

Aphra Behn Society

Newsletter

March 2017

Letter from the Editor

Dear ABS members,

In many ways, this has been a difficult year. Many of us are experiencing a great deal of anxiety due to the new president's policies and the hatred that some people now feel entitled to voice. While a single academic cannot change the climate of a country, we can band together to ensure that the study of women and the arts remains a visible counterforce to this creeping darkness.

I feel that now, especially, is the time to share our victories and our accomplishments as a society. This is the time to voice our dedication to our scholarly pursuits and our commitment to our fellow members. Therefore, please keep sending your news; awards, new publications, new professional accomplishments, conference information, and anything else that will bring us some much-needed light. In that spirit, please read on for the good news from 2016.

I would like to thank *our* former president, Karen Gevirtz, for her tireless dedication to the Aphra Behn Society and for all the ways she contributed, big and small, to our well-being, scholarly and otherwise. At the same time, I would like to welcome *our* new president, Jennifer Airey, who we all chose as our new torchbearer.

Onwards, ABS!

Nichol Weizenbeck
nichol.weizenbeck@du.edu

Letter from the Executive President

Dear friends and colleagues,

Let me take a moment to introduce myself. My name is Jennifer Airey, and I am currently Associate Professor of English at the University of Tulsa, where I specialize in literature of the long eighteenth century. More importantly, I've been a member of the Aphra Behn Society since

2007, when I attended the biennial conference in New Mexico and fell in love with the Society. As a terrified graduate student learning to navigate the unfamiliar waters of academia, I found a scholarly home with one of the warmest, most intellectually generous groups of academics out there. The Aphra Behn Society helped me find my place in the academic community, and it has introduced me to so many people I am proud to call friends and colleagues. In 2013, I had the opportunity to give back when I hosted the biennial conference in Tulsa, and now I am deeply honored to be elected to the presidency. I can't wait to work with you all over the next three years, and to oversee the smooth running of a group I love so much. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me at jennifer-airey@utulsa.edu if you have suggestions or ideas for future ABS projects or events.

It's been a busy academic year for the ABS, with more wonderful things to come! I hope to see many of you in Minneapolis at the ASECS conference in March. As always, the ABS will have an active presence at the conference. Please join us Friday morning at 9:45am for "Women Writing Mothers and Motherhood," our Society's exciting panel organized by Elizabeth Zold. Featuring papers by Marilyn Francus, Seohyon Jung, Rebecca Crisafulli, and Krista Paquin, the session promises to be deeply engaging and intellectually stimulating. You won't want to miss it! Keep your eye out also for information on our perennially popular ABS Happy Hour at ASECS; details are forthcoming. And yes, the ABS pins will be back this year, and will be available at our panel. Make sure to wear yours proudly!

In October, our sister organization, Aphra Behn Europe, held its conference, "Gender Cartographies: Histories, Texts & Cultures in the Long Eighteenth Century, 1660-1830," in Huelva, Spain. It was by all accounts a fantastic event, and I hope to welcome some members of Aphra Behn Europe to our own conference later this year. Speaking of which...

I am excited to report that the ABS's 2017 biennial conference, "Women and the City," promises to be spectacular! The conference, which will be held Nov 2-3, 2017 in conjunction with the Burney Society of North America, is being masterfully co-organized by Laura Engel of Duquesne University and Marilyn Francus of West Virginia University. I encourage you to take a moment to visit the conference website, www.aphrabehnconference2017.org, and read the call for papers. 1-2 page abstracts are due to the organizers by May 15, 2017. You won't want to miss it!

Please also make sure to check out the latest issue of *ABO* at scholarcommons.usf.edu/abo. The issue features brilliant work by Ruth Knezevich, Emily Dowd-Arrow, Sarah Creel, Rhona Brown, Nicole Pohl, Emma Major, and Megan Peiser that I know will interest all of you. I hope you will also consider submitting your own work to an upcoming issue of *ABO*. The journal is read by scholars from around the world, and having published with *ABO* myself, I can say that it was a delight to work with the entire editorial team. Not only was my essay reviewed quickly, but the feedback I received was extremely generous and it led to much stronger work. I encourage all of you to take advantage of the wisdom of this fabulous group and submit. Make sure, too, to check out *ABOPublic* at www.aphrabehn.org/ABO, *ABO*'s fantastic forum for public scholarship. Even as the humanities are under attack – as I write this message, reports are circulating that the new presidential administration plans to defund the National Endowment for

the Humanities – *ABOPublic* shows why our work matters and why literature of the long eighteenth century remains relevant today.

