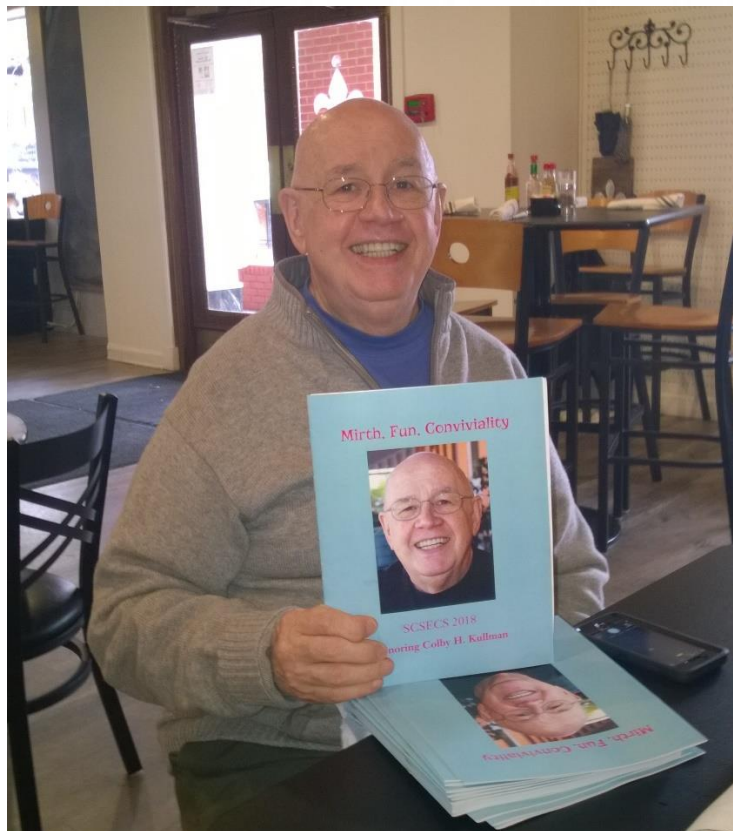


# SCSECS

South Central Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies

## Newsletter

August 2018



*"Mirth, Fun, and Conviviality" continued after the official end of the 2018 meeting in downtown Oxford, MS, during a Sunday brunch*



*Conference warming at the Graduate Oxford*

## **Conference Report: SCSECS 2018 — by Kathryn Duncan**

SCSECS 2018 honored long-time member Colby Kullman in February 2018. Taking the conference to Colby in Oxford, Mississippi, allowed us to thank Colby for his decades-long amazing contributions to SCSECS and enjoy the beauty of his hometown. The theme of “Mirth, Fun, and Conviviality” matched Colby’s giving and welcoming spirit, on display at a Thursday-night reception held at the conference hotel, the Oxford Graduate.

In addition to Colby’s long-time panel devoted to overlooked texts, panels covered such topics as madness and medicine, Alexander Pope, teaching the long eighteenth century, archival research, opera, and eighteenth-century influence on later literature. The conference drew participants from across the country and world, including Canada, Mexico, and Singapore.

Plenary speaker Greg Clingham, director of Bucknell University Press, regaled conference participants with a talk entitled “The Wit and Wisdom of Lady Anne Barnard

(1750-1825).” Lady Barnard was a Scottish travel writer, socialite, and artist whose travels included Cape Town. Greg’s talk captured the interdisciplinary nature of SCSECS perfectly.



*Greg Clingham during his plenary talk on Lady Barnard*

The conference closed with a reception at the Burns-Belfry Museum and Multicultural Center. The Burns

Methodist Episcopal Church was built in 1910, organized by freed African Americans in what was then called “Freedmen Town.” The congregation moved in 1974, and the church now captures the history of African Americans from slavery through the Civil Rights Movement. The Reformed Ramblers of Oxford provided authentic tunes to accompany authentic Southern cuisine.

Many thanks to Past President Kevin Cope for creating such a memorable experience for all of us, particularly our much-beloved Colby.



## MINIATURE HOMAGE TO COLBY KULLMAN — by Kevin L. Cope

It being always a good idea to amp up the ultra-serious Gottfried Leibniz just a bit, let us affirm that 2018 was the greatest of all possible years for SCSECS, that finest of all academic organizations. 2018, after all, was the year in which we mounted our first conference in honor of that most generous of all possible colleagues, Colby H. Kullman, now retired from a professorship at the University of Mississippi.

