

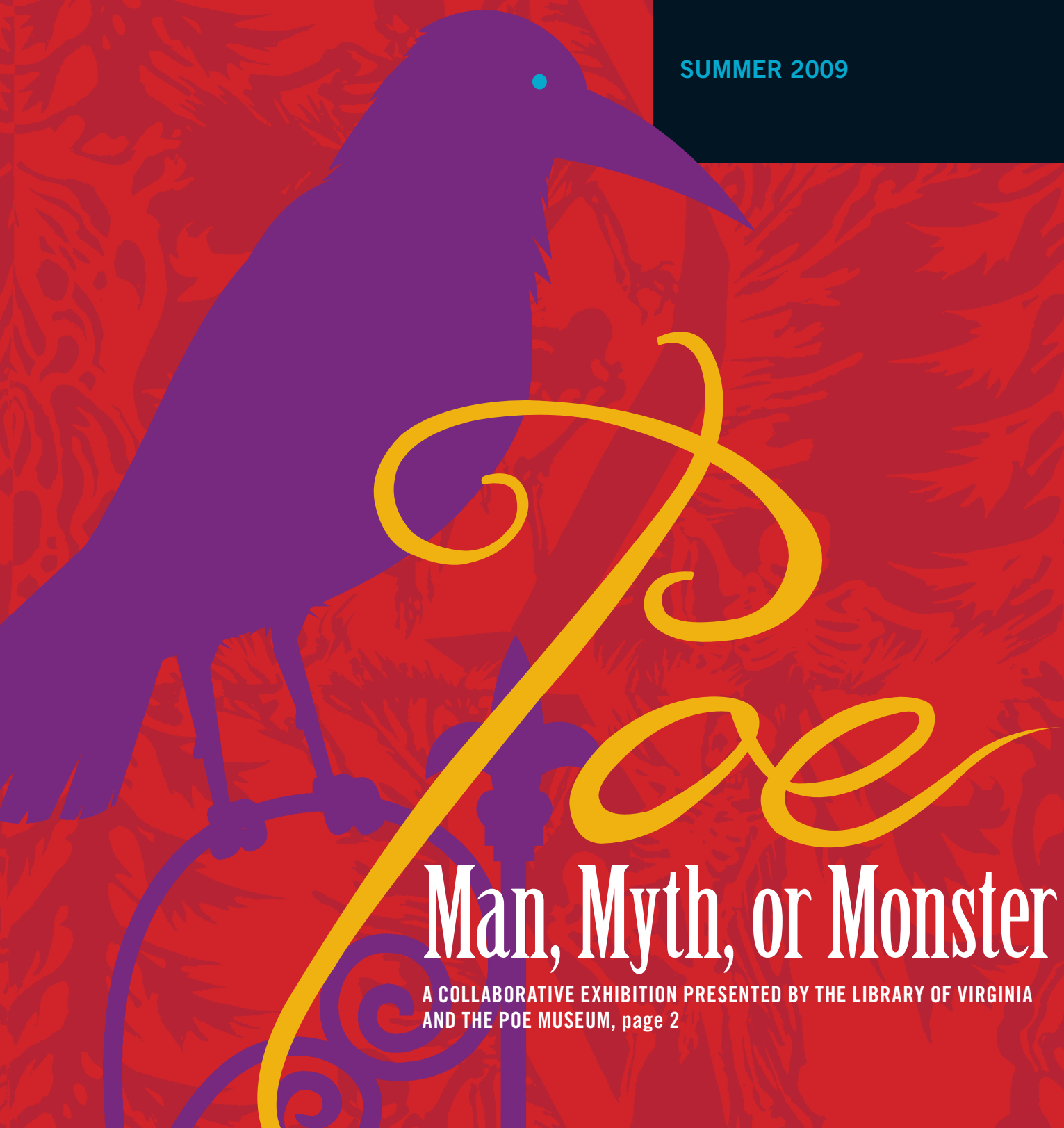


the magazine of the

LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

broadSIDE

SUMMER 2009



Man, Myth, or Monster

A COLLABORATIVE EXHIBITION PRESENTED BY THE LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA
AND THE POE MUSEUM, page 2

broadSIDE

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LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA
SUMMER 2009

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THE INSIDE STORY

Nurture Your Spirit at a Library

Take time this summer to relax, recharge, and dream



Whatever happened to the “lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer” that Nat King Cole celebrated in song when I was growing up? As a child I looked forward to summer with great anticipation because I knew that the rhythm of life—for me and everyone else in the world around me—slowed down. I could count on having plenty of time to do what I wanted, at whatever pace I chose. It was a heady, exciting feeling—to have days and days stretched out before me with few obligations or organized activities. I was free to relax, recharge, enjoy, explore, and dream, because that was what summer was all about.

