Letter from the Editor

Dear ABS members,

2019 is STILL a big year for us! As you will read below, there have been many member publications, and the biennial conference is yet to come. ABS’s and The Frances Burney Society’s joint biennial conference takes place in November—read on for specific details. Read on for all our mentionables—you all are remarkable!

Nichol Weizenbeck
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Letter from the Executive President

Hello Aphra Behn Society members!

I am writing with some exciting news, as we all prepare for the fall semester: The Aphra Behn Society will be participating in the North American Friends of Chawton House Library’s fundraiser, “Share a Bench with Jane.” Many of our members have spent time at Chawton House – an Elizabethan manor that once belonged to Jane Austen’s family, and now houses one of the greatest collections of women’s literature in the world – and know what a treasure it is. I myself was a Fellow in 2016 when I was writing my second book, and it was one of the best months of my life. Financially the Library has been in some trouble since the withdrawal of patron Sandy Lerner, who had been financing operations almost single-handedly, and thus the Aphra Behn Society wants to give back, to ensure that this amazing house and collection of women’s writings will be available to scholars for generations to come.

We have committed to sponsoring Bench #5, which you can view here on the NAFCH’s website: https://www.nafch.org/bench. The Society will contribute half of the funds for the bench now, and we are turning to you, our members, to help us raise the other half. Throughout the fall semester and through our biennial conference, we will be soliciting donations, and with every contribution, you will be able to suggest a Behn quotation to be mounted on the bench. We’ll have a vote of the membership to determine the winning quotation in November. A link to donate will be available via our paypal account, which you can find on our website, www.aphrabehn.org. I hope you will consider contributing to a very worthy cause.
Speaking of our conference, plans for the upcoming Behn/Burney conference, hosted by the wonderful Emily Friedman, have shaped up nicely. I invite you all to check out the conference website and learn more about the schedule: https://www.behnburney2019.com/. Please remember that you must be a member of either the Burney or the Behn Society in order to present. In honor of the conference, dues will be either $30 for one year’s membership or $50 for two.

As always, we will offer an award of $150 plus consideration of publication in ABO to the winner of our graduate student essay prize. This year, we will also offer two awards of $500 each to support travel to the conference, one for a graduate student, and one for a non-tenure track scholar. If you are interested in donating to provide further travel bursaries, you will find a link to do so on the conference website. Please note that you must be a member of the ABS to qualify for these awards.

Speaking of ABO, I hope you will check out our recently released special issue on “Eighteenth-Century Camp,” co-edited by Ula Lukszo Klein and Emily MN Kugler. This issue features wonderful new scholarship by Julie Beaulieu, Ersy Contogouris, Freya Gowerley, and Devoney Looser, and should be of interest to everyone on our mailing list.

Looking ahead to next year, I hope you will consider submitting a paper to our dedicated ASECS panel, “Aphra Behn: Innovative Methodologies, Resources, and Theories,” organized by the indomitable Aleksandra Hultquist. The call for papers reads as follows:

The landmark Cambridge Edition of the Works of Aphra Behn is forthcoming in the next four years—eight volumes will be published between 2020 and 2022. On the eve of this edition, it makes sense to reflect on Behn Studies’ current position in literary history and culture and evaluate what future work can and should contribute. Papers are welcome on any aspect of Aphra Behn and her work, especially new methodological and theoretical approaches to her life and writings. The panel is especially interested in discussing innovative and/or lesser-known resources to continue to unpack the work of this influential writer. Panelists might explore new biographical information, lesser-studied works, pioneering historical contexts, 21st-century theoretical readings, or other un(der)explored or re-evaluated aspects of Behn’s life and work. Papers might also demonstrate how digital resources and computational tools and methods can be used to better appreciate Behn’s contributions. Please send proposals of about 500 words. The panel promises to be extremely intellectually fruitful – you won’t want to miss it!

Finally, I want to conclude this newsletter by once again reminding you to pay your membership dues - $30 for one year or $50 for two – as soon as possible! Your tax-deductible dues support ABO and our biennial conference along with our travel and essay prizes. And don’t forget to share your good news with Nichol Weizenbeck, our Newsletter Editor, at nichol.weizenbeck@du.edu. We want to hear from you all!

Have a wonderful semester!

