

Burney Letter

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The Burney Society

Spring 2016

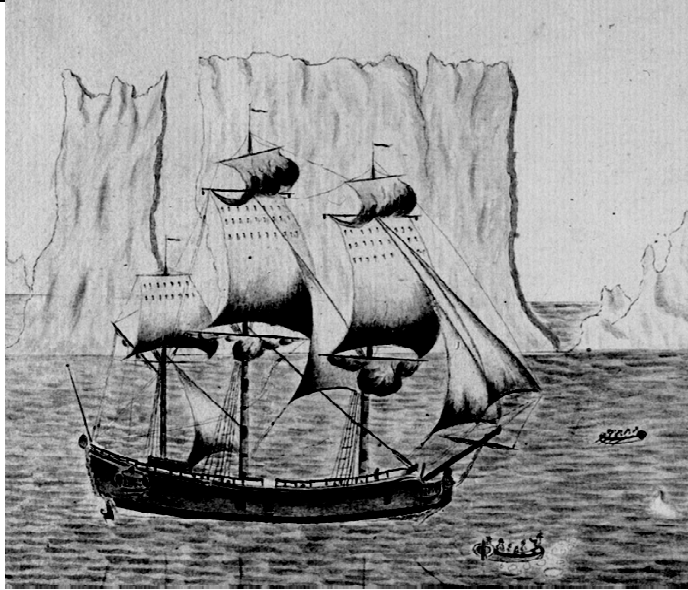
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All at sea with James Burney, RN

Inside Burney's private journal 1772-73, written when sailing with Captain Cook on the second voyage of exploration

By Suzanne Rickard



Details from Peter Fannin, The Adventure and Resolution with Icebergs in the Background, 1965, photographic copy of drawing, National Library of Australia, nla.gov.au/nla.cat-vn2584074

“My chief aim is your amusement” was James Burney’s deceptively simple declaration written in the early pages of a private journal he commenced in June 1772. When Able Seaman Burney (1750-1821) sailed from the British Isles on HMS *Resolution* with Captain James Cook, he had just turned

twenty-two. He understood that sailing with the celebrated master navigator would change his life and, by serving with the esteemed Captain, he would enter the annals of British maritime history.

Through the sway of his father, Dr Charles Burney, and influential family friends, James Burney was appointed to the momentous second voyage of exploration. The voyage was commissioned by the British Government to send the *Resolution* and the *Adventure* in search of the Great Southern Land. For a young sailor this was truly a remarkable opportunity and inspired Burney to keep a personal journal to share with family and friends.

I was fortunate to be introduced to James Burney’s writings in 2011. The National Library of Australia wanted to bring his journal written on this heroic voyage into greater prominence. Though little known, the journal is one of the Library’s treasured manuscripts, part of its magnificent collection of manuscripts, charts, artefacts and printed records relating to Captain Cook’s explorations.

The National Library commissioned me to write a book that would elaborate on Burney’s journal, revealing how this young man emerged from his first experience of maritime exploration. My aim was to place Burney and his journal within the historical, social and cultural context of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century England, permitting readers to appreciate the feats of this exploration through the observations of one of Cook’s aspiring young officers, and to have them follow his progress in later life.

What drew me to Burney was an abiding interest in maps and sea journeys. I had written about the National Library’s extensive map collection for the Library’s centenary celebration in 2001. I recalled the charts Cook had made during his Pacific explorations and this was a useful foundation.

See James Burney on p. 2

‘Burney and Popular Entertainments: the business of pleasure in Late-Georgian Britain’ 4-6 July 2016, St Chad’s College, Durham

Frances Burney grew up at the centre of a vibrant metropolitan cultural scene, and was part of a network of musicians, writers, actors and artists whose careers depended on a culture of consumption, both imaginative and material. This was the world she evoked in her novels, plays and journals and this conference builds on the movement in Burney scholarship toward greater contextualisation of her work.

The conference centres around entertainment, with the conference programme itself featuring a range of entertainments, including an excursion to a site of local interest, Gibside House, and the world premiere of Burney’s play *Love and Fashion*, which will be performed by Durham Student Theatre. The conference’s keynote address will be delivered by Harriet Guest, Professor Emerita of Eighteenth-Century Literature at the University of

York. (See the final conference programme on p. 5.)

Queries can be directed to the conference organisers, Professor Francesca Saggini and Dr Cassie Ulph, via cassie.ulph@bishopp.ac.uk. **Registration for the conference is now open at**

<https://www.dur.ac.uk/conference.booking/details/?id=613>

Registration includes admission to the conference on Monday and Tuesday; tea, coffee and lunch on Monday and Tuesday; admission to the performance of *Love and Fashion* by Durham Student Theatre and a wine reception and Q&A with the cast on Monday evening. Registration will be charged at £85 (£60 for registered postgraduate students).

See Durham Conference on p.4

James Burney

Continued from p. 1

While familiar with Fanny Burney's novels and the Burney's literary, musical and artistic accomplishments, I had never seen James Burney's journal and was unfamiliar with the maritime branch of the family. The link between Fanny Burney's brother, whom she fondly called "Jem," and Captain Cook intrigued me.

When I examined Burney's slim journal compiled in his confident hand with the elementary charts he made *en route*, I decided to set sail on the project. The raw material was fresh and unembellished, and the fact that James was a member of this celebrated family was compelling. To have sailed with Cook to unknown parts of the globe added a bracing aspect to the Burney family's talents.

Familiarising myself with Burney's hand-writing, his idiosyncratic spelling, occasional gaps in the record and hasty "Memorandums," I was enchanted by his clear account of the voyage. His private journal reveals much about his steady temperament and humour, his talent for friendship, his interests in music and ethnography, his growing skills as a mariner and, later, his friendship with Omai, the strapping young South Sea Islander who joined the *Adventure* in September 1773 from 'Otaheiti' (Tahiti), in the Society Islands.

By the time he sailed with Cook, James Burney was no sea novice. Growing up in the busy market town of Lynn Regis (King's Lynn), he would have watched fleets of fishing smacks, coastal traders and Royal Navy ships anchoring in this important estuarine seaport. The Burneys returned to London in 1760, but instead of James returning to school, his father decided that his boisterous boy should enter the Royal Navy as a Captain's Servant. He was to serve on HMS *Princess Amelia*, an 80-gun third-rate ship to serve under the tutelage of his friend, Captain John Montagu. Two years later, in 1762, young Burney had already experienced naval warfare off the coast of France. By the age of twenty he had accrued almost seven and a half years with the Royal Navy, and by twenty-one he added a year's merchant service in the East India Company's fleet.

My commission was to contextualise

young Burney's astute journal observations as the second journey of exploration proceeded. Transferred to HMS *Adventure* in November 1772 on promotion to Second Lieutenant, it was only then that Burney considered that his real journey had begun. He went on to write of the perils of the Antarctic ice fields and icebergs and of crossing the Antarctic Circle, the *Resolution* and *Adventure* being the first vessels to achieve this feat. He noted briefly on Sunday, 17th January 1773, "This Forenoon we crossd the Antarctic Circle being in 40° ... 22'E^t. Longitude from Greenwich."



James Burney, *Private Journal, 1772-73*, National Library of Australia, nla.gov.au/nla.cat-vn1102184

The *Resolution* and *Adventure* were separated in early February 1773 in dense fogs and shifting winds. With the challenging prospect of the long haul ahead, Burney simply noted, "we bore away for New Holland which was yet near 4000 miles from us." Captain Furneaux was aiming to reach the latitude of Van Diemen's Land on the way to New Zealand. Burney wrote vividly of the *Adventure's* first landfall in Van Diemen's Land and the brief and solitary sojourn there, and of then reuniting with the *Resolution* in sheltered anchorages in Queen Charlotte's Sound at the northern tip of New Zealand's South Island. He recounted sailing in consort to an array of distant islands in the South Pacific, describing dangerous reefs, shore line profiles, making careful measurements of latitude, longitude and astronomical observations, and described ferocious currents and surging tidal flows. Burney's observant gaze was to reveal yet more about the places and people he encountered.

The *Adventure* reached Van Diemen's Land in the second week of March 1773 to

anchor in the bay first charted by the Dutch voyager, Abel Tasman in 1642. Captain Furneaux renamed this sheltered anchorage Adventure Bay, bestowing his ship's name on the location. They were all unaware that one year previously, almost to the day, the French explorer Marion du Fresne anchored in the same place and had a hostile encounter with the Aboriginal inhabitants.