My feeling that summer was a special time continued well into adulthood, then gradually diminished

and eventually disappeared. The change was more than the consequence of growing older and taking on more responsibility. It was also a reflection of the way in which all of our lives have changed in the past few decades. Young people now have summer schedules that are as hectic as the ones they juggle during the school year. Summer camps, team sports, and enrichment classes keep them constantly on the go. In the realms of business, education, and government, there may be fewer external meetings at this time of year, but in most organizations the pace of work doesn't skip a beat as we try to accomplish as much as ever with fewer people and resources.

We can never turn the clock back to an earlier and simpler day, but we still can use our summers to relax, recharge, and nurture our spirits. One excellent way to do this requires only a good book and a lawn chair in the shade. Another is to devote an afternoon or two to visiting a library, museum, historic site, or other cultural attraction. Spending just a few hours exploring one of Virginia's many cultural resources—including your local public library—can do wonders for the soul without putting a dent in your pocketbook.

Here at the Library of Virginia we would be delighted to have you enjoy our colorful new exhibition *Poe: Man, Myth, or Monster*—or listen to Ellen Crosby, Dwayne Betts, or Lucinda Roy talk about their latest books. We would love to help you track down an elusive ancestor in our vast genealogical holdings, or just offer you a good book and a quiet spot to read it. Please drop by—and do something special for yourself this summer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandy Treadway". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid.

Sandra G. Treadway, Librarian of Virginia

One excellent way to do this requires only a good book and a lawn chair in the shade.

NEW & NOTEWORTHY

Equine Advertising New York horse broadside offers link to Virginia families

Broadside is commonly referred to as documents with text on only one side. Typically broadsides were posted, though sometimes mailed, and are considered ephemeral in nature, lasting only as long as the advertisement was timely.

The Library of Virginia recently acquired this illustrated broadside for a stud called Potomac, dated 1846. It focuses on the stallion's Virginia breeding connection and recent arrival in the Finger Lakes region of New York, making him a good source for new genes.

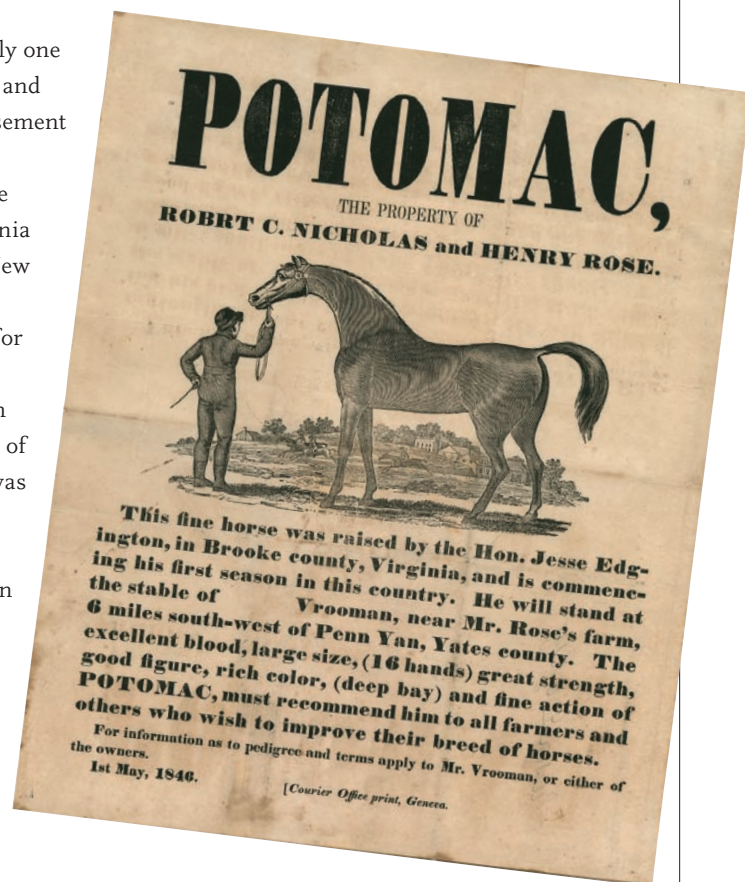
The breeder, Jesse Edgington, Esq., was the prosecuting attorney for Brooke County, Virginia (now West Virginia), and owned a large farm. The horse's two owners were brothers-in-law and cousins, both born in 1802 into prominent Virginia families. Robert C. Nicholas was the son of Judge John Nicholas, a U.S. congressman from Virginia. Henry Rose was the son of Robert S. Rose, a U.S. congressman from New York.

