



Announcing the NEHA Research Travel Grant

The New England Historical Association is proud to announce the inauguration of a **research travel grant** to be awarded for the first time in **February 2024**. We recognize how challenging it can be to obtain funding for historical research. We plan to award one grant each year, as a one-time grant for up to \$1250 to meet the costs of travel and research at libraries, archives, museums, parks, and other historical sites. Those eligible to apply for the 2024 cycle are all active NEHA members for at least four years (excluding current Board members), with a valid academic research project that requires the applicant to travel to access relevant materials for a project (including public history projects). If you want to confirm your NEHA membership status or eligibility, please email the Executive Secretary. The grant should be used within the calendar year in which it is awarded. Grant recipients will be expected to present initial findings from their work at a NEHA conference within two years of conducting the research, and to acknowledge the grant in any scholarly publications resulting from it.



Image: Hoover Archive Reading Room

The deadline for the 2024 application season is November 1, 2023. Include a completed application form (included in this newsletter, or download from our website at: <http://www.newenglandhistorians.org/prizes/research-grant/>), a 500-750 word project statement, C.V., and budget for use of the grant funds.

Submit your application to the committee % NEHA Executive Secretary Tona Hangen at email: neha.execsec@gmail.com.

NEHA RESEARCH GRANT 2024 APPLICATION COVER SHEET

Name: Academic Affiliation, if applicable:

Email address: Mailing address:

Telephone:

Project Title:

75-Word Project Summary:

Amount being requested (not to exceed \$1250.00 USD):

Dues-Paying NEHA Member Since:

NEHA Activities, briefly described in 75 words; details in C.V.

Signature Required:

I affirm that the foregoing statements and the attached materials are true and accurate representations, to the best of my understanding.

Signature:

Date:

Please attach to this cover sheet:

500-750 word narrative statement describing the research project, the necessity of funded travel, timeline, trip goals, and where the research trip(s) fit into larger project. Indicate any specific skills required for the project, such as foreign language, paleography, digital skills, oral history, etc.

Curriculum Vitae

Budget, including projected costs of research trip and any other sources of funding, if applicable.

Submit by November 1, 2023 to: Tona Hangen, NEHA Executive Secretary neha.execsec@gmail.com

Fall Conference Plans: October 21, 2023



Plan now to join us for our Fall meeting on **Saturday, October 21** at Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven, Connecticut. Many thanks to NEHA Vice President Siobhan Carter-David and our local arrangements chairs, Troy Paddock and Marie McDaniel, for their work organizing this conference program and handling its logistics.

Conference information webpage: <http://www.newenglandhistorians.org/conferences/participantinfo/>

Online Registration: <https://neha.wildapricot.org/events>

**Pre-Registration: \$20 NEHA Members, \$30 non-members. Same-day registration will be \$30.
Box Lunch: \$20. Undergraduates attend for free.**

The Fall luncheon business meeting will include announce the 2023 James P. Hanlan Book Award.

Box Lunch includes an entree salad, bag of chips, brownie, and bottled water or soda:

Greek Salad with Grilled Chicken and Feta

Quinoa Salad with Tomato, Red Pepper, Cilantro, and Sherry Vinaigrette (Vegan / GF)

Mandarin Orange Spinach Salad with Red Onion and Toasted Pepitas (Vegan / GF)

To guarantee lunch availability, please sign up online by October 13.

Preliminary Conference Program

Saturday, October 21, 2023

Southern Connecticut State University, 501 Crescent Street, New Haven CT 06515

Conference hashtag **#NEHAFA2023**

Schedule at a Glance

Registration & Complementary Breakfast	8:30 - 9 am	EN B121 A/B
First Morning Sessions	9 - 10:30 am	EN B210 & B211
Break	10:30 - 10:45 am	EN B121 A/B
Second Morning Sessions	10:45 am - 12:15 pm	EN B208, B210, & B211
Lunch and Business Meeting	12:30 - 1:20	EN B121 A/B
Afternoon Sessions	1:30 - 3 pm	EN B208, B210, & B211
*Quiet Work/Rest/Relaxation	8am – 3pm	EN B206

First Morning Sessions, 9 – 10:30am

Panel 1: Reframing Slavery and Freedom in the Public History Narrative: Case Studies from New England: A Roundtable

Engleman Hall B210

Chair: Charlotte Carrington-Farmer, Roger Williams University

Courtney Garrity, Roger Williams University

“Creating a Timeline of Enslavement in Bristol, RI”

Eleanor Langham, Independent Scholar

“Mapping Enslavement in Bristol, RI”

Lynn Smith, Independent Scholar

“New Interpretations of New Goree: A Neighborhood Case Study from Bristol, RI”

