

Center for Material Culture Studies

Meeting Agenda

September 13, 2016
211 Old College; 4-5 pm

In attendance (and please forgive any omission):

A. Mohun, W. Bellion, C. Grier, L. DeCunzo, L. Winn, R. Garrison, Th. Guiler, M. Samuel Lasner, M. Stetz, J. Yates, C. Dann Roeber, J. Horton, L. Nees, J. Hill, J. McGee, M. Dominguez Torres, C. Ott, Z. Anishanslin, A. Ardis, J. Tomlinson, S. Isenstadt

• **CMCS website and communication**

- to contact our CMCS team to circulate announcements, queries, etc, we now have the following email address: materialculture@udel.edu
- group mails will continue to be sent via Outlook
- we invite updates of your faculty profile
- we invite more samples for our “featured publication” display
- we invite your contribution/ suggestions/ and collaboration for refining and expanding our web content/
- please note: you can subscribe to receive website updates (see button on front page, bottom lower right)

• **Report on old and new grant opportunities (incl. DELPHI and Friends of Rockwood)**

-- DELPHI 2016 took place in mid June: Arwen Mohun and Erik Rau led one last time a group of 14 selected awardees participants; a big thanks go to Arwen and Erik for hosting DELPHI with great success and panache over the past 5 years!

-- the current CMCS budget allows for a new slate of graduate student awards, including one faculty award

• THE CMCS GRADUATE RESEARCH TRAVEL FUND

Up to \$1,500 each for up to 6 graduate students pursuing research or fieldwork in material culture studies

Application Deadline: November 15, 2016, and April 15, 2017

• THE CMCS GRADUATE RESEARCH PRESENTATION FUND

Up to \$1,000 each for up to 8 students to support graduate students presenting original research at a public venue

Application Deadline: October 14, 2016, and March 17, 2017

• THE CMCS GRADUATE RESEARCH PUBLICATION SUBVENTION FUND

Up to \$500 each for up to 4 students to support graduate student publications

Application Deadline: October 14, 2016, and March 17, 2017

• THE CMCS FACULTY RESEARCH PUBLICATION SUBVENTION FUND

Up to \$1,800 per award to subvent faculty publications

Application Deadline: October 1, 2016, and March 1, 2017

• THE FINKEL FUND IN SUPPORT OF CULTURAL INTERNSHIPS

Up to \$3,000 to support undergraduate or graduate students accepted for a material culture related internship in Summer, 2017

Application Deadline: March 17, 2017

• THE FRIENDS OF ROCKWOOD FUND

Up to \$1,500 to support a graduate student researching Victorian-era material culture

Application Deadline: March 17, 2017

-- to facilitate these awards CMCS will rely on separate selection committees, each consisting of 2 CAS faculty members and the 2 co-directors: volunteer committee members are Anette Giesecke, Kasey Grier, Catharine Dann Roeber, and Ritchie Garrison.

• **Update on joint CMCS – Universität Mainz Symposium, December 15-17, 2016**

-- the UD delegation will be sponsored by German funds provided by the DFG (Deutsche Forschungs Gesellschaft; the state of Rheinland Pfalz; and U Mainz); currently, we are standing to receive \$27,000 as a one-time “in-kind” contribution to the Center; the funds are intended to cover travel expenses for all all participants.

-- the final conference program will be posted in October

• **New biennial conference initiative: “Imagined Forms: Modeling and Material Culture,” November 17-18, 2017**

-- last spring, we implemented a structural shift to relieve our MCS graduate students who have been running the Emerging Scholars Symposium on an annual basis for 13 straight years. Starting with this year, the symposium will become a biennial event. The 14th ES conference is now scheduled for April 2018.

-- to fill the gap and to raise the Center’s national profile, the Center will launch its own biennial conference series intended to focus on select topics.

-- the Center’s first inaugural conference will be in collaboration with the Hagley Museum which now owns 900 patent models

-- confirmed keynote speakers are media scholar Johanna Drucker and physicist Peter Galison

-- the conference committee currently consists of Sandy Isenstadt, Sarah Wasserman., Jason Hill, and Martin Brückner

-- for further information, please see the CFP at <http://www.materialculture.udel.edu/>

- **Overview of current “Working Groups”:**

- **Media Old and New**; this group is hosting its first guest speaker at a special workshop on Sept 14 at 5:30 in R 107 in Memorial Hal: “China Girls and Film Materiality: A Workshop with Genevieve Yue.” Conveners: Sarah Wasserman and Jason Hill

- **Theory and Pedagogy**: this group plans reading meetings that concentrate on the work of Tim Ingold. Convener: Julian Yates

- **Space and Place**: Convener: Sandy Isenstadt

- **Ese'Eja**: this group will launch its exhibition on October 11; for more information see <http://www.materialculture.udel.edu/>. Conveners: Monica Dominguez Torres and John Cox.

- **Update on “ThingStor: A Material Culture Database”**

- as of this summer, the ThingStor project has a fully vetted data intake form and attending google form data base with the goal to develop a data archive (with input from Special Collections: big thanks to Rebecca Melvin Johnson and Jaime Margalotti)
 - the data intake form will be tested Engl 347 as part of the course assignments; this class explores Object Narratives and literary references to things through the lens of “things that speak”

- CMCS is currently interviewing prospective graduate-level programmers from UD’s Computer Science program interested in designing ThingStor as a searchable website as a database linking word, image, and metadata provided by national archives.

- **Other & Miscellany (open forum)**

- upon asking how to proceed with MCS in relation to UG studies, the following questions or points were brought up:

- could CMCS provide funding for UG research and recruitment?

- could the 2017 CMCS conference be tied to UG courses, such as Zara A.’s proposed Honors colloquium on the history of science and technology in early America, or Arwen M.’s suggestion to link up classes with 3-D printers/designers?

- more generally, the desire was expressed to find new paths that would attract STEM students to CAS classes

- in the context of UG studies, Lu Ann D. announced her introduction to MCS class on the subject of 50 objects representing UD as a prototype for jumpstarting MCS in the UG curriculum

-- also in the context of UG studies, Wendy B. proposed interdisciplinary seminars for UG that would involve travel to local collections

-- Janis T. and Ann A. announced a new faculty support initiative that would link three different funding streams, including IHRC, the Paul Jones Collection, and Special Collections.

-- CMCS restated its desire to establish post-doc lines in MCS, such as by tapping CLIR postdoctoral fellowships

-- Julie McGee called attention to the opportunity that CMCS and MCS faculty will soon be able to work with other colleagues in the area of African American material culture studies

Respectfully submitted: Martin Brückner