

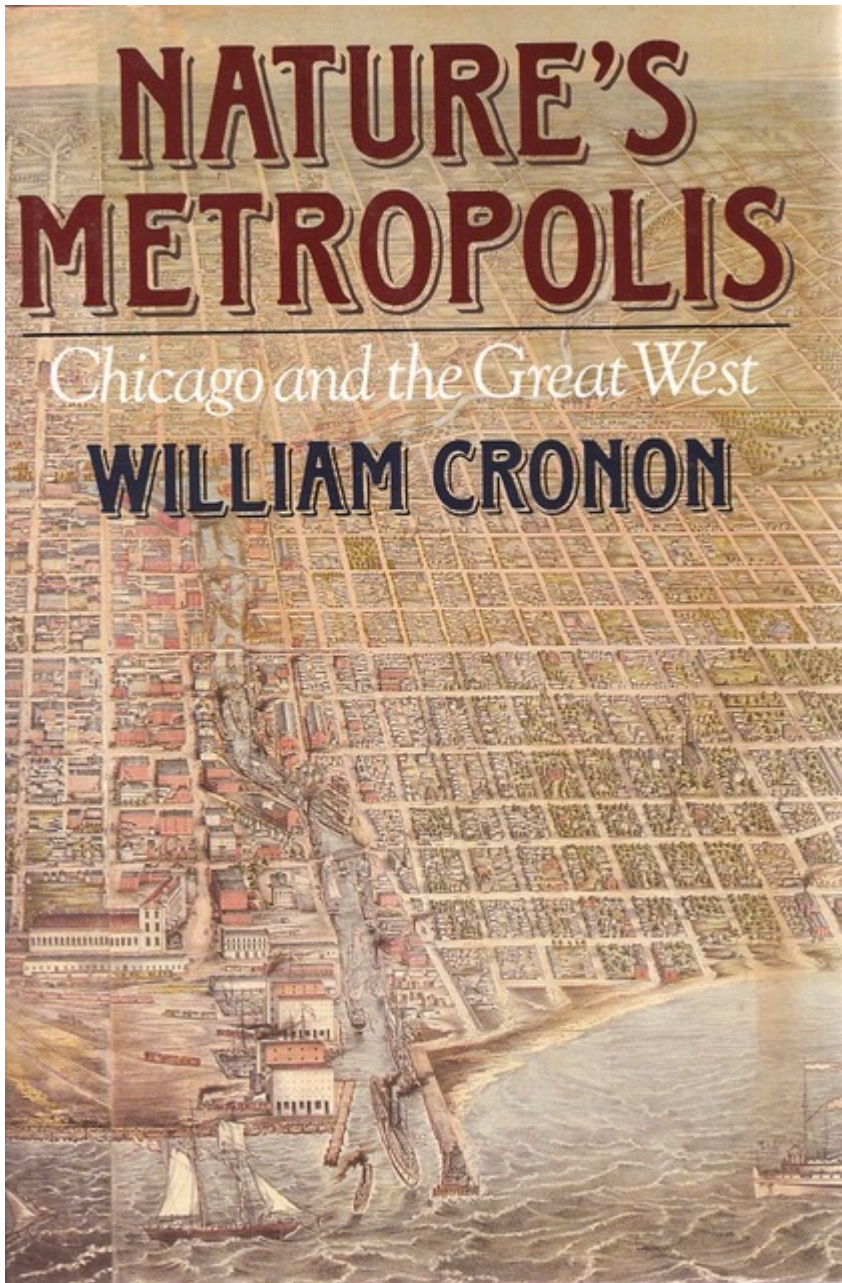
## Reparative Semantics: On Slavery and the Language of History



Rather than seeking to extinguish the humanity of its victims, slavery rather invests in, and relies upon, their human capacity for suffering.

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## Nature's Metropolis at 30



William Cronon presents in *Nature's Metropolis* an assertion of the fundamental interconnectedness of the city and the countryside. This is figured in the history of Chicago, primarily in the nineteenth century, as the city grew from the commodification of the produce of its rural environs.

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[Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, Media](#)



## Theorist



In "Learning to Read," Harper prompts critical attention to textual materiality by depicting enslaved characters who advance their own literacy by exploiting white cultural expectations about the proper look of reading material.

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## Sullivan Ballou's Body: Battlefield Relic Hunting and the Fate of Soldiers' Remains





Confederates' quest for bones thus connects to a bizarre history of the use, and misuse, of human remains. Bones from the Bull Run battlefield were taken as acts of domination and displayed as trophies of war. However macabre, human remains became part of the deeply variegated material culture of war.

