The Eighteenth-Century Intelligencer

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The Eighteenth-Century Intelligencer is distributed twice a year (spring and fall) to members of the East-Central American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies. For membership information, contact Dr. Linda E. Merians, above, or, as of January 2017, her successor, Dr. Peter Staffel, staffelp@westliberty.edu; West Liberty University, 208 University Dr., CUB #130, West Liberty, WV 26074 (Tel. 304-336-8193). Annual dues are $25 for regular members; $15 for students; $40 for joint membership. For information about the EC/ASECS, see the current EC/ASECS homepage, www.ec-asecs.org. The next submission deadline is 1 September 2016.

Through this newsletter, scholars and teachers can pass along to colleagues news, opportunities, and practical tips normally not communicated in scholarly journals. Members are encouraged to submit book reviews, notes and essays, notices, accounts of travel, conferences, concerts, and exhibitions, pedagogical advice, light opportunities, and practical tips normally not communicated in scholarly journals. Through this newsletter, scholars and teachers can pass along to colleagues news, grants, and on-going projects. Please submit contributions as an attachment in Word or in RTF or on paper. Contributions to these pages may be reproduced in the newsletters of ASECS Affiliate Societies unless the article states that the author’s permission must be obtained. Pertinent articles are indexed in the ECCB, MLA Bibliography, The Scriblerian, Year's Work in English Studies, The Annual Bibliography of English Language & Literature, and C18-L’s “Selected Readings.”


The Anne Finch Digital Archive includes commentary with embedded links to illustrations, information about composition and printing dates and sources, audio files of the poems read aloud, and source copies showing authorized MS and print texts with transcriptions.” They will be adding to the site, including music (note the effort to feature multimedia). The site has links including an introduction and bibliography.

Some readers should take interest in Fashion Prints in the Age of Louis XIV: Interpreting the Art of Elegance, ed. by Kathryn Norberg and Sandra Rosenbaum (Texas Tech UP, 2014; pp. 320; bibliography; illus.; index). This group of essays was inspired by (and discusses) a volume of 190 hand-colored fashion prints from the late 17C (bound 1702-04), acquired by the Los Angeles County Museum (LACMA). Most of the essays were presented at a two-day conference on this Recueil des modes de la cour. Contributions directly addressing acquired plates include Kathleen Nicholson, “Fashion Fashionability” (15-54); Paul Rea Radsich, “The Crisis of Paris in the LACMA Recueil des modes” (55-72); Marcia Reed, “Fashion in Prints: Considering the Recueil des modes as an Album of Prints” (73-88); Sandra L. Rosenbaum, “The LACMA Recueil des modes” (187-200); and Soko Furuhata, “Fashion Illustration from the Reign of Louis XIV: A Technical Study of the Paper and Colorants Used in the LACMA Recueil des modes” (201-12). The lead essay, Françoise Tétart-Vittu’s “The Fashion Print: An Ambiguous Object” (3-14), treats the genre of fashion prints, relating these prints to antecedents and to fashion journals of the eighteenth century, like Gallerie des modes. Other essays are devoted more generally to the period’s fashion (Michael J. Hacket), the King’s (Kathryn Norberg), and oriental influences on fashion (Mary Schoeser).

The Intelligencer needs reviewers for: two essay collections discussed above in members’ news, both Bucknell UP, 2015: Queen Anne and the Arts, ed. by Cedric D. Reverend, II (pp. 334); and Stage Mothers: Women, Work, and the Theater, 1660-1830, ed. by Laura Engel and Elaine R. McGirr (pp. 290); also Eric Gidal, Ossianic Unconformities: Bardic Poetry in the Industrial Age (U. of VA, 2015; 240 pp.; 25 illus.), on the reception of Ossian by “19C Scottish eccentrics who used statistics, cartography, and geomorphology to map and thereby vindicate Macpherson’s... renderings of Gaelic oral traditions.” And E. Claire Cage’s Unnatural Frenchmen: The Politics of Priestly Celibacy and Marriage, 1720-1815 (UVA, 2015; pp. 248), on the case for priests to marry (nature, social utility, patrie), ending with the chapter “Married priests in the Napoleonic Era” (there were many). And Cathy Rex, Anglo-American Women Writers and Representations of Indianness, 1629-1824 (Ashgate, 2015; pp. 204).

Cover illustration: “Countess Varvara Nikolayevna Golovina” (ca. 1797-1800) by Elizabeth Louise Vigée Le Brun (1755-1842), oil on canvas, 33 x 26 inches (The Henry Barber Trust, Barber Institute of Fine Arts, University of Birmingham [80.1]), reprinted with the assistance of the press office at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. See the exhibition review above (pp. 23-25).