

# Weird America: Circum-Atlantic Cultures, 1790-1830



"Nightmare"

Frontispiece to first issue (October, 1803) of Brown's *Literary Magazine and American Register*. John Boyd, engraver, after the painting by Henry Fuseli

A Conference Sponsored by the Charles Brockden Brown Society  
Huntington Library, San Marino, California  
Thursday-Saturday October 21-23, 2010

# **Seventh Biennial Conference of the Charles Brockden Brown Society\***

## **Weird America: Circum-Atlantic Cultures, 1790-1830**

The Charles Brockden Brown Society: [www.brockdenbrownsociety.ucf.edu](http://www.brockdenbrownsociety.ucf.edu)

The conference theme emphasizes current interest in the “weird” as a category that registers shocks to and departures from the systemic logic of early modernity. The revolutionary Atlantic is full of weird, aberrant, or emergent cultural artifacts and performances, many of which do not fit into exceptionalist (nationalist) literary and cultural narratives or canons. What is weird in the revolutionary age? Does it resist canonization? Is “difference” something other than declension? Charles Brockden Brown is of course often associated with gothic modalities and critical perspectives on the period’s dominant, but this seventh Society meeting will encourage attention to a broad range of texts and practices beyond those associated with Brown and his writings alone.

Our conference at the Huntington Library in San Marino, California, marks the Society’s first meeting on the West coast, and takes advantage of the Huntington’s exceptional collections of eighteenth-century rare books, manuscripts, and art.

The conference program has been planned and organized by: Philip Barnard (University of Kansas); Michelle Burnham (Santa Clara University); Duncan Faherty (Queens University); Stephen Shapiro (University of Warwick).

Officers of the Charles Brockden Brown Society: Philip Barnard (University of Kansas), President; Bryan Waterman (New York University), Vice-President; Fritz Fleischmann (Babson College), Executive Secretary and Treasurer.

Board Members of the Society: Andy Doolen (University of Kentucky); Michelle Burnham (Santa Clara University); Duncan Faherty (Queens College); Ed White (University of Florida); Abigail Smith (Graduate Student Board Member, Aberdeen University).

For exceptional support in organizing the conference and help with local arrangements, the Brown Society thanks Christopher Looby (UCLA). For additional financial support, the Society also warmly acknowledges the UCLA Department of English (with appreciation to its Chair, Ali Behdad), and is grateful for the particularly generous support of the UCLA Division of Humanities (with special thanks to Dean Timothy Stowell). We are grateful to Christian Reed (UCLA) for additional assistance with advance planning.

For their donation of meeting premises and support of this conference, the Society thanks Robert C. Ritchie, W. M. Keck Foundation Director of Research; Carolyn Powell, Assistant to the Director of Research; Susi Krasnoo, Administrative Assistant; Evie Cutting, Special Events Manager; Tiffani Walker, Special Events Department; and Portia Goltz, Catering Director.

\* Previous meetings in Philadelphia (1998), Las Vegas (2000), Groningen (2002), New York (2004), New Orleans (2006), and Dresden (2008).

## Suggestions for Arrival, Hotel transport, and Huntington Shuttles

**Conference Hotel:** Marriot Courtyard Los Angeles Pasadena/Old Town, 180 North Fair Oaks Avenue, Pasadena, California 91103 USA. Telephone 626-403-7600.

**Conference Venue:** The Huntington Library, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA 91108-1218. Telephone 626-405-2100.

**Pasadena Visitor's Site:** Useful information on Pasadena restaurants, museums, and other local amenities is available at <http://www.visitpasadena.com/>

### Arrival at Regional Airports:

The nearest airport to the hotel and conference site is the Burbank/Bob Hope airport (BUR), but the MOST CONVENIENT airport is Los Angeles International airport (LAX), because there is inexpensive and reliable public transportation between LAX and the Courtyard Los Angeles Pasadena/Old Town. This trip involves two simple steps: (1) Take the Flyaway Bus from LAX to Union Station in downtown Los Angeles, then (2) take the Metro Gold Line (subway) to the Memorial Park Station in Pasadena.

