

Annual report of the Marvin & Sybil Weiner Spirit of America Collection

(covering the academic years 2020-2024)

Prepared by Micheal Long

The Marvin & Sybil Weiner Spirit of America Collection is comparable in scope and content to the collections of the American Antiquarian Society and the Library Company of Philadelphia. Originally inspired to emulate the personal libraries of men like Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams, Marvin Weiner spent a lifetime collecting the books and pamphlets that a colonial gentleman would have owned. Taking great care to purchase the same editions that were available in 18th century America, Mr. Weiner eventually amassed a collection of more than 13,000 books, pamphlets, government publications, newspapers and serials, including rare works from as early as the 16th century.

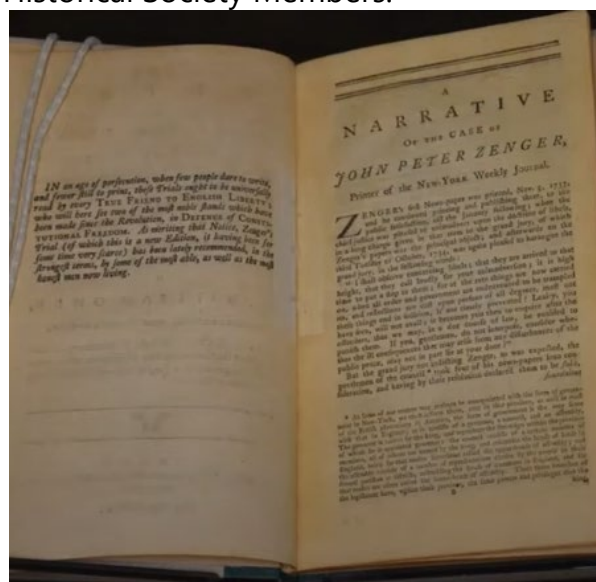
The Weiner Spirit of America digital collection includes more than 800 almanacs, documents, speeches, letters from the Marvin & Sybil Weiner Spirit of America Pamphlets Collection which comprises more than 50 archival boxes housed in Florida Atlantic University's Libraries' Special Collections & Archives.

TOURS, BIBLIOGRAPHIC INSTRUCTION, & UNIVERSITY ENGAGEMENT

In addition to various postings on the University Libraries social media pages, over the **2023/2024 academic year**, University libraries Special Collections staff presented to formal tours and presentations to:

- A successful tour of the Weiner collection and exhibition for the Constitution Day keynote speaker, Ms. Monica Crowley was provided.
- Saint Gregory School 4th graders: 65 children, 10 chaperones, and 6 teachers for tour and a presentation on the FAU Libraries Special Collections field trip.
- The St. George's Society (4 members) with Dr. Sharples and Dr. Kanter.
- FAU Class of 1973 Majestic Owls visit.
- The Waldorf School 7th and 8th graders: 13 children and 2 teachers.
- Three Spanish River High School classes: 60 children, 8 teachers, and 6 chaperons.
- Coordinated and presented to the EverScholar educational interest group (30 members).

- Pop Goes the Page, presentation for Boca Raton Historical Society Members.
- Society of Colonial Wars Lecture in Memory of Kenneth R. LaVoy Jr., Dr. Adrian Weimer Zoom lecture on Colonial New England that highlighted Collection via photos and video: 141 attendees.
- Daughters of the American Revolution, Chapter Estahakee (15 members).
- Daughters of the American Revolution, Chapter Fontenada (10 members).



