

# Aphra Behn Society

## Newsletter

February 2023

### Letter from the Editor

Dear ABS members,

This is a bittersweet moment, as I give you all my final newsletter. It has been a great privilege and honor to serve as ABS's newsletter editor, but it is time to pass the torch. I know my successor will find the Aphra Behn Society to be as supportive, welcoming, generous, and gracious as I have for the past decade. As always, read on for the accomplishments of and news from our members!

Nichol Weizenbeck  
nicholw@comcast.net

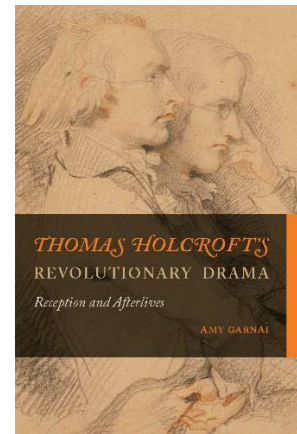
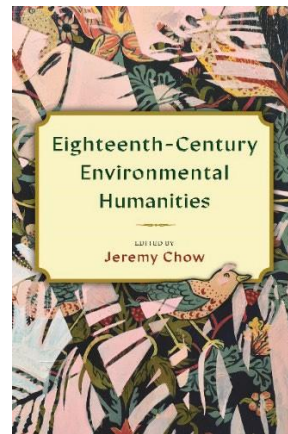
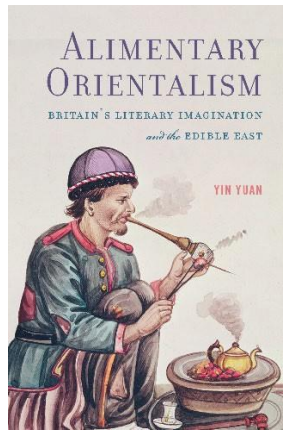
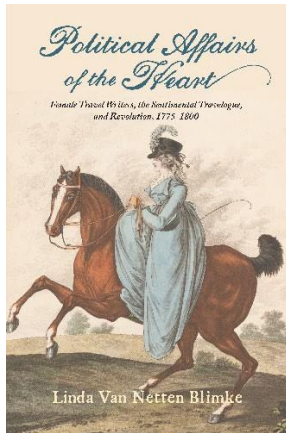
### New Publications from our Members



In this innovative analysis of canonical British novels, Ann Campbell identifies a new literary device—the surrogate family—as a signal of cultural anxieties about young women's changing relationship to matrimony across the long eighteenth century. By assembling *chosen* families rather than families of origin, Campbell convincingly argues, female protagonists in these works compensate for weak family ties, explore the world and themselves, prepare for idealized marriages, or sidestep marriage altogether. Tracing the evolution of this rich convention from the female characters in Defoe's and Richardson's fiction who are allowed some autonomy in choosing spouses, to the more explicitly feminist work of Haywood and Burney, in which connections between protagonists and their surrogate sisters and mothers can substitute for marriage itself, this book makes an ambitious intervention by upending a traditional trope—the model of the hierarchal family—ultimately offering a new lens through which to regard these familiar works.

New and Forthcoming from

# *Transits: Literature, Thought & Culture, 1650-1850*



A landmark series in long eighteenth-century studies, *Transits* includes monographs and edited volumes that are timely, transformative in their approach, and global in their engagement with arts, literature, culture, and history. Books in the series have engaged with visual arts, environment, politics, material culture, travel, theater and performance, embodiment, writing and book history, sexuality, gender, disability, race, and colonialism from Britain and Europe to the Americas, the Far East and the Middle East. We seek proposals for new projects that offer critical examination of artifacts and events, modes of being and forms of knowledge, material culture, or cultural practices. Works that make provocative connections across time, space, geography, or intellectual history or that develop new modes of critical imagining are particularly welcome.

*Please send proposals or inquiries to  
series editors: **Miriam L. Wallace**,  
Professor of English and Gender Studies,  
New College of Florida,  
mwallace@ncf.edu  
**Mona Narain**, Professor of English, Women &  
Gender Studies, Texas Christian University,  
m.narain@tcu.edu*

## Call for Papers

The Aphra Behn (Europe) Society is holding its next biennial conference on **July 2–4 2024** in Behn's birthplace city, Canterbury. Members of the Aphra Behn Society are most warmly invited to respond to the Call for Papers with offers of individual papers or of pre-formed panels to [papers@aphrabehncanterbury.org](mailto:papers@aphrabehncanterbury.org). The cfp reads:

From 2–4 July 2024, the Aphra Behn (Europe) Society will meet for an **in-person conference**, Aphra Behn and her Restoration, at the University of Kent. This sits perfectly between the village of Harbledown, Aphra Behn's birthplace, and the city of Canterbury where she grew up. The call for papers is now open. **Closing date:** 1 April 2023.

