POSSIBLE PASTS

A CONFLUENCE CO-SPONSORED
BY THE INSTITUTE OF EARLY
AMERICAN HISTORY AND
CULTURE AND THE
PHILADELPHIA CENTER FOR
EARLY AMERICAN STUDIES

JUNE 3-5
1994

CRITICAL ENCOUNTERS IN EARLY AMERICA
In recent years the intellectual Hartings of early American studies have been shifting as scholars integrate critical approaches across diverse disciplinary and theoretical boundaries. To examine the ongoing impact that various trajectories within cultural studies are having on our critical encounters with early American societies and cultures, historians, anthropologists, folklorists, and literary critics are addressing old questions from new perspectives. Precisely when and where is "early America"? In light of recent work on postcolonial social formations, what does it mean to study "colonial" America? What cultural practices, in particular, merit renewed attention from scholars interested in the articulation of a public sphere? In order to chart the intellectual landscape emerging from this exciting new work, the Institute of Early American History and Culture and the Philadelphia Center for Early American Studies are jointly sponsoring Possible Posts, Critical Encounters in Early America.

The Institute of Early American History and Culture was established by the College of William and Mary and The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation in 1943 to support "studies, research, and publications bearing on American History, approximately to the year 1815." The Institute publishes the William and Mary Quarterly, books in its field of interest, and a newsletter, organizes and supports a variety of conferences, seminars, and colloquia, and annually offers a two-year postdoctoral fellowship. The Philadelphia Center for Early American Studies was established by the University of Pennsylvania in 1978 to foster scholarship on the history and culture of the mid-Atlantic region, particularly the Delaware Valley. In addition to its very active seminar series during the academic year, the Center sponsors research conferences and annually awards several dissertation fellowships.

PROGRAM
Friday, June 3, 1994

12:00 PM
REGISTRATION (Meyerson Lower Lobby)

1:00-1:15
INTRODUCTION (Meyerson B-1)
Richard R. Beeman, University of Pennsylvania
Robert Blair St. George, University of Pennsylvania

1:15-2:30
KEYNOTE (Meyerson B-1)
Chair: Richard S. Dunn, University of Pennsylvania
Colonial Discourse and Postcolonial Theory
Peter Hulme, University of Essex

2:30-4:30
SESSION I: Ways of Speaking (Chemistry 102)
Chair: Michael McGiffert, Institute of Early American History and Culture
"Saying and Unsaying": The Fine Art of Eating One's Words in Early New England
Jane Kamensky, Brandeis University
The Trade in Talk: Destabilizing Oral Performance in Early America
Robert Blair St. George, University of Pennsylvania
The Genders of Nationalism: Patriotic Violence, Patriotic Sentiment in the Performances of Deborah Sampson Gannett
Sandra M. Gustafson, University of Notre Dame

Comment: Richard Bauman, Indiana University
Peter Burke, Cambridge University

SESSION II: Writing Early America (Towne 100)
Chair: Dana D. Nelson, Louisiana State University
The Rhetoric of the Memorial: An Analysis of the Discursive Strategies of a Colonial Genre
María Herrera-Sobek,
University of California, Irvine

Parlor Parlance and Print: Discourses of the Republican Court
David S. Shields, The Citadel, and Fredrika J. Teute,
Institute of Early American History and Culture

Benjamin Mays and the World of Early Black America
Phillip M. Richards,
National Humanities Center

Comment: Ivy Schweitzer, Dartmouth College
Houston Baker, University of Pennsylvania
What’s Colonial about Colonial America?
Michael Warner, Rutgers University

Comment: Patricia Seed, Rice University
Michel-Rolph Trouillot, Johns Hopkins University

Focus Session III: Portraying the Body (Towne 100)
Chair: Stephanie Grauman Wolf, Philadelphia Center for Early American Studies
Body Politics: Portraits, People, and the Construction of Memory
Margaretta M. Lovell, University of California, Berkeley

Comment: Joseph Koenen, Harvard University
Jay Fliegelman, Stanford University

Lunch Break

Session V: The Practice of Race (Chemistry 102)
Chair: Ira Berlin, University of Maryland, College Park
Mestizo’s Dreams: The Practice of Race and Writing in Inca Garcilaso de la Vega
José Antonio Mazzotti, Temple University

The Social Origins of American Freedom and Individualism
Orlando Patterson, Harvard University

Fixing Identity: Scientific Discourse and Racial Calculus in Revolutionary America
Dana D. Nelson, Louisiana State University

Comment: Rosanne M. Adderley, University of Pennsylvania
James Scott, Yale University

Session VI: Marketing Selves (Towne 100)
Chair: Roger D. Abrahams, University of Pennsylvania

Wide Play: Space, Personae, and Exchange in Colonial Philadelphia
Peter Thompson, Oxford University

Cultivating the Credible Self: Secrecy and Public Display in Eighteenth-Century Mercantile Writing
Toby L. Ditz, Johns Hopkins University

Comment: Joyce E. Chaplin, Vanderbilt University
Jean-Christophe Agnew, Yale University

Coffee and Tea (Meyerson Terrace)