Jennifer

Jennifer L. Airey
Associate Professor of English
Executive President, Aphra Behn Society for Women in the Arts, 1660-1830
University of Tulsa
ABS 2019 Biennial Conference

The Aphra Behn Society for Women in the Arts 1660-1830
2019 Biennial Conference Call for Papers

Towards Public Good(s)

Laws and Religions! Alas, my Lord, he deserves not the Name of a Patriot, who does not for the publick Good, defie all Laws and Religion.
[Behn, The City-Heiress]

'Miss Joddrel,' answered Harleigh, turning with an air of gentleness to the mute Elinor, 'is aware how little a single woman is allowed to act publicly for herself, without risk of censure.
[Burney, Wanderer]

Auburn University College of Liberal Arts will host the biennial joint meeting of the Aphra Behn and Frances Burney Societies November 5-9, 2019 at the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for Arts & Humanities, located at historic Pebble Hill. In the spirit of the Draughon Center’s work supporting humanities outreach to the public, we seek papers, roundtables, and workshops that engage with the idea of public good(s). As Behn and Burney both knew, public action is both vital and fraught, and working towards a better world can take many forms. We seek presentations that engage with the questions around public engagement and advocacy, historically and practically. How do we share what we know about the long tradition of women’s work in the arts in new ways to new audiences? What strategies do we have when faced with apathy or even hostility? And how do the lives and work of women from the long eighteenth-century (1660-1840) speak to our current concerns? How do we decolonize the study of women writers and artists?

Formats:
Call for Papers. Participants can submit proposals for traditional (12-15 minute) papers, to be delivered on panels.

Call for Roundtables. We also seek groups of 4-5 speakers, each speaking for no more than 5 minutes, on a shared topic. Roundtable organizers are encouraged to solicit contributors publicly prior to submission, and to contact the organizers if they would like assistance.

Call for Workshops. A dedicated small (12 person) room will be set aside from workshops introducing interested attendees to a new method of research, teaching, or outreach. Participants will sign up at
registration, and every attempt will be made to ensure that, and materials will be available after the conference. Leaders are sought for sessions on journal article submission, starting a digital project, new pedagogical techniques, managing a social media presence, outreach projects, and the like.

For all proposals, please submit 250-500 word proposals, along with a brief bio, via our online webform: [www.BehnBurney2019.com](http://www.behnburney2019.com)

Auburn University is located in Auburn, Alabama. There is direct shuttle service from Atlanta Hartsfield International Airport 90 minutes away. A regional airport is located 45 minutes away in Montgomery, AL, now the home of The National Memorial for Peace and Justice and The Legacy Museum: From Enslavement to Mass Incarceration, as well as the Alabama Shakespeare Festival.

Volume 15 of *The Burney Journal* is published. This volume features:

"'Tis best to build no Castles in the Air': Romantic Fantasy meets Economic Reality in Frances Burney's *Court Journals*" by Lorna J. Clark

"Frances Burney and the French Revolution: Politics in Burney's *Court Journals and Letters*" by Geoffrey Sill

"Burney and Empire" by Tara Ghoshal Wallace

"Tully's the Fashion: Ciceronian Fame in Frances Burney's *Cecilia*" by Kirsten Hall

"Year in Burney Studies 2016" by Deborah Barnum

*The Burney Journal* webpage includes the tables of contents for previous volumes of the journal. (And downloadable copies of the Year in Burney Studies, 2005 through 2016). Please contact Marilyn Francus (Marilyn.Francus@mail.wvu.edu) if you are interested in copies of articles or in previous volumes.

And last but not least, *The Burney Journal* webpage also has information about submitting your work to *The Burney Journal*, including a downloadable stylesheet. *The Burney Journal* is indexed by EBSCO Host, and we welcome articles on *all* the Burneys and members of their circle.

Marilyn Francus
Editor, *The Burney Journal*
Professor of English
West Virginia University
New Publications from our Members

Co-edited by Laura Runge and Jessica Cook, and written by a combination of established scholars and new critics in the field, the essays collected in *Circuit of Apollo* attest to the vital practice of commemorating women’s artistic and personal relationships. In doing so, they illuminate the complexity of female friendships and honor as well as the robust creativity and intellectual work contributed by women to culture in the long eighteenth century. Women’s tributes to each other sometimes took the form of critical engagement or competition, but they always exposed the feminocentric networks of artistic, social, and material exchange women created and maintained both in and outside of London. This volume advocates for a new perspective for researching and teaching early modern women that is grounded in admiration.