Topics for papers and pre-formed panels might include, but are not limited to:

- Aphra Behn's writings, and those of her key and/or neglected contemporaries
- translating and translation
- Aphra Behn today internationally
- the art and/or music of the Restoration
- Civil War and Restoration Canterbury (and wider Kent)
- creative responses to Behn and the Restoration period
- Behn's dedicatees, printers and booksellers
- Restoration Drama in performance
- teaching Behn and her contemporaries: Restoration writings in the classroom today.

Interwoven with the conference, and available as add-ons to the basic registration, will be an **Aphra Behn Festival**, featuring (amongst a host of other activities) a celebration of a new life-size bronze statue of Behn in her birthplace, a performance of Behn's *The Amorous Prince*, an exhibition about Behn's life and times at the city's Art Gallery, and an Aphra Behn Walk, visiting the church where she was baptised and Canterbury city landmarks with Behn associations. And, of course, a trip to Westminster Abbey to lay flowers on Behn's grave. Accommodation will also be available at the University of Kent, and delegates who wish to take the opportunity of being in Canterbury to explore the city's rich heritage, will be able to book to arrive before the conference and/or to stay on after it.

If you would like to be part of this jamboree, please email a proposal of 200-300 words to Charlotte Cornell and Elaine Hobby, [papers@aphrabehncanterbury.org](mailto:papers@aphrabehncanterbury.org). **DEADLINE** for proposals: 1 April 2023. The same email address will work if you would like to participate but do not wish on this occasion to offer a paper.

## Announcements

In the coming year, the Aphra Behn Society's goal is to have elections for all executive and leadership roles. If you are interested in a leadership role, please, email Megan Peiser at [mpeiser@oakland.edu](mailto:mpeiser@oakland.edu).

Please join Dr. Barbara McCaskill, Dr. Sarah Ruffing Robbins and Dr. Mona Narain, in a University of Georgia and Texas Christian University collaboration., for a year-long Public Humanities Phillis Wheatley Peters Commemorative Celebration. The PWP celebration website is now live! Please visit the site at: <https://wheatleypetersproject.weebly.com>. It is an ongoing work of participatory Humanities and viewers are invited to read and write in. Webinars are being recorded and will become available soon after the event.

Find the schedule below:

# *The Genius of Phillis Wheatley Peters: A Poet and Her Legacies Virtual and Hybrid Events with Free Registration Open to All*

- **January 31, 2:30 ET, 1:30 CT (90 mins): Launching “The Genius Of Phillis Wheatley Peters: A Poet and Her Legacies”—A Scholarly Roundtable Marking the Project’s Inauguration**  
Contributors: David Diamond, Brandon Manning, Linda K. Hughes, Zanice Bond  
**Registration Link:**  
[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_TuVBUCywQtiSK9fYeezKeQ](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_TuVBUCywQtiSK9fYeezKeQ)
- **February 16, 10:00 a.m. ET, 9:00 a.m. CT (90 mins): UGA Symposium on the Book, talk by Professor Kim Coles, University of Maryland—“The Blood of Christians: Phillis Wheatley Peters and White Christianity.”** co-conveners Dr. Sujata Iyengar, Dr. Miriam Jacobson, Ms. Anne Meyers DeVine/UGA; in-person lecture and livestreamed connection; location of talk: Special Collections Libraries, Room 277, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023 [Registration Link Coming about 2-3 weeks before event]
- **February 16, 2:00 p.m. ET, 1:00 p.m. CT (90 mins): “Printing Early Modern Race: A Rare Books Workshop,”** exploring books about race and enslavement, including a first edition of PWP’s *Poems*, UGA Special Collections Libraries, Room 277; livestreamed/recorded  
**Contributors: Kim Coles, David Diamond, Miriam Jacobson, Sujata Iyengar, and Anne Meyers DeVine** [Registration Link Coming about 2-3 weeks before event]
- **March 22, 4:00 ET, 3:00 CT (90 mins): “Phillis Wheatley Peters in Material Memory” Presentation Sponsored by the American Antiquarian Society**  
**Contributors: Nan Wolverton (AAS), Barbara McCaskill, Sarah Robbins** [Registration Link Coming about 2-3 weeks before event]
- **April 3, 4:30-6:00 p.m. ET, 3:30-5:00 CT (90 mins): Book Talk by Professor Vincent Carretta: “Recovering the life of Phillis Wheatley Peters, ‘A WONDER of the Age indeed!’”** [livestreamed and recorded] **Presenter: Vincent Carretta** [Registration Link Coming about 2-3 weeks before event]