(1) The Flyaway bus stops outside each terminal, on the baggage claim level, roughly at twenty-minute intervals. Be sure to get the Flyaway bus labeled "Union Station" and not another one of the Flyaway buses. The fare is \$7.00, which is collected after you get off the bus at Union Station, at a nearby kiosk. Once you have paid, the bus driver will give you your luggage.

[http://www.lawa.org/welcome\\_LAX.aspx?id=292](http://www.lawa.org/welcome_LAX.aspx?id=292)

(2) Just downstairs from the plaza where the Flyaway bus lets you off, you catch the Metro Gold Line to Pasadena. There are self-service ticket vending machines at hand, and the fare is \$1.50. The Metro operates more or less on an honor system: you buy your ticket and walk through the open gate; usually no one collects the ticket, either at the gate or on the train.

<http://www.metro.net/around/rail/gold-line/>

When you exit the Memorial Park Station in Pasadena, the hotel is just a couple of blocks away. Walk west on E. Holly Street about a block and a half; then turn right on N. Fair Oaks Avenue; walk another half block, and the Marriot Courtyard Los Angeles Pasadena/Old Town entrance is on your right, at 180 N. Fair Oaks Ave.

There are, of course, taxis and shuttle buses that operate at both airports. Super Shuttle from BUR will run about \$22, from LAX \$31. Taxis will be metered, and will run \$20-25 from BUR, \$75-80 from LAX.

**Audio-Visual Equipment:**

The meeting room is equipped with a ceiling mounted LCD projector and a screen, for anyone who wishes to use PowerPoint or project images. The Huntington does not have technical support, however. Presenters will need to provide their own laptops and, if using a MAC, he/she will need to bring an adapter cord for the projector hookup.

**Huntington Collections:**

The Huntington has provided us with stickers that allow conference participants to visit the gardens and museum. Please display the stickers provided with your nametag for this purpose.

Those wishing to make use of the Huntington's research library during their visit will need to apply for reader's privileges, and schedule an appointment with the Reader Services Department well in advance (registration is by appointment only).

<http://www.huntington.org/huntingtonlibrary.aspx?id=584&linkidentifier=id&itemid=584>

**Daily Conference Shuttles between the Marriott and the Huntington:**

The Huntington is 4.2 miles from our conference hotel and transportation will be necessary to reach it each morning before conference sessions begin. The trip takes roughly fifteen minutes by car in each direction.

The conference has arranged for morning and evening shuttles between the Marriott and the Huntington. Note that a breakfast buffet will be available at the Huntington beginning at 9am on Thursday, and 8am on Friday and Saturday.

**Morning Shuttles:** please be ready to catch the shuttle beginning about 90 minutes before the first conference session each day. Because our service will be limited, it is best to take the earliest available shuttle. Conversely, it will not be advisable to count on waiting until the last shuttle. The first shuttles will leave at these times:

Thursday: 8:45am  
Friday: 7:45am  
Saturday: 7:45am

**Evening Shuttles:** Again, because shuttle service will be limited, please take the first available shuttle after the end of the day's scheduled Huntington activities. Shuttles will begin leaving the Huntington at these times:

Thursday: 7:30pm  
Friday: 6:05pm  
Saturday: 3:20pm

## Program

All sessions take place in FRIENDS' HALL

Thursday, October 21

9:00-10:15am Registration and Breakfast Buffet

(Conference catering services are generously cosponsored by *Studies in American Fiction* & the CUNY Graduate Center)

10:15-10:30

Welcomes:

Philip Barnard, CBBS President (University of Kansas)

Robert C. Ritchie, W.M. Keck Foundation Director of Research,  
Huntington Library and Art Gallery

10:30-12:00

Session 1: **Liberties and Seductions: Consent and Coercion**

Chair: Stephen Shapiro (Warwick University)

- a) William J. Ryan (Rutgers University): “ ‘Soldier’ as Commodity in *The History of Constantius and Pulchra* (1793)”
- b) Laura Kuske von Wallmenich (Alma College): “Clarissa and Lovelace in America: Brown’s *Ormond* and the Disruption of Richardsonian Virtue”
- c) Matthew Duquès (Vanderbilt University): “Those Who Can Can’t: Gender and School-Culture in *Edgar Huntly*”
- d) Melissa Antonucci (University of Tulsa): “ ‘Am I Not a Lover of Liberty?’: Revolution and Female Transvestism in Lewis’ *The Monk* and Brown’s *Ormond*”

