



Message from the 2020-2021 NEHA President, Sean Perrone

Last fall, I assigned John Aberth's *The Black Death: The Great Mortality of 1348-1350, A Brief History with Documents* 2nd ed. (2017) in my Western Civilization course at Saint Anselm College. At the time, I did not realize how timely those documents would be. Just four months later in March 2020, most of the world was in lockdown due to COVID-19. Even though we had only been practicing social distancing for a few weeks by late March, an excerpt from Petrarch's *Letters on Familiar Matters* (1349) regarding the Black Death came to mind. He wrote:

Where are our sweet friends now? Where are the beloved faces? Where are the agreeable words, where the soothing and pleasant conversation? What lightning bolt devoured them? What earthquake overturned them? What storm submerged them? What abyss swallowed them? Once we were all together, now we are quite alone (62).

The loneliness and isolation of the past several months certainly doesn't compare with Petrarch's day. Modern technologies make it possible to maintain contact with friends, colleagues, and neighbors. Nonetheless, reading Petrarch's words gave me some solace during those early days of the pandemic.

Now, many months later, we are gradually reopening. Schools and universities across New England are up and running using a variety of teaching methods (remote, hybrid, and traditional classroom). NEHA also continues to move forward in our current world of social distancing with our first virtual conference. While we anticipate meeting again in person in the future, we hope that the virtual format provides a venue for members to share their research and maintain connections with friends and colleagues in New England and beyond.

**“Everything
has a
history.”**

What we do is important. Our society needs teachers and students of History more than ever. James Grossman, the executive director of the AHA, likes to say “[Everything has a History](#).” Whether it is racial injustice, economic inequalities, or inexplicable pandemics, historical perspective allows us to address challenges and approach life with humility and empathy. For example, a few students from that Western Civilization class reported that reading medieval theories on the transmissions of the bubonic plague or on the scapegoating of others for its spread helped them to cope with COVID-19 and its consequences. The COVID-19 pandemic is certainly a turning point in history, bringing out the good and the bad in human nature. Like the Black Death, COVID-19 will eventually be a subject for historical study. And, in ten or fifteen years, I look forward to hearing the first drafts of this history at NEHA conferences.

Future NEHA Meetings

October 2020: Online (virtual hosting by Sacred Heart University)

April 2021: Emmanuel College, Boston

October 2021: Location TBA

April 2022: Location TBA

Virtual Fall Conference Plans: October 17, 2020

We are going virtual for our fall meeting — please join us on Saturday, October 17, 2020 over Zoom for an opening welcome, three session blocks with multiple panels in each session, and “lunchtime” honoring the 2020 James P. Hanlan Book Award recipient. Many thanks to NEHA Vice President Jess Parr for organizing our first-ever all-online meeting. Virtual conference hosting provided by Sacred Heart University, with local arrangements by Dr. Charlotte Gradie, a member of the NEHA Executive Board.

Registration: \$10 (free for undergraduates)

Registration deadline: October 15, 2020

To register: <https://neha.wildapricot.org/events>



Preliminary Conference Program

**Saturday
October 17, 2020**

**Virtual Hosting: Sacred Heart University
Fairfield, CT, USA**

Fall 2020 (Virtual) Conference Program

All sessions will be held online. The links for each session will be distributed to all registrants the day before. Please note that ALL sessions are on EST. All participants will need to register prior to the conference in order to receive access to the sessions.

8-8:20 Welcome (Pre-Recorded)

If you live-tweet any panels, please use the hashtag #NEHA2020

First Morning Sessions, 8:30-10:00

Panel 1: New Deal America

Comment and Chair: Kelly Marino, Sacred Heart University

Unsettling Settlement: Documents, Narratives, and the Determination of Belonging in New Deal America

Brooke Depenbusch, Colgate University

Aunt Mary, the Mayor of Washington: Congresswoman Mary T. Norton's New Deal for the District of Columbia

Robert Childes, University of Maryland, College Park

Panel 2: Modern American Identity Politics and Culture

Chair/Commentator: Todd S. Gernes, Stonehill College

Racial Segregation, Popular Culture, and Representation of Geographic Mobility in American Sheet Music, 1865-1900