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## [“We left all on the ground but the head”: J. J. Audubon's Human Skulls](#)



Morton and his skull measurements have long been part of the scholarship on American racism, but what happens when we draw Audubon into the racial drama?

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## [In Her Own Voice: Poems of Anandibai Joshee](#)





This was how I stumbled upon the extraordinary life of Anandi Gopal Joshee, known more informally as Anandibai (bai, a term of respect for Marathi women), the first Indian woman to have come to the United States to pursue a medical degree in 1883.

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## **Benedict Arnold's House: The Making and**

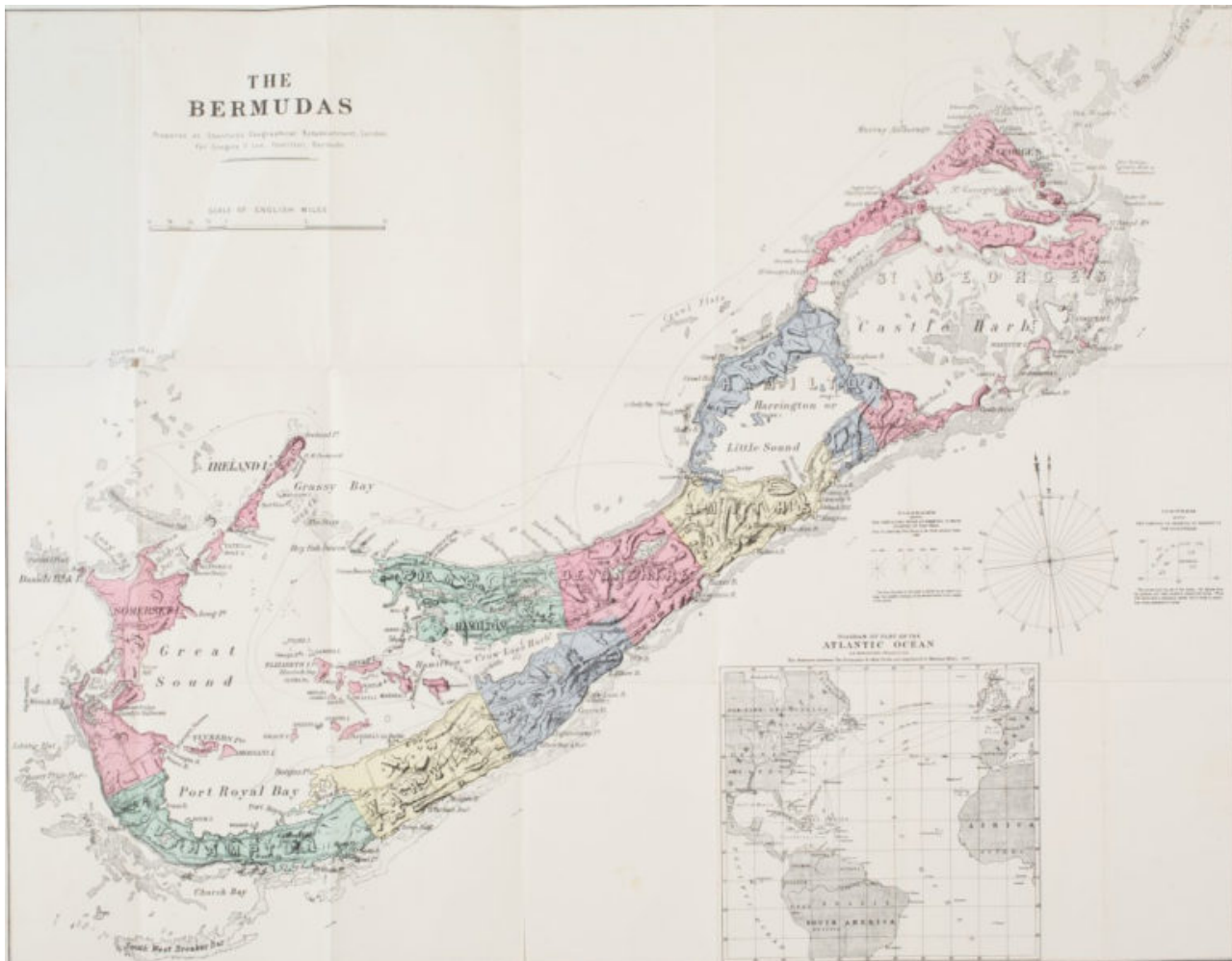
## Unmaking of an American



Arnold's unceasing efforts to elevate himself in society through marriage and professional work can be viewed through the lens of the houses he bought or built throughout his life.

