

## **Call for Papers: SEA @ ALA**

The Society of Early Americanists seeks presenters for three SEA-sponsored panels at the American Literature Association annual conference, which will take place in Boston from May 25 to 28, 2017. Presenters' topics should fall in the colonial period, or in the early republic before, very approximately, 1830. Abstracts of 300 words or fewer which relate to one of the three topics below should be e-mailed to [leonard.vonmorze@umb.edu](mailto:leonard.vonmorze@umb.edu) by January 15.

### **1) New Directions in Early African American Literature**

The canon of early African American literature looks very different today than it did perhaps twenty years ago. We now see ways in which these texts, thematically speaking, no longer seem exclusively concerned with the issue of slavery. At the same time, the archive has changed in response to a new perception of the materiality of print and of the role of African American readers, subscribers, editors, and amanuenses in addition to authors. This panel seeks papers which chart new directions for scholarship.

### **2) Fake News: Editors, Periodicals, and the Transmission of Information in Early America**

This panel seeks case studies in early American communication networks. Papers will investigate the power of rumor, the dissemination of false stories, and the culture of celebrity. Alternatively, papers may consider the relationship of periodical tales and sketches to novels, or study the representation of fake news in literature. Alternatively, papers may call attention to the role of editors, the task of authentication, and the concept of the public sphere.

### **3) Teaching Early American Literature in the Age of Trump**

Papers are sought on the question of how the 2016 US presidential election has influenced your teaching of early American literature. What new materials and/or pedagogical strategies are you bringing to your classes?