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# Association for Gravestone Studies e-Newsletter

**Issue 25**  
**May 2005**

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**Conference 2005 Ride Sharing:** If you're interested in sharing a ride to the conference, or would like to share a cab from the airport to the college, please e-mail Andrea Carlin at [info@gravestonestudies.org](mailto:info@gravestonestudies.org) with your itinerary. We'll try to match you up. Also check the conference page on the AGS website, we'll post them there.

**Online Sale:** We have a special sale on selected items posted on the AGS website. Take advantage of the low prices while supplies last--there are limited quantities available! We also have a new publication for sale: *Guardians of the Soul: Angels and Innocents, Mourners and Saints: Indiana's Remarkable Cemetery Sculpture*. For details and ordering information, please visit the [AGS website store section](#).

**Reminder:** The AGS Spring Cemetery Tour will be June 4, 2005, 10:30 a.m. We will meet at the gazebo, on the West Springfield town common (along Route 20, just west of Riverdale St.).

**Call For Papers: Popular/American Culture Association Conference**

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Call For Papers: The DEATH IN AMERICAN CULTURE SECTION of the Mid-Atlantic Popular/American Culture Association Conference, New Brunswick, NJ, Nov. 4-6, 2005, invites proposals for papers on any aspect of American deathways. Topics include but are not limited to the following:

1. CEMETERIES, GRAVEMARKERS, & MEMORIALS: national, regional, and ethnic practices and trends in the design, rhetoric, and iconography of gravemarkers and memorials; also, gender, class, and race in the cemetery and memorialization.
2. DEATH & AMERICAN CULTURE: attitudes toward and practices relating to death, including the social and cultural construction of death; death in art, literature, and pop culture; the evolution of mourning practices, funeral customs, and the funeral industry; and changing attitudes toward the dead body and its disposal.

All proposals/presentations should avoid disciplinary jargon and be aimed at a broad academic audience, not at an audience of specialists in a narrow sub-field of a discipline. Proposals that include comparative cultural perspectives on aspects of American deathways are especially welcome. Last year's MAP/ACA "Death in American Culture" section in Buffalo, NY, included five panel sessions (several on gravemarkers and

cemeteries) and a Saturday afternoon walking tour of Forest Lawn Cemetery, with its new mausoleum designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. On Saturday afternoon this year, the section will sponsor a 2-hour tour of a local cemetery, weather permitting. (I haven't had time to investigate possible walking tours yet? Any suggestions? The cemetery should be a large one in or close to New Brunswick with a good variety of styles/eras. Proposals should include 1) a title and 150-word abstract, 2) a statement about A/V needs, and 3) complete mailing address, phone number, and other contact information. Send by email (preferred), fax, or U.S. mail no later than JUNE 15, 2005, to Gary Collison, Professor of American Studies and English, Penn State York, office: (717)-771-4029 fax: (717)- 771-4022, 1031 Edgecomb Avenue, e-mail: glc@psu.edu. York, PA 17403

**Book For Sale: Early American Stone Sculpture**

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Book For Sale: Early American Stone Sculpture Found in the Burying Grounds of New England by Avon Neal & Ann Parker. Signed by authors. Absolute mint condition. Box edition #253 of 475. \$225

Please contact: J. Miller, PO Box 535, Paymyra, VA 22963.

**Gravestone Conference, Isles of Shoals, NH**

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**Greetings and a special invitation to all gravestone aficionados!** The Seacoast NH-based Isles of Shoals Historical & Research Association (ISHRA) holds an historically-themed conference each year at Star Island, Isles of Shoals, NH. This year's theme is "Gosport's Graven Images" - the gravestones dotting Star Island's landscape and the lives of the citizens that lay buried beneath them. The conference will take place Tues, June 21-Sat, June 25. Local historians and gravestone experts will talk about the archaeological work done about the Island graveyards over the decades and the lives of the citizens that populated Gosport Village during centuries past. You'll have an opportunity to visit NH's largest gravestone--an obelisk raised in honor of the Rev John Tucke who served the Island population in the mid 18th Century. You'll be able to visit graveyards on adjacent islands as well. "Thanatologist Extraordinaire" Roberta Halporn will be lecturer-in-residence for the week, speaking about such topics as Symbolism in Gravestone Art, the Evolution of Gravestone Carving, Genealogical Gleanings from Gravestones, and Demonstrations in Gravestone Rubbing. Participate in painting and photography workshops, relax and listen to the surf crashing on the rocks, enjoy the June roses and Island sunrises and sunsets, read a book, or whilst away the hours rocking away on the Oceanic Hotel's porch. The food is great and it's always a fun time! Take advantage of this opportunity to stay on exclusive Star Island, an opportunity open only to registered conference attendees. Please join us!