12:00-1:15

LUNCH BREAK (Garden Terrace)

1:15-2:45

Session 2: **Genre and Voice: Authorship and Alterity**

Chair: Mark Kamrath (University of Central Florida)

- a) Matthias Koehler (Universität Mainz): “Brown’s Periodical Writing: Weird Conceptions of Authorship and New Concepts of Editing”
- b) Russ Castronovo (University of Wisconsin, Madison): “Poetry, Prose, and the Form of Politics”
- c) Michael G. Ditmore (Pepperdine University): “The Grammar of Gothic Victimhood: Clara’s Passive Vocality in *Wieland*”
- d) Oliver Scheiding (Universität Mainz): “Literary Cannibalism and Early America: Brown’s Editorial Weirdness”

2:45-3:00 TEA & COFFEE (Friends' Hall)

3:00-4:30 Session 3: **Roundtable on Rush and Weird Medicine**  
Chair: Bryan Waterman (New York University)

- a) Erin Forbes (University of Wyoming): "Ghosts of Vice and Virtue in the Revolutionary Atlantic"
- b) Michael Weisenburg (University of South Carolina): "Ideology and Education: or, Anarchia & the Republican Machine"
- c) Ty Robert Alyea (University of Texas, Austin): "Charles Brockden Brown's Diagnosis of a Gothic America"
- d) Sari Altschuler (CUNY Graduate Center): "'The Art of Man Has Certain Limits': Rebecca Rush's (Re)Vision of Early American Health"
- e) Nicholas E. Miller (Washington University): "'Species of Delirium': Lycanthropy and the Fantasy of Human Exceptionalism in *Edgar Huntly*"
- f) Janie Hinds (SUNY-Brockport): "Doctor Rush: Madness, Medicine, and the Body (Politic)"

4:30-4:50 TEA & COFFEE (Friends' Hall)

4:50-6:30 Session 4: **Visual Cultures: Horror and Republican Optics**  
Chair: Shirley Samuels (Cornell University)

- a) Catherine Holochwost (University of Delaware): "Visual Strangeness in Poetic Landscapes by Thomas Doughty and Charles Codman"
- b) Sarah Blythe (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill): "Charles Brockden Brown's Architectural Imagination"
- c) Samuel Otter (University of California, Berkeley): "Edward W. Clay's Curious Jokes: The Unexpected 'Life in Philadelphia'"

6:30-7:30 RECEPTION and BUFFET (Garden Terrace)

### **Friday, October 22**

8:00-9:00 Breakfast Buffet

9:00-10:30                      **Session 5: Strangeness and The Production of Space**  
Chair: Philip Barnard (University of Kansas)

- a) Michael Cohen (Louisiana State University): “Something New, or, the Tales and Travels of that Truly Eccentric Character, Lord Timothy Dexter”
- b) John Easterbrook (New York University): “Letter Writing and Weird Time & Space in *The Hapless Orphan* (1793)”
- c) Anthony Galluzzo (United States Military Academy, West Point): “From Revolutionary Enthusiasm to Radical Melancholia: Hugh Henry Brackenridge, Frances Burney, and the Transformation of the Picaresque after the Revolution”
- d) Susan Oliver (University of Salford): “Fear and loathing on the Atlantic seaboard: Brown and the mobile geographies of infection”

10:30-10:50                      TEA & COFFEE (Friends’ Hall)

10:50-12:15:                      **Session 6: Roundtable on Caribbean & Other Regionalisms**  
Chair: Michelle Burnham (Santa Clara University)

- a) Peter P. Reed (University of Mississippi): “Staging Saint-Domingue: Racial Revolution and American Culture”
- b) Gretchen Woertendyke (University of South Carolina): “Charles Brockden Brown and Distant Reading”
- c) Dustin Kennedy (The Pennsylvania State University): “Weird Nationalism: Charles Brockden Brown’s Hidden Tale of the U.S. Revolution”
- d) Ryan Tripp (University of California, Davis): “True Friends & True Indians: Racial Dreamscapes and the Fall of the New England Sachemships”
- e) Michael Demson (Sam Houston State University): “The Weird Role of Cornfields in the Writings of Charles Brockden Brown”