Kristen Black, Roger Williams University

“From Enslavement to “Network to Freedom”: Case Studies of Barrington, RI and Fall River, MA”

Richard McGee, Roger Williams University

“Rhode Island Slave History Medallions: Saylesville Quaker Meeting House”

Panel 2: *Reimagining and Reexamining Historical Narratives*

Engleman Hall B211

Chair: Eric Cimino, Molloy College

Evan Turiano, Yale University

“A New Origin Story for the 1850 Fugitive Slave Law”

Emma Lovejoy, UMass Boston

“Introducing the Righteous Criminal to the American Canon: A Call to Reexamine America’s Revolutionary Narrative”

Kelly Marino, Sacred Heart University

“A Thousand Times More Valiant”: Rethinking the Political Activism of Suffragist Lucy Burns”

Troy Paddock, Southern Connecticut State University

“The Poverty of Libertarianism”

Break: 10:30-10:45 (EN B121 A/B)

Second Morning Sessions, 10:45-12:15

Panel 3: *Industry and Militarism in the U.S. and Europe*

Engleman Hall B208

Chair: Troy Paddock, Southern Connecticut State University

Sharmishtha Roy Chowdhury, University of Connecticut

“‘The Military Victory of Bolshevism Gives it Full Freedom to Act’: Anti-Communism and the Interwar French Military, 1919-1939”

Donald W. Rogers, Central Connecticut State University

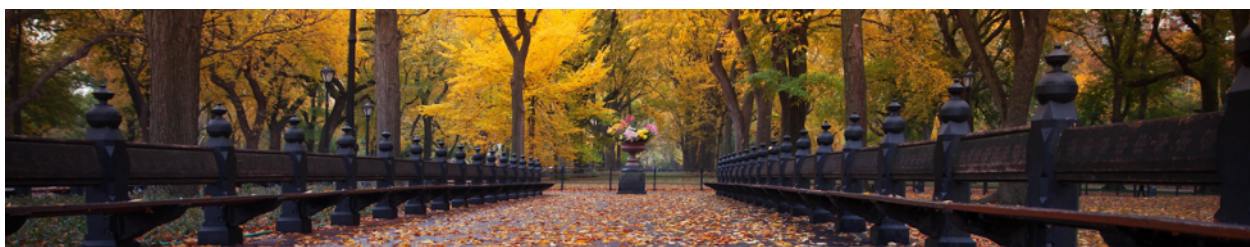
“Stayin’ Alive: Native People in Industrial Progressive-Era Connecticut”

Janet Conner, Independent Scholar

“A Confluence of Fiber And Waterpower: Early Clothier’s Works in Avon, Connecticut 1790 – 1830”

Lindsay Weaver, Eastern Connecticut State University

“How U.S. and British Capitalists Threatened the Freedoms Allowed Under Representative Governments During the Second Industrial Revolution”



Panel 4: Researching Slavery in Connecticut

Engleman Hall B210

Chair: Kyle Roberts, Congregational Library & Archives

Alec Lurie, Stony Brook University

“The Vincent J. Rosivach Register of Slaves and the Fairfield Slavery Database Project”

Dana Meyer, Connecticut League of History Organizations

“The CLHO Slavery Dataset: Updating Previous Research”

Michael Kemezis, CT Humanities

“Putting Connecticut Slavery Research into Conversation: The CT Digital Data Working Group”

Kristina Poznan, University of Maryland

“Connecting CT Slavery Research to Broader Contexts: Linking Open Data through Enslaved.org”

Panel 5: *Politics, Religion, War, and the Archive in Recent United States History* Engleman Hall B211

Chair: Troy Rondinone, Southern Connecticut State University

Philip A. Grant, Independent Scholar

“The Congressional Career of Rosa L. DeLauro of Connecticut, 1991-2023” (via Zoom)

Michael E. Neagle, Nichols College

“From Bandit to Terrorist: A Rhetorical Analysis of America’s Long War on Terror”

Thomas J. Carty, Springfield College

“Joe Biden and the Changing Catholic Church, 1942-1977”

Brian Peterson, Shasta College

“The Kingdom of Swing Centers in New Haven: Benny Goodman, Yale University, and the Irving S. Gilmore Music Library Archive, 1982-1986”

12:30-1:20 – Lunch Break (EN B121 A/B)

Afternoon Sessions, 1:30– 3

Panel 6: *Socialization and Familial Ties in New England and the West*

Engleman Hall B208

Chair: CJ Martin, Old Sturbridge Village / UMass Amherst

Stephanie Bennett Rahmat, Independent Archivist

“Finding Friendships in the Fruitlands Shaker Photographic Collection: Sanderson Paints the Shakers”

