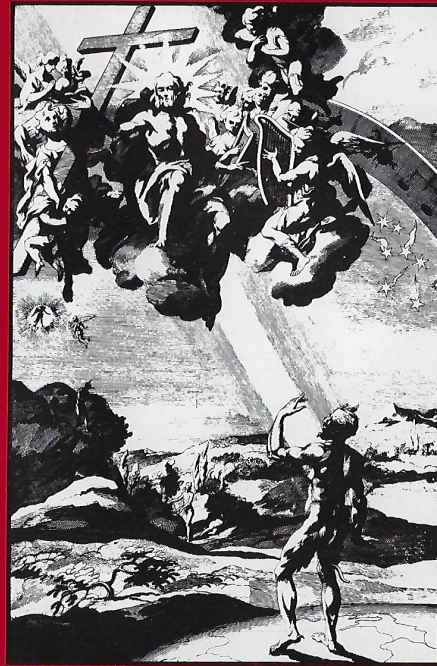


The Folger Institute of Renaissance and Eighteenth-Century Studies



1979-80 Seminar Program

Folger Shakespeare Library
201 East Capitol Street, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20003

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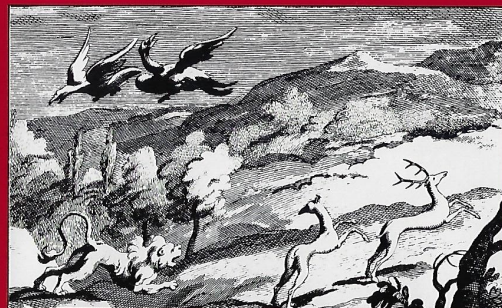
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The Folger Institute of Renaissance and Eighteenth-Century Studies

A unique collaborative enterprise sponsored by the Folger Shakespeare Library and thirteen universities in the Middle Atlantic region (American University, Catholic University of America, University of Delaware, Georgetown University, George Washington University, Johns Hopkins University, University of Maryland, University of North Carolina, North Carolina State University, Pennsylvania State University, Princeton University, University of Virginia, and West Virginia University), the Folger Institute of Renaissance and Eighteenth-Century Studies was founded in 1970 to promote advanced teaching and research in the humanities. Aided by support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and the Surdna Foundation, the Institute offers a growing interdisciplinary program of seminars, workshops, conferences, colloquia, and lectures.

The physical center of the Institute is the Folger Shakespeare Library, located just two blocks from the nation's Capitol and across the street from the Library of Congress. The Folger is preeminent in the world for its Shakespeare collection and second only to the British Library for its holdings of other English Renaissance books; it is also internationally recognized as a repository of materials in late medieval and early eighteenth-century English literature and history. Continental Renaissance literature, Reformation studies, early American cultural history, and English and American theatre history from the beginnings to the twentieth century. Scholars from throughout the world make use of Folger materials for research in fields as diverse as drama, music, philosophy, theology, and history of science, as well as work in such disciplines as textual analysis and literary criticism. Participants in Folger Institute seminars are provided access to the Library's collections, and they are also afforded opportunities to meet and talk with Folger staff members, readers, fellows, and resident scholars. The Library provides frequent social occasions in which a genuine community of interest may be fostered.

Enrollment in Folger Institute Seminars is normally limited to twelve participants per seminar, with priority in admission accorded to advanced graduate students and post-doctoral scholars from sponsoring institutions. Participants from sponsoring institutions register free of charge; other participants are required to pay a registration fee of \$100. The Folger Institute does not directly award grades, credit, certificates, or degrees, but upon request at the end of each semester the Institute office issues letters to participants from sponsoring institutions indicating whether these participants have satisfactorily completed their seminar work. Institute seminars are conducted as symposia of mature scholars oriented toward common goals, rather than as formal graduate courses, and each participant is encouraged to develop his own research interests within the limits, broadly interpreted, of the general topic designated by the seminar leader.



A very limited number of Folger Institute fellowships are available to support participants in the seminars. Fellowships are awarded at the same time that admission decisions are made—normally during the semester preceding the seminars being applied for—by a Central Executive Committee consisting of one representative from each sponsoring institution. Seminar and fellowship applicants from sponsoring institutions are urged to get in touch with their campus representative before applying.

