

Meeting Agenda & Minutes

September 19, 2019
211 Old College 12:00-1:00pm

In attendance: Martin Brückner, Wendy Bellion, Michael Doss, Sandy Isenstadt, Monica McCormick, Alex Galarza, Kayla Abner, Arwen Mohun, Janis Tomlinson, Lance Winn, Catherine Dann Roeber, Laura Schmidt, Jennifer Van Horn, L. Rebecca Johnson Melvin, Lowell Duckert, Julie McGee, Tom Guiler

1. Greetings, Introductions & Announcements

- CMCS welcomed several new members to the group and congratulated Sandy Isenstadt on his leadership of the Center for the past 8 years.
- Janis Tomlinson: Special Collections & Museum has developed an integrated museum collective; a portion of their acquisitions budget is to fulfill faculty requests, which could be used for objects & materials (for teaching or for research); request could be particular or categorical
- Catherine Dann Roeber: UD is searching for a new Director of Museum Studies and Public History (History Department appointment)
- Julie McGee: Paul R. Jones Lecture in Smith Hall is upcoming 9/24; Elizabeth Catlett exhibition in Mechanical Hall holds official opening on the same night
- Rebecca Johnson Melvin: Mark Samuels Lasner ephemera seminar is here at UD and last time it sold out in three hours. This may be something to keep in mind as it fits nicely with material culture studies.

2. CMCS Activities

- CMCS awards
 - Several Fall CMCS awards are due Oct 15, 2019. All award information can be found on our website.
 - In Fiscal Year 2019:
 - Nearly \$30,000 awarded to 27 grad students in 5 research categories, including a new award to support students attending collections-based workshops.
 - Nearly \$3,000 in publishing subventions for 2 UD faculty.
 - Both faculty and students are encouraged to apply for CMCS grants and awards
- Consortium for American Material Culture (CAMC) May 2019
 - UD hosted the annual meeting of CAMC in late May. Attendees included MCS faculty from UD, Smithsonian's American History Museum, Bard Graduate College, Cooperstown museum studies program, Penn State.
 - In addition to updating group on CMCS activities, group toured Winterthur exhibitions and collections and discussed possible next developments for CMCS and CAMC, including expansion of the consortium to include additional regional member institutions with MCS concentrations; potential for expansions of MA,

grad certificate programs, and post-doc appointments in MCS; the ASA MC Caucus and our links to it (Ann Verplanck currently co-leads it); MCS “summits” or symposia.

- Next meeting: UNC Chapel Hill May 2020, to be hosted by Bernie Herman

- DELPHI 2019

- 16 students from 6 programs/departments: ART, ARTH, ENGL, HIST, WPAMC, WUDPAC.
- We increased fellowship stipends this year to \$5,000.
- DELPHI hosted sessions on public speaking/TV, building websites, writing grant applications, Op Eds, CVs, etc.
- DELPHI speakers included Debbie Hess Norris, Erickson Blakney, & Lisa Hatcher
- We have upcoming spring Osher talks by DELPHI fellows. As requested, we will be advertising the dates of these texts to CMCS faculty.

- ThingStor

- We now have a live prototype
- Datathons to continue

3. Upcoming

- Update on publications

- Elusive Archives (U of Delaware Press, now publishing with U of Virginia Press) and Imagined Forms (U of Minnesota Press)
- Material Culture Perspective (UD Press book series): beginning to receive inquiries from early career scholars; please encourage promising prospects to consider this series
- Question from CMCS faculty regarding publication potential for *Black Bibliographia* symposium papers: Martin noted that an organizer/editor would be needed to lead this effort

- Emerging Scholars 2020

- April 24-25, 2020 at UD and Winterthur
- “Animaterialities” is this year’s theme
- interdisciplinary ES student team: 5 member team of ENGL, HIST, ARTH, WPAMC grad students
- Keynote Giovanni Aloï has accepted invite:
<https://www.humansandnature.org/giovanni-aloï> -- SAIC art historian, curator; author of books on art and animals including 2017 *Speculative Taxidermy: Natural History, Animal Surfaces, and Art in the Anthropocene*

- International collaborations
 - MCB visit to Mainz and update on potential future collaborations
 - Post-Graduate Visiting Student: Post-Graduate Visiting Student: Johanna Skurnik, a PhD from Finland and currently a research fellow at Sussex University. Hopes to visit UD during April and May in 2021. Her stay would be fully funded by the Academy of Finland. Her project is centered on geographic literacy and the use of maps in Finland roughly between the 1840s and the 1930s, with a specific focus on the circulation of geographic knowledge and cartographic material concerning areas outside Europe. In her project she plans to combine perspectives from the history of knowledge, map history and print and material culture studies.

- Social media initiatives
 - Ramping up CMCS presence on Twitter and Instagram
 - #whatisitwednesdays highlighting objects and linking to ThingStor;
 - We plan to use social media to promote faculty and grad student MCS work
 - We are always happy to receive news
 - We are planning “Instagram takeovers” by DELPHI fellows who are attending conferences centered on material culture

New CMCS Working Groups

- We will be inviting applications for new working groups, which we will fund.
- The grad student working group will be co-led this year by Victoria Sunnergren (ARTH) and Jack Truschel (ENGL)

Interdisciplinary CMCS field studies

- We are interested in gauging faculty interest for CMCS-sponsored field trips for graduate students. Such trips would need to be interdisciplinary, material culture focused, US-only based, and a week-long or less.
- We are modeling this idea on the success of WPAMC field studies
- This could be potentially implemented in the January 2021 winter session, or as early as Spring Break of 2020.
 - Examples: early skyscrapers in Chicago; rare book collections in Washington DC; archaeologies of indigenous, African American, and European settlement in St. Augustine
- Field studies could potentially complement existing courses or be independently conceived. CMCS faculty discussed learning potential for such field studies and considered complicating factors around issues of student enrollment, recruiting, etc.

4. Other Business

- None.

Meeting adjourned at 1pm.