Colin Anderson, George Washington University

Who is an American? Colonial Period Rooms and the National Origins Act of 1924

Heather Hole, Simmons University

Religion in Support of Americanism: Evidence from Life Magazine

William Heiden, University of Hartford

Panel 3: Conservative Politics in 20th Century America

Chair/Commentator: Andrew Moore, Saint Anselm College

The Economic and Social Life of a Maine Klansman: Deforest H. Perkins and the Decline of the Maine Ku Klux Klan

Thomas MacMillan, Concordia University

The Maine Antis - Questions of Sexual Citizenship Among Women Opposed to Women's Suffrage, 1914-1917

Kathryn Angelica, University of Connecticut, Storrs

Rise of the Republican Right Revisited

Brian M. Conley, Suffolk University

Desegregation in the Boston Public Schools: How One Woman's Defiance Helped Forge the 20-Year Gap in the Liberal North

Monique Manna, Worcester State University

Panel 4: American Revolution

Chair/Comment: Eliga Gould, University of New Hampshire, Durham

Timothy Dwight's Melancholy and the Age of the American Revolution
Robert J. Imholt, Albertus Magnus College

Patriot, Loyalist, Pragmatist: Allegiance and Neutrality in the Shadow of Fort George, 1779-1784
Darcy Stevens, University of Maine, Orono

Black Patriotism and Black Death in the Aftermath of the American Revolution
Adam X. McNeil, Rutgers University, New Brunswick

Panel 5: Modern Britain and the Politics of Colonialism and Independence

Chair/Comment: Margaret Sankey, Air War College

"A Double Claim to Be Consulted": the Pankhurst Sisters' Newspaper Coverage of Ireland During the Great War, 1914-18
Erin Scheopner, Goldsmiths, University College London

Gunpowder and the Gendering of British Indian Policy
Jennifer McCutchen, University of Maine, Orono

An Indigenous Education Policy as the Pancea for Africa's Development: the Nigerian Case Study
Femi Oni, Independent Scholar

Martiality and Color Lines in the Great War: African Americans' and "Non-Martial" Indians' Quest for Political Rights
Sharmishtha Roy Chowdbury, University of Connecticut, Storrs

Panel 6: Politics and Environmentalism in Twentieth-Century Germany and Poland

Chair/Commentator: Melanie Murphy, Emmanuel College

"The Center Party, 1925-1928: Victim of Stability"
Martin Menke, Rivier University

Sigmund Freud's Prophet, The Nazi Holocaust, and the Fragility of Historical Memory in Rural Poland
Robert Bernheim, University of Maine, Augusta

"They Enable Us to See: Non-Jewish Rescue of Jewish Life in Poland"
Leora Tec, Bridge to Poland

Against the Current: Towards a (Hopefully) New Environmental History of the Mosel River
Troy Paddock, Southern Connecticut State University

Panel 7: Disparity, Disability, and Disease

Chair/Comment: Stephen Kenny, University of Liverpool

Una Mala Vida? Alzheimer's Disease, Cultures of Care, and Structural Healthcare Disparities Among Chicanos in New Jersey

Rachelle Cho, Independent Scholar

New York City and the 1918 Influenza Pandemic

Eric Cimino, Molloy College

Remarkable Characters: Emerging Perspectives of Intellectual Disability in the 1850 U.S. Federal Census of Massachusetts

Naomi A. Schoenfeld, Rivier University

Discrimination or Self Selection? Women and Medical School Admission 1900-1970

Andrew Simmons, University of Rhode Island

Break: 10-10:15

Second Morning Sessions, 10:15 – 11:45

Panel 8: Digital Methods in Public History

Chair/Commentator: Sarah Melton, Boston College

Digitizing Incarceration: A Database of Unfreedoms

Jessica Parr and Amber Stubbs, Simmons University

Doing Digital Public History Among the Dead: Cedar Grove Cemetery's Stone Lot

Ella Howard, Wentworth Institute of Technology

Panel 9: Race, Religion, and Gender in Early America

Chair/Commentator: Elizabeth DeWolfe, University of New England

Public Prayers and Public Thanks in Eighteenth-Century Westborough, Massachusetts

