BROWN AND THE BAYOU

POLITICS, WRITING, AND BORDERLANDS

IN THE POSTREVOLUTIONARY CIRCUMATLANTIC WORLD

“New Orleans in 1798 in accordance with an ordinance of the Illustrious Ministry and Royal Charter.”

A Conference Sponsored by the Charles Brockden Brown Society

Chateau LeMoyne Hotel, New Orleans

November 2-4, 2006
FIFTH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF THE CHARLES BROCKDEN BROWN SOCIETY*

BROWN AND THE BAYOU:

POLITICS, WRITING, AND BORDERLANDS IN THE POSTREVOLUTIONARY
CIRCUMATLANTIC WORLD

The conference theme, centered on Louisiana and “Politics, Writing, and Borderlands in the Postrevolutionary Circumatlantic World,” recognizes the significance of “The Louisiana Question” in Brown’s writings, and responds to current scholarly interest, in Brown studies and more generally, in circumatlantic history; the legacies of slavery, colonialism, and expansionism; and early national discourses concerning race, nation, commerce, and empire.

Brown’s 1803 pamphlet “An Address to the Government of the United States, on the Cession of Louisiana to the French,” and indeed many of his other writings offer both precedents and occasions for current scholarly reflection on all these topics. As novelist, periodical editor, political pamphleteer, and historian; as a former law apprentice and partner in a family import-export firm whose fortunes hung on international commerce and the vicissitudes of nation and empire; and as a highly-informed public intellectual interested in the latest knowledges concerning art and literature, science and medicine, politics and history, and law and business, Brown was an informed and energetic participant in the intellectual, cultural, and political flows of the early-modern Atlantic world. Conference presenters will be exploring particular aspects of this world in Brown and his contemporaries, and contributing to ongoing explorations of this crucial context.

The Society first chose New Orleans as a conference site before the post-Hurricane Katrina disaster that began in 2005 and continues even now. Our collective decision to reaffirm these plans reflects not only a desire to extend commercial support, however modest, to a city and region still experiencing devastation on many levels, but also our recognition of the city’s great historical and cultural significance, from the Mississippi estuary’s early strategic importance to the modern city’s contributions as a metropolitan center of national and world importance. Then and now, New Orleans provides hard evidence of the uneven work of racial, political, and economic justice in the United States.

This conference has been planned and organized by:

Philip Barnard (University of Kansas); Sean X. Goudie (Vanderbilt University); Mark L. Kamrath, (University of Central Florida); Bryan Waterman, (New York University)

The officers of the Charles Brockden Brown Society are:

Nancy Ruttenberg (New York University), President; Sean X. Goudie (Vanderbilt University), Vice-President; Fritz Fleischmann (Babson College), Executive Secretary and Treasurer


All sessions take place in the Bienville Room.
PROGRAM

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2

12:00-1:00 Registration

1:00-1:15 Welcome
Nancy Ruttenberg, CBBS President

1:15-2:45 SESSION 1: Edgar Huntly and the Politics of Indian Hating
Chair: Jodi Schorb (University of Florida)
Andrew Newman (State University of New York, Stonybrook): “Walking and Talking in Edgar Huntly”
Alan C. Taylor (Boston University): “Edgar Huntly and the Northwest Territory”
Edward Watts (Michigan State University): “A Spirit Vengeful, Unrelenting, and Ferocious: Edgar Huntly and the Genealogy of Indian Hating”

2:45-3:00 TEA & COFFEE

3:00-4:30 SESSION 2: Politics of Art and Drama
Chair: Fritz Fleischmann (Babson College)
Jeffrey Richards (Old Dominion University): “Brown, Louisiana, and La Veuve du Malabar”
Philip Barnard (University of Kansas): “Against the Greek Revival: Brown’s Anti-Classicism in Context”

4:30-4:45 TEA & COFFEE

4:45-6:30 SESSION 3: Beyond the Atlantic World
Chair: Mark L. Kamrath (University of Central Florida)
Julie Kim (University of Florida): “From the Atlantic to India: Consumption and Imperial Identity in Edgar Huntly”
Michael Cody (East Tennessee State University): “Images of Islam in Brown’s Literary Magazine”
Ed White (University of Florida): “Brown’s Mediterranean”
Respondent: Robert Battistini (Franklin and Marshall College): “‘After all, some tribes should remain inferior to others’: the Ontology of Otherness in the (new) Brown Archive”

6:30-7:30 WINE AND CHEESE RECEPTION
The Bienville Lounge

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3

8:00-9:00 CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

9:00-10:30 SESSION 4: Fearing Francis Carwin
Chair: Nancy Ruttenberg (New York University)