12:15-2:00                      LUNCH BREAK (Garden Terrace)

1:00-1:30                      TOUR OF THE HUNTINGTON

2:00-3:30                      **Session 7: Domesticities: Extrusions of the Home Front**  
Chair: Mark Eaton (Azusa Pacific University)

- a) Jillmarie Murphy (Union College): “‘Was she not a mangled corpse?’: Charles Brockden Brown and the Female Cadaver”
- b) Frances Tran (CUNY Graduate Center): “Circum-Atlantic Capitalism, Correspondence, and the Question of Cultural Cohesion”

- c) Brittany Adams (University of California, Los Angeles): “The Religious Life of Judith Sargent Murray”
- d) Talia Argondezzi (CUNY Graduate Center): “Transnational Biopolitics and the Divided Self in Sansay’s *Secret History*”

3:30-4:15                    **CBBS Business Meeting** / TEA & COFFEE (Friends’ Hall)  
 Chairs: Fritz Fleischmann and Philip Barnard

1. Officers and Advisory Board for 2010-12 cycle
2. Location for 2012 Meeting
3. Further agenda items TBA.

4:30-6:00                    Session 8: **Crime, Deviance, Discipline**  
 Chair: Christopher Looby (University of California, Los Angeles)

- a) Thomas Daniel Knight (University of Texas, Pan American): “Deviant Behavior in the Early American South: A Case Study, 1770-1850”
- b) Diana Epelbaum (CUNY Graduate Center): “Contamination, Immunity, Purification: Regulation through Marginalization in Brown’s *Ormond*”
- c) Eric Aldrich (Arizona State University): “‘Thy children must be offered – they must perish with their mother’: Religion, Hegemony, and Familicide”

**Saturday, October 23**

8:00-9:00                    Breakfast Buffet

9:00-10:30                    Session 9: **Tutelage and Transformations of Power**  
 Chair: Fritz Fleischmann (Babson College)

- a) Leonard von Morze (University of Massachusetts, Boston): “Perverse Sympathy: Critiques of Exchange in *Arthur Mervyn* and Related Texts”
- b) Tom Koenigs (Yale University): “Brown’s Weird Didacticism: *Wieland*’s Instructional Fictionality”
- c) Siân Silyn Roberts (Queens College, CUNY): “Fragile Feeling: Brown’s Sentimentalization of the Gothic in *Jane Talbot*”
- d) Edward Cahill (Fordham University): “The Force of Imagination: Science, Pleasure, and Narrative in Late Eighteenth-Century America”

10:30-10:45:                    TEA & COFFEE (Friends’ Hall)



10:45-12:15:                Session 10: **Empire, History, Nationalisms**  
Chair: Andy Doolen (University of Kentucky)

- a) Toni Wall Jaudon (Ithaca College): “Literary Obeah’s Secular Sensations: Rethinking Religion at the Transnational Turn”
- b) Nick Grant-Collins (CUNY Graduate Center): “Algerian Slavery and the Dangers of Recognition: Enclosing ‘Liberty’ and Valuing Freedom in *Slaves of Algiers* and *Humanity in Algiers*”
- c) Ed White (University of Florida): “Brown Reading Brackenridge”
- d) Robert S. Levine (University of Maryland): “Weird Louisiana: Charles Brockden Brown and Edward Everett Hale”

12:15-2:00                LUNCH BREAK (Garden Terrace)

2:00-3:15                Session 11: **Roundtable on Weird Literary History**  
Chair: Duncan Faherty (City University of New York)

- a) Thomas Scanlan (Ohio University): “Weird Happiness: The Curious Story of a Venetian Senator and Other Tales”
- b) Robert Battistini (Florida State University): “What to the Black Elite is the Fourth of July?: Before, Beyond, or Bored by Abolition in ‘Black Whig,’ ‘Aethiopian,” and Lemuel Haynes”
- c) Christian Reed (University of California, Los Angeles): “Ugly Associations: Abjection and Affiliation in the Early Republic”
- d) Brenna Shae O’Rourke (Temple University): “Capitalizing on Disease: Madness, Merchants, and Stephen and Mary Lum Girard”
- e) David Karosick (Southern Illinois University, Carbondale): “A Book of Revelation, according to John Neal: Witchcraft, Prophecy, and Cultural Consciousness in 19th-Century New England”

5:00-7:30                **CONFERENCE DINNER** at Café Bizou:  
91 N. Raymond Ave.  
Pasadena CA 91103  
(626) 792-9923

Café Bizou is close to the conference hotel, at the SW corner of the intersection of North Raymond Avenue and East Holly Street. East Holly is the street immediately to the south of the Courtyard Marriott, and N. Raymond is one block east.

