Lawrence Henry Gipson Institute for Eighteenth-Century Studies

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The Lawrence Henry Gipson Institute for Eighteenth-Century
Studies was established in 1971, to honor one of America’s most
distinguished scholars, who served as a long-time member of the
faculty at Lehigh. Gipson’s monumental life work, The British Empire
Before the American Revolution (15 volumes) was written between
1936 and 1970. Gipson received the Pulitzer Prize in History in 1962
for Volume 10, subtitled, The Great War For Empire. When he died in
1971, Professor Gipson left his entire estate to Lehigh and provided
the original endowment for the institute.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES
The income from the endowment of the institute is used to encourage
faculty and student research in the eighteenth century by providing
grants to defray travel costs, copying, and other expenses to permit
scholars to visit necessary libraries and depositories. The Gipson
Institute normally awards one fellowship annually to a Ph.D. candidate
enrolled at Lehigh University for dissertation research and writing
in any field of eighteenth-century studies. The institute also helps
provide additional resources to build the university library’s research
collections in eighteenth-century studies.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
The institute invites leading scholars to give lectures and supports
relevant programs such as interdisciplinary seminars and visiting
scholars interested in the eighteenth century. Occasional symposia
honor Professor Gipson by bringing to campus distinguished scholars
to lecture and discuss various topics. The essays generated at
the symposia have been published and the institute maintains
a continuing close relationship with Lehigh University Press for
publishing original manuscripts on the eighteenth century.