



Apr 16th, 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

## Finding the Historical Basis of the Four Guardians in *A Bold Stroke for a Wife*

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Haugland, Charles and Freeman, Faculty Advisor, Sara, "Finding the Historical Basis of the Four Guardians in *A Bold Stroke for a Wife*" (2005). *John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference*. 18.

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Poster Presentation P61

FINDING THE HISTORICAL BASIS OF THE FOUR GUARDIANS IN  
*A BOLD STROKE FOR A WIFE*

Charles Haugland and Sara Freeman\*  
School of Theatre Arts, Illinois Wesleyan University

This panel displays research gathered in developing the campus production of Susanna Centlivre's early eighteenth-century comedy *A Bold Stroke for a Wife*. The presence of four heavily typed characters, Anne Lovely's guardians, necessitated research into their historical basis. Ultimately, the stockjobber was examined mainly in connection with accounts of the London coffeehouses that served as an early stock market. The Quaker compelled an investigation into both the canting practices of that faith and the larger context of dissenting religions. The history of archeology and the practices of antiquarians made light of the virtuoso. Finally, the character of the English fop called for an analysis of their system of codified gestures and trappings. This research was, in turn, applied practically by the actors and director in developing the production.