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Atlantic Emancipations

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**Call for Papers
Atlantic Emancipations
April 10-12, 2008, Philadelphia.**

A Conference Co-Sponsored by the Library Company of Philadelphia, the McNeil Center for Early American Studies, and Rochester Institute of Technology.

The year 2008 marks the bicentennial of two important events in the history of slavery and freedom in the Atlantic world: the official end of the overseas slave trade in the United States (following the passage of statutes in the U.S. and Great Britain the previous year) and the maturation of Pennsylvania's gradual abolition law -- the world's first emancipation statute. These two events offer an exciting opportunity for reflection on the broader theme of black freedom struggles in the Atlantic world during the late-eighteenth and early-nineteenth centuries.

This conference will bring together scholars for extended discussion of a range of themes relating to the historiography of black freedom movements nationally and internationally. Plenary speakers will include Richard Blackett, Laurent Dubois, Steven Hahn, and Gary Nash.

Proposals are welcome for papers addressing any aspect of the theme of "Atlantic Emancipations." Among the many topics conference organizers hope to consider are the foundations of black abolitionism in the North and South Atlantic; the meaning of the Haitian Revolution in Atlantic world politics and society; comparative emancipations in different imperial and local contexts; the prospect and peril of interracial activism in and beyond the United States; black emigration movements and the migrations of people of color to different locales in the Atlantic basin; legal cultures in pre- and post-emancipation societies; the gendered meanings of emancipation; the dynamics of national allegiance and identity formation for free people of color in the African Diaspora; and the technologies of freedom (including printed discourse) throughout the Atlantic world.

The deadline for submission of proposals is April 1, 2007. Proposals should be no more than two pages in length and must be accompanied by a brief c.v.. Accepted papers should be approximately 30 pages in length and will be due February 1, 2008, for pre-circulation to conference participants. Presenters will receive support for travel to, and lodging in, Philadelphia. Selected essays will be published in an edited volume appearing in the University of Georgia Press series entitled "Race in the Atlantic World, 1700-1900."

Please send paper proposals to mceas@ccat.sas.upenn.edu, or to Atlantic Emancipations, McNeil Center for Early American Studies, University of Pennsylvania, 3355 Woodland Walk, Philadelphia, PA 19104-4531.