Bibliographic instruction was offered for 18 FAU classes serving 348 undergraduate and graduate students with primary research techniques and showed how the Weiner Collection could be used as research materials.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC INSTRUCTION- 23/24

Fall Semester 2023

- Dr. Warshaw's class, EDH 6065/ Philosophy of Higher Education; 18 students
- Dr. Weinberg's class, LAH 3200/ Latin American History; 33 students
- Dr. Engle's class, HIS 5060/ Historical Methodology; 13 students
- Dr. Leader's class, ARH 1930/ Honors Art Appreciation Lecture; 25 students
- Dr. Sharples' class, AMH 4110/ Colonial North America; 20 students
- Dr. Wayne's class, HIS 2050/ Writing History; 20 students
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- Dr. Sharples' class, AMH 4110/ Colonial North America; 20 students

Spring Semester 2024

- Dr. Norman's class, AMH4302/ American Material Culture to 1860; 15 students.
- Dr. Chenovick's class, ENG6009/ Research Methodology Lit; 15 students
- Dr. Fenichel's class, ARH4350/ Baroque Art and Architecture; 39 students
- Dr. Rahill's class, FRE2220/ Inter French Language & Culture 1; 10 students
- Dr. Leader's class, ARH4610/ American Painting & Sculpture; 24 students
- Dr. Torres' class, LAS2000/ Intro Latin American Studies; 39 students
- Dr. Wayne's class, AMH2050/ Writing History; 19 students
- Dr. Wayne's class, AMH2050/ Writing History; 20 students

- Dr. Rahill's class, FRE2221/ Inter French Language & Culture 2; 10 students
- Dr. Leader's class, ARH4937/ Art History Senior Seminar; 5 students

The **2022/2023 academic year** provided increased use of the collection with tours and research opportunities.

In addition to our open houses, tours were provided for:

- FAU Board of Trustee Chair Brad Levine, the Weiner Family, and visitors.
- Stephen Krzeminski, Assistant Director of Undergraduate Recruitment, and Admissions Team.
- Italian faculty visitors
- Hosted Pulitzer Prize-winning author Stacy Schiff; built and served as a docent for the small exhibition on Samuel Adams.

Over the academic year, provided 14 FAU classes serving 247 undergraduate and graduate students with primary research techniques and showed how the Weiner Collection can be used as research materials.

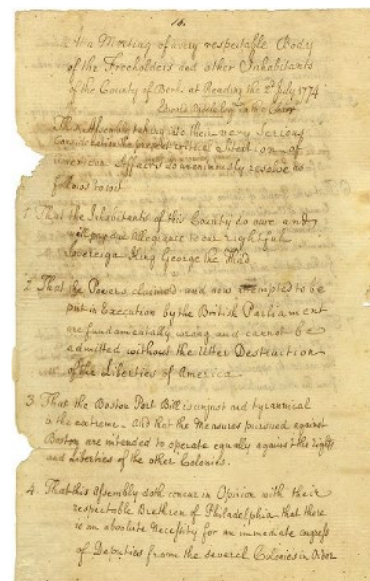
BIBLIOGRAPHIC INSTRUCTION-22/23

Fall Semester 2022

- Dr. Finucane's class, HIS 6939/Special topics; 10 students
- Dr. Engle's class, HIS 5060/Historical methodology; 18 students
- Dr. Finucane's class, HIS 3150/ Historical methodology; 18 students
- Dr. Finucane's class, AMH 2010/US History to 1877; 70 students (2 sections)
- Dr. Warshaw's class, EDH 6065/ Philosophy of Higher Education; 13 students
- Dr. Rahil's French Club; 25 students
- Dr. Rahil's Course FRE 1120/ Beg French Lang & Culture 1; 14 students
- Dr. Rahil's Course FRE 1121/ Beg French Lang & Culture 2; 24 students

Spring Semester 2023

- Dr. Ulin's class, ENG 6009/ Res Methods for Adv Lit Study; 7 students
- Dr. Cunningham's class, HIS 3065 / Res Methods for Adv Lit Study; 17 students
- Dr. McGetchin's class, HIS 3150/ Historical methodology; 21 students



Summer Semester 2023

- Dr. Warshaw's class, EDH 6065/Philosophy of Higher Learning; 10 students

Over the **2021/2022 academic year**, programs were provided to 21 FAU classes serving 458 undergraduate and graduate students with primary research techniques and showed how the Weiner Collection can be used as research materials. Additionally, some professors requested and received a tour the Weiner Suite.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC INSTRUCTION-21/22