Ross W. Beales, Jr., College of the Holy Cross

The Infamous Betsey Loring and the American Revolution

Sean Heuvel, Christopher Newport University

John Thomas Evans and the Search for the Welsh Indians of North America

Brian Regal, Kean University

Panel 10: Race, Religion, and Violence in America

Chair and Comment: Jacqueline Whitt, U.S. Army Air War College

Rebuilding White Masculinity: Violence in South Carolina

Gabrielle McCoy, University of Maryland, College Park*

"The Lapse of Time Has Softened Much of the Prejudice:" the Decline of Anti-Mormonism in Illinois

Brady G. Winslow, BASIS Independent Fremont

Vengeance, Violence, and Vigilantism: an Exploration of the 1891 Lynching of Eleven Italian-Americans in New Orleans

Caitlin Kennedy, University of Maryland, College Park

Panel 11: Pop Culture in American History

Chair/Comment: Jennifer McCutchen, University of Southern Maine

The Virginia House-Wife Project: Recipes, History, and Engagement

Rachel Snell, Independent Scholar

Maggie's Story: Using Animal Narration Effectively

Allen F. Horn IV, Eastern Connecticut State University*

Gardens of the Spirit Land: Foodways, Animal Welfare, and the Alcotts in Shakerlandia

Coyote Shook, University of Texas, Austin

Racial Terrorism and Injustice: The Significance of Bearden's Political Cartoons, Then and Now.

Amy Kirschke, Virginia Tech

Panel 12: Modern America

Chair/Commentator: Clifford Putney, Bentley University

Animation, Cultural History, and Foreign Relations: Walt Disney, Saludos Amigos (1942), and the Good Neighbor Policy, 1941-1945

Brian Peterson, Shasta College

Mapping Identity and Violence in the 1919 Boston Police Strike

Molly Copeland, Simmons University

The Seven Presidents: The Summer White House on the Jersey Shore

Thomas Balcerski, Eastern Connecticut State University

12-12:45 pm – Lunch Break

12:45-1:30 NEHA Hanlan Book Prize Announcement, Paper Prize Announcement

Afternoon Sessions, 1:30 – 3:00

Panel 13: Teaching History through Games: Innovative Tools for the Classroom

Chair/Commentator: Libby Bischof, University of Southern Maine

Sojourner's Trail

Walter Greason, Monmouth University

Using Games to Teach History: A Twenty-Five Year Retrospective

Clifford Putney, Bentley University

When the Past is the Classroom: Merging Reacting to the Past and Experiential Education
Kathryn Lamontagne, Boston University

Panel 14: Traveling in the Middle Ages: Using Digital Methods and Spatial Analysis for Historical Research

Chair/Commentator: Ella Howard, Wentworth Institute of Technology

Women at the Common Law: Travel and Gender in Thirteenth-Century English Courts
Gary Shaw and Connor Cobb,* Wesleyan University

The Camino de Santiago: Student Researchers and Creating a Database for Spatial Analysis
Sean Perrone, Saint Anselm College

Medieval Travel as a Big Data Problem
Adam Franklin-Lyons, Marlboro College

Panel 15: Black Freedom Struggles

Chair/Commentator: Dominic DeBrincat, Missouri Western State University

Rethinking Fugitivity and the Courtroom Before the 1793 Fugitivity Law
Evan Turiano, City University New York

Struggles for Liberation: Tracing Black-Palestinian Solidarity
Amy Smith, University of Southern Maine

The Maine Soldier's Amendment and the Right Over African American Freedom During the US Civil War
Eben Miller, Southern Maine Community College

"The Invisible Army:" African-American Religious Life and Death
Ashley Towle, University of Southern Maine

Panel 16: Contemporary Issues in the College Classroom

Chair/Commentator: Troy Paddock, Southern Connecticut State University

Teaching the History of the Present
Richard A. Gerber, Emeritus, Southern Connecticut State University

Mascots, Race, and Tribal Sovereignty
Andrew K. Frank, Florida State University

Panel 17: History and Public Memory Today

Chair/Commentator: Kristen Petersen, MCPHS University

Witch Trials in Public Memory
Tricia Peone, New Hampshire Humanities

Making Radical History Public: Presenting the Palmer Raids of a Century Ago Today
Allison B. Horrocks, Lowell National Historical Park & Brandon M. Hoots, University of
Massachusetts – Amherst

The History of the Save Venice, Inc. 1966-2016
Magdalene Stathas, University of Massachusetts – Lowell*

