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APRIL 2022

ASECS Announces Winners of 2022 Clifford Prize

The American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (ASECS) awards the James L. Clifford Prize annually to an article that presents an outstanding study of some aspect of eighteenth-century culture, interesting to any eighteenth-century specialist, regardless of discipline.

The 2022 Clifford Prize is awarded to **Alan S. Ross, “The Animal Body as Medium: Taxidermy and European Expansion, 1775-1865,”** published in *Past & Present* in November 2020. One article has also been awarded honorable mention: **Elizabeth Ellis, “The Natchez War Revisited: Violence, Multinational Settlements, and Indigenous Diplomacy in the Lower Mississippi Valley,”** which appeared in the *William and Mary Quarterly* in July 2020.

In a rich and wide-ranging essay, **Professor Alan S. Ross** applies insights from iconology, history of science, and art history to a highly original study of taxidermized animals. Demonstrating the deep entanglement of taxidermy with European allegorical traditions and colonial ventures, Ross explores the evolution of taxidermy and the ways it mirrored global interactions and interconnections. He shows how the taxidermic preservation and public display by Europeans of animals from faraway lands served as records of and justifications for imperialist expansion. Drawing on a prodigious quantity of research and using the key example of primates presented first at the London natural history cabinet of Ashton Lever and later at the Natural History Museum of Vienna, Ross provides a delightfully interdisciplinary analysis that draws in and surprises readers. This is a brilliant and engaging article that situates taxidermy as a fascinating starting point into new understandings of eighteenth-century culture more broadly.

After mining an extensive range of source materials drawn from history, archaeology, anthropology and elsewhere **Professor Elizabeth Ellis** provides an impressively fresh contextualization of the Natchez War. Helping the reader perceive this conflict from Indigenous points of view, Ellis provides a clear, persuasive, and well-written argument regarding the need to see the Natchez War more broadly and to establish a deeper Indigenous context.

The American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies is a not-for-profit educational organization founded to promote the study of all aspects of the eighteenth century. It sponsors conferences, awards research fellowships and prizes, and publishes *Eighteenth-Century Studies* and *Studies in Eighteenth-Century Culture*.