Fall Semester 2021

- Dr. Cunningham's class, HIS 3065/Intro to Public History; 11 students
- Dr. Warshaw's class, EDH 6065/Philosophy of Higher Learning; 18 students
- Dr. Leader's class, ARH 1930/Honors Art Appreciation; 21 students
- Dr. Finucane's class, AMH 2010/US History to 1877; 70 students (2 sections)
- Dr. Norman's class, AMH 4303/American Material Culture From 1860; 26 students
- Dr. Gleek's class ENC 1101/ College Writing 1; 44 students (2 sections)
- Dr. Gleek's class ENC 1102/ College Writing 2; 44 students (2 sections)

Spring Semester 2022

- Dr. Warshaw's class, EDH 6065/Philosophy of Higher Learning; 8 students
- Dr. Norman's class, AMH 4302/American Material Culture to 1860; 15 students
- Dr. Leader's class, ARH 2051/Visual Arts; 39 students
- Dr. Norman's class, AMH 4302/Readings in Public History; 11 students
- Dr. Leader's class, ARH 4371/ 18th and 19th Century Art; 28 students
- Dr. Sharples' class, HIS 4110/ Colonial North America; 25 students (2 separate class visits)
- Dr. Gleek's class, ENC 1939/ Spec Top: College Writing 2; 35 students (2 sections)

Summer Semester 2022

- Dr. Sharples' class, HIS 4133/ The American Revolution; 29 students
- Dr. Lowe' class, EUH 6939/ English Civil War & Republic; 8 students

In **2020/2021** school year, (COVID) the Collection was utilized in several different ways:

- Isabel Hidalgo, a student intern, created an online exhibition for the Weiner Collection, titled "**The Morning Star of that Liberty": Controversy and Conflict in Early American Press, 1735-1805.**"

- Over the academic year, 10 FAU classes serving 256 undergraduate and graduate students with primary research techniques and showed how the Special Collections and the Weiner Collection can be used as research materials. Some professors requested a tour of Special Collections and Weiner Suite.
- Classes ranged from Philosophy of Higher learning with 35 students, Visual Arts with 80 students, History programs that total over 125 undergraduate students.
- Conducted tours of the Weiner Collection to the Society of Colonial Wars and for Faculty Candidate, Andrea Miller.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC INSTRUCTION-20/21

Fall Semester 2020

- Dr. Karen Leader's class, ARH 2051/Visual Arts; 40 students

Spring Semester 2021

- Dr. Karen Leader's class, ARH 2051/Visual Arts; 40 students
- Dr. Adrian Finucane's class, HIS 3150/ Historiography; 18 students
- Dr. Adrian Finucane's class, AMH 2050/US History to 1877; 70 students (2 sections)
- Dr. Karen Leader's class, ARH 4937/Art History Senior; 10 students
- Dr. Patricia Kollander's class, HIS 4935/ History Senior; 17 students
- Dr. Karen Leader's class, ARH 4937/ History Senior; 10 students

Exhibitions

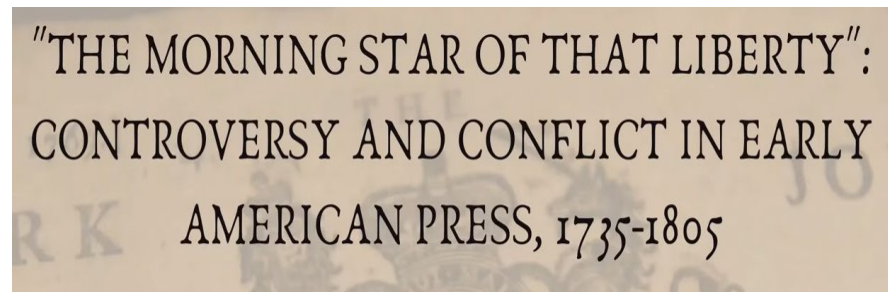
Fall 2023

Documents of Democracy: Founding a New Nation: Democratic origins for America first began in England during the 13th century. The first document to lay the foundations for English constitutional government was the Magna Carta, which established that monarchs were subject to the laws of the realm, and it served to restrain the excesses of the monarchy. Until the signing of the Magna Carta, European rulers relied on the tradition of "divine right" to govern. Magna Carta established significant civil liberties and rights that have a direct connection to the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. Through the rare books and pamphlets found in the Marvin & Sybil Weiner Spirit of America Collection, this exhibit examines the documents, letters, and books that have inspired the ideas of freedom and democracy within the United States.