## Conference Participants

Adams, Brittany	britt132@gmail.com
Aldrich, Eric	ealdrich@asu.edu
Altschuler, Sari	SAltschuler@gc.cuny.edu
Alyea, Ty Robert	tynado@mail.utexas.edu
Antonucci, Melissa	melissa-antonucci@utulsa.edu
Argondezzi, Talia	talia.argondezzi@gmail.com
Barnard, Philip	philipb@ku.edu
Battistini, Robert	rbattistini@fsu.edu
Blythe, Sarah	sblythe@email.unc.edu
Burnham, Michelle	MBurnham@scu.edu
Cahill, Edward	ecc137@earthlink.net
Callander, Julia K.	jcallander@ucla.edu
Castronovo, Russ	rcastronovo@wisc.edu
Cohen, Michael	mcohen@lsu.edu
Demson, Michael	mtd007@shsu.edu
Ditmore, Michael G.	michael.ditmore@pepperdine.edu
Doolen, Andy	andy.doolen@uky.edu
Duquès, Matthew	matthew.e.duques@Vanderbilt.edu
Easterbrook, John	john.easterbrook@gmail.com
Eaton, Mark	meaton@apu.edu
Epelbaum, Diana	d_epelbaum@yahoo.com
Faherty, Duncan	duncan.faherty@qc.cuny.edu
Fleischmann, Fritz	fleischmann@babson.edu
Forbes, Erin	eforbes@uwyo.edu
Galluzzo, Anthony	agalluzz@gmail.com
Grant-Collins, Nick	nickgrantcollins@hotmail.com
Hinds, Janie	jhinds@brockport.edu
Holochwost, Catherine	catherin@udel.edu
Jaudon, Toni Wall	toni.wall.jaudon@gmail.com
Kamrath, Mark	mkamrath@mail.ucf.edu
Karosick, David	dkarosick@siu.edu
Kennedy, Dustin	dmk336@psu.edu
Knight, Thomas Daniel	knighttd@utpa.edu
Koehler, Matthias	koehler@uni-mainz.de
Koenigs, Tom	thomas.koenigs@yale.edu
Levine, Robert S.	rslevineumd@gmail.com
Looby, Christopher	clooby@humnet.ucla.edu
Miller, Nicholas E.	n.e.miller@go.wustl.edu
Morze, Leonard von	Leonard.vonMorze@umb.edu
Murphy, Jillmarie	murphyj@union.edu
Oliver, Susan	susanoliver@mac.com
O'Rourke, Brenna Shae	tua88435@temple.edu
Otter, Samuel	sotter@berkeley.edu

Reed, Christian	crreed@ucla.edu
Reed, Peter P.	peter.p.reed@gmail.com
Richter, Daniel	drichter@history.upenn.edu
Roberts, Siân Silyn	sian.silynroberts@qc.cuny.edu
Ryan, William J.	williamjohnryan@gmail.com
Samuels, Shirley	shirley.samuels@cornell.edu
Scanlan, Thomas	scanlant@ohio.edu
Scheidung, Oliver	scheidung@uni-mainz.de
Shapiro, Stephen	s.shapiro@warwick.ac.uk
Tran, Frances	ftran100@gmail.com
Tripp, Ryan	rwtripp@ucdavis.edu
Wallmenich, Laura Kuske von	vonwallmenich@alma.edu
Waterman, Bryan	bryan.waterman@nyu.edu
Weisenburg, Michael	WEISENBU@mailbox.sc.edu
White, Ed	edw@ufl.edu
Woertendyke, Gretchen	woertend@mailbox.sc.edu
Wolfe, Eric A.	eric.wolfe@und.edu