- **April 4, 10 a.m. ET, 9:00 a.m. CT (90 mins): “Re-reading a Life: Responding to Vincent Carretta’s New Biography of Wheatley Peters”—A Scholarly Roundtable**  
Contributors: Tara Bynum, Keith Hughes, George Elliott Clarke, Lenora Warren; moderated by John Lowe [Registration Link Coming about 2-3 weeks before event]
- **September 7, 4:30 ET, 3:30 CT (90 mins): “Poetic Legacies: Interpreting New Texts from Writers Inspired by Phillis Wheatley Peters”**  
Contributors: Dr. Drea Brown/*[Dear Girl: A Reckoning](#)* and Alison Clarke/*[Phillis](#)*; moderated by Aruni Kashyap (UGA) and hosted by Dean Sonja Watson (TCU) [Registration Link: 2-3 weeks before event]
- **October 17, 6:30-7:30 p.m. ET; 5:30-6:30 CT: "The Genius of Phillis Wheatley Peters: A Children's Literature and Family Literacy Panel": Georgia Humanities Council/Athens-Clarke County Public Library webinar on Phillis Wheatley in children’s literature, children’s historical texts, and picture books addressing issues germane to parents, librarians, and elementary/middle school educators [Hybrid Event—Online With Associated Watch Party at TCU (and book giveaways)]**  
[Registration Link Coming about 2-3 weeks before event]
- **November date TBA: “Honoring Wheatley Peters and Her Legacies: Reflecting Back and Imagining Future Work”—Scholarly Roundtable marking the close of the 2023 initiative and envisioning future collaborations**  
Contributors: Anne Frey, Britt Rusert, Stacie McCormick, and Seretha Williams  
[Registration Link Coming about 2-3 weeks before event]

## Aphra Behn Statue Campaign Update

In Autumn 2022, the Canterbury Commemoration Society's statue selection committee (backed by an overwhelming public vote) chose Christine Charlesworth's design to be the final commissioned Aphra Behn statue. Christine is a fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, an elected member of the Royal British Society of Sculptors and her previous public commissions include celebrated statues of Emily Wilding Davison, Dame Ethel Smyth and of Greta Thunberg. The statue of Aphra Behn will sit on Canterbury High Street and will be cast in bronze.

The Canterbury Commemoration Society are now only £7000 short of their needed total to raise this statue. They have raised over £50,000 already. All donations to help put Behn back in the city where she grew up are much appreciated and can be made via their website [www.cantcommsoc.co.uk](http://www.cantcommsoc.co.uk)





**ABO: Interactive Journal for Women in the Arts, 1640-1830** (ISSN 2157-7129) is a peer-reviewed, fully indexed, and an open access, interactive, scholarly journal, launched in 2011 by the **Aphra Behn Society**. The journal focuses on gender and women's issues, and all aspects of women in the arts in the long eighteenth century, especially literature, visual arts, music, performance art, film criticism, and production arts.

*ABO* has a growing readership in Asia and Africa. The editorial collective is committed to review and publication practices that are open and inclusive, including the formats in which we publish, to ensure our journal is read far and wide.

## **ABS Executive Board**

Executive President: Megan Peiser  
Past Conference Presidents: Emily C. Friedman  
Members at Large: Catherine Ingrassia and JoEllen DeLucia  
British Representative: Elaine Hobby  
Newsletter Editor: Nichol Weizenbeck  
Listserv Moderator: Robin Runia  
Website Editor: Anne Greenfield

Please, contact our executive president, Megan Peiser, with any inquiries at [mpeiser@oakland.edu](mailto:mpeiser@oakland.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.