Spring 2022

Between the Waves: Finding Ocean Curiosities: The world's oceans are teeming with living plants and animals, artifacts that chronicle human interaction with the sea, and now unfortunately, pollution. Items such as sea glass and shells interest collectors and those who consider themselves beachcombers. Many of the shells on display are from Florida shores and represent only a small variety of the curiosities that lie between the waves.

Fall 2021



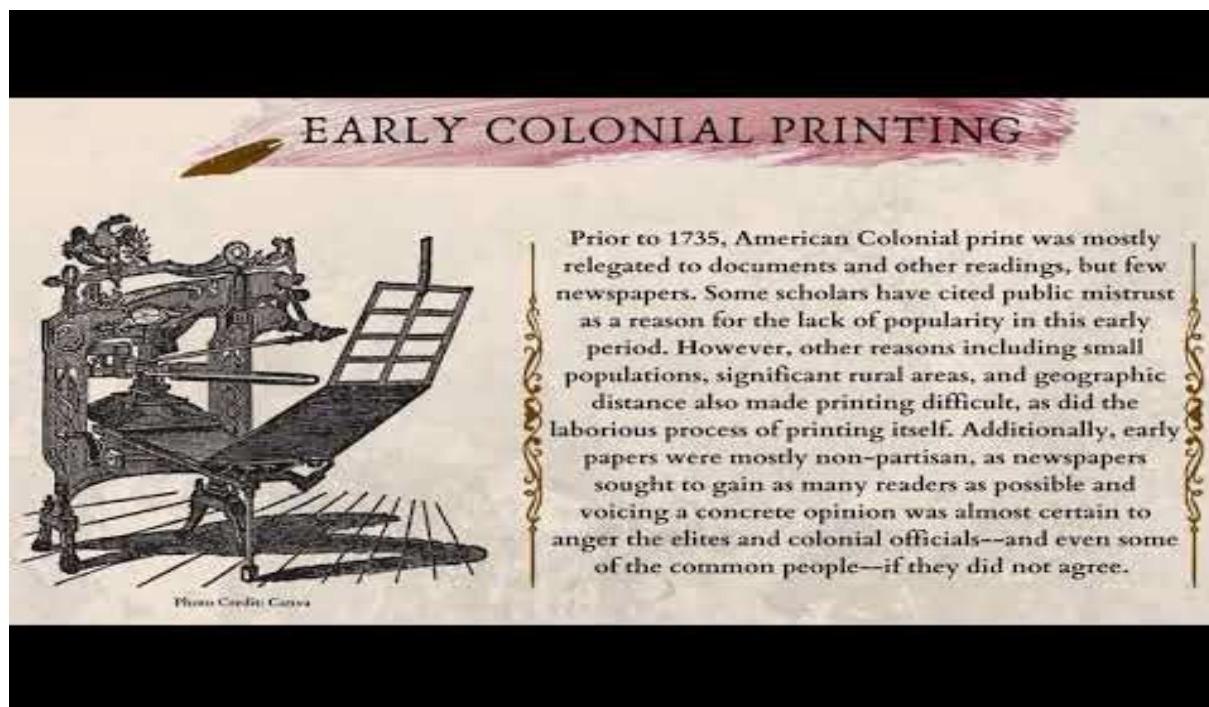
Online Exhibition:
Created by student
intern Isabel Hidalgo
for the Weiner
Collection, titled *The
Morning Star of that
Liberty: Controversy*

and Conflict in Early American Press, 1735-1805.

