

# Three New Sweden Artists: Gustavus Hesselius, Adolph-Ulrich Wertmüller & Paula Himmelsbach Balano

Eighth Annual New Sweden History Conference

**Saturday, November 8, 2008**

Christ Church (Old Swedes') Upper Merion  
740 River Road • Swedesburg, PA 19405



This conference will examine the artistic and historical contexts of three important artists who worked in the geographical area of the former New Sweden Colony (1638-55), today

the states of Delaware, New Jersey & Pennsylvania. Gustavus Hesselius (1682-1755) was North America's first successful portraitist. Adolph-Ulrich Wertmüller (1751-1811) is well known for his portraits of Marie Antoinette and George Washington, as well as his provocative history painting "Danae." Paula Himmelsbach Balano (1877-1967) was a painter and stained glass artist who created the windows for Christ Church. She was the first woman to develop and fabricate her own designs, in her own studio, under her own name. All three artists were born abroad (the men in Sweden, Balano in Germany) and all three made important contributions to the development of the visual arts in North America and the United States.

## Sponsors:

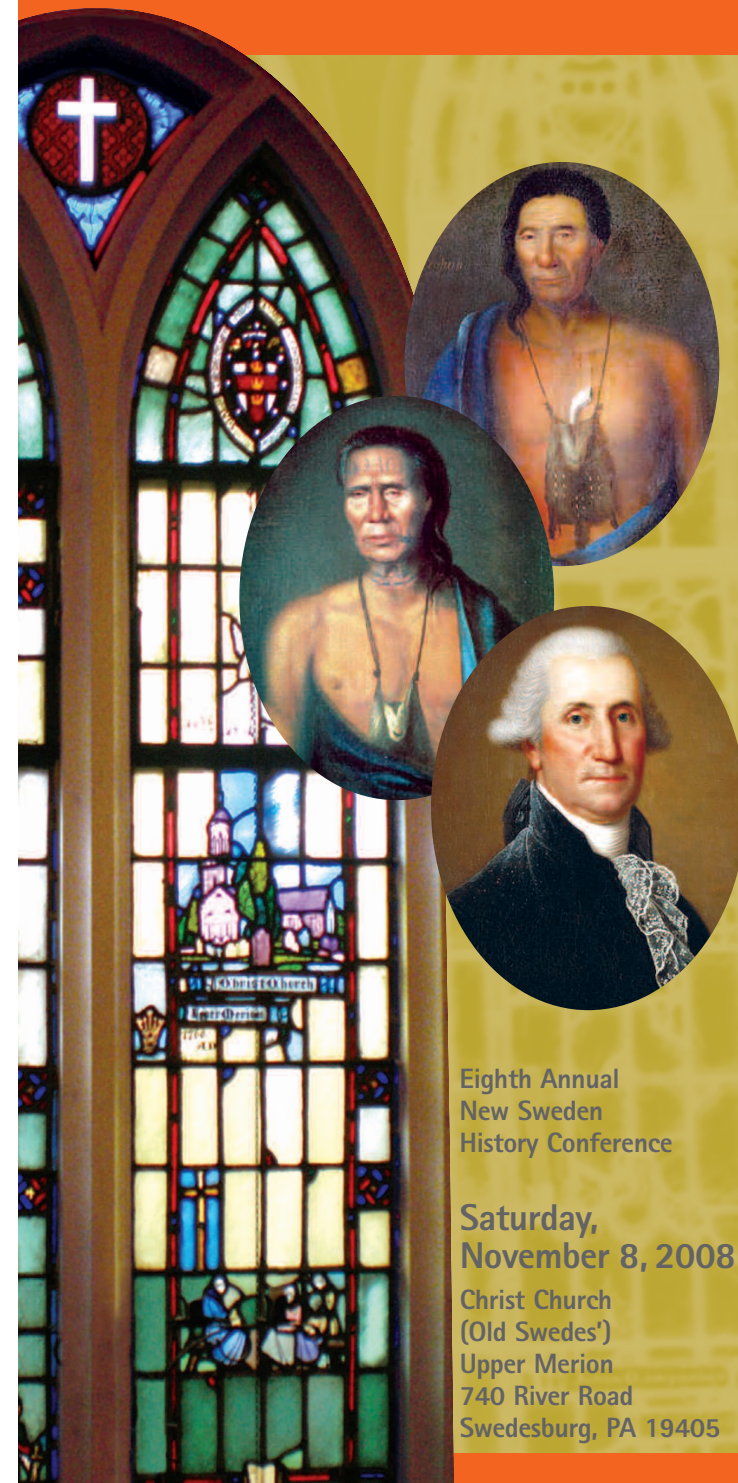
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American Swedish Historical Museum  
1900 Pattison Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19145-5901



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# Schedule

All conference activities will be in Christ Church unless noted otherwise.

9:15 Registration

10:00 Welcome & Announcements

10:15 Morning Program

Roland E. Fleischer, Professor Emeritus of Art History, Pennsylvania State University: "Gustavus Hesselius: More Questions than Answers."

Carol Eaton Soltis, Consulting Curator, Center for American Art, Philadelphia Museum of Art: "Adolph-Ulrich Wertmüller (1751-1811): Artist, Farmer & Cultural Provocateur."

Kim-Eric Williams, Governor, Swedish Colonial Society: "Paula Himmelsbach Balano and the Challenge of New Sweden in Stained Glass."