The families of both Judge John Nicholas and Robert S. Rose moved from Virginia to the Geneva, New York, area in 1803, settling on large farms and engaging extensively in agricultural pursuits. In 1826 Mary Selden Rose married Robert C. Nicholas, Judge Nicholas's son and her cousin.

—Audrey Johnson, Senior Rare Book Librarian

GOOD GENES

This stallion's Virginia background and recent arrival in New York added to his appeal for breeding. The Library currently has a large selection of broadsides online, including several other stud broadsides. See www.virginiamemory.com. Under Digital Collections, choose DigiTool.



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LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

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Open Monday–Saturday, 9 AM–5 PM
Underground parking available for visitors

Welcome to the Library of Virginia, the state's oldest institution dedicated to the preservation of Virginia's history and culture. Our resources, exhibitions, and events attract more than 190,000 visitors each year. Our collections, containing nearly 110 million items, document and illustrate the lives of both famous Virginians and ordinary citizens.

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Poe: Man, Myth, or Monster

AN EXHIBITION BY THE LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA AND THE POE MUSEUM

JULY 20–DECEMBER 5, 2009

RAVEN MAD

Exhibition commemorates 200th anniversary of author's birth

by Christopher P. Semtner and Barbara C. Batson

Who was Edgar Allan Poe? He was America's first internationally influential author, he invented a new literary genre, and he overturned the traditional Gothic tale by creating the modern psychological horror story. Poe was a Virginia gentleman, an amateur scientist, a journalist, and America's first great literary critic and greatest poet. He was also a famously gifted performer who recited his works to large audiences up and down the East Coast.

Who is Edgar Allan Poe? An instantly recognizable American author and historical figure, his name calls to mind spine-chilling stories and melancholy poetry. He evokes the image of the tragic romantic poet, misunderstood and rejected by society. We are so familiar with his life and work that we already know him. Or do we?

The popular Poe is as much a fictional creation as the characters in his stories. Organized in partnership with the Poe Museum, *Poe: Man, Myth, or Monster* commemorates the 200th anniversary of Poe's birth. Materials on display include rare copies of Poe's first book, *Tamerlane*, and the poem *Al Aaraaf*; the newly restored Poe family Bible; a desk from the office of the *Southern Literary Messenger*, where Poe was editor; and representations of Poe in modern popular culture such as dolls and action figures, comic books, and movie posters. The exhibition includes three interactive stations: Poe's Words (readings from Poe), Poe in Film (the 1928 silent film *The Fall of the House of Usher*), and Fact or Fiction (visitors get to test their knowledge of Poe).

He overturned the traditional Gothic tale by creating the modern psychological horror story.



WINGED CREATURE

This 1884 edition of Poe's *The Raven* features illustrations by Gustave Doré.

VISIT www.iknowpoe.com
FOR MORE INFORMATION

Christopher P. Semtner is acting director of the Poe Museum and curator of the exhibition. Barbara C. Batson is exhibitions coordinator at the Library.

Poe Exhibition Events

All events are free unless otherwise noted.

Every Tuesday & Thursday, July 21–December 3 | 2:00–2:45 PM

GALLERY WALK

Docent-led Tour of Poe Exhibition

Place: Exhibition Gallery and Lobby
RSVP by calling 804.692.3592. Space is limited. Join our docents every Tuesday and Thursday at 2:00 PM for a tour of the exhibition focusing on Edgar Allan Poe, whose influence on writers and artists was profound. **No tours on Tuesday, Sept. 8, or Thursday, Nov. 27.**

Thursday, August 6 | Noon–12:45 PM

GALLERY WALK

Curator-led Tour of Poe Exhibition

Place: Exhibition Gallery and Lobby
Join exhibition curator Chris Semtner for an in-depth tour of the exhibition focusing on Edgar Allan Poe, whose influence on writers and artists was profound. RSVP by August 4 to 804.692.3592. Space is limited.

Tuesday, August 11 | 6:00–7:00 PM

POE BOOK TALK SERIES

The Riesling Retribution:

A Wine Country Mystery

Place: Lecture Hall
Ellen Crosby will launch the fourth in her mystery series featuring wine and great descriptions of the Virginia wine country. *The Riesling Retribution* continues the saga of Lucie Montgomery, a wine and history aficionado, who owns and operates a vineyard, a winemaking operation, and a catering business on a historical site near the Blue Ridge Mountains in Virginia.