Sandra Rux, Independent Scholar

“The Wentworth Takeover: How One Family Dominated Portsmouth And New Hampshire 1715-1775”

Michael Gunther, Georgia Gwinnett College

“Albert Gallatin’s Final Days and the Fate of the Antebellum West”

Alice King, University of Virginia

“Colonial Conflict and the Trade in Indigenous Corn on the Connecticut River, 1637-1639”

Panel 7: *Pedagogy in the Past and in Praxis*

Engleman Hall B210

Chair: Julian Madison, Southern Connecticut State University

Emma Sands, Eastern Connecticut State University

“The Social Mobility and Identity at Stake; The Experience of Internment Curriculum in WWII Japanese-American Relocation Camps”

Dominic DeBrincat, Missouri Western State University

“Combating the Willful Decline of Memory: Class Notes as an Assessment Alternative to Exams”

Panel 8: *African Americans in the Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries*

Engleman Hall B211

Chair: Siobhan Carter-David, Southern Connecticut State University

Rebecca Edwards, Rochester Institute of Technology

“Extraordinary Lives: Recovering the Experience of Black Deaf People in the American Deaf Community of the Nineteenth-Century”

CJ Martin, Old Sturbridge Village / UMass Amherst

“Reverend John W. Lewis, Race, and Bias in the Black Freedom Struggle: A Case Study”

Kathryn Angelica, University of Connecticut

“To Make the World a Better Place:” Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin and the Advent of the African American Women’s Club Movement”

Tamara D. Hill, Independent Scholar

“Harriet Jacobs: A Heroic Enslaved Woman and Mother” (via Zoom)

Save the Dates: NEHA Spring and Fall 2024

The Spring 2024 New England Historical Association meeting will be held **Saturday, April 13, 2024** at Saint Anselm College in Goffstown, New Hampshire.

Our **Spring CFP** will open after the Fall meeting, with proposal deadline **January 15, 2024**. Send proposals and brief CV to: nehasubmissions@gmail.com

The Fall 2024 New England Historical Association meeting will be held **Saturday, October 26, 2024** at Suffolk University in Boston, MA.

Stay Connected

Join or renew your membership:
neha.wildapricot.org/join-us

Website: newenglandhistorians.org
Includes latest NEHA updates, past conference programs, prize announcements, newsletter archive, guide for meeting hosting, and our 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 2024 (April) newsletter, please send it to NEHA News editor Tona Hagen (Worcester State University) at thangen@worcester.edu by February 15, 2024.

Book reviews should be sent to NEHA book review editor, Thomas J. Carty (Springfield College) tcarty@springfield.edu by February 15, 2024. 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 social media feeds.

Ways to Get Involved

Make a Tax-Deductible Donation. We welcome contributions to help support our programs and expand our reach! <https://neha.wildapricot.org/Donate/>

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.

Serve on a prize committee

Book Prize: contact **Marie McDaniel**, mcdanielm4@southernct.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 Board of Directors; elections are held each spring. Contact us for information about becoming a candidate.

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



Welcome New Members

Daria Gogeun
 Seongbin Hyun (University of Rhode Island)
 Kathleen Kaldis (Fitchburg State University)
 Alexandra Locking (Saint Anselm College)
 Mary Lycan (University of Connecticut)
 Rev. Richard Marquette (Southern Connecticut State University)
 Cassidy Michonski
 Matt Novosad (Town Historian of Franklin, CT)
 Kevin O'Neill (Boston College)
 Matthew Saeger (Southern New Hampshire University)
 Thomas Sodeman (University of Toledo)

In Memoriam: Peter Holloran (1947-2023)

NEHA acknowledges with sadness the recent passing of longtime NEHA member and former executive officer Peter Holloran. Dr. Holloran was a Vietnam veteran and social historian in the area of 19th century American History, including the history of child welfare services, history of immigration and labor movements, and the American Civil War. He was the author of *Boston's Wayward Children: Social Services for Homeless Children, 1830-1930*; the *Historical Dictionary of New England* and the *Historical Dictionary of the Progressive Era*. He taught for many years at Worcester State University, retiring in 2020. Dr. Holloran was active in multiple professional historical organizations, including the New England Popular Culture Association (NEPCA) and the Popular Culture Association and American Cultural Associations (PCACA), where he was cited for meritorious service and scholarly contribution. For the New England Historical Association (NEHA), he served as Executive Secretary from 1990-1995; Secretary from 1995-2014; and editor of this very newsletter *NEHA News* from 1990-2010. He was instrumental in increasing NEHA membership and regional participation. Because of his great love for books and academic writing, he continued for many years to serve with great insight and generosity of both time and effort on NEHA's book award committee and frequently contributed book reviews to the *NEHA News*.