Mary Shelley lived and wrote during an age of religious instability, one that witnessed the spread of atheism, millenarianism, Methodism, Unitarianism, and Evangelicalism, among other belief systems. In this book, Jennifer L. Airey foregrounds Shelley as an important religious thinker of the Romantic period, analyzing her creative engagement with the religious controversies around her and uncovering a belief system that was both influenced by and profoundly different from those of her male Romantic counterparts. Previous assessments of religion in Shelley’s work have been limited in scope and, as Airey asserts, have tended to privilege the novels she wrote when she was married to the prominent atheist Percy Shelley and shortly after his death. Such readings imply that Shelley and her works are most interesting for what they can tell us about her husband and second-generation (and predominantly male) Romanticism. Airey’s analysis corrects this imbalance by giving equal weight to Shelley’s later work, which draws on Evangelical discourses elevating the mother as the theological and moral center of the household.

Nuanced and accessible, *Religion Around Mary* Shelley makes visible the valuable insight that Shelley’s works offer into the complexity of religious views prominent in her cultural moment. It will appeal to specialists and nonacademics interested in the Godwin-Wollstonecraft-Shelley circle.
Aphra Behn’s spectacular farce, *Emperor of the Moon* (1687), so engaged audiences that it was restaged well into the eighteenth century. Her play was largely adapted from Anne Mauduit de Fatouville’s *Arlequin, Empereur dans la lune* (1684), a commedia dell’arte production by the Comédie-Italienne troupe, a performance which also proved immensely popular with Parisian audiences. Within its witty and amusing three acts, Behn’s play explores a number of contemporary concerns — from commedia dell’arte, to gender and politics, to science and astronomy, including a plurality of worlds, for example — all culminating in the third act’s operatic spectacle. This volume offers a transcription of Behn’s 1687 play with extensive annotations, a critical discussion of Behn’s text, and the first English translation of Fatouville’s eight French and Italian scenes.

**Newly Published Essays and Chapters from our Members**


**The Burney Journal**

*The Burney Journal* seeks submissions for essays on all aspects on the life and career of Frances Burney, the scrarily talented Burney family (including Charles, James, Esther, Susanna, Sarah Harriet, Charles Jr, and Edward) and their associates. Submissions to *The Burney Journal* must follow MLA format and should vary in length from 5,000 to 7,500 words; please see *The Burney Journal* Stylesheet for further instructions. *The Burney Journal* is indexed by EBSCO. Address e-mail correspondence to Marilyn Francus, Editor of *The Burney Journal*, at Marilyn.Francus@mail.wvu.edu. Please see https://www.mcgill.ca/burneycentre/burney-society/burney-journal for further details.

Volume 16 of the *The Burney Journal* will be published this fall, featuring essays by Linda Zionkowski ("Putting Burney in Her Place"), Joy Hudson ("A drudge amid the smiles of Wealth and Power": the Burneys and their Montagu Patrons’), Bethany Wong ("The Cloaked Actress in *Evelina* and *The Wanderer*") and Devon Nelson ("The Antiquarian Reception of Charles Burney’s *A General History of Music*.")
ABO: Interactive Journal for Women in the Arts is a peer-reviewed, scholarly online journal published twice yearly under the auspices of the University of South Florida. The journal’s policies and mission may be found at http://scholarcommons.usf.edu/abo/policies.html. Past volumes may be viewed at http://scholarcommons.usf.edu/abo/.

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Conference Presentations from our Members


Marilyn Francus, "Baretti at Streatham" at ASECS 2019, and chaired a roundtable, "Eighteenth-Century Fan Fiction: Then and Now."

Call for Papers

ASECS 2020, "Invisible Service: The Ethics of Academic Labor" for the Women's Caucus, and welcome proposals for the session (to be sent to Marilyn.Francus@mail.wvu.edu.) The deadline for submissions is September 15th.

ABOPublic

Alaina Pincus, editor, and Leah Thomas, assistant editor. ABOPublic: An Interactive Forum for Women in the Arts, 1640-1830 is a public scholarship forum to promote discussion of contemporary issues in eighteenth-century studies. ABOPublic looks forward to receiving posts in the future. Send your submissions to: http://www.aphrabehn.org/ABO/.
**ABS Executive Board**

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Please contact our executive president, Jennifer Airey, with any inquiries at: jennifer-airey@utulsa.edu.

The Aphra Behn Society is heavily dependent on membership dues for our conferences. Dues also aid in reducing fees for graduate students and in providing the Graduate Essay Prize awarded during our conferences. We appreciate your support, and we encourage you to extend the invitation to join scholars working on women in the arts in the long eighteenth century.