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## Atlantic World Accounting and *The History of Mary Prince* (1831)



Within the narrow rhetoric of antislavery politics that shape Prince's narrative, however, steady articulation of money markets, repeated reference to financial transactions, and descriptions of resource accrual stand out in a declared autobiography, a distinctly literary production.

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**[Editor's Note – Please Refresh Your Browser For A New Commonplace](#)**



## COMMON-PLACE



### The Republic of Letters

Welcome to the Republic of Letters, a series of on-line discussions about articles appearing in *Common-place* as well as the organization of the site itself.

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This discussion is moderated and some postings will be edited for length and content. Please confine your postings to remarks that advance the discussion. **Any postings including profanity will be deleted in their entirety.**

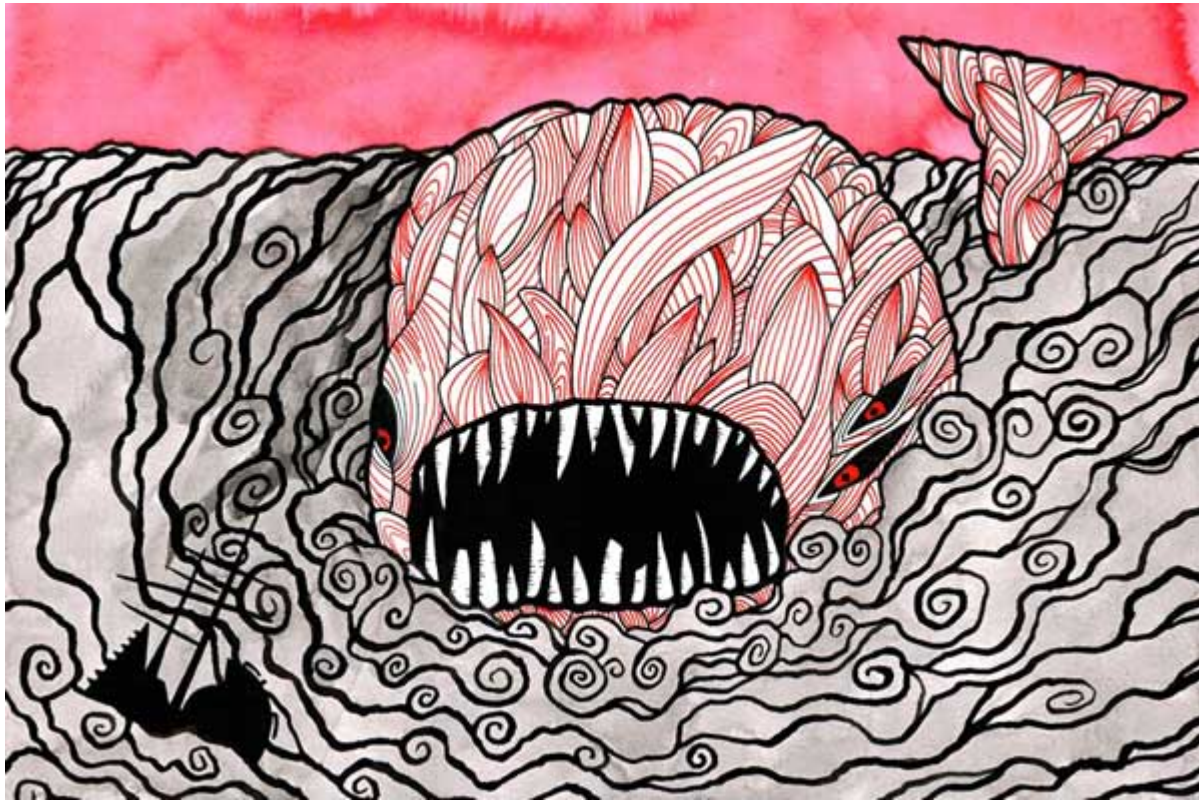
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Before we move forward, it is a good time to look back on the history of Commonplace and its place in digital humanities over the last two decades.

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[Blogging Moby-Dick: An artist illustrates every page of The Whale](#)



The set of 552 images is impossible to describe as a single body of work, but the illustrations cohere.