Once anchored, Burney was sent ashore with a party to find fresh water and wood. They found "a fine run of excellent fresh water" and managed to catch plentiful fish with a seine net. Although sighting the smoke of distant fires, he reported "have seen no Inhabitants as yet -." Despite his disappointment, Burney's reading of the landscape was impressive. He noted intriguing flora and fauna, well-trodden paths and abandoned brush habitations with the remains of camp fires, stone fire flints and well-used woven baskets for collecting food stuffs. He concluded that the elusive inhabitants never stayed in any one location for long, travelling the coast for fishing and shellfish gathering, and that they must "lead a Wandering Life." He made a chart recording the *Adventure's* anchorage, sea depths and location of the best watering place.

See James Burney on page 6

Burney Letter

The semi-annual newsletter of the Burney Society.

Editor: Lorna J. Clark

Address correspondence regarding newsletter articles to Dr Lorna Clark, Dept. of English, Carleton University, 1125 Colonel By Drive, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1S 5B6 or to Lorna.Clark@carleton.ca

Membership in the Burney Society of North America is \$30 US (students \$15) per year.

Membership in the UK Burney Society is £20 per year (£25 for two at the same address; £15 for students).

The membership year begins on 13 June of each year.

For further information on membership, write either to (in the US): Dr Cheryl Clark, Dept. of English, Louisiana College, PO Box 606, 1140 College Drive, Pineville, LA, USA 71359 clark@lacollege.edu or to (in the UK) : Deborah Jones, 15 Rosehip Way, Bishops Cleeve, Cheltenham, UK GL52 8WP or deborahjark@aol.com

“Burney and Politics” Conference in Washington, D. C.

By Elaine Bander

On Thursday, 20 October 2016 (the day before the opening of the 2016 JASNA AGM), and just before the 2016 American Presidential election, The Burney Society (NA) will hold its one-day 2016 conference, “Burney and Politics,” at Trinity Washington University in Washington, D.C.

Our keynote speaker will be Professor Tara Ghoshal Wallace, George Washington University, author of *Imperial Characters: Home and Periphery in Eighteenth-Century Literature* (Bucknell Univ. Press, 2010) and *Jane Austen and Narrative Authority* (Macmillan, 1995), and editor of Frances Burney’s *A Busy Day* (Rutgers Univ. Press, 1984).

The Program Coordinator is Dr. Catherine Keohane, Montclair State University. The full program will be announced in early July. The CFP (see below) closes on 31 May 2016.

Our day will begin at 8:00 am with a continental breakfast and opening panels in the Rose Parlor in the Main Hall (see <http://trinitydc-px.rtrk.com/visit/campus-map/>) for a map) of Trinity Washington University. Breakfast, lunch, and tea / coffee breaks are included in the registration fee. The Burney Society’s annual business meeting will also be held during the day: we will discuss (among other things) new publications, new officers, and

future program plans. At 6 pm we will adjourn to a nearby restaurant for (optional) drinks and dinner (at our own expense). Cost for the day, including all food in the Rose Parlor, will be USD\$65.00.

We hope to make arrangements for shared taxi travel from and to the vicinity of the JW Marriott downtown (site of the JASNA AGM), but Trinity is also close to the Brookland/CUA Metro station on the red line of the Metrorail, and Trinity provides a shuttle service from the metro station to campus. (To catch the shuttle at the Brookland/CUA station, exit to the right: at the top of the escalator, turn left, walk to the end of the iron railing, and wait for the shuttle with the Trinity logo on the side.)

Burney Society members who wish to attend this conference should complete the registration form elsewhere in this newsletter (see p. 15) and send it (along with their membership renewal!) with a cheque or money order for USD\$65 to Dr. Cheryl Clark, c/o Department of English, Louisiana College, PO Box 606, 1140 College Drive, Pineville, LA, USA 71359. Program and Registration information will also be posted on our website, and will be sent out via the Burney List. We remind everyone that only members in good standing may attend this conference.

Call for Papers

Possessing what Margaret Anne Doody has called “a deeply political imagination,” Frances Burney displays a keen interest in the political in her writings. Her perspective was shaped by her society as well as by her time at court and her marriage to a French émigré general. With a nod to our host city, the conference organizers invite proposals for papers, panels, or roundtables that discuss any topic related to representations or explorations of the political in Burney’s novels, plays, letters, and journals, or in her own experiences. Possible papers could explore, among other themes:

Court politics
Gender politics
The politics of marriage
The politics of publishing
French Revolutionary politics

Class politics
Family politics
Burney’s tragedies

Please send one-page proposals for papers and panels to Catherine Keohane at keohanec@mail.montclair.edu by May 31, 2016. Please mention any audio/visual requirements in your proposal, explaining why they are essential to your presentation. (Note that it may not be possible to provide such services.) Submissions from graduate students are especially welcome. Participants will be notified by June 30, 2016.

It is not necessary to be a member of the Burney Society to submit a proposal, but presenters at the Conference must be members. For more information about the Burney Society and membership in the North American Burney Society, please visit <http://burneycentre.mcgill.ca/burneysociety.html>.

Vote of thanks to Alex Pitofsky

Long-time Treasurer of the NAM Burney Society, Alexander Pitofsky is stepping down. As only the second treasurer in the society’s history, Alex has served us loyally for twelve years. Members have also enjoyed Alex’s informative papers, delivered at our conferences, and some will recall his spirited performances as rustic Wood Cutter in *Love and Fashion* and as young Bob Sapling in *The Woman-Hater*. Thank you, Alex! At our AGM in Washington, D.C., on October 20, 2016, the Board will be proposing a new Treasurer, Roberta Brody, Professor of Library Science at Queens College, CUNY, in New York.

Nominations are being sought for officers and board members for the Burney Society in North America for the coming two years. Positions open to election include president, vice president, secretary-treasurer and two board positions. Current office holders and board members may also run for re-election. Paula Stepankowsky is serving as the chair of the nominating committee. Anyone who would like to nominate either themselves or another person for a position should contact Paula at pstepankowsky@comcast.net. Members will vote on officers and board members at the annual meeting scheduled for 20 October 2016 in Washington, DC.

Durham Conference

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Accommodation

There are a limited number of rooms available in St Chad's college on a first-come, first-served basis, and these are bookable at point of registration. These rooms are available to delegates attending the whole conference, arriving on Sunday evening and checking out on Wednesday morning. We have secured a special accommodation rate for the conference. There are two options available:

- 3 nights B&B en suite single: £105
 - 3 nights B&B en suite double: £150
- Delegates wishing to stay in college for

an additional night (at the college's standard B&B rates) after the conference can arrange this directly with Liz Pearson, conference manager at St Chad's college. Residents should also contact Liz to arrange parking if required. tel: 0191 334 3358 email: chads.commercial@durham.ac.uk

More details of the accommodation available at St Chad's can be found here: <http://www.stchads.ac.uk/commercial/bed-breakfast/>

Alternative accommodation options in Durham can be found on the website.

Conference Dinner:

This will be held in the dining hall at St Chad's college. There will be a three course set menu, including wine and coffee, and entertainment in the form of a reading by the society's own Karin Fernald on 'Burney and the Witlings'. The cost of this will be £35, bookable at point of registration.

Conference Outing:

This additional outing will take place on Wednesday 6 July, and delegates are warmly encouraged to join us for a trip to Gibside, an 18th-century Pleasure Ground

(<http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/gibside>) and a tailored tour, 'Intrigue and Strife', focussing on the 18th-century history of Gibside and the scandalous life of Lady Mary Bowes, Countess of Strathmore and Kinghorne. The cost is £19, or £12 for existing National Trust members, which includes transport to and from the site and the cost of the tour. For non-National Trust members this also includes entry to the site. Lunch is not provided, but there are café facilities on site. The coach will depart from St Chad's College in the morning and return via Durham Train Station for 3pm. Again, booking for the outing is available at point of registration.

For specific queries about the outing to Gibside please contact the outing organiser, Miriam al Jamil by email via burneysocietyuk@gmail.com

Further details about location and transportation to Durham are available on the conference website.

<https://burneysociety.wordpress.com/category/conference-information/>

Sarah Harriet Burney Plaque Unveiling in Bath, 11 June 2016

The replacement plaque for Sarah Harriet Burney at St Swithin's, Walcot, will be ceremonially unveiled on Saturday 11 June at 2 p.m. and members are cordially invited to attend. Please arrive at 1.30 for 2.00. This is the time of year when we celebrate the anniversary of Fanny Burney's birthday, so it is a propitious day. A smaller plaque will also be unveiled dedicated to the memory of Hester Davenport, who did so much to support and encourage the replacement of the plaques. Dr Lorna Clark from Carleton University will give the address; Lorna has made a special study of Sarah Harriet, and made the serendipitous discovery of the wording of the original plaque in the Rare Book Room at McGill in September 2012.

Tea and cake can be purchased after the ceremony.

UK Burney Society AGM on Saturday 1st October, 2 p.m.