*The Tall Ships are Coming! Tall Ship and Historical Program Partnerships to Improve Enrollment,
Retention, and Engagement*
Nicholas Hardisty, Rhode Island College

Panel 18: The Ancient and Medieval Worlds

Chair/Commentator: Thomas R. Martin, College of the Holy Cross

“The Persian Man’s Spear has Gone Forth Far”: Reinterpreting Persian Aims in Greece
Erik Jensen, Salem State University

Muslims, Mongols, and Monstrous Races: Gunpowder Technology Comes to Medieval Europe
Robert Holmes, National Park Service

Interpretation of Strategy: The Ionian Revolt and the Invasion of 480 BCE
Matthew Gonzales, Saint Anselm College

Virtual Histories – Expanding Roman Architectural History Teaching through Virtual Reality
Jody M. Gordon & Anne-Catrin Schultz, Wentworth Institute of Technology

Panel 19: Nineteenth Century Massachusetts

Chair/Commentator: Rebecca Noel, Plymouth State University

Education Enabling Revolution
Benjamin Beverage, University of Massachusetts – Lowell *

*Melville and His Mountain: Exploring the literary influence of a Sense of Place in Herman
Melville’s Writing Process*
Rebecca Taylor, Sienna College

A “Horrid Spectacle;” Diary Reactions to an Execution
Nicole O’Connell, University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth

**Panel 20: Addressing Contemporary Events Through the Lens of History in the K-12
Classroom**

Chair: Kanisorn Wongsrichanalai, Massachusetts Historical Society

Topi Dasgupta, Concord Academy
Ed Rafferty, Concord Academy
Scott Spencer, Winchester High School
Kevin Levin, Gann Academy

* Denotes undergraduate presenter

Stay Connected

Join or renew your membership:

neha.wildapricot.org/join-us

Website: newenglandhistorians.org

Includes latest NEHA updates, link to open conference registration, current call for papers, past conference programs, prize announcements, newsletter archive, list of past presidents, Constitution, and bylaws.

We welcome announcements, calls for papers, fellowship notices, and news suitable for our **newsletter** or for posting to our website. If you have a submission for the Spring 2021 (April) newsletter, please send it to NEHA News editor Tona Hangen (Worcester State University) at thangen@worchester.edu by February 28, 2021.

Book reviews should be sent to NEHA book review editor, Thomas J. Carty (Springfield College) tcarty@springfield.edu by February 1, 2021. If you have a book you would like to be considered for a future review, mail it to Tom at: Department of Social Sciences, Springfield College, 263 Alden St., Springfield MA 01109

NEHA **Communications Chair** is Ella Howard (Wentworth Institute of Technology), howarde@wit.edu. Please contact her with information, news, or questions about our website and Twitter feed.

Twitter: @NEHistoryAssoc

Ways to Get Involved

Contribute a book review for our newsletter.
Contact: **Tom Carty**, tcarty@springfield.edu

Volunteer at an upcoming conference at check-in or with the local arrangements chair.

Our *prize committees* are both looking for new members! Book Prize: contact **Martin Menke**, mmenke@rivier.edu. Student Paper Prize (Grad / Undergrad), contact **Dominic DeBrincat**, ddebrincat@missouriwestern.edu

Run for office: we welcome NEHA members to run for Nominating Committee or the Executive Board; elections are held each spring. Contact Nominating Committee chair Troy Paddock, paddockt1@southernct.edu for information about becoming a candidate.

Have your institution host an upcoming NEHA conference; more info on our website, newenglandhistorians.org.

Welcome New Members

Andrea Alfred
Carla Charter
Jacob A. Cohen
Molly Copeland
Brooke Depenbusch
Patricia Farless
Nelson Guertin
Amy Johnson
Caitlin Kennedy
Rebecca More
Jeanne Pickering
Erin Scheopner
Coyote Shook

In Memoriam

We sadly share news of the passing of longtime NEHA member, **Bruce Cohen**, professor emeritus from Worcester State University, on May 7, 2020 due to complications from COVID-19. He was a specialist in American labor history and taught at Worcester State for 50 years before his retirement in 2018. Bruce was unfailingly generous, donating to many charities over the course of his lifetime, and was a beloved mentor to generations of Worcester

State undergraduate and graduate students. He was a notable and consistent presence at NEHA and in the New England history community, frequently presenting his research at NEHA conferences and serving for many years on the Executive Board and as the organization's Treasurer. May his memory be a blessing.