The Folger Institute of Renaissance and Eighteenth-Century Studies

During most if not all of the 1979-80 academic year, the Folger Shakespeare Library will be closed for renovation. 1979-80 Folger Institute Seminars will be held at the Library of Congress (First Street between East Capitol and Independence Avenue, S.E.), the National Gallery of Art (Constitution Avenue at Sixth Street, N.W.), Appalachian House (22 Third Street, S.E.), and Florida House (Second and East Capitol Streets, S.E.). Exact locations and room assignments for individual seminars will be announced later.

FALL 1979 Seminars

THE POET AS PROPHET: SPENSER, MILTON, AND BLAKE

Joseph Wittreich Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m.
September 19-December 5

The Bible, it has been said, contains the great code of art; and within its context, the Book of Revelation has been assigned special status. The epilogue to Scripture, it is both culmination and consummation of Biblical prophecy. As the exemplary Christian prophecy, this Book provides the poetic that Spenser, Milton, and Blake adopt and offers the model that, in various of their poems, these poets aspire to. Particular attention will be given *The Shepherds' Calendar* and *The Faerie Queene*; Lycidas and Milton's epics; Blake's *Milton* and *Jerusalem*.

Joseph Wittreich, Professor of English at the University of Maryland, has held NEH, Guggenheim, Folger, and Huntington Library fellowships. He is editor of *The Romantics on Milton* (1970), *Calm of Mind* (1971), *Blake's Sublime Allegory* (1973), and *Milton and the Line of Vision* (1975), and is author of *Angel of Apocalypse* (1975) and *Visionary Poetics* (1979).

LITERATURE AND THE VISUAL ARTS IN EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY ENGLAND

Robert Halsband Mondays at 1:00 p.m.
September 17-December 3

The seminar will investigate the ways in which poetry, fiction, and drama of the period inspired artists to design book illustrations as well as easel pictures, especially after the establishment of the Royal Academy. This varied literature needs to be seen in its critical contexts to judge how it was regarded by contemporary readers, including those who designed illustrations. Similarly, the artistic currents of the time need to be understood to see how artists adapted them to the purposes of literary illustration.

Robert Halsband, Professor of English at the University of Illinois, has written biographies of Lord Hervey and of Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, whose *Complete Letters* he has also edited. His latest book, to be published at the end of this year by the Oxford University Press, is *"The Rape of the Lock" and Its Illustrations 1714-1896*.

RENAISSANCE PALEOGRAPHY IN ENGLAND

Laetitia Yeandle Thursdays at 3:00 p.m.
September 20-December 13

This seminar, which is offered regularly by the Folger Institute, is designed to provide an introduction to English handwriting of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries and to introduce participants to a wide range of documents of historical and literary interest. Those who are encountering textual problems in their own work will be encouraged to discuss them with the class.

Laetitia Yeandle is Curator of Manuscripts at the Folger Shakespeare Library. She is co-author, with Giles E. Dawson, of *Elizabethan Handwriting, 1500-1650: A Manual* (1966), and she is currently editing the text of Hooker's *Tractates* for the Folger Library Edition of *The Works of Richard Hooker*.

SPRING 1980 Seminars

SHAKESPEAREAN EXPLICATION

Harry Levin Mondays and Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m.
February 4-March 12

This seminar, designed particularly for teachers of Shakespeare, will interpret a number of selected texts in terms of the historical, philological, textual, stylistic, and theatrical factors which are relevant to each. Material for analysis will be drawn from six plays which represent different phases of Shakespearean style and technique.

Harry Levin is Irving Babbitt Professor of Comparative Literature at Harvard University. He is the author of numerous studies of English, American, and French literature and of literary theory. Among his publications in the Renaissance are editions of several of Shakespeare's plays, *The Overreacher: A Study of Christopher Marlowe* (1952), *The Question of Hamlet* (1959), *The Myth of the Golden Age in the Renaissance* (1969), and *Shakespeare and the Revolution of the Times: Perspectives and Commentaries* (1976).