For details, financial and otherwise, contact Janet Saunders (603) 234-0682 or Amy Cook (603) 440-8010.

**Tour: Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, MA**

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June 5, 2005, 2 p.m. "A Garden Within a Garden: Exploring Mount Auburn's Unique Designed Landscapes" a tour with Bree Detamore Harvey. Admission \$8.00 Call (617) 607-1981 for information.

[Mount Auburn Cemetery](#)

**Seminar: Salem, OR**

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Seminar & Hands-on Training June 3 and 4, 2005 A two-day workshop on Oregon's historic cemeteries and the issues that confront them is scheduled for Salem's Mission Mill meeting space. A variety of topics will be covered; such as planning a cemetery restoration project, title search and ownership, fundraising and community relations, on-site preservation, legislation and legal issues, security, cemetery education and special events, care and repair of monuments, and more.

Our panels and presenters intend for you to return home with solid information on the multiple values of Oregon's historic cemeteries and how best to care for them. There will be lots of handouts, too. Lunch and refreshments are included in the \$15 per day fee. For more information, contact the OCHC at 725 Summer Street NE, Suite C, Salem, OR 97301-1266. Phone (503) 986-0685. Email: mirra.meyer@state.or.us.

[OCHC](#)

**Tour: Historic Oakwood Cemetery, Syracuse, NY**

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June 26, 2005, 2 p.m. Guided walking tour, "Women of Oakwood" A local lawyer, Lucia B. Whisenand, examines the role of outstanding women in the history of Syracuse: what obstacles they overcame, what lasting contributions they made. For more information, please contact Letty Murray at (315) 445-9388.

**Article: Joe Pozell Memorial Service**

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The link below is to an article about a memorial service for Joe Pozell. He is the superintendant of Oak Hill cemetery and was one of the people who helped with the '99 AGS Washington D.C. Conference.

[Washington Post Article](#)

**"A Week for Discovering European Cemeteries"**

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**May 30- June 5, 2005: "A Week for Discovering European Cemeteries."** The ASCE, Association of Significant Cemeteries in Europe, promote the second edition of "A Week for Discovering European Cemeteries", May 30 - June 5, 2005. In this week guided tours will take place in many European cemeteries, and information literature will be available. Lectures, concerts, exhibitions will also be scheduled, thanks to the cooperation and/or sponsorship by Municipalities, Ministries, Monuments and Fine Arts Offices, volunteer work groups. The best scholars of such monumental structures will also be involved.

The event wishes to make the general public aware of the extraordinary importance of European cemeteries: exceptional architectural structures, invaluable catalogues of sculptural works in the past two centuries, amazing summaries of the history of cities and nations, unusual anthologies of the taste and habits of different social groups, different epochs, different places. In a word, extremely precious cultural pieces. ASCE's aim is to make them familiar to Europeans and towards encouraging a greater commitment in protecting and restoring them while ensuring a steady upkeep. All events are free. For up-to-date information please check [www.significantcemeteries.net](http://www.significantcemeteries.net).

[ASCE Website](#)

**Recent Publications by Doris "Dusty" Smith**

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We recently received an e-mail from an AGS member about two publications by Doris "Dusty" Smith. *Voices from the Cities of the Dead* is a Cemetery Reference Guide. *Unlocking the Secrets of Secret Societies: Understanding Abbreviations and Symbols on Graves and Memorials* Lists abbreviations for most known secret societies and fraternal organizations.

For more information about these two publications, please visit Dusty's website, below. To order them you can use paypal.com. They are also offered on Ebay.

[Publications Information](#)

**Article: Walnut Grove Family Cemetery, Spartanburg, SC**

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The link below is to an article about the Chicora Foundation's work preserving the Walnut Grove Family Cemetery.

[Walnut Grove Cemetery](#)

**Article: Wahoo Cemetery Restoration, Gainesville, GA**

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The link below is to an article about the recent restoration of the predominantly African-American Wahoo Cemetery.

[Wahoo Cemetery](#)

**AGS Member Website Link**

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This month's website link is to Gravestone Services of New England, a conservation company located in Methuen, Massachusetts.

[Gravestone Services of New England](#)

**Contact Information**

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