recently discovered manuscript of interviews with prisoners at the Massachusetts State Prison in 1829–31. Recently Gura discovered three hitherto-unknown daguerreotypes of Henry David Thoreau's family. He was able to procure two of them and has sent them on their way to the Thoreau Society in Concord.

PHILIP M. JOHNSTON—Johnston recently became Director of the Museum of Art at the Rhode Island School of Design.

MICHAEL KAMMEN, Professor of American History and Culture, Cornell University—Kammen's most recent book is *American Culture, American Tastes: Social Change and the Twentieth Century* (Knopf, 1999). In addition to serving as President of the Organization of American Historians in 1995–1996, he received an honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from George Washington University in Washington, DC.

BENJAMIN W. LABAREE, Professor of History and Environmental Studies Emeritus, Williams College—Labaree was one of the co-authors (together with CSM President William M. Fowler Jr. and others) of *America and the Sea: A Maritime History* published by Mystic Seaport Museum in 1998, which won the prize for best book in American maritime history from the North American Society for Oceanic History. His current research focuses on the idea of service in the lives of Mary A. Schaufler and her generation, 1880–1930.

BARBARA LAMBERT, Archivist and Librarian of the Cape Ann Historical Association—Her most recent publication is *Writing History: 150 Years of the A. T. Cross Company* (Lincoln, R.I.), which won two of the fifty best books of the year awards from the American Booksellers Association in 1997. In 1995, she bought and conserved the 1650 Thames Riggs House in Gloucester from the last of the Riggs family. It is one of only two surviving log houses in Massachusetts.

WILLIAM T. LA MOY, James Duncan Phillips Librarian, Director of Publications and Editor of Peabody and Essex Museum Collections—La Moy's recent publications include *Capturing Poseidon: Photographic Encounters with the Sea* (which won the New England Museum Association Publications and Design Award); *Timeless Visions: Contemporary Art of India*; and *The Korean Collection of the Peabody Essex Museum*.

PATRICK M. LEEHEY, Research Director, Paul Revere House, Boston—Leehey wrote "What Was the Name of Paul Revere's Horse? Twenty Questions about Paul Revere—Asked and Answered" in 1997.

PAULINE MAIER, William Rand Kenan, Jr. Professor of American History at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology—Her book *American Scripture: Making the Declaration of Independence*, published by Knopf in 1997 and Vintage paperback in 1998, won the Douglass Adair Award. In recent years, she has received the Killion Faculty Achievement Prize at MIT, the Kidger Award of the New England History Teachers Association, and honorary doctorates from Regis and Williams Colleges.

WILLIAM MARTIN—*Citizen Washington*, Martin's new biographical novel about George Washington and the world he lived in was published in February 1999.

A. PIERCE MIDDLETON—Canon Middleton is now living in a lifecare retirement community. His recent publications include *Anglican Maryland, 1692–1792* (1992); "New Wine in Old Skins: Liturgical Change and the Setting of Worship" (1988), and "Annapolis on the Chesapeake" (1988). He won a Governor's Citation for a monograph pertaining to the 350th anniversary of the founding of Maryland, as well as awards from the Maryland Historical Trust and from Prince George's County, Maryland.

KEN MINKEMA, Editor, *The Works of Jonathan Edwards*, Yale University—Minkema served as co-editor for *The Sermons of Jonathan Edwards* published by Yale in 1999 and wrote "The Devil Will Roar in Me Anon: The Possession of Martha Roberson, 1741" in *Spellbound: Women and Witchcraft in America*, ed. Elizabeth Reis (Scholars Press, 1998). He has a forthcoming article in *Religious Studies Review* entitled "Witchcraft and Gender Studies in the 1990s." Minkema also gave papers at the American Historical Association in Seattle in 1998 and the AAR in San Francisco in 1997.

JOHN M. MURRIN, Professor of History, Princeton University—Murrin wrote "Things Fearful to Name: Bestiality in Early America" *Pennsylvania History* 65 (1998), supplemental issue: Explorations in Early American Culture. In addition to serving as President of the Society for Historians of the Early Republic in 1998–99, Murrin was a co-author of *Liberty Equality, Power: A History of the American People*, 2nd edition, (Harcourt, 1999).

ERIC NELLIS, Professor, Okanagan University College—Nellis continues his work as editor of the forthcoming CSM edition of the eighteenth-century records of the Boston Overseers of the Poor, which will also be the sub-

ject of a talk he is giving to a recently formed group of early Americanists in the Pacific Northwest in Seattle in November, 1999.