Friday, August 14 | 4:00–6:00 PM

OPEN HOUSE FOR EDUCATORS

Poe: Man, Myth or Monster

RSVP by August 7 to 804.371.2126 or tameka.hobbs@lva.virginia.gov. This open house for educators features a gallery walk with exhibition curator Chris Semtner, interim director of the Poe Museum; a preview of education programs offered by the Library of Virginia and the Poe Museum; and a reception at St. Johns Church.

Saturday, August 15 | 10:00 AM–2:00 PM

FAMILY DAY AT THE LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA I Know Poe

Place: Conference Rooms
Experience Virginia's rich past by exploring documents representing 400 years of the state's history, as well as events, giveaways, and tours of the Poe exhibition. Enjoy activities

such as face painting, crafts, a scavenger hunt, and performances by the Haunts of Richmond, a haunted attraction that brings local ghost stories and legends to life. Call 804.371.2126 for details.

Weds.–Fri., Sept. 9–11 | 11:00–12:30 PM

PERFORMANCES BY HAUNTS OF RICHMOND

Poe Mania!

Special performances for school groups only.
Place: Lecture Hall. Fee \$5 for students. Call 804.371.2126 for details. Join us for a manically energetic, dramatic tribute to the Master of the Macabre, Edgar Allan Poe. Witness some of his darkest and most riveting tales spun live, onstage in a rich tapestry of terror and suspense.

Thursday, September 10 | 7:00–8:00 PM

PERFORMANCE BY HAUNTS OF RICHMOND

Poe Mania!

Open to the public.
Place: Lecture Hall. Fee \$7. Call 804.371.2126 for details. See description above.

Wednesday, September 23

Noon–12:45 PM

GALLERY WALK

Curator-led Tour of Poe Exhibition

Place: Exhibition Gallery and Lobby
RSVP by September 21 to 804.692.3592. Space is limited. See August 6 description above.

Tuesday, September 29

6:00–7:00 PM

POE BOOK TALK SERIES

Virginia in Verse:

The Poetry of

Michelle Boisseau

and John Casteen

Place: Conference Rooms
Michelle Boisseau, author of *A Sunday in God-Years*, and John Casteen, author of *Free Union: Poems*, will discuss and sign their books of poetry. Co-sponsored by the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School.

LITERARY RARITY

The Middle Eastern warlord Tamerlane inspired Poe's first published book

Like many European artists of his day, notably the British poet Lord Byron and the French painter Eugene Delacroix, Poe was fascinated by the Middle East. The title character of his first published book, *Tamerlane and Other Poems, By a Bostonian*, is a real-life 14th-century warlord whose empire stretched from the Mediterranean to India.

Poe published *Tamerlane* in 1827, at the age of 18, but claimed that he had written much of it by the time he was 14. Other major poets of Poe's period—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Ralph Waldo Emerson, and William Cullen Bryant, who were all older than Poe—would not issue their first volumes of poetry until the 1830s.

The only information known about *Tamerlane's* distribution is a reference by Poe stating that its publication was “suppressed through circumstances of a private nature.” So rare is the book that no copies were believed to exist until one was found 10 years after Poe's death, and Poe's first biographer, Rufus W. Griswold, having never seen a copy, considered it a hoax. Only 12 copies are now known to survive, including the copy displayed in the exhibition—one of two remaining in private hands.

Poe Goes Pop

Self-created icon endures and inspires

Poe achieved rock-star status as a poet and lecturer at a time when there were no radios or televisions or films or video games. Just as today's celebrities seek to control their public images, Poe also manipulated his. In an autobiographical memorandum, he deliberately distorted the facts to make his life sound more interesting. He lied about his age and claimed that he had graduated with “highest honors” from the University of Virginia. His account of traveling to Europe to fight the Greek Wars of Independence and his subsequent imprisonment in Saint Petersburg was purely fictitious.

Poe has become an icon of American popular culture. The melancholy, tormented Poe of popular imagination is as much a creation of the media as a representation of Poe's own life. Just as his literary works continue to be read and adapted into films and music, Poe's life also inspires today's writers, artists, and advertisers. He appears as a fictional character in other authors' works, like the recent novels *The Poe Shadow* and *The Pale Blue Eye*, or in the graphic novel *Batman Nevermore*, in which Poe joins forces with the superhero to battle evil. Who do you think is the “real” Edgar Allan Poe?



WORLDWIDE HORROR

Legendary low-budget filmmaker Roger Corman made a series Poe horror films in the 1960s for American International Pictures, including this one featured on a French movie poster from the Poe Museum: *Le Corbeau* [The Raven], 1963.

