**Radner’s Boswell**

**Anthony W. Lee, Moderator**

**University of the District of Columbia**

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Thomas F. Bonnell, editor of volumes 3 and 4 of the Yale Research Edition of Boswell’s manuscript of the *Life of Johnson*, wrote this of John B. Radner’s prize-winning 2012 *Johnson and Boswell: A Biography of Friendship*:

At every turn, Radner’s richly textured argument offers fresh angles of interpretation, yielding insights into the various interests of Johnson and Boswell, their circle of friends, their proposed travels, and their writings, including parts of the *Lives of the Poets* written by Johnson primarily with his biographer in mind. This book is a must read for anyone interested in Johnson, Boswell, eighteenth-century friendship, of the theory and practice of biography.[[1]](#footnote-1)

As Bonnell notes, John’s life-long labor of love, distilled from some 1400 ms pages, dismantles old misconceptions and unfolds multiple lines for future inquiry. The present panel is designed to rise to this challenge by examining how John’s book urges us to reassess our apprehension of Johnson and Boswell as writers and as human beings. Possible areas of focus might include sexual rivalry, authorial identity, Johnson’s reading of Boswell, Boswell’s reading of Johnson, travel, and the art of biography.

Please email a 300-500-word abstract plus a brief (1-2 pp.) current vita to Anthony W. Lee by 15 June 2018 at: lee.tony181@gmail.com.

1. Review, *The Historian* 76.3 (2013), 640-41. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)