

# Alexander Lawrence Ames

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## Education

### UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE | DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN HISTORY OF AMERICAN CIVILIZATION | EXPECTED MAY, 2018

- Certificate in Museum Studies (12 cr.)
- Dissertation: *The Letter and the Spirit: Calligraphy, Manuscripts, and Popular Piety in German Pennsylvania, ca. 1750 – 1850*
- Examination fields in early American religious history, the Protestant Reformation/German Pietism, and book history/print culture studies
- Committee members: Christine Heyrman and James Brophy (UD History, co-directors); Jennifer Van Horn (UD Art History), James Green (Library Company of Philadelphia)

### UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE/WINTERTHUR MUSEUM, GARDEN & LIBRARY | MASTER OF ARTS IN AMERICAN MATERIAL CULTURE | MAY, 2014

- Thesis: *Heavenly Handwriting, Teutonic Type: Faith and Script in German Pennsylvania, ca. 1683 – 1855*
- Adviser: Consuela Metzger, M.L.I.S.

### ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY | MASTER OF ARTS IN PUBLIC HISTORY | MAY, 2012

- Thesis: *Mansions of Memories: Preservation, Destruction and the Construction of Place in Central Minnesota*
- Adviser: Mary Wingerd
- Cognate Field: Cultural Resources Management Archaeology

### ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY | BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN INFORMATION MEDIA DECEMBER, 2007

- Certificate in Instructional Technology

## Peer-Reviewed Publications

“The ‘Spirit of the Fatherland’: German-American Culture and Community in the Library and Archive of the German Society of Pennsylvania,” accepted by *Libraries: Culture, History, and Society*

“‘The Knife of Daily Repentance’: Toward a Religious History of Calligraphy and Manuscript Illumination in German-Speaking Pennsylvania, ca. 1750 – 1850,” *The Mennonite Quarterly Review* 91, no. 4 (October 2017): 471-510

“Quill and Graver Bound: Frakturschrift Calligraphy, Devotional Manuscripts, and Penmanship Instruction in German Pennsylvania, 1755 – 1855,” *Winterthur Portfolio* 50, no. 1 (Spring 2016): 1-83

## Solicited Publications

“Mrs. F.D.R.’s Bookplate: Eleanor Roosevelt, Dorothy Sturgis Harding, and Designing a Bookplate Fit for a First Lady,” *The Bookplate Journal* 15, no. 1 (Spring 2017): 46-53

“Delicious Musk and Times Long Past’: Exploring du Pont-Family Heirloom Books in the Winterthur Museum’s Mysterious Memorial Library,” with Devon Dara Ennis, *Fine Books & Collections* 15, no. 3 (Summer 2017): 49-51

“Useful & Beautiful: The Mark Samuels Lasner Collection at the University of Delaware Brings Late-Victorian Britain to Life,” *Fine Books & Collections* 15, no. 2 (Spring 2017): 63-65

“Portraits of Provenance: Bookplates at the Rosenbach of the Free Library of Philadelphia,” *The Bookplate Journal* 14 no. 1 (Spring 2016): 46-62

“Main Street to Eighth Street: Lewis House and St. Cloud’s South Side Neighborhood,” *Crossings* 38, no. 3 (May 2012): 3-12

## Exhibitions

### **THE GROLIER CLUB, NEW YORK CITY | “GROLIER CLUB BOOKPLATES, PAST & PRESENT” OCTOBER, 2016 – JANUARY, 2017**

Exhibition of approximately 200 bookplates and related artworks from Grolier Club Library and current members

### **ROSENBACH MUSEUM & LIBRARY, PHILADELPHIA | “THE ART OF OWNERSHIP: BOOKPLATES & BOOK COLLECTORS FROM 1480 TO THE PRESENT” | SEPTEMBER, 2016 – MARCH, 2017**

Exhibition of approximately 108 objects drawn from collections in 11 institutions, centered on bookplates and other provenance marks, and how provenance study enhances scholarship in book history and history of reading

