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JOURNAL OF EARLY AMERICAN HISTORY 11 (2021) 1-2

JOURNAL
OF EARLY
AMERICAN
HISTORY
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From The Editors

Welcome to the first issue of volume eleven of *The Journal of Early American History* in which we offer our readers two articles, another of our forums that discuss a new book of interest to early Americanists, and a battery of reviews of books on an array of “early American” topics. We also welcome Dr. Evan Haefeli of Texas A&M University who joins us as a new Co-General Editor.

Our first article, by Matteo Lazzari, employs the 1650 case of an Angolan-Portuguese astrologer Gaspar Riveros Vasconcelos, who became politically involved in the aftermath of the independence of Portugal from the Habsburg monarchy, from the Inquisition of Mexico City. Lazzari examines the inquisitorial record to analyze identity formation, the character of “race”, and the conditions and agency of persons of African-European descent in seventeenth-century New Spain in order to determine the degree of influence Vasconcelos and people like him effected in seventeenth-century Mexico.

Our second article, by Jennie Jeppesen, examines American views on the employment of convict labor in eighteenth-century North America by reconsidering the case of Benjamin Franklin’s public opposition to the colonial employment of transportees in terms of general views on this subject voiced in Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. Jeppesen concludes that this wider context reveals that Franklin’s anti-convict argument went against a general desire for the importation of convicts.

The forum, an exchange that includes extended reviews by prominent historians and a response from the book’s author, has become a regular *JEAH* feature. This forum considers David D. Hall’s *The Puritans: A Transatlantic History* (Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press, 2019) and includes contributions by Abram C. Van Engen, Evan Haefeli, Andrew Pettegree, and Fred van Lieburg, along with Professor Hall’s reply.

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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