

John J. McCusker
Ewing Halsell Distinguished Professor of American History
Professor of Economics

31 August 2009

Mr. Tom Garber
Third Wave Films
120 Newton Road
Hampton Bays, New York 11946-1402

Dear Mr. Garber:

I am responding to your letter of 13 August and to our subsequent exchange of emails and telephone conversations last week.

You have asked most kindly if I would be interested in assisting you as a paid script consultant for your projected documentary film on the impact of the rum trade on colonial America. My curiosity about the subject has been life-long and I have researched and written extensively on it. As I told you over the telephone, having backed myself into a small enough corner, I can pass for something of an authority on the rum trade. (Think hapless household handyman painting himself into the corner of room. He has little else to consider than his current situation while the paint on the floor dries.)

Thus my answer to your question must be an enthusiastic approval of the project and an expression of intent to be as supportive of it as I can be as you develop your financing and work out the details of your documentary.

I wish you Godspeed.

Sincerely,