Anthony Galluzzo (University of California, Los Angeles): “‘Revolutions and Battles’ from Afar and on the Doorstep: Carwin’s Terrorist Aesthetic”

Cocoa Williams (Clemson University): “Religion, Education, Isolation, or Family Curse: Why Carwin is Not Guilty”


10:30-10:45 TEA & COFFEE

10:45-12:15 SESSION 5: Social (Dis)Order, Class, and Power
Chair: Bryan Waterman (New York University)

Michael J. Davey (Valdosta State University): “Ormond: Fear and Loathing among the Middling”

Sarah Blythe (University of Kansas): “‘Why comest thou so late?’: Pronouns and Power in Brown’s Fiction”

Elisabeth Hewitt (Ohio State University): “Germs and Specie: Transmission and Exchange in Brown’s America”

12:15-2:00 LUNCH BREAK

2:00-3:30 SESSION 6: Brown’s Other Careers: 19th-Century Novels, Magazines, and Knowledge
Chair: Michael Cody (East Tennessee State University)

Jennifer Desiderio (Canisius College): “Erasing the Edgar Huntly–Clara Howard Divide in Brown Studies”
Scott Sławinski (Western Michigan University): “Crossing the Border from Reality into Fiction: The Manhattan Well Murder as Source Material for Brown’s ‘The Trials of Arden’”

Scott Ellis (Southern Connecticut State University): “‘The Ravages of the Critical Scalping Knife’: John Davis and the American Review”


3:30-4:15 CBB SOCIETY BUSINESS MEETING + TEA & COFFEE

4:30-6:00 SESSION 7: KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Introduction: Nancy Ruttenberg, CBBS President

Chris Looby (University of California, Los Angeles): "Stephen Calvert, a Thing of Mere Sex"

6:00-7:30 RECEPTION AND BUFFET
Dauphine Room

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4

8:00-9:00 CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

9:00-10:30 SESSION 8: Inside Arthur Mervyn

Chair: Janie Hinds (State University of New York, Brockport)

Ann Beebe (University of Texas, Tyler): “‘To Counterfeit is DEATH’: The Counterfeiter in Arthur Mervyn and Ormond”

Duncan Faherty (Queens College): “‘Fugitives from Home’: Arthur Mervyn’s Disruptions of Domestic Order”

David Zimmerman (University of Wisconsin, Madison): “Infectious Designs: The Case of Arthur Mervyn”

Ed Cahill (Fordham University): “Arthur Mervyn’s Interiors”

10:30-10:45: TEA & COFFEE

10:45—12:15 SESSION 9: Louisiana and Empire

Chair: Michael Drexler (Bucknell University)

Michael Beauchamp (Texas A&M University): “Ethnicity and the Politics of Citizenship in Early National Louisiana Parishes, 1803-1820”
Lisa West (Drake University): “Imagining the Mississippi as the Center of Empire: St. Louis, New Orleans, and Old and New Civilizations”

Andrew Doolen (University of Kentucky): “How to Write the Second American Revolution: Republicanism and Imperialism in Brown and Tyler”

Jared Gardner (Ohio State University): “Brown’s Louisiana”

12:15-2:00  LUNCH BREAK

2:00-3:15  SESSION 10: CBB Scholarly Edition Roundtable
Mark L. Kamrath, General Editor (University of Central Florida)
Philip Barnard, Textual Editor (University of Kansas)
John Holmes, Letters (Franciscan University)
Bryan Waterman, The Monthly Magazine (New York University)
Ed White, Historical Sketches (University of Florida)
Michael Cody, The Literary Magazine (East Tennessee State University)
Jared Gardner, The American Register (Ohio State University)

3:30-6:00  Opportunity for French Quarter walking tours

6:00-8:30  Conference Dinner at the Rex Room On Bourbon (200 Bourbon Street)
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In Memoriam, Alfred Weber (1925-2006)

“Ship ALFRED of Salem Leaving Marseilles”
Nicolas Cammillieri, 1806

Alfred Weber died March 23, 2006. He was 81 years old.

Alfred was the founding editor of the Charles Brockden Brown Electronic Archive and Scholarly Edition (now headquartered at the University of Central Florida), and a founding member of the Charles Brockden Brown Society. His patience, kindness, and interest in the work of other scholars made him an ideal mentor and friend. It was his dream to see the uncollected work of Charles Brockden Brown identified and published in a manner worthy of Brown’s importance in studies of the Early Republic.

By the time he initiated the CBB editorial project, Alfred was already retired from his position as Professor and Chair of the Department of American Studies at the University of Tübingen, Germany, which he had held from 1968 to 1990.