

Revising Revising Revising Charles Brockden Brown

THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

October 23-24, 1998

Conference Program

The conference will be held at the University of Pennsylvania. All sessions, with the exception of Session 4, will be held in Alumni Hall, the Faculty Club, 200 S. 36th Street (near the corner of 36th and Walnut Streets). Session 4 will be held on the 6th floor of Van Pelt Library.

Friday, October 23

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: 9:30 a.m.

Wendy Steiner, Chair, Dept. of English, Univ. of Pennsylvania, Opening Remarks
Christopher Looby, Organizing Committee, Announcements

SESSION 1: 9:45 - 11:05 a.m.

Gender, Sexuality, Domesticity: Contesting the Normal
Chair: Christopher Looby, Univ. of Pennsylvania

- Stephen Shapiro, Harvard University, "Man to Man I Needed Not to Dread His Encounter": Edgar Huntly's End of Erotic Pessimism"
- Caleb Crain, Columbia Univ., "What a Woman Am I": Brown's Love for William Wood Wilkins"
- Philip Barnard, Univ. of Kansas, "Coercive Domesticity in Charles Brockden Brown"

SESSION 2: 11:15 - 12:35 p.m.

Euro-American Revolutionary Politics

Chair: Trish Loughran, McNeil Center for Early American Studies and Univ. of Chicago

- Wil Verhoeven, Univ. of Groningen, "Rebel Without a Cause: Charles Brockden Brown and the Jacobin Legacy in America, 1790-1810"
- Dietmar Schloss, Univ. Heidelberg, "Republicanism and Godwinism in Charles Brockden Brown"
- Eric Slaughter, Stanford Univ., "The Blessings of a Weak Constitution: Charles Brockden Brown and the Revolution of 1800"

LUNCH: 12:45 - 1:35 p.m.

SESSION 3: 1:45 - 3:30 p.m.

Race, Nation and Culture in the Work of Charles Brockden Brown
Chair: Michelle Burnham, Santa Clara University

- Julia Stern, Northwestern Univ., "Black, Red, Female, and Queer: Appropriations of Otherness in the Work of Charles Brockden Brown"
- Robert Levine, Univ. of Maryland, College Park, "Race and Nation in Brown's Louisiana Writings of 1803"
- Michael Clark, Univ. of California, Irvine, "The Role of Race and Class in the Formation of National Identity in Edgar Huntly"

SESSION 4: 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

MCEAS Seminar

Chair: Richard Dunn, Director, McNeil Center for Early American Studies

- Sydney J. Krause, Kent State Univ., "Brockden Brown's Feminism in Fact and Fiction"
Professor Krause's paper is currently on-line.
- The McNeil Center for Early American Studies has a regular Friday afternoon seminar, which will form part of the RCBB Conference.
- A reception, co-sponsored by MCEAS and the Library Company of Philadelphia, will immediately follow this session.

Saturday, October 24

SESSION 5: 10:00 -11:50 a.m.

Historical Inscriptions: Brockden Brown as/and the Subject of History

Chair: Dennis Moore, Florida State University

- Peter Kafer, McNeil Center for Early American Studies, "The Browns; or, The Transformation: A Pennsylvania Quaker Tale"
- Nicholas Rombes, Univ. of Detroit Mercy, "Mutilated Interpretations: The Dialogic Poetics of Brown's Late Historical Writings"
- Lynn Wardley, Visiting Scholar, Institute for Research on Women and Gender, Stanford University, "Tabula Inscripta: Brockden Brown and Enlightenment Evolution"
- Frederick Kaufman, CUNY, "The Clinical World of Charles Brockden Brown"

LUNCH: 12:00-12:50 p.m.

SESSION 6: 1:00-2:20 p.m.

Not the Novels: Brown's Literary Criticism and Short Fiction

Chair: James N. Green, Library Company of Philadelphia

- Wolfgang Schafer, Univ. Tübingen, "Charles Brockden Brown as a Literary Critic and Theorist"
- Alfred Weber, Univ. Tübingen, "Charles Brockden Brown as a Writer of Short Fiction"
- Paul Downes, Univ. of Toronto, "Reading the Secrets of 'A Lesson on Concealment'"

SESSION 7: 2:30-3:50 p.m.