12:30 Luncheon in the Parish Hall. Note that the Parish Hall is not barrier free. It is an historic structure with five steps. Restrooms are located in the Parish Hall.

There will be a tour of the church after lunch.

1:30 Afternoon Program

Rebecca J. Sheppard, Assistant Professor, School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy, University of Delaware: "Finding the Home of Adolph-Ulrich Wertmüller." Introduced by Carolyn Mercadante, President, Claymont Historical Society.

Questions & Discussion

Announcement of 2009 Program

## Driving directions to Christ Church:

From the Blue Route (I-476) or the Schuylkill Expressway (I-76) exit at Conshohocken and get onto PA Rt. 23. Travel west on Rt.23 to the church (740 River Road). Go past the church, turn left and left again and into the church's parking lot. The church is just north of the Pennsylvania Turnpike.

## About Our Speakers

**Roland E. Fleischer** is a professor emeritus of art history and a fellow emeritus of the Institute for the Arts and Humanistic Studies at the Pennsylvania State University. In a long and distinguished career in art history, Professor Fleischer has spoken and written about many topics, especially 17th century Dutch painting, Colonial American art and Gustavus Hesselius. He is the author of numerous works about Hesselius, including *Gustavus Hesselius: Face Painter to the Middle Colonies* (the catalogue of a New Jersey State Museum exhibition, 1988); "Gustavus Hesselius: A Study of His Style" (in

*American Paintings to 1776*, 1971); *Philadelphia Painting and Printing to 1776* (1971); "Gustavus Hesselius's Letter of 1714 and Its Contribution to Current Scholarship" (1989) and "Gustavus Hesselius and Penn Family Portraits: A Conflict Between Visual and Documentary Evidence" (1987), both in *The American Art Journal*; and articles about Hesselius in *Dictionary of American Art before 1914* (2000), *American National Biography*, and *Dictionary of Art* (1996).

**Rebecca J. Sheppard** is an assistant professor in the School of Urban Affairs, a member of the core faculty of the Urban Affairs and Public Policy Program, and the associate director of the University of Delaware's Center for Historic Architecture and Design. She holds a master's degree from Delaware, and is a Ph.D. candidate there in the Program in the History of American Civilization. Her research interests include historic preservation planning, the history of rural landscapes and the built environment, and landscape preservation. She has written and co-written many surveys and research reports about the historic built environment of Delaware and neighboring states, including *Threatened Buildings Documented in New Castle County* (2002); *Mid-Atlantic Heritage Building Survey: Star-Spangled Banner Flag House, Baltimore, Maryland* (2002); *Historical Agricultural Landscapes in Delaware: A Reconnaissance Survey, 2000-2001* (2001); and *Threatened Buildings Documented in Delaware, 1998-1999* (2000). All were published by the University of Delaware Center for Historical Architecture and Design.

**Carol Eaton Soltis** is a consulting curator at the Philadelphia Museum of Art's Center for American Art. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania in the history of art with a dissertation titled "In Sympathy with the Heart: Rembrandt Peale, an American Artist and the Traditions of European Art" (2000). Dr. Soltis has curated or co-curated a number of exhibitions about early American art, including *Intersections: Scriptures, Prints and Paintings in Antebellum America*, at the Library Company of Philadelphia, 2005 (she also organized an accompanying symposium of the same title), and *Rembrandt Peale, 1778-1860, In Pursuit of Fame*, at the Smithsonian Institution's National Portrait Gallery (1992). Dr. Soltis was a research consultant for The Peale Family Papers project at the National Portrait Gallery, 1987-92. Her many publications include "Rembrandt Peale with a Geranium and David Teniers the Younger" in *The American Art Journal* (2004), several entries on American artists and cultural figures for *American National Biography* and "Highlights from the Collection of Painting and Sculpture in the Library Company of Philadelphia," *The Magazine Antiques* (August 2006).

**Kim-Eric Williams** is the governor and the archivist of the Swedish Colonial Society and directs the Swedish Language Program of the University of Pennsylvania. He received his Doctor of Ministry from the Graduate Theological Foundation, Notre Dame, IN. As the translator for the Gloria Dei Records Project, Dr. Williams is responsible for rendering 17th and 18th century Swedish documents into contemporary English. (The Gloria Dei Records Project is organizing, translating, editing and publishing the records of Philadelphia's Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church and Pennsylvania's other Swedish Lutheran churches, 1643-1786. The fourth volume in the series (1719-55) is in press and will be available for purchase at the conference.) Dr. Williams has served as a pastor for Evangelical Lutheran Church congregations in New Jersey and Connecticut, and as the associate pastor for Täby Parish, Church of Sweden, Stockholm. He has been the editor of the *Archives Advocate*, the newsletter of the Lutheran Archives Center at Philadelphia, since 1999. He is the author of *The Eight Old Swedes' Churches of New Sweden* (1999), and *The Journey of Justus Falckner* (2003), and presented "Roses Among the Thorns: Colonial Swedes and Anglicans on the Delaware" at the fifth New Sweden History Conference in 2005.

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Registration, continental breakfast and box lunch costs \$35 per person (\$25 for students and high school teachers). **Please register early – space is limited.** Registration deadline is Monday, November 3. Mail to: New Sweden History Conference, American Swedish Historical Museum, 1900 Pattison Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19145-5901. Make check payable to "ASHM" and write "NSHC 2008" on the memo line. For registration questions contact the ASHM at (215) 389-1776.

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