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T, December 10 '013

Dear colleagues in the A.S.A.'s Early American Matters Caucus,

Here's hoping this follow-up and this heads-up find you well, each and all. Part One, below, is following up to our Caucus's business meeting, midday on the Saturday of this year's A.S.A. conference, at which we compared notes on ideas for early-American-flavored panel proposals that next year's program committee might well find too substantive, too interesting to resist accepting. You'll see that Part Two is simply about my planning to propose a colloquy, for next year's A.S.A., on Kathleen Donegan's new book.

#### **PART ONE: notes from our Caucus's November 23 business meeting**

This follow-up originated as notes that Mary Balkun, editor of the Society of Early Americanists Newsletter, generously volunteered to take during the meeting at the conference hotel, the Washington Hilton. I've circulated a draft to these colleagues who had participated in the meeting--

<b>Melissa Adams-Campbell</b>	<b>Greg Dowd</b>	<b>Susan Garfinkel</b>	<b>Sarah Schuetze</b>
<b>Sari Altschuler*</b>	<b>Paul Erickson*</b>	<b>Glenda Goodman</b>	<b>Christine Skwiot</b>
<b>Mary Balkun</b>	<b>Duncan Faherty</b>	<b>Oliver Scheiding</b>	<b>James Spady</b>

-- as well as sending that draft to a number of other colleagues who had told me ahead of time they could not attend.

Here for your convenience is the boilerplate from the end of that **list-of-2013-sessions** I'd posted, prior to last month's conference, at [www.earlyamericanmatters.fsu.edu](http://www.earlyamericanmatters.fsu.edu)--

***Looking ahead to next year's A.S.A. – November 6-9 '014 in L.A. – it makes sense to continue encouraging one another to turn in dynamic, interesting, substantive early-American-flavored proposals. Deadlines and other details will be in this year's program booklet and at [theasa.net](http://theasa.net) and, yep, in the occasional message via our Caucus's listserv.***

--and here's the heading from the front screen at the big org's website, [theasa.net](http://theasa.net):

**“The Fun and the Fury: New Dialectics of Pleasure and Pain In the Post-American Century,”  
November 6-9, 2014: Westin Bonaventure, Los Angeles, CA**

Behold the chilling reminder from within that 'site's "Submit a Proposal" page: **“The submission site will automatically shut down at 11:59 PM (Pacific) on January 26, 2014.”** Fortunately for us all, Peter Reed\* (who was unable to attend this year's A.S.A.) has generously agreed to help once again with encouraging us all to turn in dynamic, substantive proposals.

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\* what an array of tireless colleagues serve on our caucus's current Working Comm:

**Sari Altschuler**, University of South Florida  
**Kathleen Brian**, George Washington University  
**Paul Erickson**, American Antiquarian Society  
**Toni Wall Jaudon**, Hendrix College  
**D. M.**, Florida State University  
**Sally Promey**, Yale University  
**Peter Reed**, University of Mississippi  
**Karen Salt**, University of Aberdeen

Once we had gone around the table to do brief introductions, I made this practical request: The A.S.A.'s proposal process, strict as the timing is, allows everyone who submits a proposal to specify up to three KEYWORDS, so here's hoping that anyone cooking up a proposal will indeed include "**Early American Studies**" as a keyword. As we brainstormed possible topics / approaches for panel proposals, Paul Erickson reminded everyone that while some panel proposals will focus on early-American-flavored content, others can combine one or more early-American-flavored papers with papers touching on later periods. Here's the list we came up with for circulating among our colleagues in the full Caucus:

early American knowledge formation and Atlantic slave trade, and link of French Caribbean colonies as locus  
-- Bob Fanuzzi, via a conversation earlier in the day with D.M.

play / playfulness as aspect of pleasure / pain

performance / performativity; maybe traveling shows—east and west in terms of contrast; San Francisco as a destination for traveling performers

eighteenth- and nineteenth-century star culture

torture

sexual violence and indigeneity

incarceration

"Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Fun"

Spectacle

revolutionary area in Pacific as well as Atlantic and connecting the oceans—with Trans-Pacific idea and pleasure / pain idea (sex and violence) -- Christine Skwiot, describing ongoing conversation with Michelle Burnham