Focus Session IV: Interpreting Others (Chemistry 102)
Chair: Roderick A. McDonald, Rider College

Cannibalism and the Slave Trade in the Atlantic World
John K. Thornton, Millersville University of Pennsylvania

Comment: Wyatt MacGaffey, Haverford College
Kathleen M. Brown, Rutgers University

Coffee and Tea (Meyerson Terrace)
FOCUS SESSION Y: Framing Encounters on Film (Towne 100)
Chair: Loretta Valz Mannucci, University of Milan
“The Chronicles of America”: Cinematic Representations of Native Peoples in Early America
Roberta E. Pearson, University of Pennsylvania
Comment: Jon F. Sensbach, Institute of Early American History and Culture
Jolene Rickard, State University of New York, Buffalo
6:00-7:00
RECEPTION (Meyerson Terrace)

SUNDAY, JUNE 5, 1994

8:30 A.M.
REGISTRATION (Meyerson Lower Lobby)

9:00-11:00
SESSION VII: The Practice of Law and Authority (Towne 100)
Chair: Robert C. Ritchie, Huntington Library
High Culture and the Construction of Authority in Early Massachusetts
Darren M. Staloff, City University of New York
The Cultural Work of Colonization in Seventeenth-Century Penn Irene Silverblatt, Duke University
Reading the Rhetoric of Ratification
Saul Cornell, Ohio State University
Comment: James Rice, Loyola College of Maryland
John M. Murrin, Princeton University
SESSION VIII: The Practice of Religion
(Chemistry 102)
Chair: Nancy Farris, University of Pennsylvania
From “Religion and Society” to “Practice”: Reflections on Religion in Early New England
David D. Hall, Harvard University
The Native Translator as Critic: A Nahua Playwright’s Interpretive Practice
Louise M. Burkhart, State University of New York, Albany
“Neither Male nor Female”: Gender and the Practice of Piety in Colonial America
Susan Juster, University of Michigan
Comment: Ann M. Little, University of Pennsylvania
Richard Bushman, Columbia University

11:15-12:15
SUMMARY REMARKS (Meyerson B-1)
Chair: Ronald Hoffman, Institute of Early American History and Culture
Possible Posts
Timothy H. Breen, Northwestern University

ARRANGEMENTS

A block of double-occupancy suites has been reserved for conference attendees in an air-conditioned high-rise residence on the University of Pennsylvania campus, convenient to the conference meeting rooms. Each suite contains two bedrooms (each with a single bed) and a shared bathroom, and is fully furnished (including bed linens and towels). The cost per person per night is $34. If you wish to share a suite with a spouse, partner, or friend, please so indicate on the registration form; otherwise, we will make the room assignments.

To encourage the attendance of graduate and undergraduate students, we are offering high-rise rooms to students at the special rate of $17 per person per night, thanks to the generous gift of this purpose from an anonymous donor. To qualify for this special rate, please send a photo copy of a current college or university ID with your reservation.

For those preferring regular hotel accommodations, a block of rooms has been reserved at the Penn Tower Hotel at the conference rate of $85 per night (single or double occupancy). The Penn Tower Hotel is adjacent to the University of Pennsylvania at 34th Street and Civic Center Boulevard, Philadelphia PA 19104-4385, and is close to the conference meeting rooms. For reservations at the Penn Tower, call (215) 387-8333 and state that you are attending the “Possible Past” conference for guaranteed reservations call by May 15, 1994.

There is no registration fee for this conference. However, if you plan to attend, please let us know so that we can prepare a conference packet for you. Should you be bringing a guest or guests, kindly provide the same information for each of them. Return the completed form(s) to:

Donna Rilling,
Acting Director
Philadelphia Center for Early American Studies
University of Pennsylvania
3440 Market Street,
Suite 540
Philadelphia PA 19104-3325
A CONFERENCE CO-SPONSORED
BY THE INSTITUTE OF EARLY
AMERICAN HISTORY AND
CULTURE AND THE
PHILADELPHIA CENTER FOR
EARLY AMERICAN STUDIES

CRITICAL ENCOUNTERS
IN EARLY AMERICA

JUNE 3-5
1-9-9-4

REGISTRATION FORM

Name

Address

Telephone

Affiliation

High-Rise Room Reservations
Reserving a high-rise room? Yes ☐ No ☐
Reservation for two nights, June 3-4?
☐ $68 regular rate
☐ $34 student rate
Reservation for Friday, June 3, only?
☐ $34 regular rate
☐ $17 student rate
Reservation for Saturday, June 4, only?
☐ $34 regular rate
☐ $17 student rate

I will share my suite with _______________________

Address ___________________________________

Everyone wishing to make a high-rise room reservation
for the conference should return this form, together with
a check for the appropriate amount, by Monday, May 16,
1994; copy of ID required for student rate.
Reservations received after May 20 will be charged a
late fee of $10. Checks should be made payable to The
Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania and endorsed
on the memo line: “Possible Pastas” Conference.

For further information, call the PCEAS at
(215) 898-9251, or e-mail to drilh@nail.sas.upenn.edu