Tomorrow's "Masters of the Macabre"?

POE YOUNG WRITERS' COMPETITION WINNERS AND FINALISTS NAMED

The Library of Virginia, the Poe Museum, and Comcast have announced the winners and finalists of the "Poe: Man, Myth, or Monster" Young Writers' Competition. High school students were invited to submit their poetry and short stories, written in the veins of the genres Poe mastered—mystery, science fiction, and horror.

First place winners earned a \$100 savings bond and filmed reading of their winning story or poem on "Comcast ON DEMAND Local Features," second place finalists earned the same prize with a \$50 savings bond, and third place finalists and "People's Pick" Competition winners earned a Comcast Prize Pack.

POETRY

First Place: "No Birds," by **Bryan Killian**, 10th grade, Deep Run High School, Henrico

Second Place: "aMuse," by **Kirk Roundtree**, 11th grade, Kings Fork High School, Suffolk

Third Place: "Shades of Evil," by **Robert Poindexter**, 10th grade, Deep Run High School, Henrico

"People's Pick" Competition Poetry Winner: "No Birds," by **Bryan Killian**, 10th grade, Deep Run High School, Henrico

*Her favorite color
depends on the week
and the weather.
Her dreams are
always sweet and
filled with
color and music.
All but one.* —KEELY WRIGHT



THE RAVEN ROCKS

Poe gave wildly popular dramatic readings of his poems and stories. "Rock Star Poe" illustration created by Les Harper, Lightbox Studios, Inc.

PURSUING POE

Tours and activities for students shed new light on the author

Guided tours of the exhibition and Poe-related student activities are available for educators. Make a tour reservation online at www.lva.virginia.gov/about/contact.asp?dept=poe. For more information on programs, contact Tameka Hobbs, program and education coordinator, at tameka.hobbs@lva.virginia.gov or 804.371.2126.

"I Know Poe" Educational Program

Who was Edgar Allan Poe? In a series of activities, students will be challenged to make a critical assessment of aspects of Poe's life. Free but limited by staff availability, activities must be scheduled three weeks in advance. The activities are approximately one hour each, adaptable for grades 4–8, and meet SOL correlations in history and social studies. Activities include:

The Truth about Poe: This detective activity challenges participants to separate the fiction from the facts of Poe's life by analyzing primary source documents.

Mapping Poe's Richmond: This exercise calls on students to use mapping skills to answer questions related to Poe's life and the history of the city of Richmond.

EDUCATION

SHORT STORY

First Place: "Elizabeth's Dream," by **Keely Wright**, 11th Grade, Hanover High School, Hanover

Second Place: "Darkness and Light," by **Evelyn Hildebrand**, 10th grade, Springfield

Third Place: "The Man Who Talked to God," by **Alex Zuercher**, 11th grade, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School, Richmond

"People's Pick" Competition Short Story Winner: "The Man Who Talked to God," by **Alex Zuercher**, 11th grade, Maggie L. Walker Governor's School, Richmond

Thank you to contest judges Barbara Batson, Library of Virginia; Tracy Fair Robertson, Virginia Department of Education; Emyl Jenkins, author; Frances Lively, educator; Ann Marie Seely, educator; and Chris Semtner, Edgar Allan Poe Museum.

Women's Work

Exhibition celebrates the Equal Suffrage League of Virginia, 1909–2009

On November 27, 1909, a small group of civic-minded women—writers Ellen Glasgow, Mary Johnston, and Kate Langley Bosher; artists Adèle Clark and Nora Houston; physician Kate Waller Barrett; and reformer Lila Meade Valentine, among others—gathered at 919 West Franklin Street in Richmond to form the Equal Suffrage League of Virginia. Within its first few months, the league began a public campaign to win Virginia women the right to vote. The league held street meetings in Capitol Square and on Broad Street at the corners of Fifth and Sixth, where Adèle Clark would set up her easel and start painting to lure the curious to suffrage speeches.

Virginia suffragists employed a variety of other techniques to enlist women to their cause, making speeches across the state (often from decorated automobiles), renting booths at fairs, and distributing stylish “Votes for Women” buttons. By canvassing house to house, distributing leaflets, and speaking in public, the members of the League sought to educate Virginia’s citizens and legislators and to win their support for

VOTES FOR WOMEN!