Operations of the Mind: Style, Aesthetics, Narration

Chair: Steve Hamelman, Coastal Carolina Univ.

- John R. Holmes, Franciscan Univ., "Charles Brockden Brown's 'Streem of Fancy': Experiments in

Style

- Edward Cahill, Rutgers Univ., "Aesthetic Judgment and the Republican Novel: The Memoirs of Steven Calvert"
- Dana Luciano, Cornell Univ., "Self-Absorption, Seduction and Compulsory Narration in Charles Brockden Brown's Gothic Tales"

SESSION 8: 4:00-5:20 p.m.

New Historical-Political Contexts for Reading Charles Brockden Brown
Chair: Elizabeth Jane Wall Hinds, University of Northern Colorado

- Mark Kamrath, Univ. of Central Florida, "'An Address to the Farmers of Pennsylvania' and the Embargo: C. B. Brown's Principle of 'mutual dependence'"
- Jennifer Jordan Baker, Univ. of Pennsylvania, "The Binding 'Interests' of Readers: The Debt of Curiosity in Arthur Mervyn"
- Martin Brückner, Univ. of South Carolina, "Literacy, Geography, and Domestic Politics in the Writings of Charles Brockden Brown"

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This page was created on August 18, 1998

Fritz Fleischmann—Wolfgang Schäfer—Dietmar Schloss—Alfred Weber

To the participants of the
REVISING CHARLES BROCKDEN BROWN
 Conference in Philadelphia, October 23-24, 1998

We are presently discussing a plan to prepare a critical CD-ROM edition of

THE UNCOLLECTED WRITINGS OF CHARLES BROCKDEN BROWN.

This is to supplement the critical edition of the Novels and Related Works of Charles Brockden Brown, published in 1977-1987 by Kent State University Press under the general editorship of Sydney J. Krause and S.W. Reid. It will contain only those of Brown's writings (printed or in manuscript) not included in the Bicentennial Edition.

Our projected edition aims to explore the wider dimensions of Brown's oeuvre beyond his novels, to establish a critical bibliography, and to publish a complete collection of his many contributions to periodicals, his pamphlets, as well as other writings. This will lead to a revaluation of this multi-talented and innovative author, not only as an early American novelist, but also as an exceptional man of letters in the history of the early American republic. A critical edition based on S.W. Reid's editorial principles as laid down in his preface to the Bicentennial Edition, this work will provide an unmodernized critical text of Brown's writings, a list of emendations, textual notes and variants, and an index of names and key terms.

It will be a provisional edition in so far as Brown's many contributions to his own and other magazines, in most cases published anonymously or under pseudonyms, have to be detected by a scrupulous study of all available sources and pieces of evidence. This requires an annotated bibliography in which all attributions to be found in the literature on Brown are listed and critically discussed, updated continuously by new findings as they come in.

An edition in CD-ROM format does not preclude a publication in book form later on. A CD-ROM version is much cheaper to produce, and it can be used easily and effectively in a public library or at one's own PC. Individual contributions can be incorporated, with cross-references, and key words can be hyperlinked. We are also considering a Website, where we could post the latest news and research on the texts, provide online access to portions of the texts themselves before the CD-ROM is produced, and through which the CD-ROM could eventually be ordered. An updated CD-ROM incorporating agreed-upon changes could be produced at a later time, or even periodically.

Creating an easily accessible critical edition of Brown's uncollected works would be an important step towards the making of a new Brown canon. We hope that it will come to fruition through the cooperative efforts of a group of American and international scholars.

The idea of publishing Brown's uncollected works grew out of a special research project at the University of Tübingen on 18th century American literature and Charles Brockden Brown, in the early sixties; it led, among other things, to two critical editions of Brown's writings:

Somnambulism, and Other Stories, ed., with an Introduction and Critical Notes, by Alfred Weber. Frankfurt: Peter Lang, 1987.

&

Literary Essays and Reviews, ed., with an Introduction and an Annotated Bibliography, by Alfred Weber and Wolfgang Schäfer, in collaboration with John R. Holmes. Frankfurt: Peter Lang, 1992.