The UK Society AGM, now restored to the first Saturday in October, will again be held at the University of Notre Dame, 1 Suffolk Street, London WC1. The speaker will be Dr Jeni Buckley, the first scholar to be awarded the Hester Davenport Memorial Fellowship at Chawton House Library in September 2015. Jeni is developing her research on Fanny Burney into a book, and the title of her talk will be "The Politics of Debt in Frances Burney's Camilla." Tea and cakes will be served after the AGM and the talk. Members, guests and visitors are welcome to attend. We are also looking for more people to join the committee. Both the UK and the North American branches of the Burney Society have agreed to sponsor the Memorial Fellowship at Chawton House Library for another year, and there will be news of the 2016 holder in the next mailing.

Crystal Grotto at Painshill

Members who went on last year's fascinating visit to Painshill might be interested to learn that the wonderfully restored Crystal Grotto has been awarded 'Best Hidden Gem' by the Hudson Heritage Awards, which was presented by Dan Cruikshank at Goldsmiths Hall in London.

Frances Burney and Popular Entertainments: the Business of Pleasure in Late-Georgian Britain
Conference of the Burney Society (UK)
St Chad's College, Durham University, 4-6 July 2016

Monday 4 July

Panel 1: 9.15-11.00

1. Eva LIPPOLD (Loughborough University). "Most women have no character at all": *The Wiltings* and the Representation of Intellectual Women on Stage
2. Anna Paluchowska-Messing (Jagiellonian University, Krakow). The Two Belles. On Frances Burney and Hannah Cowley
3. Mascha HANSEN (University of Greifswald). Public Entertainment, Private Inspiration: Frances Burney and William Shakespeare
4. Michelle JACOBSON (University of Michigan). Evelina as Playwright

11.00-11.15 Coffee break

Panel 2: 11.15-13.00pm

5. Anita O'CONNELL (Northumbria University). *Evelina* and the Sociable Cure for Love Melancholy at the Spa
6. Marie EGAN (Mater Dei Institute of Education, DCU). Unmasking Masquerades: Appearance and Reality in *Evelina*
7. Louise BRAY (Bristol). Masqueraders and Mentors: The Use of Amusements in Frances 'Fanny' Burney's *Cecilia* and Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire's *The Sylph*
8. Kelly FLEMING (University of Virginia). The Agonies of the Accessory in Frances Burney's *Cecilia*

13.00-14.00 Lunch

Panel 3: 14.00-15.30

9. Ashley L. COHEN (Georgetown University). The "Black-hole" in Ranelagh? *Evelina*, Popular Entertainments, and Empire
10. Anna DONOVAN (University of Limerick). "Surely you can have no doubts of my honour?"— Public Spaces as sites of violation in *Evelina* and *Camilla*
11. Anne-Claire MICHOUX (University of Neuchâtel). 'On the rack to give entertainment to others': the dark side of the business of pleasure

16.00- Performance of *Love and Fashion* by [Durham Student Theatre](#) (Assembly Room Theatre)

17.30-18.30—drinks reception and Q&A with DST cast/production team

Tuesday 5 July

Panel 4: 9-10.45

12. Lorna CLARK (Carleton University). Burney Family *Juvenilia*: a Culture of Performance
13. Stephen A. WILLIER (Boyer College of Music, Temple University, Philadelphia). Fanny Burney and the Castrato.
14. Nicola PRITCHARD-PINK (Independent Scholar). The experience of domestic singing for the gentleman's daughter, 1770-1830
15. Simone LAGHI (Cardiff). The domestic music entertainment in Late-Georgian England: the String Quartet as an Allegory of the Society

10.45-11 Coffee break

Panel 5: 11.00-12.00

16. Sophie COULOMBEAU (Cardiff). "Evelina is in Aberdeen": Charles Burney Jr. in Scotland, 1778-1781
17. Elaine BANDER (Dawson College, Montreal and The Burney Society, North America). "The Astronomical Muse": Dr. Burney and Astronomy

12.00-13.00 Plenary: Professor Harriet Guest (York)

13.00-14.00 Lunch

Panel 6: 14.00-15.30

18. Beth KOWALESKI WALLACE (Boston College). "I will wear my heart upon my sleeve": Performative Anxiety in *Camilla*
19. Jeni BUCKLEY (Independent Scholar). The Value of Fashion: *Camilla*, Clothes and Currency
20. Barbara WITUKI (Utica College, NY). The Noble Virgin and Burney's Eugenia

6.30 PM: Conference Dinner (optional, precise timing tbc) and talk with readings by Karin Fernald. Fanny Burney and *The Wiltings*.

Wednesday 6 July

9.00-c. 15.00 Outing to Gibside Pleasure Garden—transport provided (optional, precise timing to be confirmed)

James Burney

Continued from p. 2

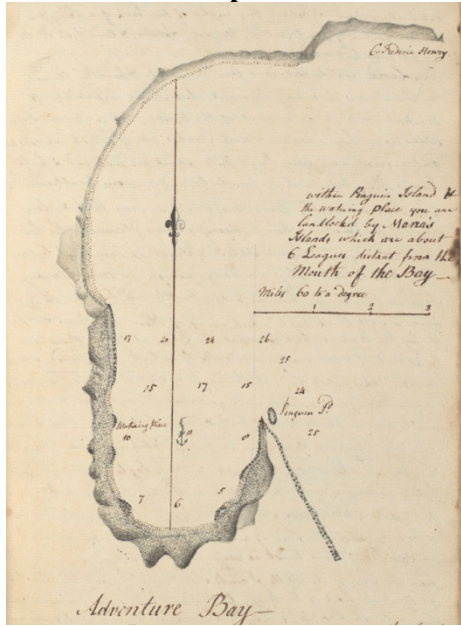


Chart of Adventure Bay, from p. 70 of James Burney, *Private Journal, 1772–73*, National Library of Australia, nla.gov.au/nla.cat-vn1102184

The *Adventure* left Tasmanian waters on 19th March 1773. On a chart and in his journal Burney raised the possibility of a strait separating Van Diemen's Land from the mainland of New Holland. Furneaux was sceptical and anxious to press on and they departed without further exploration. Burney made a profile of Cape Barren on 19th March 1773 as the last sight of land: "for its unfruitfull & dreary appearance we calld [it] Cape Barren"

They reached New Zealand's South Island in early April entering Queen Charlotte Sound to anchor at the agreed rendezvous Cook named Ship Cove (Meretoto) in 1770. They were reunited with Cook and the *Resolution* on 18th April, to everyone's "great joy & satisfaction." While waiting, Burney used his time to observe and record impressions of the local Māoris who came out in canoes to greet and trade with them. Cook had visited these same waters on the *Endeavour* in January 1770, and he was well remembered by the local Māoris. Burney ventured his opinion—"The New Zealanders are a Stout well made people very active, knowing & undoubtedly capable of great improvement"

Over a fortnight he wrote on Māori

behaviour and customs, local hierarchies and territorial boundaries. He described habitations and ceremonial spaces, food stuffs and vegetation, war canoes, and musical instruments. He referred to cannibalism and wrote, "I am apt to think they eat their prisoners," reflecting his book-acquired knowledge of Tasman's experience at "Murderer's Bay" in December 1642, and Cook's reference to "this Horrid practice" as he observed on his first exploratory voyage. Little did Burney anticipate that he, too, would learn first-hand about cannibalism.

For his family's musical amusement, he described strange instruments, notated striking musical chords. He attempted to interpret exotic manners, perplexing greeting rituals, sensual dancing and priestly customs. He described men's and women's dress fashioned from extraordinary textiles and decorations, and he described body and facial tattoos. He noted the Māori's eagerness to trade and to steal when conditions permitted. With an acute ear, he learned key words and simple phrases setting down phonetic approximations in his journal. Burney's ethnographic interest and flair for describing gatherings and ceremonies, even if admitting he did not fully comprehend local sensibilities and "barbaric" customs, did not hinder his pen. He kept journal entries throughout April, May and June 1773.

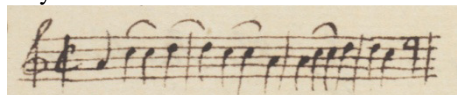


Image of musical notation from p. 4 of James Burney, *Private Journal, 1772–73*, National Library of Australia, nla.gov.au/nla.cat-vn1102184

The *Adventure* and the *Resolution* departed New Zealand in mid-June to commence an ambitious, sweeping circuit to embrace the Tuamotu Archipelago, sailing eastwards to the Society Islands, and then to the Friendly Islands (Tonga), before turning back to the south west in October to rendezvous in Queen Charlotte Sound. Sailing down the east coast of New Zealand's North Island, the two vessels were separated by adverse winds and squally weather, and they lost contact.