July 27–December 26, 2009

Café Extension

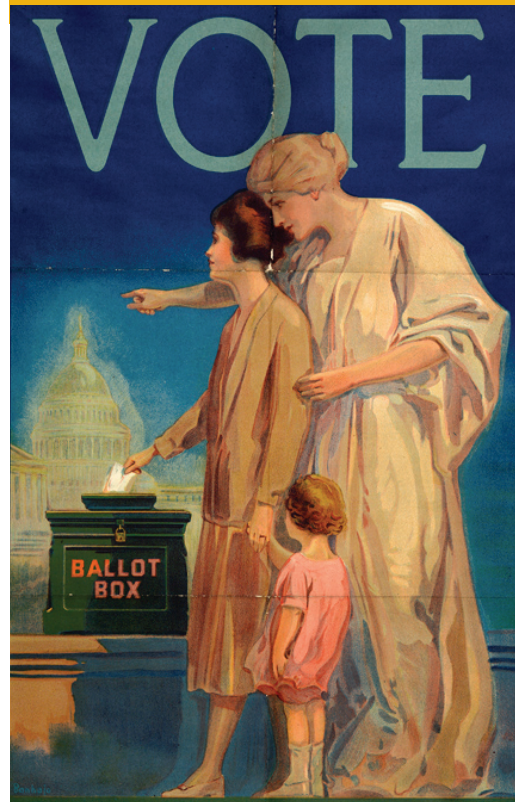
woman suffrage. Beginning in 1914, the group published its own monthly newspaper, the *Virginia Suffrage News*. Soon local chapters sprang up across the state; by 1919, membership in the league had reached 32,000, making it most likely the largest state association in the South.

Virginia suffragists succeeded in bringing the issue to the floor of the General Assembly three times between 1912 and 1916, but not once did the vote come close to passage. When Congress passed the Nineteenth Amendment in June 1919, the Equal Suffrage League fought hard for ratification, but Virginia politicians did not relent. Virginia women at last won the right to vote in August 1920, when the Nineteenth Amendment became law, and exercised that right soon after, in the November elections. The General Assembly stubbornly withheld its ratification until 1952.

Within a few weeks of the national victory in 1920, the Equal Suffrage League disbanded. The nonpartisan Virginia League of Women Voters, as its successor, shortly afterwards began work to make the new vote an informed one. The League sponsored registration drives, voter education programs, and lobbying efforts on behalf of social welfare issues. By early in October 1920, more than 13,000 Richmond women had registered to vote in the November presidential election—10,645 white and 2,410 black. Woman suffrage immediately made electoral politics more inclusive. Many women, like Richmond civic leader Naomi Cohn, spent a lifetime exercising the right to vote won by the Nineteenth Amendment and encouraging others to do the same. “The work is just begun,” Cohn explained to the League of Women Voters in 1927, “and must be kept up so that the voters of the state shall become educated to that duty of casting their votes . . . and that they will send, to represent them in the legislature, only liberal progressive citizens.”

—Jennifer Davis McDaid, Local Records Appraisal Archivist, and Barbara Batson, Exhibitions Coordinator

EXHIBITIONS



League of Women Voters

TOP SHOTS



GREATEST HITS

The top three “most-viewed” images from the Library’s photo set on Flickr.com:

1. Eastern airliner crash landing, Curles Neck Farm
2. Nash car dealership
3. 402 North 25th Street



Statistics show our most popular images on Flickr

Last October, the Library of Virginia joined Flickr (www.flickr.com/photos/library_of_virginia/), one of the world’s largest online photo communities. Since then the Library has added more than 400 images, which have been viewed more than 205,000 times. This project has given much wider exposure to the Library’s images and encouraged the public to add tags and comments. The site features the Library’s Adolph B. Rice collection of photographs of Richmond taken during the 1950s, which is also available online at www.virginiamemory.com.

—Dale Neighbors, Prints and Photographs Collection Coordinator

Black Burgundy grape
Ripe October 10. 1727
in y Vineyard

Fig. I.

a Section of
the fruit

B. Langley Delin.

FRUIT OF THE GODS

Italian laborers skilled in the cultivation of grapes were recruited in 1773 to help establish a winemaking industry in Virginia. ABOVE, BELOW, AND AT RIGHT: Plate and details from *Pomona; or, the Fruit-Garden Illustrated*, by Batty Langley, London, 1729. Special Collections.

“The best wines in the world,” Phillip Mazzei predicted, “will be made there.”

