

Material Culture in Early Modern Britain and America (Huntington Library, May 2004)

Kim Foley

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Apprehending the Material World in Early Modern Britain and America
May 20-21, 2004, Huntington Library - San Marino, California

The Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture invites proposals for participation in a workshop, "Object Relations in Early North America," on the material world in early North America (to 1820). This workshop will be held at the Huntington Library, May 20-21, 2004 in conjunction with a symposium, "Gender, Taste, and Material Culture in Britain and America in the Long Eighteenth Century," sponsored by the Centre for the Study of the Domestic Interior.

Workshop participants will be asked to think about how object-driven studies can address important historical questions. Moving through the analyzed object to larger arguments about life in the past, workshop sessions might address such topics as:

Aesthetic apprehension

The experience of the perceiving individual, and the collective construction of meaning

How objects structure experience

The production, circulation, consumption, representativeness, and symbolic character of objects

How recovering the context of an object can change our understanding of the historical moment

The methodological interdependency of data-, text-, and object-based analyses

Pre-circulated papers by the convener of each session will focus an intensive discussion of an object or an image (or the representation of either in a text) and invite alternative explanations for its larger significance.

Proposals should include

a description of the object or image (or collection of related objects or images)

an explanation of how the analysis will speak to important historical issues

* curricula vitae for the session convener (or conveners) and 3-4 discussants

Discussants will be expected not only to respond to the pre-circulated paper but also to include in their comments questions and insights about the object and its broader contexts.

We welcome alternatives to the standard conference paper, including an organized discussion based on questions, observations, and revelations made possible by object analysis.

The deadline for workshop proposals is Oct. 1, 2003. Proposals should be addressed to the Workshop Co-Chairs, Christopher Grasso and Karin Wulf, OIEAHC, P.O. Box 8781, Williamsburg, VA, 23187-8781. Questions may be addressed to cdgras@wm.edu or wmqbr@wm.edu

The Arts and Humanities Research Board Centre for the Study of the Domestic Interior is sponsored by the Royal College of Art, Victoria and Albert Museum, and Bedford Centre, Royal Holloway, University of London. The Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture is sponsored by the College of William and Mary and the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.

Reference:

CFP: Material Culture in Early Modern Britain and America (Huntington Library, May 2004). In: ArtHist.net, Aug 21, 2003 (accessed May 13, 2025), <<https://arthist.net/archive/25825>>.