PASCAL AND THE ARTS OF THE MIND

Hugh M. Davidson Thursdays at 1:00 p.m.
February 7-April 24

The work of the seminar will be divided into three main parts: (1) an analysis and discussion of all the *Pensées*, with the aim of achieving—insofar as possible—a comprehensive interpretation; (2) a less detailed study of the *Lettres provinciales* and certain other works of Pascal; and (3) an attempt to discern in the works read Pascal's habitual approaches to problems of invention, statement, sequence, and unity, and thus to gain insight into his way of conceiving and practicing such arts of the mind as rhetoric and dialectic. Recent research on the *Pensées* and on Pascal's thought will be reviewed.

Hugh M. Davidson is Commonwealth Professor of French Literature at the University of Virginia. Among his special interests are the moralists of the seventeenth century in France and the history of aesthetic and intellectual thought of that period. He has written and lectured extensively on Pascal. He is the author of *Audience, Words, and Art: Studies in Seventeenth-Century French Rhetoric* (1965), *A Concordance to Pascal's Pensées* (1975, with P.H. Dubé), and *The Origins of Certainty: Means and Meanings in Pascal's Pensées* (1979).

SPRING 1980 Workshops

PARLIAMENT AND LIBERTY 1559-1640

J.H. Hexter Tuesdays and Thursdays
at 10:00 a.m.
March 18-April 10

In this workshop, students will analyze selections from the proceedings in the Parliaments of Elizabeth I, James I, and Charles I. The selections will concentrate on the occasions of confrontation between rulers and the House over the actions of the Crown that the Commons perceived as threats to liberty. They will enable the students to follow the changes that experience wrought in that perception over time, and thus to grasp what Englishmen deemed their fundamental liberties to be in the era when freedom encountered its most threatening challenge.

J.H. Hexter is Distinguished Historian in Residence at Washington University, and Director of the Yale Center for Parliamentary History. He has published extensively on English and continental history, and on historical theory. Major publications include *The Reign of King Pym* (1941), *Men's "Utopias": The Biography of an Idea* (1975), *Reappraisals in History* (1978), and *On Historians* (1978).

ACTORS IN RESIDENCE FROM THE ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY

Co-sponsors: The Folger Institute of Renaissance and Eighteenth-Century Studies
The John F. Kennedy Center
for the Performing Arts
The Library of Congress February 26-March 8

ACTORS IN RESIDENCE (AIR) is a program designed and administered by Homer Swander of the University of California, Santa Barbara, in exclusive arrangement with more than fifty actors of the Royal Shakespeare Company. Under the auspices of AIR, four of five RSC actors will participate in a two-week program which will include six evening recital performances, four public lectures, and ten days of performance-oriented seminars and workshops. The research and bibliographic resources of the Library of Congress will be available to program participants through the Kennedy Center's Performing Arts Library. Seminars and workshops will be jointly designed by the Folger Institute, the Library of Congress, and the Kennedy Center's Office of Education Programs. Program details will be announced later.

MILTON'S AESTHETIC OF TESTIMONY

Stanley Fish Wednesdays and Fridays
at 2:00 p.m.
February 6-29

This workshop will explore the consequences of what one might call Milton's radical internalism; that is, his refusal to identify value with external signs and his insistence on referring all judgments to the presence or absence in a man of a regenerate spirit. If one extends this principle to the judging of literary productions, the effect is to render Milton's poetry unavailable to literary criticism, at least insofar as literary criticism is conceived of as a disinterested act of description or evaluation from the outside. Obviously, this position is subversive of the assumptions of modern literary theory, and its implications for a formalist aesthetic will be the focus of the lectures and discussions.

Stanley Fish is Professor of English at Johns Hopkins University and author of several studies of Renaissance literature and of literary theory. Major publications include: *Surprised by Sin* (1967), *Self-Consuming Artifacts* (1972), and *The Living Temple* (1978). He is currently at work on a book to be published by Harvard University Press entitled *Is There a Text in This Class: Interpretive Authority in Literary Criticism and in the Classroom*.

THE CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Chairman, John F. Andrews Program Coordinator, Susan Z. Nascimento

General inquiries and requests for admission and fellowship application forms should be directed to members of the Central Executive Committee or to the Folger Institute office at the Folger Shakespeare Library, 201 East Capitol Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003. Phone (202) 546-8877.

The deadline for applications for the fall semester is May 1, 1979. The deadline for applications for the spring semester is November 1, 1979.