The *Resolution* returned to Ship Cove anticipating the *Adventure*'s arrival. After waiting almost three weeks, Cook decided

to sail back into the aptly-named Cook Strait to search the Strait's northern shores, fearing the *Adventure* had been dismantled or worse. There was no sign of the consort. Cook returned to Ship Cove where he wrote a letter for Captain Furneaux, sealed it in a bottle and concealed it under a prominent pile of wood, with "Look Underneath" carved into the timber. The letter was dated 24th November 1773. Cook then ordered the departure of the *Resolution*. They sailed twice into Antarctic latitudes and made a return to the Pacific Islands, and then satisfied that he had fulfilled his commission, he made for England completing the circumnavigation via Cape Horn. Cook had demonstrated conclusively there was no Great Southern Continent.

The *Adventure* arrived at Ship Cove on 30th November having missed the *Resolution* by six days. There was great disappointment all round. Burney copied Cook's brusque letter into his journal. All that remained for the *Adventure* was to make necessary repairs, restore the health of sick crew, replenish stores and prepare to sail.

Burney did not record details of the grisly event that took place at Grass Cove on the Sound in late December 1773. Preparing to depart on 17th December, ten of the *Adventure*'s crew were sent in a cutter with orders to collect vegetable greens. When they failed to return on time Burney was sent to search for them. The search party eventually found the massacred remains of the missing men, who had evidently been attacked, hacked to pieces and roasted in fire pits by the local Māori. As Second Lieutenant and in charge of the search, Burney wrote a precise account for his Commander and the Admiralty's eyes only. It was more than enough to document this horrific event for the official records. He judged the family could never bear reading details of his gruesome experience and Burney rarely spoke of it, and then only in whispers.

His voyage was deeply overshadowed by the tragedy at Grass Cove. The impact on the remaining crew was profound and not long afterwards Captain Furneaux decided to curtail the *Adventure*'s voyage. He was short-handed, in charge of a leaking vessel, with the prospect of a long and hazardous homeward journey. The

Adventure returned alone to England, arriving in July 1774. Cook and the *Resolution* did not return until July 1775.

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It is always dangerous to speculate, but I suggest that although he was not a natural writer, Burney was alert to his privileged opportunity and was encouraged to “journalise” by Fanny, his letter-writing and journal-keeping sister. She was thrilled by her brother’s exciting naval commission. “Jem the Tar” had written sporadic letters to the family when away at sea—now he could keep a journal for them.

Having “got clear of England,” Burney wrote in mid-July 1772, “One thing I must desire you to remember which is, as I intend to put down every thing that happens either at the very time, or within a day or two after, I shall write the same as if Speaking of the time present —now & then

I may forget myself—you must make allowances.”

While Burney clearly wanted to surpass everyone’s expectations, if duty called, he might miss an entry or two. His intentions were sincere; if he had grander motives, he kept these to himself. He never sought formal permission and his journal was hidden in plain sight, together with his few precious reference books and personal possessions. The journal was never inspected, nor was it sealed and returned to the Admiralty as would usually be demanded. Instead it survived to amuse his family and friends.

For all who wish to enjoy Burney’s journal and imagine the voyage through his eyes, the private journal has been fully digitised by the National Library of Australia.

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.ms-ms3244>

*Sailing with Cook: Inside the Private Journal of James Burney RN* was launched in August 2015. See: <http://publishing.nla.gov.au/book/sailing-with-cook-inside-the-private-journal-of-james-burney-rn.do>

Dr **Suzanne** Rickard is an historian and writer. She has authored a number of scholarly works, including *George Barrington’s Voyage to Botany Bay: Retelling a Convict’s Travel Narrative (2001)*; *India, China, Australia: Trade and Society 1788-1850 (2003)*; and recently, *Sailing with Cook: Inside the Private Journal of James Burney RN (2015)*. She has contributed entries to the *Oxford Dictionary of Biography and the Australian Dictionary of Biography* and writes occasional book reviews.

## The Burney Society (North America)

### 2015 Annual General Meeting

By Elaine Bander

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A dozen Burney Society members sat down to Blackened Chicken Salad in the Wilkinson Room of The Galt House Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky, on Saturday, 10 October 2015, between sessions of the Jane Austen Society of North America’s 2015 AGM.

We began with a brief business meeting. First up was the problem of our members forgetting to renew their memberships. Several people suggested that we should move the renewal season to the late summer or early fall, when members are making plans to attend our conference, rather than in June (Frances Burney’s birthday, 13 June), when those who teach are overwhelmed and forget to respond to reminders. I also conveyed Treasurer Alex Pitofsky’s report that we are just managing to cover our expenses, and reminded everyone that we are still searching for a new treasurer to relieve Alex, who would like to be replaced. I agreed to send out a special mailing to members with reminders about renewals and our search for a new treasurer.

Stewart Cooke gave us an update on current and forthcoming editions of *The Burney Journal*. Then we discussed our plans for Washington, D.C. We will hold a one-day meeting on Thursday, 20 October 2016, in the Rose Parlor of Trinity Washington University, just before the opening of the 2016 JASNA AGM. The CFP has gone out, thanks to Catherine Keohane, who is organising the program

this year. The theme is “Burney and Politics,” and our keynote speaker will be Prof. Tara Ghoshal Wallace. (See “*Burney and Politics and “Call for Papers” on p. 3.*)

One member raised the issue of scheduling conflicts between our meetings and JASNA activities now that JASNA AGMs tend to plan attractive activities and tours for the Thursday and Friday morning before the AGM officially opens. We discussed the possibility of detaching ourselves from JASNA and meeting independently at another time of year, on a date to be chosen not to conflict with other conferences or busy teaching times, and to include the possibility of a biennial conference in Montreal to take advantage of the Burney Centre and affordable venues. Clearly we need to pursue this idea for 2018, since the Huntington Beach resort where JASNA will be meeting will be very expensive.

Ann Campbell’s Hemlow Prize committee has announced a winner, Emma Walshe, for her excellent essay, “‘This crowded Sheet’: Speaking through Space in Frances Burney and Georgiana Waddington’s Correspondence.” Ann and her committee are willing to serve again. We voted a round of thanks for their work.

Our meeting concluded with an excellent talk by Prof. Hilary Havens on the history of the Burney Society and its accomplishments—a happy symmetry, since Prof. Havens presented her first academic paper at the 2006 Burney conference in Tucson while she was a graduate student.

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## **The Impact of George III on the History of British Columbia: A Politician's View**

**By Sam Sullivan**

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When Captain Cook and his midshipman George Vancouver arrived at a place he called King George's Sound, they were an extension of a social and political community centered around King George III. Frances Burney was part of this community and was an astute observer of the dramas happening around her. She was born in the same town as George Vancouver, and both her brother and her sister's husband sailed with him on this significant and consequential voyage. She gives us a window into the personalities and circumstances of the origins of the place we now call British Columbia.

The more that I study, the more I appreciate how much the trajectory of British Columbia is intimately linked in complex ways to King George III. Frances Burney gives us unique insights into this.

The political reality of Canada was set by how he dealt with the issue of French settlers on newly acquired territory. While his grandfather George II pursued a policy toward the Acadians of exile and rejection, George III's 1774 Québec Act recognized the French language and religion. It made possible the country of Canada, made up of more than one nation.

While his Québec Act made Canada possible, it also drove the United States into independence. The English Colonists described the Act as being one of the Five Intolerable Acts that led to rebellion. As they firmly claimed in their joint letter to the King, they were Englishmen.

The Colonies that became the United States were English Colonies created by English settlers during the 1600s. In 1707, a radical transformation led England, Wales, Scotland and later Ireland to be joined in the belief that different countries, languages, cultures and religions could thrive under one political union, as Great Britain. Its founding impulse was multicultural and inclusive.

Canada was formed in the 1700s by the British on French foundations. The multitude of differences led to the reality of two different countries on the one continent. The Gaelic and French-speaking Catholics who founded British Columbia were comfortable being constitutionally British and were convinced they did not want to be part of United States.

The westward drive of Canada was led by displaced Loyalist Americans keen to out-manoeuvre their former countrymen. Alexander Mackenzie of New York was the first to cross the continent and he gave his name to the great river of the north. Simon Fraser from Vermont followed and the watershed of his namesake covers much of the province. Peter Warren Dease of Michigan left us Dease Lake and Dease River. Angus Bethune, so important to the travels of David Thompson, came from North Carolina. Their families were loyal to King George III and their efforts ensured that British North America would have a place on the Pacific Ocean.

But the rebellion of the English Colonies was also related to the King in ways that perhaps only Frances Burney can help us understand.

The American Revolution was a rally around the cry for liberty and freedom. But in politics, when a group claims one principle too loudly there is usually something else going on. The Revolution can also be understood as a slave-owners revolt. Half of all the Founding Fathers of the United States were slaveowners. The two who owned the most slaves were George Washington and Thomas Jefferson.