I want to conclude this letter – my first as president of this wonderful group! – with a reminder to please pay your dues for the year. Your \$20 helps to support our upcoming conference, *ABO* and *ABOPublic*, our graduate student essay contest and travel awards, and the Society at large. In this time of deep political uncertainty, it is my firm belief that our work is more necessary than ever, and that we must support one another, as feminists and as scholars united in our love of the long eighteenth century. So please, head over to www.aphrabehn.org/members.htm and pay the dues needed to keep this fantastic Society afloat.

I look forward to seeing many of you at ASECS in March, and many more of you, I hope, at our conference in Pittsburgh in November!

Best,
Jennifer

Jennifer Airey
Executive President, Aphra Behn Society

A Statement from the Executive Board

The Aphra Behn Society for Women in the Arts, 1660-1830 strongly condemns the recent executive order barring citizens of predominantly Muslim countries from entering the United States. As scholars of the long eighteenth century, we are deeply committed to the Enlightenment values of reason, tolerance, liberty, and constitutional governance, values that are undermined by laws promoting xenophobia, anti-intellectualism, and racism. We call upon the United States government to rescind this discriminatory policy, and reaffirm our commitments to diversity and inclusion, academic freedom, and the pursuit of knowledge across racial, ethnic, gender, religious, and national lines. Should any members of the Aphra Behn Society find themselves unable to travel to the United States for our biennial meeting, we are committed to providing alternative ways for them to present their work.

ABS 2017 Biannual Conference

The Aphra Behn Society for Women in the Arts 1660-1830
2017 Biennial Conference Call for Papers
“Women and the City”
November 3-4, 2017, Pittsburgh, PA



Plenary Lecture by Professor Kristina Straub
Carnegie Mellon University

In her groundbreaking biography of Aphra Behn, Janet Todd paints a rich picture of the author’s life in London: “As long as Behn had money, her domestic needs could easily be met near or in the old city. She could get her maid to buy food from street barrows and she herself could obtain what she needed on London Bridge or hunt and haggle for cloth and accessories at the New Exchange. She could browse in book shops on the lower floor or go to Paternoster Row, where publishers had established themselves after being horribly decimated by the Fire” (160). Inspired by Aphra Behn’s legacy as a female professional in London, and Pittsburgh’s urban culture and history, we invite papers that explore the topic of “Women and the City.” How do fantasies and realities of “the city” --its people, neighborhoods, theaters, pleasure gardens, coffee houses, exhibition halls, temptations, politics, material culture, ecology, economy, religion, fashion, media, mad houses, and debtors prisons—shape literary, artistic and theatrical culture? How does gender relate to urban experience?

Send 1-2 page abstracts or panel proposals, specifying equipment needs, to Laura Engel (engell784@duq.edu) and Marilyn Francus (Marilyn.Francus@mail.wvu.edu) by **May 15, 2017**.

Papers might address the following topics:

Theater and the City
Material Culture and the City
Gender and Urban Spaces
Women and Celebrity in the City
Sex and the City/Sexuality and the City
The City and Empire
the City
Travel and Transportation and the City
Race and the City
City
Temptation and the City

Art and the City
Performance and the City
Gender and the media
The City versus the Country
Politics and the City
Fashion in the City/Fashioning
Technologies of the City
Servants/Invisible Citizens of the
Music and the City

The City & the Archive/the City as Archive

Madness and the City

The Aphra Behn Society for Women and the Arts invites papers from a wide variety of disciplines including but not limited to Literature, History, Art History, Music History, Modern Languages, Philosophy, Political Science, Religious Studies, and Women and Gender Studies.

