



THE NEWBERRY

Center for Renaissance Studies

The Eighteenth-Century Seminar

Saturday, March 4, 2017, 1pm

The Newberry Library

Laboring Alongside Locke

Sean Silver

University of Michigan

We tend to think of Enlightenment-era philosophers as architects of abstraction—not least because they tend to describe themselves that way. This seminar tries a different approach. It treats Enlightenment rationality as a hard-won discipline, developed through craft knowledge and habits of labor. It revisits (indeed, labors alongside) John Locke as he assembled his Herbarium, two folio volumes of pressed plants collected over five years. Approaching these books as an apprenticeship in empirical rationality will return us to the material and mental conditions that cleared the way for empiricist theorizations of abstract thought.



This program is free and open to the public,
but space is limited and **registration in advance is required.**

Register online by 10 am, March 3 at:

www.newberry.org/renaissance

Organized by Timothy Campbell, University of Chicago; Lisa A. Freeman, University of Illinois at Chicago; Richard Squibbs, DePaul University; and Helen Thompson, Northwestern University.