ALEXANDER LAWRENCE AMES is an historian, material culture scholar, and library and museum administrator based in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. With interests in the religious and cultural history of early America, Ames's research has explored the production and use of religious books and manuscripts in Pennsylvania and beyond, with a special focus on unlocking how the material construction of historic books and manuscripts impacted their dissemination, use, and preservation as cultural artifacts. Ames also studies the history of libraries and archives, the art of ex-libris, and the history of the lumber industry in northern Minnesota, having published several essays in these varied fields.

Ames holds a B.S. in information media, a certificate in instructional design, and an M.A. in public history from St. Cloud State University (St. Cloud, Minnesota), as well as an M.A. in American material culture, an M.A. in history, and a Ph.D. in history of American civilization and museum studies from the University of Delaware. He works as Curator & Senior Director of Collections Engagement at the Rosenbach Museum & Library, an historic house museum and special collections library affiliated with the Free Library of Philadelphia Foundation.

Ames's research has been published in the scholarly journals *Winterthur Portfolio: A Journal of American Material Culture, The Mennonite Quarterly Review, Libraries: Culture, History, and Society;* and *Minnesota History: The Quarterly of the Minnesota Historical Society,* as well as volume 6 of the edited series *Suave Mechanicals: Essays on the History of Bookbinding* (Ann Arbor, MI: Legacy Press, 2020), and the edited volume *Elusive Archives: Material Culture in Formation* (University of Delaware Press, 2021). His essay "A Labyrinth in the Wilderness: New Pathways for the Study of Pennsylvania German Illuminated Manuscripts," published in *The Journal of Lancaster County's Historical Society* in September 2024, is a theoretical and methodological treatise on Pennsylvania German material text studies. Ames's essay "Ludwig Denig, Cobbler of the Cosmos" appears as part of the Winterthur Museum, Garden, & Library's digital humanities project *The Denig Manuscript* (**www.denigmanuscript.org**), sponsored by The Paper Project at the Getty Museum. Ames was awarded the 2017 Katherine C. Grier Prize for the best recent article in *Winterthur Portfolio* for his essay titled "Quill and Graver Bound: Frakturschrift Calligraphy, Devotional Manuscripts, and Penmanship Instruction in German Pennsylvania, 1755–1855" (*Winterthur Portfolio* Volume 50, Number 1, Spring 2016). His doctoral dissertation was awarded the University of Delaware's Wilbur Owen Sypherd Prize in Humanities in May 2018.

Ames has been awarded numerous research fellowships, including an NEH Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship at LancasterHistory (Lancaster, Pennsylvania, December 2021); the Jacob M. Price Digital Fellowship at the William L. Clements Library, University of Michigan (Ann Arbor, Michigan, April 2022); the Batten and First Union Domestic Fellowship at the Robert H. Smith International Center for Jefferson Studies of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation at Monticello (Charlottesville, Virginia, November 2022); the Paul Cuffe Memorial Fellowship for the Study of Contributions of People of Color to Maritime History from Mystic Seaport Museum (Mystic, Connecticut, October 2023); and the Mary G. Stange Fellowship for Creative and Performing Artists and Writers at the William L. Clements Library for a Harpist in Residence project (April 2024).

The Word in the Wilderness: Popular Piety and the Manuscript Arts in Early Pennsylvania (Pennsylvania State University Press, 2020) was Ames's first book. His second book, *Grolier Club Bookplates, Past & Present,* co-edited with Mark Samuels Lasner, was published by The Grolier Club of New York in 2023 and was called a "lesson in biblio-esoterica" by the *Times Literary Supplement*. His second monograph,

Portrait of a Citizen: Stephen Girard, Mariner, Merchant, Banker, and Philanthropist of the Early American Republic (De Gruyter Oldenbourg, 2026), is a study of Girard's library and material culture. *Stephen Girard, Captain of American Enterprise & Father of Modern Philanthropy*, the first full-length scholarly biography of Girard in a generation, is under contract with Routledge of London as part of the Routledge Historical Americans series.

Active in bibliophilic circles, Ames is a member of The Grolier Club in New York City (where he serves on the Club's Publications Committee), the Philobiblon Club of Philadelphia, and the Delaware Bibliophiles, and he serves on the Advisory Board of *The Papers of the Bibliographical Society of America (PBSA)*. He formerly served as Chair of the Library Committee at the German Society of Pennsylvania, Vice Chair of the Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies, and on the board of directors of the Delaware Valley Legacy Fund (DVLF), the Philadelphia region's community foundation dedicated to supporting LGBTQIA+ institutions, causes, and individuals. In his free time, he enjoys reading, writing, drinking tea, playing Celtic harp, and visiting historic house museums.