### **STEARNS HISTORY MUSEUM | ALICE WHELOCK WHITNEY MEMORIAL GALLERY PERMANENT INSTALLATION**

Small, permanent installation in Stearns History Museum galleries recounting the accomplishments of a prominent local family in the realms of business, philanthropy, and social life

## Conference Presentations

“‘The Spirit of the Letter’: Calligraphy, Manuscript-Making, and Letter Forms as Devotional Imagery in German-Protestant Pennsylvania, ca. 1750 – 1850,” Society for German-American Studies 41st Annual Symposium, Philadelphia, PA, April 21, 2017

“‘The Quill is My Plow’: Religious Refuge, Reading, and Writing in German-Protestant Pennsylvania, ca. 1750-1850,” “The Refuge of Objects / Objects of Refuge,” an international symposium organized by the Center for Material Culture Studies, University of Delaware; and the Research Center of Social Cultural Studies Mainz, University of Mainz, Mainz, Germany, December 16, 2016

Moderator, “Object Lessons” panel, “Building a Better Museum Community” symposium sponsored by The Society of Winterthur Fellows and Winterthur Academic Programs Department in honor of Rosemary Krill, April 10, 2016

“Quill, Graver, and Porte Crayon Bound: Penmanship Instruction and Spiritual Literacy in German Pennsylvania, ca. 1683 – 1855,” “Print Culture and the Arts” panel of the Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, and Publishing at the South Atlantic Modern Language Association 87th Annual Conference, Durham, NC, November 13, 2015

“‘The Spirit that No One Can Write’? Frakturschrift Calligraphy, Manuscript Illumination, and Practices of Scriptural Exegesis among Pennsylvania’s German-Speaking Radical Sectarian Pietists, ca. 1683 – 1855,” Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, and Publishing 22nd Annual Conference, Antwerp, Belgium, September 18, 2014

“His Pen and Hand: Ornamental Handwriting, Manuscript Illumination, and Paper Arts among the Pennsylvania Germans,” co-authored with Michelle Sullivan of the Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation, Northeast Modern Language Association 45th Annual Convention, Harrisburg, PA, April 4, 2014

“Facing the Nation: Pennsylvania German Portraiture, Typefaces, Handwriting, and Manuscript Illumination as Political Rhetoric and Civic Action, ca. 1750 – 1850,” Northeast Popular Culture Association Fall Conference, Colchester, VT, October 26, 2013

“‘Mansions of Memories’: Preservation, Destruction and the Force of Collective Memory in Two Minnesota River Towns,” Southwest/Texas Popular Culture Association and American Culture Association 32nd Annual Conference, San Antonio, TX, April 22, 2011

## Public Lectures

“The Word in the Wilderness: German Spiritual Manuscripts and Pennsylvania’s Place in American Religious History,” History Workshop, Department of History, University of Delaware, expected May 1, 2018

“The ‘Spirit of the Fatherland’: Exploring the History of the German Society of Pennsylvania Library & Archive,” a lecture and exhibition in honor of the bicentennial of the foundation of the German Society of Pennsylvania Library, May 21, 2017

“‘In Praise of Scribes’: Unlocking the Secrets of Illuminated Spiritual Manuscript-Making Among Pennsylvania’s Early German-Speakers, ca. 1750-1850,” Department of History, University of Delaware, May 4, 2017

“Mysteries of Memorial Library Revealed: A Treasure Tour of a Country House Book Collection,” Winterthur Museum, Garden, & Library; Wilmington, DE, March 20 and April 3, 2017

“Mrs. Doctor: Critical Bibliography and the Culinary World of a Baltimore Doctor’s Wife,” Rare Book and Manuscript Connoisseurship course, Winterthur Program in American Material Culture, University of Delaware, March 23, 2017

“Portraits of Provenance: Highlights from The Art of Ownership Bookplate Exhibition at the Rosenbach Museum in Philadelphia,” Princeton Bibliophiles & Collectors Club, Princeton University Library, Princeton, NJ, February 19, 2017