COUNTY COURT TREASURES

VENI, VIDI, VINEYARD

Albemarle County records tell the tale of an Italian wine-maker, a Jeffersonian lawsuit, and an indentured laborer in grape cultivation who just wanted to go home.

by Catherine O'Brien

On September 2, 1773, Antonio Giannini, his wife, Maria, and their two-year-old daughter, Maria Caterina, left the port of Livorno, on the western coast of Italy, for Williamsburg, Virginia. Giannini was one of several laborers skilled in the cultivation of grapes for wine who were recruited by Phillip Mazzei, an Italian merchant living in London, to help him establish a winemaking industry in America. “The best wines in the world,” Mazzei predicted, “will be made there.” He was indentured to work for Mazzei for five years and promised return passage to Livorno at the end of the term. The indenture Mazzei signed with Giannini was identified recently in Albemarle County court records at the Library of Virginia.

Mazzei was a native of Poggio a Caiano, a village just outside Florence, and the Giannini family was from Lucca, a small principality surrounded by Tuscany, located just over a mountain ridge from the town of Pisa. Mazzei trained as a physician and lived and worked in Turkey before moving to London to manage an import-export business. While there, Mazzei began to pursue the idea of establishing wine, silk, and olive industries in America. Thomas Adams, a planter from Augusta County who was doing business in London, encouraged Mazzei to locate his business in Virginia and helped him obtain land for it in Augusta County. In 1769, the General Assembly had passed an act calling for the purchase of land for the purpose of cultivating grapevines, and there were other attempts in the 1770s to grow Italian grape varieties in Virginia for winemaking.

An ardent Whig who had been harassed by the Inquisitors of the Catholic Church in Tuscany for his unorthodox beliefs, Mazzei shared political sympathies with Thomas Jefferson and other Americans. He may have corresponded with Jefferson before leaving England, and he probably knew of their shared political sympathies and interests in agricultural experimentation. Mazzei, the Gianninis, and the others arrived in Williamsburg on December 2, 1773. When Adams introduced Mazzei to Jefferson soon after, Jefferson offered Mazzei 400 acres near Monticello for his business, as well as the use of an additional 1,600 acres. Adams gracefully bowed out, and Mazzei settled in Albemarle County. He may have lived at Monticello while a house was built for him at the farm.

A VINEYARD AT COLLÉ FARM

For the next three years, Giannini and other workers from Lucca felled trees, built a house for Mazzei, and planted grapes, olive trees, and other plants imported from Tuscany. The Giannini family may have lived in a small

farmer's cottage on the property. Initially six other workers, including Maria Giannini's brother Giovanni Francesco Modena, came to Albemarle County with the Gianninis and Mazzei. In 1774, another ten workers from Lucca joined them at Mazzei's farm, Collé.

Mazzei oversaw the planting of a "considerable vineyard," Jefferson wrote in 1793 in a letter to Albert Gallatin, "and attended to it with great diligence for three years. The war then came on, the time of his people soon expired, some of them enlisted [in the Revolutionary army], others chose to settle on other lands and labor for themselves; some were taken away by the gentlemen of the country for gardeners, so that there did not remain a single one with him." The war also prevented Mazzei from importing more workers.

In 1779, Mazzei took a job as an agent for the Commonwealth of Virginia to raise funds and support for the Revolution in Europe. While he was away, he rented his farm, Collé, to a Prussian army general. The general's horses, Jefferson wrote, "in one week destroyed the whole labor of three or four years."

As his indenture neared an end, Giannini worried that he might be stranded in Virginia. On February 23, 1778, Mazzei and Jefferson signed an addendum to Giannini's original contract, made in Pisa in 1773. In the addendum, Mazzei agrees to prolong his pledge to return the Giannini family to their native country, regardless of what happens to Mazzei, as long as Giannini remains in the service of Jefferson. Jefferson signed as Mazzei's security for this addendum.

Giannini tried to leave Virginia in the fall of 1778, but his plans were thwarted, perhaps by the British naval blockade. Jefferson's notes from 1790 indicate that Mazzei agreed to arrange transportation for the Gianninis to return to Italy in October 1778, and Giannini sold his personal property in preparation for leaving, but the wagon never arrived to start them on their journey.

In the autumn of 1778, Jefferson hired Giannini and several other Italians to work for him at Monticello. Giannini labored as a gardener for Jefferson from 1778 to 1786, and occasionally after that. The family bought land in Albemarle County, along the road between Collé and Carter's Creek.

Giannini continued to press Jefferson for return passage to Italy, as well as the clothing that Mazzei had promised him and his family in the original indenture contract. He agreed to arbitration of the complaint in 1794. In May 1795, Jefferson mentioned the case in a letter to Mazzei. "I have had an arbitration with Anthony Giannini on his claim of clothing and passage to Italy. The arbitrators decided he had no claim to clothing but that you were still liable, and myself also as your security, to pay his passage whenever he chuses [sic] to go to Italy, and I can find a conveyance. Anthony not content with this, has brought a suit, which will be determined this summer. I shall do my best for you I can. If his right to a passage is still confirmed, I will buy it up reasonably, that you may be clear of him."