Known throughout the profession for discovering the joy within scholarship and for taking an erudite approach to joviality, Colby Kullman is the ideal choice for the first honoree of and guiding spirit for an eponymous gathering of fellow scholars. Legendary not only as a teacher but also as a communicator and an advocate for long-eighteenth-century studies, Colby has inspired student after student and peer after peer to prosper in our profession. Time and again, he has helped callow colleagues take assorted giant leaps, whether by giving that first convention paper or deciding to enter graduate school or gathering the nerve to complete a doctoral dissertation or bagging a faculty post. Colby's eye for talent and his readiness to challenge the status quo have transformed him into a benevolent engine of

social and intellectual advancement, not just for the few, not just for the throngs, but, as Jehovah tells Isaac, for as many “as the stars of heaven” (Genesis 26:4).

It is not only in the classroom or on the campus that Colby excels. Scholars everywhere are agog at his capacity to master twin specialties. Expert in modern drama as well as in eighteenth-century studies, Colby has published extensively on the most urgent drama of our own time while also vigorously pursuing his first love, the study of Hogarth, of satire, and of the interplay between rollicking art and ribald texts. All the more admirable is Colby's resolution to maximize the scholarly resources within the SCSECS region, a dedication that has taken him to and earned fellowships from formidable regional reservoirs of learning such as Shreveport's Noel Collection. Indeed, as Colby traveled far and wide, whether judging a drama competition in Alaska or analyzing the London stage, he has served as a de facto ambassador of SCSECS and a bearer of good tidings from the world of Enlightenment scholarship. Members of SCSECS have taken it for granted that, year in and year out, Colby will extend opportunity to scholars working in inadequately appreciated fields by opening a place for them in his legendary long-running SCSECS conference panel,



Approaches to Overlooked Texts, which, owing to the force of Colby's personality and the greatness of his conceptions, has been in continuous operation since the 1984 SCSECS meeting.

A member of SCSECS since its early days and a faithful conference attendee who has attended meetings in any and every southeastern town that will offer a hotel room to a man of virtue, Colby has become the jolly embodiment, the reliable presence, and the cerebrally inviting face of SCSECS.

Modest to the core and yet boldly convex, nay, radiative with regard to wit, friendliness, erudition, and the frolicsome happiness of learning, Colby has put his eternal personal impress on the community-based visage of SCSECS. In his famed song, Jerry Lee Lewis may well advise "Beethoven" to "roll over" and "Sikorski to move," but when Colby Kullman enters the hall of heroes, the busts of the worthies, like our SCSECS conference attendees, will know that all are welcome—and that Colby is the first among welcoming equals.





## UPCOMING EVENTS

44TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE  
SOUTH CENTRAL SOCIETY FOR EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY STUDIES

# The Eighteenth Century in Perspective

DALLAS, TX  
21-23 FEBRUARY 2019

SCSECS invites proposals for papers or panels for the 2019 annual meeting. This year's conference will be held in Dallas, Texas, 21-23 February, at the Magnolia Hotel. Located in the heart of downtown, the Magnolia provides easy access to some of Dallas's most beloved cultural and culinary destinations.

This year's theme is "The Eighteenth Century in Perspective," considered in its broadest sense, although we welcome papers addressing any aspect of the long eighteenth century, and we encourage submissions from all disciplines. In addition to considering how "perspective" functioned in the eighteenth-century imagination—in literature, politics, science, philosophy, and the arts—proposals might also address this theme in light of our disciplinary practices and approaches to the study of eighteenth-century society and culture.

Submit proposals for panels by September 30 to conference co-organizer Ashley Bender at [abenderatwu.edu](mailto:abenderatwu.edu). Deadline for paper submissions is November 30.

L'île, Guillaume de Moëppe-Monde Dressée sur les Observations de M. de l'Académie Royale des sciences et quelques autres et sur les remarques les plus recues," map, 095187 M, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.



## Conference Call for SCSECS 2019 — by SCSECS President Ashley Bender

Join us for the **2019 annual convening of SCSECS in Dallas, Texas, February 21-23**. Events will commence Thursday evening with a welcome reception with food, drinks, and live music. Sessions will run Friday and Saturday, and we'll close with a reception Saturday evening in the beautiful Pegasus Room of the [Magnolia Hotel](#).