In 1772, Chief Justice Lord Mansfield rendered a decision that released an American slave in England. As a result 15,000 slaves were released including other American slaves. The decision was watched closely in the slave-dependent English colonies. Slave owners recognized that it was only a matter of time before their own institutional slavery would be declared "repugnant" to the laws of their mother country.

The effect of the decision was electrifying to the slaves in America. The ferment that followed led to the creation of the first black churches. Petitions for release were delivered. The first shouted slogans of black power in America were "God save the King." John Quincy Adams claimed Lord Mansfield was more responsible for the American revolution than any other man.

But was Lord Mansfield the first emancipator of American slaves or was it King George? Lord Mansfield was known for his deferential attitude toward the king. At the very time he was deliberating on the slavery issue, he was working closely with King George on writing the Royal Marriages Act. It is unlikely he would have made such a far-reaching decision without the blessing of the King. Might Burney give us clues?

In the month that Captain Cook and Midshipman Vancouver spent on the coast of what is now British Columbia, they transcribed as best they could words of the Nuu Chahli Nuth language. These would become the core of the aboriginal trade language now known as Chinook Wawa. The way to say a British or Canadian person in Chinook Wawa is still Kinchauchman.

The loyalists of Proto British Columbia crossed the continent through the north by Peace River and journeyed down the coast to Mexican California. They encountered their former countrymen of the United States in Fort Astoria. Conflict was avoided when they purchased the Fort. They renamed it Fort George after the King. Although it is now called Astoria, even today it is called Pochauh in Chinook Wawa.

Today, British Columbia is wrestling with the profound issues of reconciliation with native people. Much of this is being fought in law courts. Aboriginal legal power in British Columbia is founded on the Proclamation of 1763 issued by King George III. We live in the shadow of his pronouncement.

George III would be very comfortable on the coast of British Columbia. Some of the most important place names belong to him, his family, and the people who served him. The names of Charlotte, Bute, Jervis, Bentinck, Portland, even his grand-daughter Victoria are used, joining other names like Pitt Meadows, Prince George and Vancouver. These were also people familiar to Frances Burney.

King George III affected all of us in many other ways. I suspect it is not a coincidence that the reign of the King and the Industrial Revolution line up perfectly from 1760 to 1820. King George was enthusiastic about science and technology and his own personal collection of devices can still be seen in the Science Museum in London. We cannot measure how his personal endorsement



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facilitated the wave of technological miracles we are still living through today.

King George sought out the great astronomer William Herschel and built him the largest telescope of its time. The King was so passionate about scientific discoveries that he stayed up all night to watch the transit of Venus. Herschel used the large telescope to discover a new planet. The astronomical community asked him to name it. He called it *Georgium Sidus*, George's Star, because of his genuine appreciation and fondness for the King. This didn't fit into the narrative of the revolutionaries. It is now called Uranus.

King George and Queen Charlotte took over a pleasant ornamental garden and transformed it into the world's largest scientific collection of living plants, now known as Kew Gardens. The King contributed his botanist Joseph Banks to Captain James Cook's first voyage and his influence ensured the voyages would be dedicated to scientific discovery.

George III was passionate about arts and culture. He was a patron of Mozart and Handel and hired Johann Christian Bach as Music Master for the Queen. He wanted to raise the status of the professional artist in a culture that was not particularly sympathetic. He created the Royal Academy of Arts, the first

organization of its kind, which continues to further the original goals of the King.

The historical persona of King George III suffers from the fact that the propagandists of the rebellious colonies required a despotic and avaricious king to make their narrative work. But it is now clear that the King strongly endorsed the Supremacy of Parliament and a restrained constitutional monarchy. One of his first acts after coronation was to submit his budget to the consent of Parliament. King George's sin was insisting that the colonists respect the most mature democracy of its time.

In so many ways, the definition and destiny of British Columbia are linked to King George III, and Frances Burney gives us important insights into the personalities and forces that still define us.

*Sam Sullivan, a former Mayor of Vancouver, Canada, is a Member of the Legislative Assembly in British Columbia and is a Member of the Order of Canada. He is exploring narratives on the history of British Columbia with a series of short videos and is spearheading an initiative to revive the aboriginal trade language Chinook Wawa.*

## Burney Society at ASECS

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### By Marilyn Francus

The Burney Society dined and laughed at Six Penn, a restaurant with the largest cotton candy desserts known to man, in downtown Pittsburgh on March 30th, 2016. The dinner was a fine way to begin the national meeting of the American Society of Eighteenth Century Studies (ASECS), which was held from March 31st through April 2nd in the Steel City.

The Burney Society sponsored a panel at ASECS, "Frances Burney and Other Women Writers," which was organized and chaired by Hilary Havens (University of Tennessee). The 30-seat room was filled to capacity, as latecomers stood to hear the four featured speakers.

The first speaker, Sophie Coulombeau (Cardiff University) presented "Mrs. Delville and Mrs. Montagu: The 'point of the name' in Frances Burney's *Cecilia*." Sophie discussed the procedure of name change through royal licenses and acts of Parliament, along with the context of name change (largely to facilitate inheritance), and the ways that people and their descendants were bound to use their new name. Sophie then argued that the increase of name change in the period—combined with Elizabeth Montagu's insistence that her nephew, Matthew Robinson, change his name in order to inherit—shaped Burney's thinking about names, inheritance, and name change in *Cecilia*.

The second paper, "The 'Revised' Legacy of Frances Burney: Edgeworth's *Belinda* and Burney's *Evelina*" by Jessica Evans (University of Kentucky) identified multiple resonances between Burney's novel and Edgeworth's—including the general narrative trajectory of the ingénue, the representation of pernicious patriarchy, distinctions between masculine manners versus masculine intellect, among them—to make a case for Burney's influence on Edgeworth. But the lines of influence are not always direct, but revised: to cite but one example, Jessica suggested that Harriet Freke was a re-envisioning of Captain Mirvan, not Mrs. Selwyn, which leads to a different reading of both *Belinda* and

*Evelina*.

Elaine Bander (Dawson College) then presented "'Cecilia, or Camilla, or ...?' Austen's Evolving Revisions of Burney," in which she argued that Austen honored Burney as a predecessor, but then went her own way. Elaine's argument built around a refrain that Burney's and Austen's novels feature genteel, country-bred young ladies encountering many vicissitudes before they are united with virtuous gentlemen. But Elaine worked through Austen's departures as well: while Burney had anxieties about novels as a genre and novel writing (recall that Burney referred to *Camilla* as a work), Austen defended novels in *Northanger Abbey*. Similarly, Austen challenges Burney's deferral of resolution in her novels—Anne and Wentworth are not Camilla and Edgar after all. So Austen, like Edgeworth in Jessica's paper, both acknowledges and revises Burney as her strong predecessor.

In "Fanny Burney and Jane Austen," Jocelyn Harris (University of Otago) argued that the Cooke family connection gave Austen access to information about Burney—which might explain the echoes between Burney's private writings and Austen's novels. Jocelyn suggested that Austen may have been using Burney's experience at court as a source for Fanny Price's experience at Mansfield Park: Mrs. Norris might be a version of Mrs. Schwellenberg, and the relationship between Sarah Harriet and James might have been refracted through the motif of incest in the novel, and/or the elopement of Henry Crawford and Maria. Jocelyn also proposed that Burney's tumultuous carriage ride with Guiffardière has echoes in Elton and Emma's ride in *Emma*—a novel in which Frank Churchill mentions Mickleham and Dorking, key towns during Burney's courtship and marriage years.

After the paper presentations, Katie Gemmill (Columbia University) served as a respondent, and a lively Q and A ensued.

Burney was also well-represented on several other panels.

## REVIEWS

**FRANCES BURNEY'S. THE WOMAN HATER.**  
**Monday, April 18, 7:30 pm. Red Bull Theater**  
**Production. Directed by Everett Quinton Arnie.**

**Presented in conjunction with the New York**  
**University Department of English.**

### **By Meg Levin**

The Red Bull Theatre in New York is a company that specializes in plays of “heightened language.” The company’s original focus was on Jacobean tragedies, but its productions have ranged from the works of classic Greek authors to *Equivocation*, written in this century but set during the reign of James I and featuring Shakespeare as a character. Along with fully staged performances of such classics as *The Duchess of Malfi* and *Women Beware Women*, the Red Bull players have also presented what they call “Revelation Readings” of comedies and dramas such as *Gammer Gurton’s Needle* and *The Spanish Tragedy*. On the evening of Monday 18 April at the Lucille Lortel Theater in Greenwich Village, an eager audience filled the house for a reading of Frances Burney’s comedy *The Woman Hater*.