NEHA Prizes

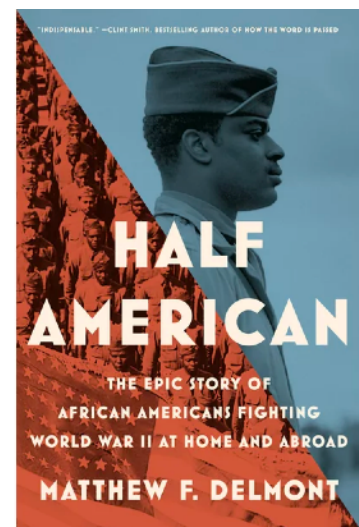
NEHA sponsors four annual prizes: our new research grant (described above), a book award, and two student paper awards.

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 2023 may be considered for the 2024 award.

Criteria: Monographs on any historical topic, time, or place published in 2023, 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. An award certificate and honorarium 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, Marie McDaniel**, Southern Connecticut State University by June 1, 2024. Other members of the committee include Lisa Edwards (UMASS Lowell), Don Wyatt (Middlebury College), and Elizabeth DeWolfe (University of New England).

The **2023 James P. Hanlan Book Award winner is Matthew Delmont** (Dartmouth College), for *Half American: The Epic Story of African Americans Fighting World War II at Home and Abroad* (Viking, 2022).



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.

NEHA Prize Papers for 2022 (Awarded Spring 2023)

Graduate Paper Prize: Jake Ransohoff (Harvard University), “Punitive Mutilation and Political Exclusion in the Late Roman World”

Undergraduate Paper Prize: Jennifer Quinn (UMASS Lowell) “Wigs, Gender, and Politics in the Revolutionary Era”

Papers given during 2023 meetings will be eligible for the Spring 2024 award. Submit papers to **Student Prize Committee Chair, Dominic DeBrincat** (Missouri Western State University), ddebrincat@missouriwestern.edu.

CFPs, 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 Fellowship Program in History and Material Culture. February deadline. 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. For more information, visit <http://www.masshist.org/fellowships/nerfc/>

The **Virginia Museum of History and Culture** invites presentations, panels, and proposals on the broadly-conceived theme of “discovery” in Virginia history for a Fall 2023 Public Symposium on Saturday, November 4, 2023. Submission deadline: April 14, 2023. CFP at: <https://virginiahistory.org/2023-vmhc-history-matters-symposium>

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>

Featured Local Resource

The **Paul Revere House** has a new Education and Visitor Center, located at 19 North Square, Boston Massachusetts. The House sponsors year-round events and an annual Lowell Lecture Series at Suffolk University, presented in partnership with GBH, Old North Illuminated, and the North End Historical Society with funding from the Lowell Institute. Members, aka Friends of Paul Revere receive the *Revere House Gazette*, the newsletter of the Paul Revere Memorial Association. Learn more at <https://www.paulreverehouse.org/>

Future Conferences

American Historical Association

2024: San Francisco, Jan 4-7

2025: New York City, Jan 3-6

2026: Chicago, Jan 8-11

African American Intellectual History Society

(aaihs.org) 2023: Charlotte NC, March 9-11

African Studies Association (africanstudies.org)

2023: San Francisco, Nov 30-Dec 2

2024: Chicago, Dec 12-14

2025: Atlanta, Nov 20-22

American Academy of Religion (aarweb.org)

Concurrently held with the **Society of Biblical Literature**

2023: San Antonio, Nov 18-21

2024: San Diego, Nov 23-26

2025: Boston, Nov 22-25

American Conference for Irish Studies

(acisweb.org) 2023: San Jose CA, June 7-10

American Society for Environmental History

(aseh.org) 2023: Boston, March 22-26

American Studies Association (theasa.net)

2023: Montreal, Nov 2-5

2024: Baltimore, Nov 14-17

2025: San Juan Puerto Rico, Nov 20-23

Berkshire Conference of Women, Genders, and Sexualities (Big Berks, berksconference.org)

2023: Santa Clara CA, June 28-July 2

Economic History Association (eh.net)

2023: Pittsburgh, Sept 8-10

International Congress of African and African Diaspora Studies (ICAADS)

2023: Accra, Lubumbashi, San Francisco

Italian American Studies Association

(italianamericanstudies.net)

2023: Fayetteville AR, Oct 26-28

2024: Florence Italy and Long Beach, CA

Mormon History Association

(mormonhistoryassociation.org)