This year's theme, "The Eighteenth Century in Perspective," considers the idea of "perspective" in its broadest sense, although we welcome panels and papers addressing any aspect of the long eighteenth century, and we encourage submissions from all disciplines. In addition to considering how "perspective" functioned in the eighteenth-century imagination—in literature, politics, science, philosophy, and the arts—proposals might also address this theme in light of our disciplinary practices and approaches to the study of eighteenth-century society and culture. Send panel proposals to conference co-organizer Ashley Bender ([abender@twu.edu](mailto:abender@twu.edu)) by September 30; submit paper proposals by November 30.

We're excited to announce two excellent plenary speakers for the 2019 conference: **Dr. Jacqueline Chao**, curator of the [Crow Museum of Asian Art](#), and our very own **Dr. Phyllis Thompson**, Director of Women's Studies and Associate Professor of English at East Tennessee State University. Dr. Chao's talk on Friday will feature a discussion of art and artifacts from the Crow's holdings. We will be able to view some of these artifacts in person during a private tour of the collections later that afternoon.

In her talk, Phyllis will unpack our custodial responsibility as scholar-archivists to "bear witness" (Ahmed 2004) to the material and affective conditions of women's lives in the eighteenth century. Using the recipe books, commonplaces, and journals of Sarah, the Duchess of Marlborough, as a concrete point of reference, Phyllis will challenge us to embrace not only the order and organization of archives and archival materials but also the untidy messiness we find there. Suggesting that it is often in the clutter, disarray, scraps and specks that we find testaments to experience, Phyllis demonstrates that by opening our archival practices to include locating absence, valuing disorder, and surfacing affect we change our relationship to the archive in a way that can help us better bear witness to women's lived experiences in the eighteenth century and to an expanded notion of archive and archival practice in the twenty-first.

In conjunction with Phyllis's talk, we will have on display a few eighteenth-century cookbooks from the Texas Woman's University Special Collections in a traveling exhibit curated by graduate students at TWU.

Nestled in the heart of [Downtown Dallas](#), the [Magnolia Hotel](#)—a beautiful beaux-arts building once home to the Magnolia Petroleum Company—provides easy access on foot or by public transportation to many of Dallas's cultural and historic destinations, including [the Dallas Arts District](#), the [Sixth Floor Museum at Dealy Plaza](#), and [Dallas Heritage Village](#). Live music and good food are also a short walk away. The Magnolia's proximity to Akard Station means travelers can use the DART rail, in addition to taxi or shuttle service, to travel to and from either Love Field or DFW Airport. This year's conference rate is \$159/night. Book your

room by January 31, 2019 using the [SCSECS reservation website](#).

**Jacqueline Chao** is Curator of Asian Art at the Crow Museum of Asian Art.



*Jacqueline Chao*  
(Photo by Suzanne Oshinsky)

Recently curated exhibitions include *Invisible Cities: Moving Images Asia*, *Hidden Nature: Sopheap Pich*, and *Landscape Relativities: The Collaborative Works of Arnold Chang and Michael Cherney*. She has curated and

organized many exhibitions at the Crow, as well as at Phoenix Art Museum, ASU Art Museum, ASU Institute for Humanities Research, Chicago Artists Coalition, and the University of Toronto Art Centre, in the areas of ink painting, Tibetan sculpture, Japanese woodblock prints, and contemporary site-specific installation, photography and new media. She has authored and edited several articles, books and catalogs on Chinese art and Buddhist art, and has presented her research at Harvard University, University of Hawaii, University of Washington, and other universities, museums, academic conferences and symposia. She previously taught Asian Art History at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, was Director of Exhibitions and Residencies at Chicago Artists Coalition, and contributed research to the Chinese painting collection at the Art Institute of Chicago. She holds an MA and PhD in Chinese Art History from Arizona State University, and a BA in Art History from the University of Toronto.



☞ Dear SCSECS-Members: Feel free to send your own SCSECS-related news items to treasurer **Kathryn Duncan** ([kathryn.duncan@saintleo.edu](mailto:kathryn.duncan@saintleo.edu)) or to newsletter editor **Bärbel Czennia** ([bczennia@mcneese.edu](mailto:bczennia@mcneese.edu))



*Frieda Koeninger preaching mirth, fun, and conviviality in Oxford, MS*

*See you all in Dallas!*