<https://youtu.be/z3vLUjlASKo?si=y3T6ElpfbvKMBd4g&t=2>

Spring 2021

Highlights from the Printing and Mind of Man Exhibition: In 1963, the International Printing Machinery and Allied Trades Exhibition (IPEX) held an exhibition in London entitled: Printing and the Mind of Man (PMM). Since that hallmark exhibition, PMM catalogue is considered an essential framework for many private collectors and libraries. Back by popular demand, we are celebrating the Printing and the Mind of Man catalog featuring books from the Marvin and Sybil Weiner Collection. We are showcasing the most influential texts that have greatly contributed to Western Civilization over the past 500 years since the invention of the printing press.



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Spring 2020

Pamphleteer in America: This unique exhibit uses items from the Marvin and Sybil Weiner Spirit of America Collection to highlight the writings of brave men and women in the original thirteen colonies who spoke out against the tyrannical King George III of Great Britain. The colonists' writings were published in newspapers of the time, read aloud in public houses, taverns, and in town squares. Pamphlets served to educate Americans regarding the need for independence and fueled the fire of revolution. On display are many of their works including Thomas Paine's famous work, Common Sense.

Spring 2019

The Origins of the American Presidency

Fall 2018

Alexander Hamilton: The Pen and the Pistol

In-Person Displays of Weiner Collection Items

- Society of Colonial Wars Lecture in Memory of Kenneth R. LaVoy Jr., Dr. Adrian Finucane in-person lecture on Prisoners of War with pop-up display of Collection items- *January 2022*
- Society of Colonial Wars Lecture in Memory of Kenneth R. LaVoy Jr., Dr. Nicholas Wood in-person lecture on Colonial Abolitionism with pop-up display of Collection items- *March 2022*

Zoom Events at which Weiner Items were highlighted/displayed

- Society of Colonial Wars Lecture in Memory of Kenneth R. LaVoy Jr., Dr. Misha Ewen Zoom lecture on Colonial Virginia that highlighted Collection via photos and video: 56 attendees.- *November 2021*
- Society of Colonial Wars Lecture in Memory of Kenneth R. LaVoy Jr., Dr. Mairin Odle Zoom lecture on Scalping that highlighted Collection via photos.- *November 2022*
- Society of Colonial Wars Lecture in Memory of Kenneth R. LaVoy Jr., Dr. Adrian Weimer Zoom lecture on Colonial New England that highlighted Collection via photos and video: 141 attendees.- *January 2024*

NATIONAL SUMMER INSTITUTE (\$141,929.00 Federal grant)

In 2022, FAU Libraries hosted a coveted three-week NEH Summer Institute for Higher Education titled "The Revolution in Books." Organized 9 nationally recognized visiting experts to teach the institute, and selected 16 scholar-participants to study at the institute from a national pool of applicants, representing 12 states. This was possible through a \$141,929.00 Federal NEH grant. The application process took two years. Participants learned from experts about the history of print, gained hands-on experience at making paper, printing, and binding books, and reflected on how they might teach about books and print in their own classrooms.

Later in 2022, hosted an online conference at which Institute participants presented their lesson plans and ideas about how to communicate to students and the public about the history of printing. Attended live by 31 people. Recording is posted online.

FLORIDA ATLANTIC/HUNTINGTON LIBRARY WEINER FELLOWSHIP

Florida Atlantic University and the Huntington Library jointly offer three Collaborative Short-Term Fellowships to facilitate the research of advanced graduate students in the complementary holdings of the Weiner *Spirit of America* Collection and the Huntington Library. To create a collaborative scholarly community around the Weiner *Spirit of*



America Collection, all three fellows will be in residence at Florida Atlantic in Boca Raton, FL, simultaneously in each year in October.