NEHA Prizes

NEHA sponsors three annual prizes: a book award, and two student paper awards.

The **James P. Hanlan Book Award** is presented to an author based in New England who has produced an outstanding work of history published in the prior year. It is awarded each fall; books published in 2020 may be considered for the 2021 award.

Criteria: Monographs on any historical topic, time, or place published in 2020, written by an author who lives or works in New England (or who has done so in the past two years), are eligible for the annual NEHA James P. Hanlan Book Award. The nominated book should represent the best historical writing and scholarship in any era or field of history. The award certificate and \$300.00 stipend will be presented to the winner at the next Fall conference.

Any publisher may nominate one book each year by writing to **Book Prize Chair, Martin Menke**, Rivier University, 420 South Main St., Nashua NH 03060 or email at mmenke@rivier.edu by June 1, 2021. Other members of the committee include Kristen Petersen (MCPHS University), Ian Delahunty (Springfield College), and Marie McDaniel (Southern Connecticut State University). The committee seeks one more member - contact Martin Menke if interested in serving.

The **2019 winner was Seth Blumenthal** (Boston University), for *Children of the Silent Majority: Young Voters and the Rise of the Republican Party, 1968-1980* (University Press of Kansas, 2018).

Student Paper Prizes. NEHA encourages the participation of students in its conferences and considers papers delivered at a NEHA conference for prizes for the **top graduate student paper and top undergraduate student paper**. Panel chairs may nominate papers from their sessions, or students may self-nominate.

Papers given at the Fall 2020 online meeting are eligible for the Spring 2021 award. Submit papers to Student Prize Committee Chair, Dominic DeBrincat (Missouri Western State University), ddebrincat@missouriwestern.edu.

Mark Peterson Awarded 2020 James P. Hanlan Book Prize

NEHA's Book Prize Committee (Kristen Petersen, Marie B. McDaniel, Ian Delahanty, and Martin Menke) are delighted to announce the winner of this year's James P. Hanlan Book Prize. Mark Peterson, the Edmund S. Morgan Professor of History at Yale University, has received the award for his work *The City-State of Boston: The Rise and Fall of an Atlantic Power, 1630-1865* (Princeton, 2019).

Local Conferences

This section looks a little different this year! Many conferences are being held online in the near future, like ours, making it possible for New England-area scholars (whose travel budgets and conference plans may have been unavoidably curtailed) to participate without leaving home.

Oral History Association (Virtual) - "The Quest for Democracy: One Hundred Years of Struggle" - Oct 21-24, 2020

American Studies Association "Creativity within Revolt" - Planned Baltimore ASA meeting in November has been replaced by a series of Annual Meeting Freedom Courses on the American Studies Association YouTube Channel.

Scottish Society for Art History (Virtual)
 “Lockdown Legacy: The Digital Future of the Art
 and Cultural Heritage World” - Nov 7, 2020

North American Conference on British Studies
 (Virtual) - Nov 12-15, 2020

African Studies Association (Virtual) - Nov 19-21,
 2020

American Academy of Religion (Virtual) - Nov 29 -
 Dec 10, 2020

African American Intellectual History Society
 (Virtual) “Blackness and ‘The West’” - March 19-20,
 2021

**Popular Culture Association / American Culture
 Association** - Boston, March 31 - April 3, 2021

Grants and Fellowships

The **American Academy in Rome** awards an annual Rome Prize to 15 scholars working in ancient, medieval, Renaissance and early modern, or modern Italian studies. It also awards 15 fellowships for emerging artists (e.g. architecture, landscape architecture, design, historic preservation and conservation, literature, musical composition, or visual arts). Recipients of the prize study at the academy in Rome. Application deadline is Nov 1. For more information, visit <https://www.aarome.org/apply/rome-prize>

The **American Antiquarian Society** in Worcester offers three broad categories of visiting research fellowships: long-term, short-term, and fellowships for creative and performing artists and writers. For more information, visit americanantiquarian.org/fellowships