According to the program, this work was written no later than 1801, but was not published in Burney’s lifetime. Indeed, it was not discovered until it was acquired for the Berg Collection at the New York Public Library in 1945. It was published in 1995 and a version was first performed in 2003 at McGill University. The Red Bull’s advertising rhetorically asked, “Is Fanny Burney the missing link between Sheridan and Wilde?” On the basis of this performance, the answer is, she could be.

Thirteen chairs stretched across the stage, each chair facing a music stand on which the performer could rest a script. But this was no prim, formal reading; it was directed with verve and affection by Everett Quinton, and the actors clearly relished tackling the language and extreme emotions. In this regard the eponymous woman hater, Sir Roderick, was the standout: His default settings were “dudgeon: high,” “outrage: extreme,” and “patience: zero.”

The first scene contains a mind-boggling amount of exposition. There are two sets of siblings and two young women with the same name. Some seventeen years earlier Sir Roderick was engaged to be married to a Miss Wilmot, and his sister, Eleanora, to Miss Wilmot’s brother. But Miss Wilmot jilted Sir Roderick for a Lord Smatter, who won her heart because he “sent his proposals in verse.” This blow transformed Sir Roderick into a woman hater of the first order. He demanded that his sister break her engagement to the new Lady Smatter’s brother, but instead Eleanora married Mr. Wilmot and together they fled to the West Indies. There Wilmot’s jealousy led to his falsely accusing Eleanora of infidelity. She thereupon left him, taking their very young daughter, Sophia, with her. But because the Nurse

substituted her own daughter for Sophia in order to give her a better life, Wilmot thinks his wife left their child behind with him. Back in England, Sir Roderick has adopted young Jack Waverley as his heir. But Jack is feeling rebellious since he will only inherit the money if he renounces all contact with the fair sex and becomes as great a woman hater as Sir Roderick is.

Lady Smatter is the goofiest character. She adores literature; spends her money as patroness to a succession of poets who dedicate their works to her; and is constantly quoting or misquoting her favorite lines, but is utterly unable to recall who wrote what. “...as Shakespeare says, or Shenstone—no! Swift;— ‘An honest man’s the noblest work of God.’” (It’s actually Pope.) Call her Mrs. Malattrib. But she takes comfort in the belief that “a bad memory is a sign of youth.”

The false Sophia Wilmot has been brought up to be very demure, but a rebellious spirit is hiding within. She spurns the “mopeish old books” that her father wants her to read; she dislikes study, and prefers dancing and singing, running and jumping. She is rather relieved to discover she is not the daughter of stuffy Mr. Wilmot, but dismayed to learn her real name is ... Joyce!

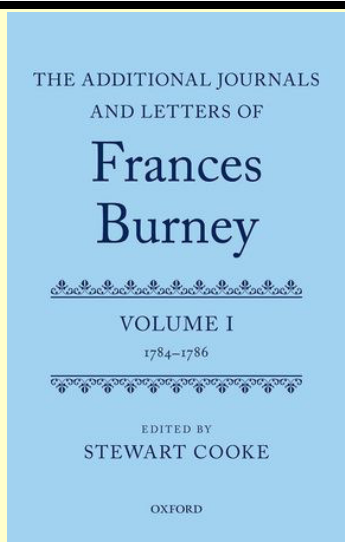
The actor playing Mr. Wilmot had the most high-flown polysyllabic dialogue to conquer. Indeed, when in his soliloquy he declared “O heinous precipitance of iniquitous jealousy!” the audience applauded as if he were a figure skater who had just nailed a triple Axel. (It may have been at this point that some of the actors sitting behind him cracked up. It was that sort of evening — players and audience members alike enjoyed themselves immensely.)

All these characters end up in the same location where various farcical misunderstandings ensue until the inevitable happy ending occurs and everyone gets sorted out. It is a comedy, after all, and I’m sure Lady Smatter would join me in declaring that “as Jonson — or was it Chaucer? — said, ‘all’s well that ends agreeably.’”

### **Cast of Characters**

|                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Sir Roderick      | Matthew Saldivar |
| Wilmot            | Arnie Burton     |
| Old Waverley      | Sam Tsoutsouvas  |
| Young Waverley    | Nick Westrate    |
| Lady Smatter      | Veanne Cox       |
| Eleanora          | Susannah Flood   |
| Miss Joyce Wilmot | Susan Heyward    |

*Meg Levin teaches philosophy at Stern College for Women, Yeshiva University in New York City. She is a member of the Jane Austen Society of North America and a budding fan of Frances Burney.*



***The Additional Journals and Letters of Frances Burney, Volume I 1784-1786, edited by Stewart Cooke (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015). 488 + xliii pp. ISBN 978-0-19-965811-4.. £125***

### **By Maggie Lane**

Was ever an author so well served by modern scholarship as Frances Burney? Readers are familiar with the great number of volumes of exquisitely edited letters and diaries which have already emerged from the Burney project at McGill. Now come the final two volumes to complete the sequence: final not in a chronological sense, but in terms of mopping up material that was not formerly available for editing. Of this additional material, the present volume covers the period January 1784 to July 1786, the month which saw Burney reluctantly enter on her duties at court. The second volume, presently under preparation, will by contrast cover several decades between her emergence from court and her death.

The thirty months represented in this volume may be a relatively short period in the long and eventful life of Frances Burney, but they are replete with interest for lovers of the whole Burney clan, all of whom are to be met with in these pages. Burney herself shows us some variant facets of her personality. Her voice here is subtly different from in later years when marriage has made her slightly smug. The Frances Burney of the mid 1780s is at her most vulnerable and directionless. Youth has passed. The excitement of *Evelina* has faded into the background. Her literary career has not quite fulfilled its early promise—due in part to the interference of her father—nor brought her the financial security which her astonishing success in 1778 might have augured. While her siblings James, Charles and Charlotte all settle down with marriage partners at this time—Esther and Susanna being, of course, already married—Frances seems likely to be the only one left yearning for a soulmate.

A running theme in Burney's letters to Susan throughout this volume is her inability to understand the intentions of George

Owen Cambridge, the man of suitable family, age and interests who one minute seems to be courting her, only to withdraw at the next meeting into aloofness, before giving her hope again. How is she to read him? How should she behave towards him in a roomful of people who are, as she thinks at least, closely observing her? During these thirty months she swings between the extremes of happiness and misery. At the end, in desperation, she lets Cambridge know through his sister that, much against her own will, she is about to take up an indefinite appointment at court. This is his last chance to rescue her, and he fails to come forward. One feels that her very acceptance of the unwelcome court appointment is partly a bid to force his hand, but for Burney this is a gamble which does not come off. The result is to be five years of immolation at court.

The Cambridge saga is not her only distress. Two of her most valued friends are lost to her in 1784, and this volume sees her dealing with two different modes of loss. The rupture with Mrs Thrale, brought about by Burney's inability to be warm and gracious over that lady's second marriage, is the first shock, for it seems that the younger woman did not anticipate her former friend's proud reaction to her own pious disapproval. The death of Dr Johnson a few months later is the second blow, but on this occasion Burney is seen in a more favourable light. Her visits to Bolt Court right to the very end show her compassionate and selfless, fully aware of how privileged she has been to know him. Mrs Thrale and Dr Johnson belonged to a short but intense period of her life, the passing of which she has to come to terms with.

In compensation, there are new friends on her horizon, most notably Frederica and William Lock of Norbury Park, who welcome her with true kindness to their lovely Surrey home, and the elderly, serene and gifted Mrs Delany whose company Burney comes to value more and more. Their Majesties the King and Queen, all friendliness and admiration, make their first appearance in these pages. Susan remains the person closest to Frances's heart, and though she often worries about her when they are apart, during this period Frances has as yet no reason for animosity towards, or fear of, Susan's husband Captain Phillips.

Perhaps the most vividly recounted episode in this volume is the birth of Susan Phillips's second baby, which happened earlier than expected while she, her husband, her small daughter 'Panny' (her childish pronunciation of 'Fanny'), and her sister Frances were all guests of the Locks at Norbury Park. Once it is all safely over, Burney writes a full account of the drama to her two aunts, Ann and Rebecca Burney, telling them how—hurriedly fetched from her bed at 5am by Captain Phillips—she tries to comfort the little girl, who has been woken by her mother's screams, and is adding her own terrified wails to the general cacophony, by assuring her that it is just a stomach ache; and how before long 'a new voice' is heard amid all the rest. This marks the arrival in the world of Charles Norbury Phillips, just one week after that of his cousin Charles Parr Burney, both in October 1785.

Stewart Cooke is to be thanked for his immaculate and painstaking editing, and for his erudite and copious notes, thus enabling us to enjoy another precious volume of social history, family anecdote and personal reflection from Frances Burney's pen.