These were small editions, which are now out of print. A limited number of copies is available at this conference at a nominal price of \$ 5.00 each. (Please see Alfred Weber.)

We would like to invite all C.B. Brown experts to contribute to the projected critical edition of *THE UNCOLLECTED WRITINGS OF C. B. BROWN*. They can do this

- by taking over the editorship, or joining the editor(s), of one part of the edition or of one work or set of works by C.B. Brown; or
- by critically discussing any attribution to Brown and by correcting any mistake in the two volumes already published, *Somnambulism* and *Literary Essays and Reviews*; or
- by short statements or essays discussing attributions to Brown in publications by other scholars (e.g. Bennett, Berthoff, Clark, Hemenway, Kennedy, Krause, Warfel, Watts); or
- by discovering and identifying any unknown writings by Brown in magazines and books or in manuscript.

Individual contributions will be included and acknowledged in the critical notes to the various parts of the edition.

If you are interested in contributing to this edition in some form, please contact us during this conference, or write to one of the contacts below:

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We will initiate discussions with American publishers, but we are also exploring self-publication through a Website sponsored by an American university or scholarly organization. We invite your suggestions and critical feedback at this conference.

Draft of

THE UNCOLLECTED WRITINGS OF CHARLES BROCKDEN BROWN
in 8 parts,
with Introductions and
Bibliographical, Critical, and Historical Notes,

1 **SHORT FICTION**

This part of the edition will be based on C.B. Brown, *Somnambulism, and Other Stories*, edited by Alfred Weber (1987), now out of print. To be extended, corrected and revised.

2 **LITERARY ESSAYS AND REVIEWS**

This part, which may be subdivided into "Literary Essays" and "Reviews," should be based on C. B. Brown, *Literary Essays and Reviews*, edited by Alfred Weber and Wolfgang Schäfer, in collaboration with John R. Holmes (1987), now out of print. To be extended, corrected, and revised.

3 **ESSAYS ON SOCIAL, MORAL, AND POLITICAL SUBJECTS** (in progress, to be edited by Wolfgang Schäfer and Alfred Weber) — such as

On the Scheme of an American Language
On a Scheme for Describing American Manners
Thoughts on the Origin of the Claims of Europeans to North-America
The Point of Honour in America
Dialogue on Music as A Female Accomplishment
Dialogue on Painting as a Female Accomplishment
Thoughts on Religion as a Branch of Female Education
Sketch of the Origin and Present State of Philadelphia
Is a Free or Despotic Government Most Friendly to Human Happiness?
Why the Arts are Discouraged in America

4 **ESSAY SERIALS** — such as

The Rhapsodist
The Man at Home
The Speculatist
A Student's Diary
The Scribbler

5 **POLITICAL PAMPHLETS** — such as

An Address to the Government to the United States (1803)
Monroe's Embassy (1803)
The British Treaty (1806)
An Address to the Congress of the United States (1809)

- 6 **FRAGMENTS** — such as
 Henrietta Letters
 Ellendale Letters
 Henry Wallace
 The Story of Julius
 Adini
 Jessica
 [Historical Sketches] of the Carrils and Ormes & of a History of Carsoll ...
 Specimens of Agricultural and Political Improvement
- 7 **MISCELLANEOUS WRITINGS** — such as
 Address to the Belles Lettres Club
 A System of General Geography
 [A translation of, and annotations to] C.F. Volney,
 A View of the Soil and Climate of the United States
 [C.B.Brown's Poetry]
- 8 **THE LETTERS**
 A critical edition of the letters of Charles Brockden Brown by John R. Holmes and
 Edwin Saeger, with an Introduction and Notes, is in progress and about to be finished.
 If it cannot be published separately in the near future, it may become part of the CD-
 ROM edition.

We propose that the edition be accompanied and introduced by a collection of essays in book form, *The Unexplored Dimensions of Charles Brockden Brown* (working title), to be edited by Fritz Fleischmann and Alfred Weber and to be packaged with the CD-ROM. Referring primarily to the texts in the CD-ROM edition, the book will concentrate on Brown as an author of short stories, essayist, literary critic and theorist, letter writer, political pamphleteer, historian, and student of geography.