"Pre-American Century": another phrase we should use

early Hawai'i

empire and fruit and beginnings of California wine industry

childhood / child culture

multilingual issues, especially considering that the conference is in CA

transoceanic studies / especially trans-Pacific studies; Hawai'i, hot right now with European scholars – Oliver Scheiding

environmental issues: mining, fisheries, fur trade

affective structures of some kind

indigenous peoples / indigeneity

missions / Catholicism

Federal/Native American boarding schools

Asian immigration

Gold Rushes: here were multiple gold rushes, over a span of time

Trail of Tears, which then becomes the dust bowl migration, also would cover a span of time

#### **Discussing other matters:**

Reception:

This year we're again co-sponsoring with the A.S.A.'s Environment and Culture Caucus, with generous

financial support again from the American Antiquarian Society; moreover, this year the Early Caribbean Society is also co-sponsoring and contributing financially. This year's reception was off-site, at **The Board Room**, 1737 Connecticut Ave., NW.

We discussed advantages of determining site of next year's reception as far in advance as possible; Paul Erickson pointed out that September is as early as practically feasible to book a location – and Susan Garfinkel suggested we furnish the A.S.A. command module a URL to list in the program rather than once again automatically assigning us to a meeting room in the hotel that we won't be using

**Note:** On the morning of December 4, I submitted two requests, on-line, for including these two Caucus-related events in the official program: **a business meeting** -- "Please do Not schedule this event at a time that conflicts with other Early American Matters Caucus event(s) OR with other Environment and Culture Caucus event(s), e.g., 'Sponsored By' sessions. THANKS" -- and one for **a reception**: "Please, Instead Of automatically assigning this reception to a room at the conference hotel, include this line in program booklet And on-line: **for location, please visit [earlyamericanmatters.org](http://earlyamericanmatters.org)**. If, repeat if we see by early June we have the budget to book a room at the hotel, we will of course contact you. THANKS. [Date and Time Request:] Please do Not schedule this event at a time that conflicts with other Environment and Culture Caucus event(s) OR with other Early American Matters Caucus event(s), e.g., 'Sponsored By' sessions. THANKS"

Question arose whether any of the A.S.A.'s regional chapters have anything like an early-American committee; James Spady mentioned that the California chapter has scheduled some early-American content at its annual conferences, and I mentioned that the Southern-regional chapter also includes early-American content at its biennial conferences.

Adjourned to allow time for getting to sessions.

Respectfully submitted,



D.M., [dmoore@fsu.edu](mailto:dmoore@fsu.edu)

### **Now, PART TWO: inviting queries about being a part of the proposal I'm cooking up for a colloquy**

Heads up: Kathleen Donegan has graciously agreed to be part of an interdisciplinary colloquy that I'll propose for the November 2014 A.S.A., on Seasons of Misery: Catastrophe and Colonial Settlement in Early America. I'm looking for three or four knowledgeable, articulate scholars to be part of this proposal; the format involves presenting a brief opening statement about the book and an issue that the panelist would like for the audience to discuss with the panelists. It's the format we used at the colloquy at last month's A.S.A. on Annette Kolodny's award-winning In Search of First Contact; the one at last year's A.S.A., in San Juan, on historian Lige Gould's Among the Powers of the Earth: The American Revolution and the Making of a New World Empire; the one at the 2012 ASECS conference on art historian Wendy Bellion's Citizen Spectator: Art, Illusion and Visual Perception in Early National America; the one at last spring's Society of Early Americanists conference on Cristobal Silva's Miraculous Plagues: An Epidemiology of Early New England Narrative; the one at the SEA's conference in London next summer, on Jonathan Beecher Field's Errands into the Metropolis: New England Dissidents in Revolutionary London; the one earlier this year on Eric Foner's The Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln and American Slavery, at a regional A.S.A. conference; and the one at that same org's next biennial (Atlanta, mid-February '015), on Robin D. G. Kelley's Hammer and Hoe. Looking forward, D.M., [dmoore@fsu.edu](mailto:dmoore@fsu.edu)