FOSTER PALMER, Associate University Librarian, Retired, Harvard University Library—Some of Palmer's Boston street car movies were used in the final segment of the PBS TV series *The Irish in America*. Virtually all of them have been reissued on two videotapes by Ray Neilson of Toronto; Neilson is currently preparing to release Palmer's movies from Chicago, including the elevated as well as the trolley. Palmer is currently working on a piece about his great-great-aunt, Myra Smith McCrum, who wrote as Daisy Howard for *Godey's Lady Book*, to accompany her 1869 Sorosis album, which he plans to give to the Schlesinger Library.

KAREN PARSONS, History/Material Culture Teacher, Loomis Chaffee School, Windsor, Connecticut—Parsons won the Austin Wicke Memorial Prize for Teaching in 1999.



Planning Moves Forward On Two Major Scholarly Conferences

THE Planning Committee for the forthcoming CSM conference on New England Indians met, appropriately enough, at the Deerfield Inn in late June. The committee (Marge Bruchac, Colin Calloway, Jeanne O'Brien, Barry O'Connell, Russell Peters, and Neal Salisbury) includes both leaders of the Native American community and published scholars with university teaching positions. Not surprisingly, one of their chief goals is to promote a dialogue between the two groups which often carry on their research in isolation from one another. The committee organizers also seek to underscore the persistent presence of Native American communities throughout New England's history up through the present day.

The committee set early April, 2001, as the date for the conference and chose a site in central Massachusetts as the location. Following the precedent set by the conference on New England Silver and Silversmithing, the proceedings will be open to the public, and as usual, the Colonial Society will publish a volume of selected proceedings.

The topic of the second major conference now in active planning is New England Slavery and the Slave Trade. The Colonial Society is at the moment seeking a university partner to cooperate in the arrangements and hopes to convene the event in the spring of the year 2002.

Editing as Juggling: A Brief Report On Publications

PERHAPS there never was a time when the Colonial Society quietly put out a book a year, but the effort required to keep all our projects in motion at once has seemed more than usually acrobatic this past year. There are now five books in various states of production, two scholarly conferences being planned, one long-range project (the largest ever undertaken by the Society) in a delicate state of negotiation, and several new proposals before the Publications Committee.

Robert Dunkle, whose excellent work for the New England Historic Genealogical Society many members may know, has completed the heroic task of transcribing the eighteenth-century records of the Overseers of the Poor. Devising how to transcribe information which originally appeared in tabular form on folio paper has been a particularly thorny problem. Assistant Editor Anne Decker Cecere is now at work carefully collating the transcription with the original manuscript. We are lucky to have the benefit of Anne's years of experience with the Adams Papers for this painstaking task. Fellow Member Eric Nellis continues to polish his essay on poor relief in Boston which will introduce the volume.

The papers first given at the conference on New England Silver and Silversmithing, 1620–1815, in 1996 are now at the copy editor's, and editors Jeannine Falino and Gerry Ward of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, have prepared a tentative list of the photographs that will be an integral part of the final volume. Vice-President Dan Coquillette, together with Fellow Members Mark Walsh and Neil York, are carefully checking and rechecking the transcriptions of Josiah Quincy, Jr.'s legal and political commonplace books which will accompany a newly annotated edition of *Quincy's Reports of Cases Argued and Adjudged In the Superior Court, 1761–1772*, first published in 1865. It may seem at times as if CSM editors do nothing but check and recheck transcripts, but the future usefulness of these volumes depends on their absolute accuracy, and nothing can be more important for the Society's scholarly reputation.

Len Travers and Sheila McIntyre report their work on one of our newest projects, the *Letters of John Cotton, Jr.*, is progressing nicely through the stages of collation and transcription, although they have not begun any annotation as yet.

Amidst keeping all the other CSM projects up in the air, it's rare for Editor of Publications John Tyler to find time for his own work on the *Select Correspondence of Thomas Hutchinson*, but this summer he was able to rework the annotation for the early letters through 1763. The years 1764 and 1765, busy ones for Hutchinson, will have to await next summer. Tyler did, however, secure translations for all

the Latin quotations with which Hutchinson salts his correspondence and discovered that Hutchinson was not as able a Latinist as first appeared.

The Publications Committee continues to discuss with Colin Nicholson of the University of Stirling in Scotland the possibility, first announced at the Annual Meeting last fall, of bringing out a select edition of the *Correspondence of Francis Bernard*, royal governor of Massachusetts from 1760 to 1770. The project, as large or larger than the Hutchinson letters, would take perhaps fifteen or twenty years to complete, but would put in print one of the most

important sources of information on Boston politics (as seen from the perspective of a Crown official) during that tumultuous decade.

Undaunted even by an undertaking of the scale of the Bernard Papers, the Publications Committee continues to consider a variety of other projects as well and always solicits proposals for new undertakings. Linda Smith Rhoads, Publications Committee chair, and John Tyler, Editor of Publications, urge members to contact them with their suggestions.



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