The Library Company’s Program in Early American Economy and Society is dedicated to promoting scholarship and public understanding about the origins and development of the early North American and Atlantic economy, including such topics as the cultures of business, local and international commerce, manufacturing, labor, political economy, households, gender, and technology. PEAES offers research fellowships for both junior and senior scholars, collaborates on a monograph publication series with Johns Hopkins University Press, holds annual conferences and seeks publication of their scholarly proceedings, holds seminars and colloquia, sponsors public programs, and aids the acquisition and conserving of printed materials that augment the rich collections at the Library Company. PEAES strives to extend these resources to as wide an audience as possible, and to stimulate a broad and ongoing discussion of its themes. For more information please contact PEAES Director Cathy Matson at cmatson@UDEL.edu and visit the program’s website at www.librarycompany.org/economics.
The Program in Early American Economy and Society is fifteen years old, which is a fitting time to reflect on the Program’s achievements and future directions in the field of economic history. Over the years, PEAES has sponsored rich and ever-changing research, publication, and public programs that are at the center of shaping how we understand the economic lives of early modern peoples. Its fellows, conference presenters, and published historians are among the most important scholars who have refined and reworked the multifaceted economies of people in all walks of life, in every corner of the Atlantic world down to the 1850s. Fifteen years ago, PEAES charted a course that welcomed fellowship proposals on a great range of both traditional and experimental themes, and year after year, the Program has showcased fresh perspectives at its conferences, and its journal and book publications feature some of the most innovative studies in economic history, broadly conceived. This conference looks back over those fifteen years to reflect on a few of the central themes preoccupying economic historians during recent decades, how approaches and findings have changed, what achievements have been made, and how we can think about our future research in these vital subfields.

This conference is free and open to everyone interested in the topic. Please let us know if you will be attending by registering electronically.

**CONFERENCE PROGRAM**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24**

**Welcome and Introduction** 9:00-9:30 a.m.
Richard Newman, Director
Cathy Matson, PEAES Director

**Economies of Print and Communication** 9:30-11:00 a.m.
Joseph M. Adelman, Framingham State University
“Reading and Writing: Turning the Interdisciplinary Page in Early America”

Caitlin Rosenthal, University of California-Berkeley
“Counting and Accounting: Numerical Information and Communication in Early America”

Coffee break

**Capitalism and Class** 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Seth Rockman, Brown University
“From Social History to Political Economy: The Changing Registers of Class and Capitalism in American History: Part I”

Stephen Mihm, University of Georgia
“From Social History to Political Economy: The Changing Registers of Class and Capitalism in American History: Part II”

Lunch on your own

**Atlantic and Global Contexts** 2:30-4:00 p.m.
Michelle Craig McDonald, Stockton College
“Sea Change: Nautical Networks of the Early Atlantic World”

Edward Pompeian, College of William and Mary
“The New World’s Atlantic: Recent Orientations from the Americas”

Coffee break

**Gendered Economies** 4:30-6:15 p.m.
Ellen Hartigan-O’Connor, University of California at Davis
“What: The Gendered Work of Value in Early American Markets”

Brian Lankes, West Virginia University and NIEH Post-Doctoral Fellow, LCP and PEAES
“ Bonds: Gender and the Cultural Economy of Early America”

Linny Breddle-Altrose, Stonehill College
“Bodies: Fashioning Gender in the Early American Marketplace”

Reception 6:15-7:00 p.m.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25**

Reconvene with coffee 9:00-9:30 a.m.

**Material Economies and Consumers** 9:30-11:00 a.m.
Jane Merritt, Old Dominion University
“Consumer Revolutions and the Politics of Tea”

Danielle Skehan, Oberlin College
“Texts and Textiles in the Early Atlantic”

Coffee break

**Institutions and Political Economy** 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Dael Norwood, Yale University
“What Counts: Political Economy, or, Ways to Make Early America Add up”

Hannah Farber, University of California-Berkeley

Summing up 1:00-1:30 p.m.
Cathy Matson, University of Delaware and PEAES Director