

ECS Business Meeting Minutes 04 March 2021

Held virtually during SEA biennial conference

Meeting presided over by ECS President C L Smith (Seven in attendance).

News and Updates

- Meeting began with president offering updates about ECS. Updates included:
- Introduction of new leadership
- ECS participation at SEA conference (five sponsored panels)
- ECS and MLA affiliation – Requirement to have ECS-themed panels on MLA program for two years. We are working on an abstract and cfp for the next MLA.
- New website
- Teach-ins – a way to provide teaching resources to website
- Revamped journal – ECS is working with the new journal editor to restart publishing by summer 2022. Elizabeth Bohls volunteered to work with Nick Jones on the journal. Plans include:
 - Reconstitute the editorial board
 - Revise the mission statement for the journal and establish its historical and thematic parameters
 - Establish a timeline for production
 - Feature shorter pieces and non-traditional formats for contributions
 - Establish a list of priorities for the first issue, perhaps a roundtable on the current state of early Caribbean studies with an emphasis on diversity
 - Emphasize interdisciplinarity, the recovery of key texts that foster important insights about the field, link the Caribbean to global oceanic studies and archipelagic studies, forward decolonial and antiracist projects, decenter Anglophone literatures in early Caribbean studies

Brainstorming Ideas from those in attendance:

- Strategic Partnerships and Outreach
 - Idea to work with SEA to host an off-year conference, maybe focused on the Pacific and early Caribbean Studies (possible folks to reach out to: Michelle Burnham and Thomas Krise)
 - Maybe hold such a conference on West Coast at a university or archive like the Huntington (contact Caroline Wigginton, who did something similar).
 - SEA could provide up to \$4000 in support (2000 for keynote and 2000 for travel grants)
- ECS can think more about engaged scholarship and what that might look like.
 - Suggestion to follow up with Elizabeth Maddock Dillon and Nicole Aljoe about their outreach efforts in Jamaica.
- Consider a digital conference in 2021 or 2022 to establish a more visible scholarly presence
- The question arose as to our parameters: are we primarily Anglophone, or will we attempt to reflect the multiracial character of the Caribbean?
 - One suggestion was to invite someone from another Caribbean language tradition, such as French, to introduce an important early Caribbean document in that language.

One suggestion is to ask Sara E. Johnson to introduce Moreau de St. Méry's history of St. Domingue.]

- Another suggestion was for nontraditional formats for the journal.
- How will ECS work to decolonize scholarship?
- As ECS works to provide resources for teaching, consider tagging them to classes under more traditional rubrics, such as "18th-Century Literature."
- There was a call for volunteers to work on updating ECS's social media presence. (Mary Cate Lingould volunteered to help starting in the fall)
- Other ideas for creating community among scholars of early Caribbean studies included Zoom coffee and the possibility of a 2022 digital conference. Regional meetings were also suggested, given the possibility that travel funding may not be restored for many scholars.
 - The Huntington and Clark Libraries in California were suggested as venues for a West Coast meeting.

Action items:

Follow up with MLA about affiliate status

Put Elizabeth in touch with Nick about journal

Reach out to Pacific folks about a possible collaborative conference

Follow up with Mary Cate about social media

Follow up on teach ins and teaching resources for the website

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.