

## American Antiquarian Society

The Program in the History of the Book in American Culture at the American Antiquarian Society has been offering week-long summer seminars in book history for nearly thirty years. The 2014 seminar will focus on the theme “Books in the Larger World of Objects,” and will take place at the AAS in Worcester, MA from **June 15-20, 2014**. This seminar will explore what happens when we reposition books (and book history) within the larger world of objects and the disciplines devoted to their examination: in particular, social anthropology, material culture studies, and the kinds of philosophy and history of science that get lumped together as “thing theory.” Like book history, these fields are centrally concerned with describing and thinking about the relations between persons and things. Curiously, however, they have shied away from any consideration of books as a type of object central to much of the world over the past half millennium. Meanwhile, book history, despite its many achievements, has all too often remained wedded to concepts that these other fields have productively critiqued or moved beyond. By putting these different disciplines in conversation with each other, we hope to devise a new set of methods for book history, ones that preserve its archival richness and descriptive precision, but do so in a way that allows us to describe, in new and significant ways, the relations between books and their readers, writers, and other producers and to think in more sophisticated ways about how books move through time and space, and what it might mean to call a book “American.”

The seminar will be led by David Brewer, Associate Professor of English at Ohio State University, and Lynn Festa, Professor of English at Rutgers University, with guest faculty member Jennifer Roberts, Professor of History of Art and Architecture at Harvard University.

The seminar will be of interest to graduate students, librarians, and college and university faculty interested in the fields of book history and print culture, literary history, material culture, anthropology, and other associated fields. A limited amount of financial aid will be available. Preference for assistance will be given to first-time AAS summer seminar attendees.

Applications will be available on the AAS website at <http://www.americanantiquarian.org/summer-seminar-2014>.

The application deadline is **March 14, 2013**. Tuition for the seminar is \$750, which includes lunch each day and two evening meals. Limited financial aid is available. For further information, please contact Paul Erickson, Director of Academic Programs at AAS, at [perickson@mwa.org](mailto:perickson@mwa.org).

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