Send 1-2 page abstracts or panel proposals to Laura Engel (engell784@duq.edu) and Marilyn Francus (Marilyn.Francus@mail.wvu.edu) by **May 15, 2017**. We also welcome abstracts for papers not related to the conference theme. Please specify in the abstract if you will require audio/visual equipment.

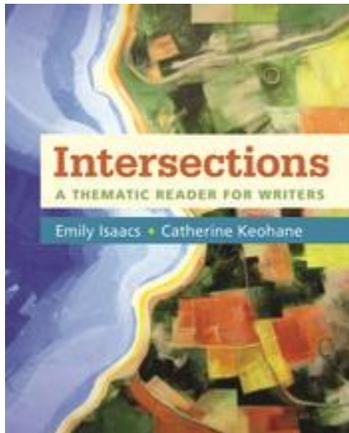
The conference will include a plenary lecture by Professor Kristina Straub (Carnegie Mellon University), a luncheon, a performance of Susanna Centlivre's *The Busybody* and exciting papers delivered by scholars from the United States and abroad. The Aphra Behn Society sponsors a graduate student travel award (\$150) and a graduate student essay prize (\$150 and the possibility of publication in *ABO: Interactive Journal for Women in the Arts, 1640-1830*).



Sponsored by
The Aphra Behn Society for Women in the Arts, 1660-1830
Duquesne University
West Virginia University



New Publications from our Members



Catherine Keohane and her colleague Emily Isaacs have published the composition textbook *Intersections: A Thematic Reader for Writers*, just out from Bedford/ St. Martin's.

Built around compelling readings and topics that students care deeply about, *Intersections* offers flexible academic reading and writing instruction that supports students without overwhelming them.

Intersections offers eight chapters of timely readings—forty-eight in total-- with themes like Sports in American Society, Immigration, and Language and Identity, that keep students interested and spark ideas for their writing. Carefully structured reading and writing questions and discussion prompts before, during, and after the readings guide students as they move from comprehension toward critical thinking and inquiry. These core thematic reading chapters work in tandem with innovative modular Toolkits on Reading and Writing that cover key skills such as note-taking, summarizing, peer review, MLA documentation, grammar, and much more.



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/>.

Editor:

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Laura Runge, Pedagogy Editor (University of South Florida)

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Jennifer Golightly (University of Denver)

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Aphra Behn Society Graduate Essay Prize

The Aphra Behn Society Graduate Essay Prize is a biennial award made by the Society for the best graduate student paper presented at the ABS Meeting. Papers will be judged on the following criteria: provides clear articulation of the argument, advances critical understanding of the subject, demonstrates an intelligent relationship to secondary resources, and shows adeptness of close reading skills. In addition to special recognition, the prize carries a cash award of \$150, as well as the opportunity for publication in our journal, *ABO* <http://scholarcommons.usf.edu/abo/>.

To enter, you must be member of the Aphra Behn Society; for membership information, please visit <http://aphrabehn.org/members.htm>.

The paper you submit for the prize must be an expanded, revised version of the one that you presented at the conference (about 4,000-6,000 words). Papers should be correctly formatted according to MLA documentation style. Submissions are due by January 10, 2018.

The winner of the prize will be notified soon after the committee has made its decision and will be announced through the Aphra Behn Society's Newsletter and listserv.

Newly Published Essays and Chapters from our Members

Kathleen Lubey has a new article, "Sexual Remembrance in *Clarissa*," in *Eighteenth-Century Fiction*, which is a special issue on "Mediating Richardson," co-edited by Louise Curran and Soren Hammerschmidt.

Leah Orr recently had a publication come out that started as a paper presented at the Behn Society in Tulsa in 2014: "Dido and Aeneas in Eighteenth-Century England: Virgilian Imitation and National Identity." *Classical Receptions Journal* 8.4 (2016), 429-446.

Misty Krueger has an essay on Delarivier Manley's *Almyna*, published in Aleksandra Hultquist and Elizabeth Mathews' new book on the author.

