

The Eighteenth-Century Intelligencer
The Newsletter of the EC/ASECS
N.S. Volume 29, Number 1: March 2015

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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, at the address above. Annual dues are \$25 for regular members; \$15 for students; \$40 for joint memberships. For information about the EC/ASECS, see the current EC/ASECS homepage, www.ec-asecs.org. The submission deadline for the next issue is 15 September 2015.

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 verse, and queries. They are asked to report news of their publications, lectures, grants, and on-going projects. Please submit contributions as an attachment in Word or RTF or on paper and diskette. 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. 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" (WWW) index pertinent articles.

The EC/ASECS gratefully acknowledges financial support from Penn State University, specifically from the budgets of the Center for the Study of the History of the Book, directed by James L. West, III; and from Robert D. Hume, Evan Pugh Professor. The *EC/ASECS Newsletter* was founded in January 1978 by Leland D. Peterson and later edited by W. R. McLeod (1981-1983) and Kevin Berland (1983-1986). The newsletter was entitled *The East-Central Intelligencer* from 1988 until February 2005. Indices for preceding volumes appear in the issues of May 1992, September 1996, September 2001, January 2005, January 2008, and October 2011; the January 2005 contains a register of EC/ASECS newsletters 1978-2004. Penn State University Library have archived n.s. Vols. 1-28; Old Dominion University has archived issues from 1987-2009. Issues for May 2007 through September 2013, the indices for 1997-2011, and tables of contents for issues since December 1986 are available at the Newsletter Archive of the EC/ASECS website noted above.

Half a dozen essays on the *Oxford English Dictionary* (OED) appear in the 2013 *Dictionaries: Journal of the Dictionary Society of North America* (vol. 34) L Julie Coleman's "Forum: Using OED Evidence"; Lynda Mugglestone's "Acts of Representation: Writing the Woman Question in the Oxford English Dictionary"; Julie Coleman's "Using Dictionary Evidence to Evaluate Authors' Lexis: John Bunyan and the Oxford English Dictionary"; Charlotte Brewer's "OED Online Re-Launched: Distinguishing Old Scholarship from New." Also several essays in the section "Reference Works in Progress" concern it: John Simpson's "The Spirit of Place: Five Rooms and the OED" (156-74), Peter Gilliver's "Thoughts on Writing a History of the *Oxford English Dictionary*," and Beverley McCulloch's "The Living Archive: Preserving the Papers of the OED." The previous issue had a related article: Roderick McConchie's "'Her words had no weight': Jane Austen as a Textual Test Case for the OED."

The annual survey of "**Recent Studies in the Restoration and 18C**," in that issue of *SEL: Studies in English Literature 1500-1900* covering mostly 2013 publications, was written by **Frances Ferguson** (emerita, U. of Chicago). Ferguson, the author of *Pornography, The Theory* and two books mainly on the Romantic period, one on Wordsworth, covers well several books on the Restoration, particularly the late historian Kevin Sharpe's *Rebranding Rule: The Restoration and Revolution Monarchy, 1660-1714*. Ferguson observes that the 2013 publications surveyed are "extensive" in scope, rarely treating single authors, and that the greatest concentration of scholarly attention . . . is Gothic fiction" (746). Ferguson, disposed to theory, characterizes the inclinations of the thousands of scholars working on English literature 1660-1820 (see 755-57), a tricky undertaking. I was struck by the survey's extensive attention to cultural history, e.g., books on sex, sports, and household politics--far and away the lengthiest treatment concerns *The Architecture of Concepts: The Historical Formation of Human Rights*, by Peter de Bolla, a professor of history. One might think one was reading the interdisciplinary *ECS* as one reads through accounts of the reprinting of William Buchan's *Domestic Medicine*, Samuel Pufendorf's *Introduction to the History of the Principal Kingdom and States of Europe*, and Lord Kames's *Principles of Equity* (753). Although important works in English literature are covered, such as Deborah Kennedy's *Poetic Sisters*, Ashley Marshall's *The Practice of Satire in England 1658-1770*, the Georgia edition of Smollett's *Peregrine Pickle*, and John Radner's *Johnson and Boswell: A Biography*, these don't receive the attention they might have were the survey more focused on literary study. Superficial examination is sometimes suggested, as when the coverage of *Peregrine Pickle* fails to reflect the editors' relative shares in the effort and when paperback reprints of earlier publications are covered as if they are new scholarship. The value of the survey as a review of scholarship is undermined by the absence of important journal articles, which take up the bulk of both *Year's Work* surveys--what we get in *SEL* is "books received." Of course, to judge from conference programs, Ferguson's survey mirrors the interests of most working in "literary" studies.

Cover illustration: William Hogarth's "*The Bruiser*" (1763), a caricature of Charles Churchill (c. 36 x 26 cm; one of multiple states). See p. 35 for Corey Andrews's discussion of the context of this etching and engraving.