2024: Kirtland, OH, June 8-11

National Council on Public History (ncph.org)

2024: Salt Lake City, April 10-13

National Women's Studies Association (nwsa.org)

2023: Baltimore, Oct 26-29

North American Conference on British Studies (nacbs.org) in conjunction with the **Mid-Atlantic Conference on British Studies**

2023: Baltimore, Nov 10-12

Oral History Association (oralhistory.org)

2023: Baltimore, Oct 18-21

Organization of American Historians (oah.org)

2024: New Orleans and Virtual, April 11-14

2025: Chicago, April 3-6

2026: Philadelphia, April 16-19

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

2024: Chicago, March 27-30

Social Science History Association (ssha.org)

2023: Washington DC, Nov 16-19

2024: Toronto, Oct 31- Nov 3

2025: Chicago, dates TBA

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

2024: Toronto, June 13-15

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

2024: Philadelphia, July 18-21

2025: Providence RI, July 17-20

World History Association (thewha.org)

2023: Pittsburgh, June 22-24



Opportunities for Authors

If you would like to write a book review for **NEHA News**, please 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 rolling 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 each year by an author in New England or New York. Publishers may nominate one 2021 book by June 1, 2022. Contact the NEPCA Executive Secretary, **Lance Eaton**, Brandeis University, lance.eaton@gmail.com.

BOOK REVIEW

John Howland, *Ellington Uptown: Duke Ellington, James P. Johnson, and the Birth of Concert Jazz*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2009.

This monograph looks critically at the historical tension between culturally-esteemed European classical music and jazz, which typically enjoyed less status in the hierarchy of musical expression. *Ellington Uptown*--the first major academic publication by John Howland, a professor of music in Norway--introduces his inquiry into the aesthetics and reception of "symphonic jazz" as an aspirational, "middlebrow" music in North American culture.

Symphonic jazz, African-American music re-presented by Euro-American entertainers in more exclusive, formal concert venues, emerged as a distinct phenomenon in twentieth-century U.S. society. Howland's scope employs precise case studies of two twentieth-century African-American jazz pianists-- Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington (1899-1974) and James P. Johnson (1884-1955). *Ellington Uptown* revisits a lesser-studied aspect of their careers. In particular, both men pursued greater legitimacy among music critics by performing in more exclusive concert halls in an aspiration or quest for the kind of artistic legitimacy historically reserved for classical forms that originated in Europe.

The author considers specific efforts, such as Johnson's unsuccessful applications for a Guggenheim fellowship and Ellington's *Symphony in Black* (1935), as motivated by deeper hopes of the music as vehicle for "racial uplift" versus simply economic or commercial ends (103). Howland revisits cultural notions of "high-, middle-, and lowbrow" labels, as articulated by Lawrence Levine (1990), to look more critically at how "symphonic jazz" functioned as an aspirational vehicle for social

mobility remains "largely overlooked" in contemporary scholarship. *Ellington Uptown* argues that "symphonic jazz" is significant "not so much as high art, but as smart and sophisticated popular music." Both Ellington and Johnson demonstrate "shared aspirations for concert jazz" (Ibid).

The strength of this work is the insight into the lesser-examined ambitions by Ellington and Johnson respectively to ascend into the serious world of the concert hall as a place of standing and respect. The difficulties, barriers, and dashed hopes, Howland writes, "speak volumes about the intertwined nature of American race relations, cultural hierarchies, and the marketplace" (294). *Ellington Uptown* offers a fresh application of Howland's foray into new investigation using Levine's terminology to show the limits and challenges of identity in the twentieth-century through the lens of music performance and cultural reception.

In conclusion, *Ellington Uptown* utilizes careful method with strong archival work. Howland's concentration on two, familiar paramount music figures of early jazz to document racial struggle in this specific dimension of North American culture results in an insightful study of music that connects brilliantly acute concerns with larger themes and issues in American society. The author's stance that "symphonic jazz" is significant because it points to how a "standing perception of high and low musical cultures has become more difficult to maintain." (Ibid). It is this view that situates the interdisciplinary resonance and implications of this book for a wider audience open to the unfolding chronicle of how concert halls have become more inclusive of diverse cultural voices.

Reviewer: Brian Peterson, Shasta College

About NEHA

Website: newenglandhistorians.org

X (Twitter) Social Media @NEHistAssoc

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Kelly Marino (Sacred Heart University)

The New England Historical Association (Inc.), founded in 1965, is a comprehensive incorporated non-profit organization for professional and avocational historians in all disciplines and fields. It meets twice a year (Spring and Fall) for one-day in-person or virtual conferences throughout the region.

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