The **American Philosophical Society Library** in Philadelphia offers competitive short-term fellowships to support in-residence research

employing its renowned scholarly collections. Applicants with a Ph.D. or advanced Ph.D. candidates or independent scholars may apply for the fellowships, which carry a monthly stipend of \$2000 for 1-3 months. To apply, visit www.amphilsoc.org/grants/resident.htm

The **Arthur and Elizabeth Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America** at Radcliffe College offers a variety of research grants to support new scholarship on women, gender, and sexuality. Current grants include summer research fellowships and dissertation research funding. For more information, visit <https://www.radcliffe.harvard.edu/schlesinger-library/grants>

The **Boston Athenaeum** offers short-term fellowships to support use of its collections for research, publication, curriculum and program development, or other creative projects. Athenaeum fellows are for a residency of 4 weeks. For more information, visit <https://www.bostonathenaeum.org/library/fellowships>

The **Francis A. Countway Library of Medicine**, an alliance of the Boston Medical Library and the Harvard Medical Library, offers two annual fellowships to support research in the history of medicine. There is the largest academic medical library in the nation, with an extensive collection of European medical texts from the 15th to 20th centuries and many other collections. For application information, visit <https://countway.harvard.edu/center-history-medicine/services/fellowships>

Historic Deerfield in Deerfield, MA, invites college juniors and seniors to apply for its 9-week, fully-funded Summer 2021 Fellowship Program in History and Material Culture. Deadline is February 2021. For more information, visit <https://www.historic-deerfield.org/sfp>

Historic New England provides \$1000 grants to small and mid-sized heritage organizations in each of the six New England states, for historic community preservation. For more information, visit <https://www.historicnewengland.org/helpful-links/awards-programs/community-preservation-grants/>

The **John F. Kennedy Library** offers various research fellowships and grants every year to support scholars who need to use the archival holdings of the JFK Library. For more information, visit <https://www.jfklibrary.org/archives/research-fellowships-grants>

The **Massachusetts Historical Society** offers short-term and long-term research fellowships each academic year. The Society is a participant in the New England Regional Fellowship Consortium. For more information and application deadlines, visit www.masshist.org/fellowships. Contact fellowships@masshist.org or call (617) 646-0577.

The **New England Regional Fellowship Consortium**, a collaboration of 30 major cultural agencies in our region, offers two dozen awards each academic year for a minimum of 8 weeks of research at participating institutions. NERFC grants support work in a broad array of fields, including but not limited to: history, literature, art history, African American studies, American studies, women's and gender studies, anthropology, sociology, philosophy, religious studies, environmental studies, oceanography, and the histories of law, medicine, and technology. For more information, visit <http://www.masshist.org/fellowships/nerfc/>

The **Women's Studies Research Center** invites applications to be a Visiting Scholar in residence at Brandeis University for up to a year. For more information, visit <https://www.brandeis.edu/wsrc/scholars/index.html>

Future Conferences

Save the Dates! Be sure to confirm these meeting dates and logistics, in light of possible cancellations due to public health considerations.

The **American Historical Association** (historians.org) conference, which was to be held in Seattle January 10-12, 2021, has been cancelled and will not take place in person. Accepted presenters may post their written remarks on the AHA website.
2022: New Orleans, January 6-9; proposal deadline February 15, 2021.
2023: Philadelphia, Jan 5-8.

African American Intellectual History Society (aaihs.org)
2021: Virtual
2022: TBA

African Studies Association (africanstudies.org)
2021: Washington DC, Nov 18-20
2022: Philadelphia, Nov 17-19

American Academy of Religion (aarweb.org)
2021: San Antonio, Nov 20-23
2022: Denver, Nov 19-22

American Conference for Irish Studies (acisweb.org).
2021: Limerick, Ireland - June

American Society for Environmental History (aseh.org)
2021: Boston (postponed); replaced by regional Environmental History Week events around the country
2022: Eugene, Oregon - April
2023: Boston - April

American Studies Association (theasa.net)
2021: San Juan, Puerto Rico - Oct 7-10
2022: New Orleans - Nov 3-6

Economic History Association (eh.net)

2021: Sept, location TBA

Italian American Studies Association

(italianamericanstudies.net)

2021: University of Rhode Island, Oct 21-23

Latin American Studies Association (lasaweb.org)

2021: Vancouver — Hybrid / Onsite and Virtual, May 26-29

Mormon History Association

(mormonhistoryassociation.org)

