

Robert Battistini

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Education

Ph.D., English, Columbia University: 2002

Dissertation

“At the Limits of Enlightenment: Imaginative Prose in the Early Republic”
Readers: Robert Ferguson, Franco Moretti, and Andrew Delbanco.

The study of the earliest American novels has been crippled by an anachronistic understanding of eighteenth-century genres. Royall Tyler, Hugh Henry Brackenridge, Charles Brockden Brown, and Hannah Foster all write in mixed forms that need to be identified and understood as creativity under pressure and as significant responses to Republican culture and practice. My study combines scrupulous attention to eighteenth-century forms, historical awareness, and sensitivity to the idiosyncratic literary innovations of these books.

Editorial Work

“The Charles Brockden Brown Electronic Archive and Scholarly Edition” (Invitation was extended in August 2002; work began in early 2003.)

Conference Presentations

“Walking in ‘Abu Casem’s Slippers’ around ‘The Mahometan Pig’: Muslims in Early Republican Periodicals.” Society of Early Americanists (SEA), April 2005.

“Searching for the Abolitionist Brown: St. Domingo, Slavery, and *The Literary Magazine*.”

Charles Brockden Brown Society, October 2004.

“Imagining the Muslim World in 1797 New England: Travelogue, *Arabian Nights*, and *The*

Oriental Moralist.” Society of Early Americanists (SEA), April 2003.

“Elegant Parsimony or Pithy Incompetence: Hannah Foster’s Appropriation of *Clarissa*.” American Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies (ASECS), April 2002.

“Captivity as a Failure of Enlightenment: Royall Tyler’s Nuanced Abolitionism in *The Algerine Captive*.” SEA, March 2001.

“At the Limits of Enlightenment Discourse: Charles Brockden Brown and the Collapse of Political Rhetoric in the 1790s.” Charles Brockden Brown Society, October 2000.

“Interrogating the Rhetoric of Republican Virtues: Charles Brockden Brown’s Narrative Ventriloquism in *Ormond*.” ASECS, March 1999.

“Yearning for ‘A New and Experimentall Discoverie’: Travel in Real and Imaginary America in *The Algerine Captive*.” South Central Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies (SCSECS), February 1999.

Fellowships & Prizes

“Most Influential Humanities Professor” by vote of the Franklin & Marshall classes of '04 and '05.

President's Fellowship, Columbia University, 1995-2000.

References

Tamara Goeglein, Franklin & Marshall College

English Department, Lancaster, PA 17604-3003

Robert Ferguson, Columbia University

Law School, New York, NY 10027

Franco Moretti, Stanford University

Comparative Literature Department, Stanford, CA 94305