ABS at ASECS 2017

"Women Writing Mothers and Motherhood" Session for the Aphra Behn Society

Elizabeth Zold, Winona State University, Winona, MN 55987

Email: ezold@winona.edu

This panel addresses fiction by women in the long eighteenth century and how these texts portray mothers and motherhood. Specifically, the panel calls for papers that examine the relationships that mothers, stepmothers, adoptive mothers, or stand-in mothers in fiction have with their children. The panel aims to investigate the depictions of mothers, including their presence or absence, written by women from across the period and within various genres of fiction, and it welcomes papers that complicate the understanding of mothers and motherhood in relation to the formation of morals, manners, or the education of children.

Call for Papers

Look for Misty Krueger's call for proposals for an edited collection entitled "Transatlantic Eighteenth-Century Women Travelers." The CFP is forthcoming on the UPenn CFP website; it is awaiting moderation.

The Street and the City—*Thresholds* academic conference warmly invites ABS members to submit proposals and attend; the conference takes place April 5-7, 2017. Please visit their website: thestreetandthecitylx.wordpress.com.

Conference Presentations

Catherine Keohane served as convener for the 2016 conference of the Burney Society of North America, held in Washington, D.C., in October.

Catherine Keohane presented her paper “The Optics of Placement: From Basic Writing to Co-Requisite Courses” at the 2017 MLA convention in January in Philadelphia. She also organized an MLA special session entitled “Relatability, or Engaging Students: Strategies and Concerns.”

Kathleen Lubey chaired a panel at MLA, "Anti-Marriage Plots in the Eighteenth Century." Panelists included Alison Conway, Stephanie Hershinow, and Alice McGrath.

Misty Krueger presented twice at ASECS on Jane Austen (a roundtable and a paper presentation) and chaired the ABS panel, entitled "Transatlantic 18th-Century Women" at ASECS.

Forthcoming Publications

Misty Krueger’s two essays on Jane Austen and Ben H. Winters' *Sense and Sensibility and Sea Monsters* have been accepted in two separate collections of essays, one on adaptation and one on comedy.

Announcements

Elaine Hobby, the ABS British Representative, has received more than £750,000 from the British Government’s Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) to produce a new edition of Aphra Behn’s works for Cambridge University Press. The edition involves more than 20 editors from across the UK, the US, continental Europe, and Australia, including ABS’s past president, Karen Gevirtz. Elaine Hobby and Claire Bowditch are both General Editors of this new edition, along with their colleagues Gillian Wright (University of Birmingham, UK) and Mel Evans (University of Leicester, UK). More details can be found here:

<http://gtr.rcuk.ac.uk/projects?ref=AH%2FN007573%2F1>

The winner of the 2016 Aphra Behn Society Graduate Essay Prize was Jade Higa, for her essay, “Charlotte Charke’s Gun: Queering Material Culture and the Female Body.” Dr. Jade Higa was born and raised in Kaneohe, Hawaii. She received her BA in English from UH Manoa and her MA and PhD from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. Her academic passions include eighteenth-century literature, queer studies, and celebrity studies. Her other passions include knitting, dogs, and coffee/tea. Dr. Higa's dissertation is entitled "*A Stranger to the World": Women, Bisexuality, and Performance in Eighteenth-Century England*. This project develops a new methodology of reading eighteenth-century texts by women through bisexuality (a term simultaneously helpful and problematic), queer temporalities, and gaze theory. It uses texts by Charlotte Charke, Jane Austen, and Joanna Baillie as case studies to demonstrate the importance of accessing the eighteenth-century through the twenty-first.

This year, Kate Ozment and her colleague launched the Women in Book History Bibliography (www.womensbookhistory.org). This tool came from Ozment's work on Behn and eighteenth-century women writers, therefore, this period and subjects are well represented.

Misty Krueger moved out of a visiting assistant professor position and into an assistant professor position (non-tenure-track) at The University of Maine at Farmington.

Angela Thames has just completed her year-long residency at Chawton House Library, home of Edward Knight, Jane Austen's brother. After a successful exhibition, Angela has a few of her artists' books available to purchase directly from her. These three books have all been inspired by reading Aphra Behn's book *La Montre: The Lover's Watch*, 1686. All three have been purchased by Oxford Brookes University for its Artist's Books Collection.

