Letter from the Editor

Dear ABS members,

As we look forward to 2020 (likely with a mixture of anxiety and excitement), now is our moment to reflect on our own and our comrades accomplishments. Read on for shared good news! (Think of it like a collective 20 second hug—maybe it will release some oxytocin)

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our own Commander-in-Chief, Jennifer. Jennifer has worn many hats for ABS, and, for the last three, the biggest and weightiest of all. I met Jennifer when I first joined ABS in 2011. She has always been (and continues to be) gracious, insightful, and fun. Thank you, Jennifer! I know how much effort and work you have dedicated to ABS for all of us. We will miss you, our diligent and humble leader!

Nichol Weizenbeck
nichol.weizenbeck@du.edu

Letter from the Executive President

Dear Aphra Behn Society members,

It is bittersweet to be opening the final newsletter of my presidency. I first discovered the ABS as a scared graduate student, and immediately felt like I’d found my scholarly home. The members of the ABS have supported me through job talks, publications, tenure, and eventually promotion, and I’m so grateful to you and the Society for all of your work, mentorship, and general love of long eighteenth-century women’s literature. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve for the past three years.

And now, a few announcements:
• First, a giant THANK YOU to Emily Friedman, who hosted an amazing and memorable conference for us at Auburn University! We are all in your debt!

• I would like to thank Sarah Creel for all her hard work as Member-at-Large for the past few years- we will miss you! In her place, I am excited to welcome Megan Peiser! As I explained in my January email, Megan is willing to take on the ABS presidency, but per our bylaws first needed to be elected to the Executive Committee. We will hold a presidential election at the beginning of March, at which time we will need a new Member-at-Large to take Megan’s place. According to our bylaws, the Members-at-Large “provide administrative support for the Society,” which in practice, amounts to judging our graduate essay contest, tabulating election results, and occasionally offering input on matters of importance to the Society. It’s not, therefore, a position that takes up a lot of time, and it’s an excellent way to get involved. Please do consider throwing your hat in the ring for the position – if you’re interested, email me and let me know! Graduate students are very welcome to apply.

• Speaking of our graduate essay contest: 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 ABO. The paper you submit for the prize must be an expanded, revised version of the one that you presented at the 2019 conference (about 4,000-6,000 words). Papers should be correctly formatted according to MLA documentation style. Submissions must be sent directly to me (Jennifer-airey@utulsa.edu) as an attached Word Document or PDF by February 20, 2020. The winner of the prize will be notified soon after the committee has made its decision and will be announced through the Newsletter and listserv.

• If you will be at ASECS in St. Louis, I hope you will join us for the ABS’s sponsored panel, “Aphra Behn: Innovative Methodologies, Resources, and Theories,” organized by our own Aleksandra Hultquist! The panel will feature presentations by Corey Goergen, Laura Rosenthal, Juliette Paul, and Yuan Ren, and it promises to be a wonderful event!

• Please also check out the most recent issue of ABO, which features new work by Linda J. Van Netten Blimke, Leah M. Thomas, Bethany Williamson and Ileana Baird, along with reviews by James Fitzmaurice, Susannah Sanford, and Michael Edson. You can find all of this exciting work at https://scholarcommons.usf.edu/abo/.
• Finally, I am on the lookout for a host for our 2021 ABS conference. If you are interested and would like to learn more about what hosting an ABS conference entails, please don’t hesitate to reach out.

Thank you again for a wonderful three years! I look forward to seeing you at upcoming ABS events!

Jennifer

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

New Publications from our Members

Anne Greenfield, Editor. This essay collection examines one of the most fearsome, fascinating, and hotly-discussed topics of the long eighteenth century: masculinity compromised. During this timespan, there was hardly a literary or artistic genre that did not feature unmanning regularly and prominently: from harrowing tales of castrations in medical treatises, to emasculated husbands in stage comedies, to sympathetic and powerful eunuchs in prose fiction, to glorious operatic performances by castrati in Italy, to humorous depictions in caricature and satirical paintings, to fearsome descriptions of Eastern eunuchs in travel narratives, to foolish and impotent old men who became a mainstay in drama. Not only does this unprecedented study of unmanning (in all of its varied forms) illustrate the sheer prevalence of a trope that featured prominently across literary and artistic genres, but it also demonstrates the ways diminished masculinity reflected some of the most strongly-held anxieties, interests, and values of eighteenth-century Britons.

Announcements

Jade Higa began a new job in Fall 2019 at 'Iolani School--a private high school in Hawaii. She teaches 9th and 10th grade English, and her new email is jhiga@iolani.org.

Lennox’s Twitter account (@ladysmuseum) now has 720 followers! ABS members are welcome to join!
Podcasts and Blogposts from our Members


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:
Laura Runge (University of South Florida)

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Scholarship Editor: Mona Narain, Texas Christian University.
Pedagogy Editor: Cynthia Richards, Wittenberg University.
Digital Humanities Editor: Tonya Howe, Marymount University.
Book Review Editor: Kate Ozment, Cal Poly Pomona

Co-Managing Editors:
Cassie Childs (University of South Florida)
Courtney Beggs (Curry College)
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/](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](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 must be sent directly to Dr. Jennifer Airey. Submissions must be received by February 20, 2020. Please send an attached Word Document or PDF to Jennifer-airey@utulsa.edu.

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.

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**Aphra Behn Society for Women and the Arts, 1660-1830**

**Financial Report**

**February, 2020 for the year January 2019-December 2019**

1. **Current Finances**

   **Checking account**
   - Starting balance, 1/1/19: $7,626.81
   - Balance as of 12/31/19: $5,485.13
   - Net difference: -$2,141.68

   **Savings account**
   - Starting balance, 1/1/19: $10,002.17
   - Balance as of 12/31/19: $10,004.32
   - Net income: $ 2.15 (derived from interest on the account)

   **Paypal account**
   - Starting balance, 1/01/19: $508.65
   - Balance as of 12/21/19: $192.90
   - Net difference: -$315.75
2. **Income FY2019**
   Membership: $940  
   Bank Income: $2.15  
   Chawton Bank Donations: $245  
   Travel Bursary Donations: $175  
   Total: $1,362.15  
   ABO receives 25% of Society income from dues, so these are not monies the Society may use.

3. **Expenditures FY2019**
   **Actual:**  
   - Paypal Fees: $44.26  
   - Website Fees: $448.17  
   - Chawton Bench Donation: $2,000  
   - ABO Stipend: $125  
   - Travel Awards: $1,200  
   Total: $3,817.43  

4. **Anticipated Expenditures FY2020**
   Graduate Student Essay Award: $150

5. **Available ABO Funds:**
   - Remainder 2018: $610.42  
   - Earned in 2019: $235  
   - Spent: $125  
   Total Available: $720.42

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**ABS Executive Board**

Executive President: Jennifer Airey  
Past Conference Presidents: Emily C. Friedman  
Members at Large: Megan Peiser and JoEllen DeLucia  
British Representative: Elaine Hobby  
Newsletter Editor: Nichol Weizenbeck  
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.