“Lost in the Endpapers: Bookplates and Book History at the Rosenbach and Grolier Club,” presented at “The World of Bookplates” mini-symposium, The Grolier Club, New York City, January 11, 2017

“The Letter and the Spirit: Pennsylvania-German Calligraphy, Manuscripts, and Spiritual Life, ca. 1750 – 1850,” University of Münster, Münster, Germany, December 13, 2016

“Bookplates through the Ages: An Introduction to the Ex Libris Art Form and The Art of Ownership Exhibition,” Rosenbach Museum & Library, Philadelphia, PA, October 19, 2016

“The Rhetoric of Baroque Letter Forms: Pennsylvania Frakturschrift Calligraphy in Transatlantic Perspective,” German Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, June 4, 2015

“Wisdom Through Pious Living: Penmanship, Spirituality, and Pennsylvania German Manuscript Traditions,” The Philobiblon Club, Philadelphia, PA, April 14, 2015

“The Search for Knowledge in the Gothic Baroque: Text Veneration and Divine Knowledge in German Pennsylvania, ca. 1600 – 1850,” Winterthur Museum, Garden, & Library; Wilmington, DE, April 9, 2015

“The Winter of the Soul: Calligraphy and Religious Texts in German Pennsylvania, ca. 1683 – 1856,” Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, February 4, 2015

“His Pen and Hand: Pennsylvania German Calligraphy and Manuscript Illumination, 1750 – 1850,” Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, University of Delaware, Wilmington, DE, April 9, 2014

“Heavenly Handwriting, Teutonic Type: Rethinking the Many Meanings of Pennsylvania German Fraktur, ca. 1750 – 1850,” Winterthur Museum, Garden, & Library, Winterthur, DE, December 13, 2013

“How’s This, St. Cloud? Historic Preservation and the Dark Side of Growth,” Breakfast Club, History Museum, St. Cloud, MN, May 12, 2010

## Fellowships & Grants

University Doctoral Fellowship, Office of Graduate & Professional Education, University of Delaware, August, 2017 – May, 2018

Graduate Research Travel Award, Center for Material Culture Studies, University of Delaware, \$1,500, October, 2017

Bibliographical Society of America-Rare Book School Scholarship for course tuition and travel, 2015

International Travel Award, Office of Graduate & Professional Education/Institute for Global Studies, University of Delaware, \$4,500, April, 2014

Graduate Research Fellowship in Material Culture Studies, Delaware Public Humanities Institute/Center for Material Culture Studies, University of Delaware, \$4,500, March, 2013

Albert T. and Elizabeth R. Gamon Scholarship, Peter Wentz Farmstead Society, \$5,000, March, 2013

Barbara Penny Community Service Fellowship, \$1,500, Spring, 2009

## Honors & Awards

William H. Williams Award for “demonstrating outstanding scholarship in the area of American history during the period 1607-1865,” Department of History, University of Delaware, May 11, 2017

Alumni Graduate Student Award for “producing the best student seminar paper during the 2016 calendar year,”  
Department of History, University of Delaware, May 11, 2017

Justin Winsor Library History Essay Award, conferred annually by the Library History Round Table of the  
American Library Association in recognition of “the best essay written in English on library history,”  
March 27, 2017

Stanley J. Goldfus Memorial Award for outstanding performance as a teaching assistant for calendar year 2015,  
Department of History, University of Delaware, May 7, 2015

Heritage Preservation Award, City of St. Cloud, Minnesota, Heritage Preservation Commission, June 24, 2013

Alumni Service Award, St. Cloud State University Alumni Association, April 18, 2013

Good Neighbor Award, St. Cloud Historical & Neighborhood Preservation Association, April 16, 2012

Delivered commencement addresses at St. Cloud State University graduations, December 13, 2007 and  
May 5, 2012

Graduate Dean’s Distinction Scholarship, St. Cloud State University, Fall, 2008 – Spring, 2009