1. THE RULES OF LOVE

From the chapter 1 "The Watch" Iris gives Damon a 24-hour pocket watch and on the watch face is engraved the Rules Of Love that he should abide by whilst he is away from her including every half an hour he should SIGH. The text has been replicated in full onto individual pages with a SIGH placed between each page. The book fans out so that the pages can be viewed like a watch face and the colour paper shows the time of day. When closed the book has a small coloured tassel to look like a fan. Blue Marbled board covers, tassel colour varies. 48 pages in blue, light grey, dark grey and cream. 130mm x 20mm when folded. Supplied with full description label supplied and photo of the etching from the original book. Only 5 left from a signed limited edition of 20 off. £20 including P&P (UK) \$ 30 For overseas P&P will be advised at cost.

2. POUR LA MONTRE

Inspired by reading Aphra Behn's book *La Montre: The Lover's Watch*, 1686.

The text has been taken from chapter 2, "The Watch Case". This is where Damon wants a watch case made for the beautiful watch Iris gave him as a token of her love. The details of the design for the watch case is duplicated in a letter to his jewellers on parchment paper and folded inside a pink card cover with a hand cut filligree heart shaped pattern to evoke the beautiful crafted watch case described in the text. Complete with all the cyphers mentioned of entwined initials, secret codes and floral decoration. Pink card cover, parchment paper folded using a Turkish map fold technique. 150mm x 110mm. Full description on reverse with photo of the etching from original book. Only 5 left from a signed Limited Edition of 15 off. £20 including P&P (UK). \$ 30 For overseas P&P will be advised at cost

3. A Faithful Glass

The text has been taken and abbreviated from chapter 3, "The Looking Glass." This is where Damon gives his adorable Iris a looking glass that can only speak to her, extolling the beauty of her lips, hair, eyes, arms and complexion. The text in Angela's book is printed in reverse and can only be read by using a looking glass or the book's mirrored cover. On the reverse of the folded

page is a copy of a portrait of an unknown lady hanging in Chawton House Library attributed to Henry Anderton 1630-1665. Folded book measures 80mm x 60mm, unfolded A4 size, with a mirror card cover and printed both sides on Shepherds Machine Age Compatible Paper which looks and feels like papers found in books from 1850-1950. £8.00 including P&P (UK) \$ 10 For overseas P&P will be advised at cost. Only 5 are available signed by the artist. Special offer if all three are purchased together \$ 60.00 Plus P&P. Please order directly from Angela Thames at angela.thames@btinternet.com. Paypal or cheque or BACS payment accepted.

News of a new fellowship at the Folger: <http://collation.folger.edu/2017/01/announcing-new-folger-fellowship-honor-margaret-hannay/>

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/>.

Aphra Behn Society for Women and the Arts, 1660-1830 Financial Report January 30, 2017 for the year 1 January 2016-31 December 2016

1. Current Finances

Checking account

Starting balance, 1/1/16: \$7175.76

Balance as of 1/1/17: \$ 7121.73

Net income: \$-54.03

Savings account

Starting balance, 1/1/16: \$11,292.62

Balance as of 12/31/16: 11, 295.73

Net income: \$ 3.11 (derived from interest on the account)

Paypal account, balance as of 12/31/16: \$0

Total: \$ 18,417.46

2. Income FY2016

Membership: \$445

Contributions: \$0

3. Expenditures FY2016

Actual:

Paypal fees: \$15.89
Graduate student essay prize: \$150
Renewing website: \$294.14

ABO receives 25% of Society income from dues, so these are not monies the Society may use

4. Anticipated Expenditures FY2017

Estimated conference expenses: \$2000
Graduate student travel award: \$150
Graduate student essay award: \$150
Chawton House Library fellowship sponsorship: \$625
Renewing website: \$250

ABS Executive Board

Executive President: Jennifer Airey
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Past Conference Presidents: Kirsten Schultz and Karen Gevirtz
Members at Large: Sarah Creel and Cassie Childs
British Representative: Elaine Hobby
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Listserv Moderator: Robin Runia
Website Editor: Anne Greenfield

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.