Anecdotally, the Florida Atlantic/Huntington Library Weiner Fellowship has helped raise national awareness to the collection, for example:

- In Denver at the North American Conference on British Studies, FAU Faculty member Jason Sharples witnessed former fellow Eva Landsberg give a presentation that announced a new Digital Humanities project to reassemble

issues of “shadow newspapers” that are no longer in existence but can be pieced together from *other* newspapers’ reprinting of segments from them (as was common practice at the time). The scholars in attendance found this to be a terrific idea. Landsberg stated that this was inspired by the Collection’s unique item “Colonialism in North America and the West Indies: A Scrapbook of Newspaper Articles Relating to the British Colonies, 1757–1770” (JV1011 .C66 1757)

- Former fellow Shannan Mason reported recently that a Weiner Collection item was her “principal guiding source and visual aid” at the Society of Historians of the Early American Republic conference this summer, and it will now be a new chapter in her book.

The 2024 Fellows

- **Katharine Beene** (University of Connecticut, Department of History)
“Women and Science in 17th- and 18th-Century Ireland”

- **Dr. Elizabeth Hines** (now postdoc at Johns Hopkins; recently received PhD from University of Chicago, Department of History)
"Trading with the Enemy: The English, the Dutch, and Commerce in Time of War"
- **Courtney MacPhee** (Stanford University, Department of History)
"Apocalypse, Puritans, and Politics in the Empire of Oliver Cromwell"

[The] collection of sources about religious and theological debates in the 1640s was impressive; pamphlets from both well-known divines and anonymous commoners regarding topics from the godliness of Christmas to worship on Sunday gives great insight into life during the English Revolution. – Courtney MacPhee, Stanford University

The 2022 Fellows

- **Joan Jockel** (The College of William and Mary, Department of History)
"A man of so much money and power, justice might not be done: Gender Violence, Power, and Print in the Revolutionary Atlantic"
- **Eva Landsberg** (Yale University, Department of History)
"For the True Interest of the Nation: Merchants, Planters, and the Politics of Sugar in the 18th-Century British Atlantic"
- **Shannan Mason** (University of Missouri, Department of History)
"Merchant of Nature, Handmaiden to Science: Natures Commodification and Trans-Atlantic Exchange in the 18th Century"

The 2021 Fellows

- **Dusty Dye** (University of Maryland, Department of History)
"18th-Century Mourning Customs: Life, Death, and the American Revolution"
- **Makiki Reuvers** (University of Pennsylvania, Department of History)
"Bodies of Empire: The Political, Religious, and Corporeal Makings of Subjecthood in Seventeenth-Century New England"

- **Elizabeth Schmidt** (UC Santa Barbara, Department of History)
"Food Anxieties and the Development of Colonial Hybrid Identities in the 18th-Century British Atlantic"

Post-Fellowship Publications: *Measuring the impact of the fellowship...*

While not fully inclusive of all publications, listed below are publications that have resulted during the 2020-2024 recording period which were shaped by research related to the collection:

Sean Morey Smith: "Differentiating Hot Climates in the Anglo-American Experience." In *Atlantic Environments and the American South*, ed. Blake Earle and D. Andrew Johnson (Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press, 2020).

Sean Morey Smith: and Christopher D.E. Willoughby. *Medicine and Healing in the Age of Slavery* (Baton Rouge: LSU Press, 2021).

Justin Herbert: "We Have Always Been Cow People': Alachua Seminole Identity and Autonomy, 1750-1776," *Florida Historical Quarterly* 100, no. 1 (2021).

Jordan Wingate: "Enslaved Pressmen in the Southern Press." *American Periodicals* 32, no. 1 (2022)."

CATALOGING THE COLLECTION

The following totals for each academic year refer to titles that have been cataloged (1 title per bibliographic record, regardless of how many copies or volumes are attached to that record):

Academic year 2020/2021 -- 813 titles

Academic year 2021/2022 -- 929 titles

Academic year 2022/2023 -- 667 titles (Alma post-migration projects)

Academic year 2023/2024 -- 874 titles

WEINER SUITE UPGRADES AND MAINTANCE

Academic Year 2023/2024

Libraries upgraded the Weiner Suite sound system and microphones for \$21,542.28.

Academic Year 2021/2022

Libraries purchased six brand new museum style display cases for collection \$45,258.02.

Academic Year 2020/2021

Libraries replaced old carpet with upgraded luxury vinyl tile (LVT) \$24,000.