Dr. Doreen Keable Learning Resources Center Memorial Scholarship, Fall, 2006

## Service

Member, Steering Committee, History of American Civilization Graduate Program, Department of History,  
University of Delaware, September, 2017 – Present

Member, Library Committee, German Society of Pennsylvania, May, 2017 – Present

Co-founder and Co-convenor, Object Fight Club: The Methods in Material Culture Graduate Student Working  
Group, Center for Material Culture Studies, University of Delaware, January – December, 2017

Member, Library Renovation Planning Committee, Morris Library, University of Delaware, September, 2016 –  
Present

University of Delaware Library Student Advocacy Council, August, 2014 – July, 2017

“History Workshop” Planning Committee, Department of History, University of Delaware, May, 2015 – May, 2016

University of Delaware Library Faculty Senate Library Committee, August, 2014 – May, 2015

## Selected Library & Museum Work Experiences

### **DELAWARE HISTORICAL SOCIETY | E. LYMAN STEWART GRADUATE INTERN IN PUBLIC HISTORY JUNE – AUGUST, 2017**

Conducted inventory of uncatalogued Historical Society archival collections

Presented inventory findings and proposed paths forward to Delaware Historical Society Board of Directors

**REGISTRATION DEPARTMENT, WINTERTHUR MUSEUM | VOLUNTEER | JUNE, 2016 – APRIL, 2017**

Inventoried 1,910 rare books and pieces of ephemera in “Memorial Library” period room  
Served as liaison between museum registrars, cataloguing librarians, and conservators regarding book condition, bibliographical and cataloguing issues, and project progress  
Presented findings to senior management, professional colleagues, and institutional stakeholders

**THE GROLIER CLUB | CONSULTING (MEMBER) CURATOR | DECEMBER, 2015 – JANUARY, 2017**

Wrote exhibition proposal for “Grolier Club Bookplates, Past and Present” exhibition  
Identified 200 bookplates and related artworks from holdings of Grolier Club Library and current members for inclusion in exhibition  
Wrote exhibition labels and plan gallery layout

**MARK SAMUELS LASNER COLLECTION | GRADUATE ASSISTANT | AUGUST, 2015 – MAY, 2016**

Answered questions from Collection patrons and supervised reading room when in use by researchers  
Maintained Collection website using “WordPress” software

**WINTERTHUR LIBRARY | CATALOGUING INTERN | JANUARY, 2016 – FEBRUARY, 2017**

Processed and catalogued new acquisitions in the Collection of Printed Books & Periodicals

**ROSENBACH MUSEUM & LIBRARY | CONSULTING CURATOR | JUNE, 2015 – JANUARY, 2017**

Identified 108 objects at 11 institutions for inclusion in exhibit “The Art of Ownership: Bookplates & Book Collectors, ca. 1480 – The Present”  
Collaborated with museum registrar to secure object loans  
Wrote exhibit wall panel text, object labels/gallery guide, and docent training materials  
Designed exhibit gallery layout  
Led gallery talks for special tour groups

**HAGLEY MUSEUM & LIBRARY | PROCESSING INTERN | JUNE – AUGUST, 2015**

Surveyed, arranged, and housed 84.5 linear feet of RCA/Thomson Lancaster business records  
Created online finding aid using “Archivists Toolkit” software

**SOCIAL STUDIES EDUCATION PROGRAM, DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY, UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE | TEACHING ASSISTANT | AUGUST, 2014 – MAY, 2015**

Graded assignments and assisted in instruction for two social studies education courses  
Managed record-keeping for students’ student-teaching evaluations

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA | EDUCATION INTERN | JUNE – AUGUST, 2014**

Researched and wrote K-12 social studies unit plan for Historical Society “Educational Resources” website  
Presented project plan to senior leaders from Historical Society and the Library Company of Philadelphia

**WINTERTHUR MUSEUM | TOUR GUIDE | SEPTEMBER, 2012 – MAY, 2014**

Led tours of the 175-room mansion of Henry Francis du Pont, collector of early American antiques