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## Cecilia's Mr. Harrel and the Science of Addiction

By Alex Pitofsky

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The first time Moll Flanders steals, the experience is terrifying and she vows that it will never happen again. Her conscience keeps her awake at night, but little by little she becomes a highly skilled, unrepentant criminal:

I cast off all Remorse . . . and all the Reflections on that Head, turn'd to no more than this, that I might perhaps come to have one Booty more that might compleat my Desires . . . yet every hit look'd towards another and was so encouraging to me to go on with the Trade, that I had no Gust to the Thought of laying it down.

Thus, Moll's career as a thief is, among other things, a tale of addiction. Defoe emphasizes that addiction does not happen overnight. It is gradual and insidious; every "hit" leads to the next. Moll insists that she can kick the habit, but then habit turns into compulsion and compulsion turns into a process of self-destruction that continues until she hits rock bottom in prison. In this article, I want to examine another tale of addiction in a well-known eighteenth-century novel. Like Moll Flanders, Mr. Harrel, a London socialite in Frances Burney's *Cecilia*, is hooked, but not on alcohol or another addictive substance. He is addicted to extravagant spending.

David Sheff, one of America's leading commentators on addiction, published *Beautiful Boy*, an account of his son Nic's struggles with crystal meth and other drugs, in 2008. Five years later, Sheff presented a more wide-ranging discussion of substance abuse in *Clean: Overcoming Addiction and Ending America's Greatest Tragedy*. This book is essential reading for anyone interested in public policy relating to health care and criminal justice, but I'd like to use some of the terms and concepts Sheff employs for a relatively narrow purpose: to suggest that in *Cecilia* Burney, without the benefit of modern science, shows a clear and nuanced understanding of the way addiction grows more destructive over time.

Mr. Harrel, one of the three guardians appointed to look after Cecilia Beverley until she turns 21, seems easygoing in the early chapters of *Cecilia*. The narrator introduces him as a "gay, fashionable, and splendid" man about town and as the husband of Cecilia's friend Priscilla. Harrel gently pokes fun at the conniving Mr. Monckton when Monckton warns that Londoners are not to be trusted. And while traveling to the city, Harrel answers Cecilia's questions about mutual friends in a relaxed, straightforward way. This should not come as a surprise. As Sheff points out, addicts often show a striking ability to "[carry] on full lives—working . . . and in every other way functioning despite their dependence." Not long after Cecilia arrives in London, however, she notices that there is something wrong with her guardian and her childhood friend. The Harrels are virtually obsessed with "[d]ress, company, parties of pleasure, and public places." All that matters to them, it seems, is entertaining guests in their Portman Square townhouse and their country home. (In the chapters focusing on the Harrels, the husband is criticized more sternly than the wife, who is depicted as vapid rather than corrupt. "In every thing that regarded expense," the narrator tells us, "Mr. Harrel had no feeling, and his lady had no thought.")

Harrel spends little time at home with his wife, his brother-in-law Mr. Arnott, and Cecilia: "[He] seemed to consider his own house merely as an Hotel, where any hour of the night he might disturb the family to gain admittance . . . [and] where letters and messages might be left for him." Harrel's elusiveness can also be construed as a symptom of addiction. It does not take long for addicts to learn that to spend time with the non-addicted ("Civilians" or "Earth People" in the jargon of 12-Step programs) is to be judged and pressured to get clean. Accordingly, Sheff explains, addicts tend to hold "Civilians" at arm's length. Dismayed by the Harrels' "unremitting yet uninteresting dissipation," Cecilia decides to avoid them. That proves easier said than done. Outside the townhouse, Cecilia is accosted by Mrs. Hill, who complains that her husband, a carpenter, has not been paid for the work he has done for the Harrels. When Cecilia reminds Harrel of this debt, he insists that Mrs. Hill is a con artist who is preying on her because she is young, gullible, and "fresh from the country." Then, after Cecilia sees Harrel planning his next home-renovation project even though he has not paid for the last one, he assures her that all is well and that the Hills will receive the money he owes them very soon. Once again, although Harrel does not abuse substances, his attitudes resemble those of the addicts Sheff writes about in *Clean*: "Users shrug off their antisocial behavior; they think it's no big deal to steal a few dollars—or more—from a parent's wallet or to take prescription drugs from a friend's medicine cabinet. Rationalizations continue as their actions . . . become more appalling."

When Harrel breaks his promise concerning the Hills, Mr. Arnott volunteers to pay them. Harrel interprets this generosity as weakness and continues his excessive spending. He throws a masquerade party, gambles every night, and plans to add a new building to his country estate. He also pressures Cecilia to marry Sir Robert Floyer, another spendthrift/gamester. (It seems that Floyer has offered Harrel a cash reward if he can persuade Cecilia to become Lady Floyer.) Harrel asks Arnott to pay a tailor's bill in excess of £300 for him, and Cecilia becomes more fed up with her guardian than ever before:

[W]ith increasing astonishment, Cecilia reflected upon the ruinous levity of Mr. Harrel, and the blind security of his wife; she saw in their situation danger the most alarming, and in the behavior of Mr. Harrel selfishness the most inexcusable; such glaring injustice to his creditors, such utter insensibility to his friends, took from her all wish of assisting him . . .

All of that notwithstanding, Harrel persuades Cecilia to help him by borrowing £350 from a moneylender. Then he asks her to borrow again. Cecilia warns that the Harrels' spending is out of control and urges Priscilla to economize, but her friend says she "did nothing but what every body else did, and . . . it was quite impossible for her to appear in the world in any other manner." It hardly takes a 12-Step veteran to recognize that in this passage Cecilia is attempting something akin to an intervention and Priscilla has become a co-dependent and an enabler. The next time Cecilia sees Mr. Harrel, he has "an air so wild and perturbed, that

he hardly seemed to know her.” “Miss Beverley,” he cries, “I am ruined! I am undone! I am blasted forever!” He drops hints about feeling suicidal, locks himself in his dressing room, and then comes out, razor in hand, threatening to “steep it in [his] blood.” His ward tries again to bail him out by doing business with a moneylender: this time she borrows the enormous sum of £7500. Cecilia finds it mind-boggling that she has entrusted the bulk of her inheritance to such an untrustworthy person, but she concludes that it would have been even more unthinkable to do nothing and watch her friend Priscilla lose her husband. Two pages later, Harrel has the nerve to say that his debts are *still* far from repaid, but never fear: he has a plan. It will be necessary to go out and spend a great deal of money to dispel rumors that he is penniless.

If you don’t know what happens next, you can probably guess most of it. Harrel loses a small fortune at the gaming tables. He panics. He threatens to swindle his creditors by escaping overseas. He accuses Mrs. Harrel of causing his financial woes. He convinces Cecilia to lend him yet another £1000. He leads a large group to Vauxhall, parties extravagantly one last time, and then blows his brains out with a pistol. When Cecilia returns to Portman Square, she finds “a roll of enormous bills, and a collection of letters from various creditors, threatening the utmost severity of the law if their demands were longer unanswered.” Covering these papers is a note: “To be all paid to-night with a BULLET.” Harrel’s suicide confirms that he is what is known in 12-Step circles as a “low-bottom” addict. Some get treatment before they inflict significant harm on themselves and others. Low-bottom addicts, by contrast, continue to use until their addictions spin out of control. Cecilia responds to Harrel’s death with ambivalence. On the one hand, she cannot feel much pity for a man she did not trust or respect; on the other, she is shaken by the violent, public nature of his demise:

Mr. Harrel, indeed, had forfeited all right to her esteem, and the unfeeling selfishness of his whole behavior had long provoked her resentment and excited her disgust; yet a catastrophe so dreadful, and from which she had herself made such efforts to rescue him, filled her with so much horror, that, turning extremely sick, she was obliged to be supported to the nearest box, and stop there for hartshorn and water.

Like Defoe, Burney seems to have assumed that she was writing about immorality: Moll Flanders plunges into crime and Mr. Harrel plunges into extravagant self-indulgence. What the novelists could not have known is that they also created narratives that would correspond with twentieth- and twenty-first century research about addiction. Substance abuse and other forms of compulsive behavior, today’s experts argue, are best understood as progressive diseases, not as signs of poor character. Would a present-day Mr. Harrel be classified as an addict? That’s hard to say. Addiction to drugs and/or alcohol is widely regarded as a disease today, and experts maintain that other forms of compulsive behavior, including gambling and excessive spending, may also be treatable.

