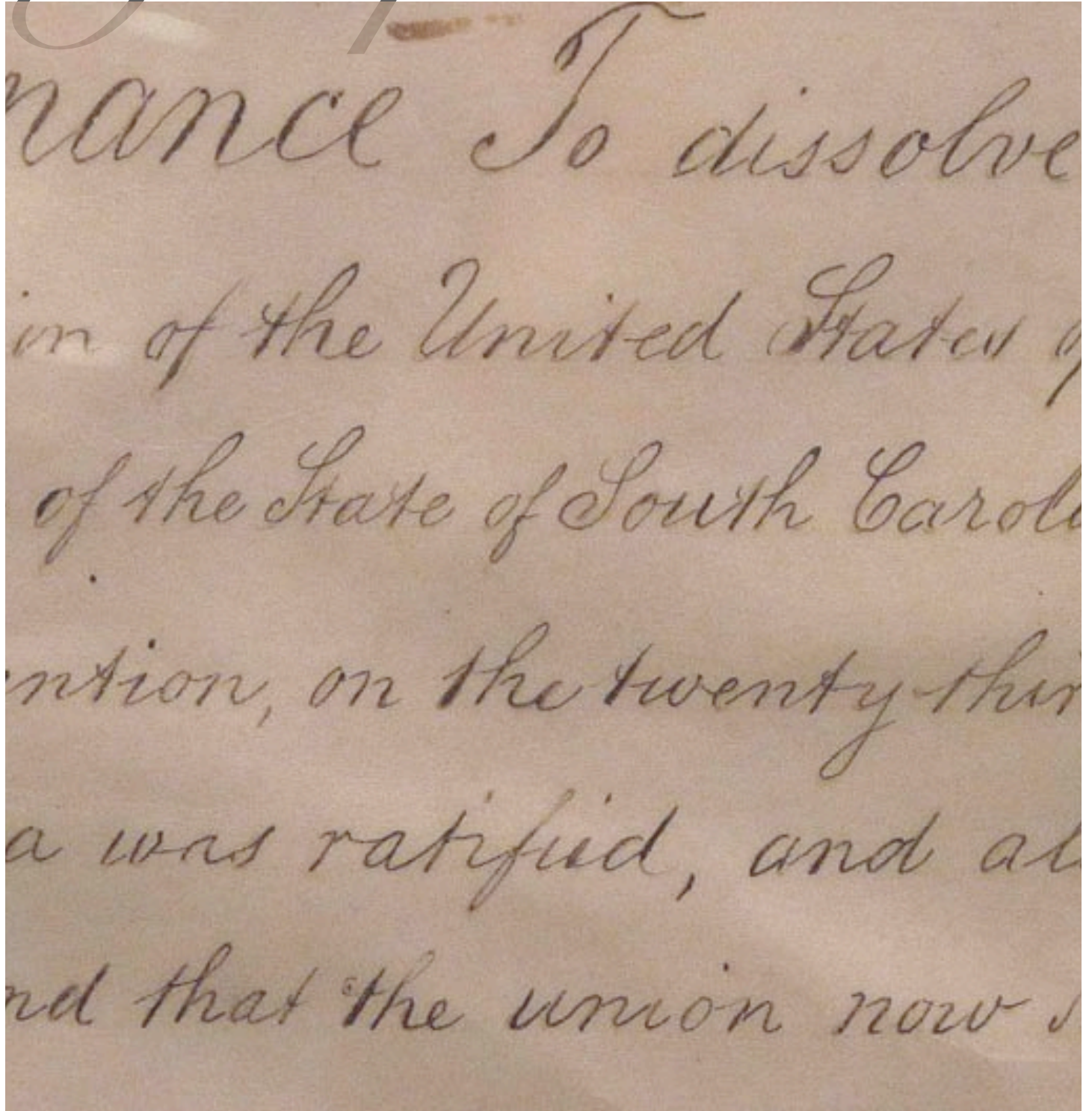


# Symposium





*Aerial of View of Europe and Africa at the Strait of Gibraltar*

## WELCOME

In our profession, the theme of “Crossing Boundaries” is sometimes symbolic of a lofty ideal. Other times, it can be a marker for reaching a point of contention. The historic sesquicentennial commemoration of the American Civil War now occurring in our city reminds us of both the excitement of crossing a threshold, and of the real danger present in doing so. Whatever the implication, crossing a boundary often means one has reached a point from which he or she can never return. As our discipline evolves before us, the idea of reassessing boundaries becomes more commonplace. It reminds us that the study of literature and composition is filled with overlaps, intersections, and contested spaces. This year’s theme is symbolic of the liminal spaces found not only in our research, but also in our organization itself.

As the Graduate English Association opens this year’s Symposium, we also eagerly announce that our ambition to expand it into a regional conference is rapidly unfolding. Even as you read this letter, plans are being made for next year when students from across the region will come to Charleston to present their work.

This year’s Symposium participants are the trailblazers in our endeavor. Their work represents the best spirit of our joint M.A. Program. We know you will find the diverse presentations you see to be engaging and unique, and we hope they will inspire you to ask questions, to reflect on deeper meanings, and ultimately, to “cross some boundaries” of your own.

Sincerely Yours,

**Adam Johnson**  
GEA Vice-President

**Margaret Lally**  
GEA Symposium Committee Chair

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Cover Art: *Closeup of The Ordinance of Secession (1860)*, South Carolina Department of Archives and History  
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# Symposium Program



Slave Cabins next to Oak Allée, McLeod Plantation, Charleston

Convocation/Opening Remarks: Adam Johnson

**1 PM: American Voices, American Values**

**Whitney Adams:** “Thornton Wilder’s Attitudes towards Society in *The Skin of Our Teeth*”

**Will Murray:** “Common Quicksand: The Universal Applicability of Nella Larsen’s *Quicksand*”

**Adam Johnson:** “Haunted Voices: Supernaturalism and Race in the American South from Folk Tales to Cinema”

**Elliott Dobson, Chair**

**2 PM: Reappraising the Homeric Code**

**Matthew DeAngelis:** “A Construct of the Mind: Dispelling Fatalism in Homer’s *The Iliad*.”

**Ashley Blair:** “Homer’s Paradoxical View of War in *The Iliad*”

**Margaret Lally, Chair**

**3 PM: Women, Power and Politics from the Early Modern Period to the Enlightenment**

**Margaret Lally:** “Epic Women in Early Modern Epic Battles”

**Danielle Lightner:** “Love, Marriage and the Quest for Power in *Pamela* and *Pride and Prejudice*”

**Susan Hallatt, Chair**

**4 PM: Tolkien and Myth**

**Susan Hallatt:** “Tolkien’s Use of Trees in *The Lord of the Rings*”

**Daniel James:** “Camus’ *Sisyphus* and Frodo’s Decision to Leave Middle-Earth”

**Elliott Dobson:** “From Athena to Eówyn: The Evolution of The Greek War Goddess to Tolkien’s Heroine in *The Lord of the Rings*”

**Adam Johnson, Chair**

**Conclusion/Closing Remarks: Margaret Lally**



Congolese Refugee Camp, Zambia

There will be a 10-15 minute Question & Answer Period after all presentations in a panel have been given.

Light hors d’oeuvres will be served between discussion panels.