2021 “Visions, Restorations, and Movements” - Palmyra, New York, June 10-13

National Council on Public History (ncph.org)

2021: Salt Lake, March 24-27

National Women’s Studies Association (nwsa.org)

2021: Detroit, Nov 11-14

2022: Minneapolis, Nov 10-13

North American Conference on British Studies

(nacbs.org)

2021: Location and Date TBA

Oral History Association (oralhistory.org)

2021: Cincinnati - Oct 13-27

2022: Los Angeles - 19-22

Organization of American Historians (oah.org)

2021 “Pathways to Democracy” - Chicago, April 15-18

2022 “Indigenous/American Pasts and Futures” - Boston, March 31 - April 3.

2023 - Los Angeles, March 30 - April 2.

Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association (pcaaca.org)

2021: Boston, March 31 - April 3

Social Science History Association (ssha.org)

2020: Washington DC (cancelled)

2021: Philadelphia, Nov 11-14

2022: Chicago, dates TBA

Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (shafr.org)

2021: Arlington VA, June

2022: New Orleans, June

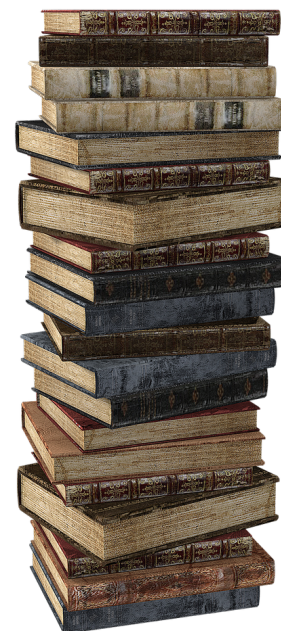
Society of Historians of the Early American Republic (shear.org)

2021: Philadelphia, July 15-18

2022: New Orleans, July 21-24

World History Association (thewha.org)

2021: Bilbao Spain, June - dates TBA



Opportunities for Authors

If you would like to write a book review for **NEHA News**, please feel free to contact our book review editor, **Thomas J. Carty**, Springfield College, Department of History, Springfield, MA 01109; tcarty@springfield.edu. We have books available for review or you may suggest a good new book you have in hand. Our reviews are 600 words and are due in 60 days.

The Historical Journal of Massachusetts (HJM) seeks articles about any aspect of Massachusetts history, culture, politics, and life. HJM is a peer-reviewed journal published twice a year since 1972. HJM is especially interested in articles on the history of recent immigrant communities. Subscriptions are \$12.00 per year, and the acceptance rate is 35%. For submission guidelines see www.wsc.mass.edu/mhj/ or email masshistoryjournal@westfield.ma.edu.

The History Press (historypress.net) is looking for local historians and writers who are interested in publishing accessible histories of the towns and communities of New England. The History Press is a traditional, full-service press that focuses exclusively on publishing works of local and regional interest. They publish a wide range of books from brief histories of a town to collections of folklore and essays on the local culture. A typical author has strong ties to their community, and they strive to make their local history more accessible.

For more information, contact Edward Mack, commissioning editor, at Edward.Mack@historypress.net

The International Journal of Humanities and Social Science (IJHSS), an open access, peer-reviewed and refereed journal, seeks interdisciplinary articles in humanities and the social sciences. If you have questions about the journal, please contact its editor, **J. Sabrina Mims-Cox** (editor@ijhssnet.com).

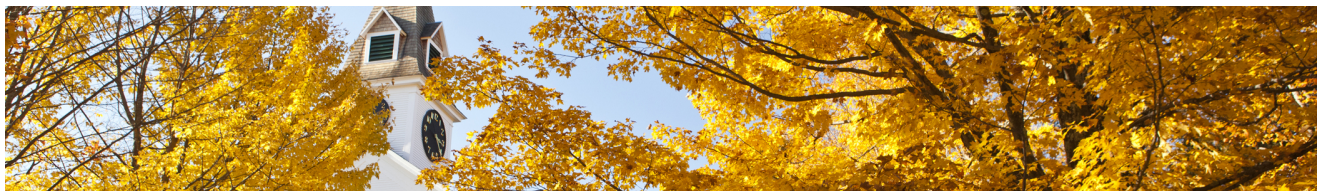
The International Journal of Liberal Arts and Social Science (IJLASS), a newly established, open access, peer-reviewed journal, seeks all manner of

contributions, including articles about history. Send your manuscripts to the editor at editor@ijlass.org, or editor.ijlass@hotmail.com.