**MYSTIC SEAPORT: THE MUSEUM OF AMERICA AND THE SEA | MUSEUM STUDIES INTERN | JUNE – AUGUST, 2011**

Interpreted in Museum exhibit hall and facilitated an artifact-based children’s activity  
Developed primary-source, critical thinking skills-based content for iPad tour of Museum grounds

**MINNESOTA DIGITAL LIBRARY COALITION | GRADUATE ASSISTANT | AUGUST, 2010 – MAY, 2011**

Promoted Minnesota Digital Library and “Minnesota Reflections” project through digital and printed publications  
Used Adobe InDesign and Microsoft Publisher to design posters and handouts  
Enhanced information gathering on “Minnesota Reflections” for project evaluation

**FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF LITTLE FALLS | COMMUNITY HISTORY INTERN | MAY – AUGUST, 2010**

Collaborated with the convent’s History Committee to analyze heritage preservation needs  
Conducted background research into Roman Catholic religious life and interviewee biographies  
Wrote question lists and conduct oral history interviews with convent community members

**HILL MUSEUM & MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY, ST. JOHN’S UNIVERSITY | INTERN | MAY – JUNE, 2010**

Reorganized manuscript facsimile collection  
Revised and expanded manuscript microfilm catalogues secondary source references  
Researched early European printers for incunabulum collection catalogue  
Participated in Minnesota Manuscript Research Laboratory

**ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER, ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY | GRADUATE ASSISTANT | OCTOBER, 2009 – MAY, 2010**

Catalogued Powerline Project archival holdings with “PastPerfect” software  
Transcribed Center’s oral history interviews  
Wrote deed of deposit and interview release forms  
Developed guidelines for use of Center oral history interviews and archival materials

**STEARNS HISTORY MUSEUM | ALICE WHEELOCK WHITNEY MEMORIAL GALLERY CURATOR  
JUNE – AUGUST, 2009**

Drafted 4,000-word exhibit proposal submitted to Whitney Foundation  
Researched and wrote exhibit text, and selected, digitized, and edited historical photos for use in exhibit  
Collaborated with other Museum staff to plan gallery design and layout  
Identified and researched Whitney-related objects in Museum collection  
Designed exhibit gallery layout  
Accessioned new donations to collection given for display in gallery

**LINDEN HILL (MUSSER & WEYERHAEUSER MANSIONS) | INTERN | JANUARY – JUNE, 2009**

Developed and piloted standards-aligned -12 educational programming  
Taught lessons to regional students at Linden Hill and in classrooms  
Presented new programming goals and strategies to Linden Hill Board of Directors  
Wrote press releases regarding educational programming

**REFERENCE DEPARTMENT, GREAT RIVER REGIONAL LIBRARY | INTERN | JUNE – JULY, 2007**

Participated in materials acquisition process  
Searched for patrons’ requested library materials  
Answered patron technology questions  
Participated in library special events  
Weeded unused library resources  
Reorganized frequently browsed sections of library collections

## **CODRINGTON LIBRARY, ALL SOULS COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD | INTERN | MAY – JULY, 2008**

Scanned and digitized collection of microfilm images

Transported library collections to new shelf locations as part of collections shifting project

Inventoried library collections

## **Professional Development**

“Advanced Descriptive Bibliography,” Rare Book School course, University of Virginia, June 4 – 9, 2017

“Introduction to the Principles of Bibliographical Description,” Rare Book School course, University of Virginia, July 24 – 29, 2016

German Script Course, Moravian Church Archives, Bethlehem, PA, June 2 – 13, 2014

## **Affiliations**

Society for German-American Studies (since 2017)

The Grolier Club (elected 2016)

The German Society of Pennsylvania (since 2016)

The Bibliographical Society of America (since 2016)

The Delaware Bibliophiles (since 2015)

The Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, & Publishing (SHARP; since 2014)

The Philobiblon Club (since 2014)