Not surprisingly, Burney scholars have judged Mr. Harrel harshly. Margaret Anne Doody argues that he is “the most obviously wicked” of the heroine’s guardians, for example, and Julia Epstein denounces him for “bleeding” and “bilking” Cecilia. Addiction experts might take issue with those conclusions. Harrel’s downfall can be read as a study in immorality, but it is also an uncannily accurate—and modern—study in addiction. He engages in compulsive behavior like an addict, denies that he has a serious problem like an addict, manipulates friends and relatives like an addict, and ultimately loses everything like a desperate, low-bottom addict. If we accept the premise that his narrative is a tale of addiction, contemporary science suggests that Doody, Epstein, and other critics should reconsider Burney’s portrayal of Harrel. As Sheff observes, “The view that [addiction] is a moral choice is pervasive, pernicious, and wrong. So are the corresponding beliefs about the addicted—that they’re weak, selfish, and dissolute; if they weren’t, when their [habits] . . . began to harm them, they’d stop. The reality is far different. . . . Even in their relentless destruction and self-destruction, the addicted aren’t bad people. They’re gravely ill, afflicted with a chronic, progressive, and often terminal disease.” Harrel is not a sympathetic figure and it will be difficult to stop thinking of him as one of the most despicable characters in Burney’s fiction. If we continue to describe him as “obviously wicked,” however, we may sound like those who blame addicts for their diseases and assume that they would make better choices if they were not so “weak, selfish, and dissolute.”

### Members’ News

Jocelyn Harris is researching the connection between Frances Burney and Jane Austen through a family relative: Cassandra Cooke, a cousin of Austen’s mother lived near the d’Arblays at Great Bookham for several years, and also knew Susanna Burney and her husband when they lived at Mickleham, Surrey. Harris explores another angle in her article, ‘**Jane Austen and the Subscription List to *Camilla* (1796),**’ *Persuasions On-line* 35.1 (Winter 2014). In it, she suggests that Austen may have canvassed her family and friends for Burney’s novel *Camilla*, published by subscription in 1796; sifting through the list, she uncovers a startling number of friends, neighbours and relatives of the Cooke / Austen extended family. The article is available at:

<http://www.jasna.org/persuasions/online/vol35no1/harris.html>

### Correction

A caption for an engraving of Mary Delany on the first page of the Fall 2015 issue of the *Burney Letter* contained an error. The illustration is an engraving of a portrait that appeared as the frontispiece to volume 1 of *The Autobiography and Correspondence of Mary Granville, Mrs. Delany* . . . , edited by Lady Llanover (London, 1861-2). The original portrait was, of course, by John (not Amelia) Opie and is part of the collection at the National Gallery, London. The Editor apologises for the error and thanks those sharp-eyed readers who wrote in.

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## Have you renewed your subscription?

All subscriptions for 2016/2017 should be paid by 12 June. UK subscriptions remain at £15 for students, £20 for single members and £25 for two members living at the same address. The membership renewal form below (or a copy of it) should be returned to the Treasurer Deborah Jones. To allow us to claim Gift Aid on your membership sub or donation, you must sign a Gift Aid declaration (which can be sent to you by email). If you would like to pay by standing order, a more efficient way of processing your subscription, or to pay by BACs, please inform Deborah. Members are advised that if they are willing to receive newsletters and bulletins by pdf, their subscriptions will be reduced by £1.

### *The Burney Society UK* *Membership application and* *renewal 2016-2017*

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The Burney Society (NA) Biennial Conference:  
**“Burney and Politics”**

**October 20, 2016**

Keynote Speaker: Prof. Tara Ghoshal Wallace

Convener: Dr. Catherine Keohane

The conference will be held in the Rose Parlor in the Main Hall of Trinity Washington University, 125 Michigan Ave. NE, Washington, DC 20017, from 8 am to 6 pm. For directions, consult <http://www.trinitydc.edu/visit/directions>. An optional dinner (at our own expense) at a nearby restaurant will follow the conference.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_ USD\$65 for the conference (includes continental breakfast served at 8 am, lunch, and breaks)

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I wish to join others for dinner after the conference (cost = \$20-\$50 depending on your choices)

\_\_\_\_\_ Annual dues, if not already paid (required for conference attendance)  
USD \$30, regular rate; USD \$15 student rate (See form below)

\_\_\_\_\_ Contribution (tax deductible in the U.S.) to the Burney Society

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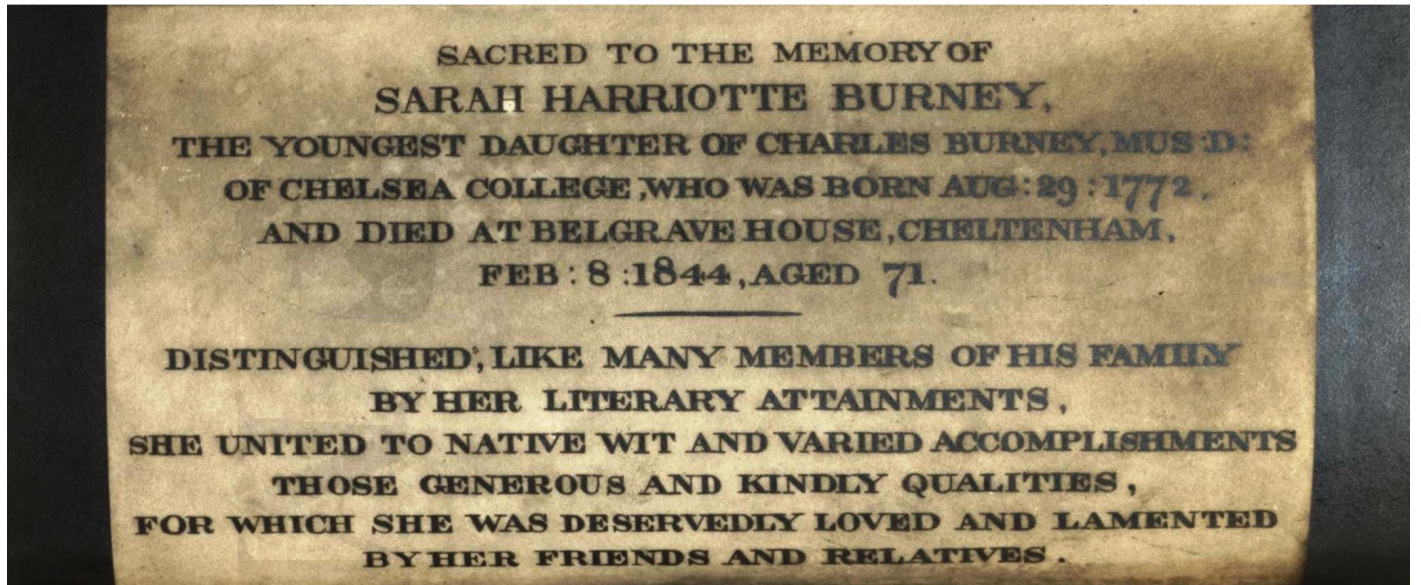
To register for the 2016 Burney Society conference, please complete the form above (or make a copy of it) and mail it, along with a cheque payable to “The Burney Society,” to **Dr. Cheryl Clark, Department of English, Louisiana College, PO Box 606, 1140 College Drive, Pineville, LA, USA 71359** by **September 15th**.

**MEMBERSHIP DUES REMINDER: NORTH AMERICAN BURNEY SOCIETY**

To join the Burney Society (North America), or to renew your membership for the 2016–17 dues year starting from 13 June 2016, please fill out (or simply make a copy of) the form below and return it with your cheque for US \$30 (or \$15 for students), payable to the Burney Society, c/o Dr. Cheryl Clark, Dept. of English, Louisiana College, PO Box 606, 1140 College Drive, Pineville, LA, USA 71359.

Tax-deductible donations are also welcome. Thank you.

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*Photograph of the missing plaque to Sarah Harriet Burney, found Rare Books & Special Collections, McGill University. A replacement for this plaque will be placed in St Swithin's Church, Walcot, Bath, on June 11, 2016.*

#### **The Hemlow Prize in Burney Studies**

**Deadline for Submissions: September 1, 2016.**

The Burney Society invites submissions for the Hemlow Prize in Burney Studies for the best essay written by a graduate student on any aspect of the life or writings of Frances Burney or members of the Burney family. The essay, which can be up to 6,000 words, should make a substantial contribution to Burney scholarship. The judges will take into consideration the essay's originality, coherence, use of source material, awareness of other work in the field, and documentation. The winning essay will be published in *The Burney Journal* and the recipient will receive an award of US \$250, as well as a year's membership in the Burney Society. Submissions should be sent either by mail to the Chair of the Prize Committee, Prof. Ann Campbell, Department of English, Boise State University, 1910 University Drive, Boise, ID 83725-1525 or by email attachment to [anncampbell@boisestate.edu](mailto:anncampbell@boisestate.edu).

#### **IN NORTH AMERICA;**

THE BURNEY SOCIETY  
C/O DR CHERYL CLARK  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH  
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PINEVILLE, LA  
USA 71359

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