The New England Journal of History (www.nejh.org) seeks articles and book reviews for upcoming issues; it is published twice yearly by the New England History Teachers Association, with submission deadlines January 15 and July 15. Please send submissions or inquiries to editor Linda Morse, editors@nejh.org.

The New England Quarterly editors invite submissions for their consideration. This historical review of New England life and letters has been published since 1928. NEQ is an open forum dedicated to the exploration and discussion of New England civilization and its effects on the nation and the world. The journal is open to any historical method, and there is no restriction on the time period covered. Features also include brief memoranda, recently discovered documents, reconsiderations of historical controversies, periodic essay reviews, and approximately fifteen book reviews per issue. Manuscripts should be sent to the editor, **Jonathan Chu**, at: jonathan.chu@umb.edu

The **Northeast Popular Culture/American Culture Association** (NEPCA) offers its annual **Peter C. Rollins Book Award** for the best book on any American culture or popular culture topic published in 2020 by an author in New England or New York. Publishers may nominate one book by June 1, 2021. Contact the NEPCA Executive Secretary, **Lance Eaton**, Brandeis University, lance.eaton@gmail.com.



Book Review

Thomas S. Kidd. *Benjamin Franklin: The Religious Life of a Founding Father*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2017.

During his lifetime and long after his death in 1790, the precise religious beliefs of Benjamin Franklin were and remain elusive. This chameleon-like elusiveness has led to a variety of religious interpretations that range from atheism, deism, and polytheism to traditional Protestant Christianity.

In his fresh assessment, Kidd believes doctrineless, moralized Christianity best describes the religious life of Franklin (page 6). Kidd suggests that Franklin pioneered this distinctly American kind of religion. In Kidd's view, such nonexclusive, doctrinally minimal, morally-centered, and virtue-driven religion is "utterly pervasive today" (page 7) in the United States. Common examples include major media figures of self-help, spirituality, and success. The author bases his assessment on the early 1720's to 1757—a time period when Franklin's reflections on faith were at their peak. This time period covers the beginning of Franklin's publishing and writing career to his departure for London. The biography, however, covers Franklin from birth to death (1706-1790) and interweaves religious analysis with his exceptional career in printing, science, and politics.

The volume has several commendable features. Three stand out. First, its superb scholarship is obvious. In his third full biography, Kidd has again demonstrated an ability to do exhaustive research and deliver a succinct and lucid story. All of the relevant published writings by Franklin are used, interaction with primary and secondary works on Franklin is evident throughout, and archival references to The Papers of Benjamin Franklin are extensive.

A second major strength is Kidd's convincing argument that a key to understanding the ambivalent religion of the man whose image appears (since 1914) on the American \$100 bill is to contrast the younger Franklin with the older Franklin. What led the Boston-born Franklin to semi-abandon the traditional Protestantism of his childhood for a more skeptical, virtue-based practical faith by life's end? Kidd persuasively shows the decades-long progression and how the intense Calvinistic faith of his parents "acted as a tether" (page 2) and thereby restrained



Franklin from the full-blown skepticism experienced by some of his contemporaries.

A third commendable feature is Kidd's success in proving stressful life experiences and certain close relationships played significant roles in influencing Franklin's religion. The same can be said of Abraham Lincoln, Kidd asserts. While Franklin's early exposure to skeptical writings did indeed undermine his confidence in Christianity, books alone "could not erase Franklin's childhood immersion in Puritan piety" (page 5). In addition to his parents and his sister Jane Franklin Mecom, evangelicals such as George Whitefield (who helped establish, with Franklin and others, the University of Pennsylvania) and Yale College president Ezra Stiles kept Franklin moored in Christian tradition.

Readers interested in colonial America, the Founding Fathers, America's religious history, general historical biography, or the distinctly American origin of doctrineless and virtue-focused religion will benefit from *Benjamin Franklin*. Both the scholar and general reader will find the 288-page biography on "The First American" highly accessible, engaging, and worthy of its 2017 *Choice* Award for Outstanding Academic Title.

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