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From the Editors

Welcome to the first issue of volume ten of *The Journal of Early American History* in which we offer our readers three articles that investigate diverse subjects. The first article, by Caroline Monteiro and Erik Odegard, investigates the degree of involvement of in the trans-Atlantic slave trade of Johan Maurits van Nassau-Siegen, who governed Dutch Brazil from 1636 to 1644, which remains a vexed question especially in the Netherlands but one that has not received much attention. Monteiro and Odegard track the personal trafficking in enslaved Africans, including smuggling, by Johan Maurits that, by extension, sheds essential light on the socio-political relationship of the count, his court, and the colony's leadership and the centrality of the slave trade to that relationship.

The second article, by Dennis Maika, also discusses seventeenth-century Dutch involvement in the Atlantic slave trade but focuses on the effort of the West India Company to organize this commerce to the colony of New Netherland after the company opened the slave trade to all comers. This initiative adopted the Dutch model of overseas affairs in which a state-sponsored corporation and independent commercial operators collaborated on this formal extension of the slave trade and the article tracks the mixed progress of the experiment. Maika's consideration of this Dutch case expands our understanding of the seventeenth-century trade in enslaved Africans in North America which customarily concentrates on English examples.

Our third contribution, by Gerald Pollio, considers carpets as colonial acquisition and deployment of carpets initially manufactured in Asia later substituted for copies produced in England, as costs decreased and the array of styles generated in Europe widened. This wider availability enabled wider consumption of carpets in British America and reflected a broader pursuit of gentility there. Accordingly, during the eighteenth century, Pollio argues, Eastern carpets lost their original semiotic purpose as 'English' carpets became synonymous with elegance although the data on the positioning and usage of carpets in colonial homes, derived from probate inventories, can be problematic; the article discusses this methodological issue as well.

The Journal of Early American History appears three times annually and we would be very pleased to consider for peer review manuscript submissions of between 25–45 pages (approximately 8,000–10,000 words), double-spaced

(in English), which relate to topics related to any aspect of early American history, broadly defined. Issues will also include in-depth review articles, usually covering four to six books published in the last five years as well as individual reviews of new books of interest to historians of early America. For further information on the journal, including the submission process, please visit <http://www.brill.nl/journal-early-american-history>.

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