EVENTUALLY AMERICANS

In 1795, Giannini was nearly fifty years old, and by then he may not have wanted to return to Italy. He still felt Mazzei owed him compensation for failing to meet the terms of the contract. He filed a civil suit in Albemarle County Court against Jefferson in May 1795 for five hundred pounds in damages. The case was decided in January 1798 in Jefferson's favor, on the grounds that Giannini's claim had been resolved in arbitration.

Antonio Giannini never returned to his native country. He and his wife reared eight children in Albemarle County. From 1807 to 1811, he was licensed by the county court as an ordained Baptist minister with the authority to solemnize marriages. On July 19, 1808, Antonio and Maria Giannini sold 200 acres of land in Albemarle County to James Monroe. The land became part of the Monroe estate Highland, now known as Ash Lawn-Highland. The Gianninis then moved to Nelson County, where two of their children had settled.

Earl Hamner, creator of the television series *The Waltons* and *Falcon Crest*, is descended from the branch of the family that settled in Nelson County. His mother, the inspiration for the Olivia Walton character, was Doris Giannini Hamner. *Falcon Crest*, a drama about an Italian winemaking family in California, was inspired in part by Hamner's interest in the culture of winemaking brought to Virginia by his mother's ancestors, Antonio and Maria Giannini.

Catherine O'Brien is a local records archivist at the Library.

Eureka!

Giannini descendant finds genealogical gold in the archives

The records of the lawsuit that Antonio Giannini filed against Thomas Jefferson, which contain his indenture to Philip Mazzei in Livorno, Italy, in 1773, were transferred to the Library of Virginia in 1972. With the creation of the Circuit Court Records Preservation Program in



Portrait of Philip Mazzei

1991, funds for preserving and describing the records were made available. The lawsuit was described in the Library's online catalog in 2008, which brought it to the attention of Rosanna Bencoach, a Giannini descendant and family historian. She describes the court case file's importance to her genealogical research in the following thank-you note sent by e-mail to the Library:

Studies of genealogy and history are seldom "finished." There are new discoveries waiting to be made if only the person who needs the material can learn about its existence and find a copy. My family had been looking, for at least three decades, for any court documents or letters revealing the final action of a lawsuit a family member undertook in the 1790s against his original employer for the balance of the funds he believed owed to him. We had some initial documents describing the suit, but the last known reference was a letter noting that the "suit has not yet come to trial."

But thanks to the Library of Virginia's efforts . . . we now have a copy of the court's case file! It was better than we even hoped. It gives the history of the dispute and arbitration, reveals the names of the attorneys and witnesses, and (because it was key to the dispute) contains my ancestor's original 1773 indenture written in Italian!!! As other resources are revealed through the Library's enhanced, online finding aids, who knows what discoveries might await?

Rosanna Bencoach
Richmond, October 7, 2008

Bencoach contributed research to a family history published in 1999, *The Gianninis of Virginia: Family and Descendants of Antonio and Maria Giannini, Vignerons and Gardeners, Immigrants, 1773*, available at the Library of Virginia.

Helpful

HAVENS Public library use
surges in tough
economic times

IN DEMAND

Computers get heavy use at the Handley Library in Winchester, a scene that's repeated at all of Virginia's public libraries.



by Janice M. Hathcock, Elizabeth Lewis,
and Suzy Szasz Palmer

The media floods us with depressing economic news: the highest jobless rates in Virginia since the early 1990s, home foreclosures continuing at a dramatic rate, and businesses—large and small—closing. As a result, Virginia's public libraries are seeing a dramatic increase in usage. But job losses and tightened circumstances are only the latest problems that libraries help citizens face. In good times and bad, public libraries remain key neighborhood resources that can quickly respond to community needs and help solve problems.

As the nation struggles through the worst recession in thirty years, the importance of libraries is as clear today as it was during the state's worst modern economic freefall—the Great Depression. State records from the era offer detail to support the concept that even in dismal economic times a healthy interest in library development continued throughout the state. Libraries were built, books and materials were purchased, and the needs of the public were met. Writing in his submittal letter to Governor George C. Peery for the Virginia State Library's 1934 annual report, Lyon G. Tyler, chairman of the Library Board, noted, "the library in common with all other agencies of the State, has felt the effects of the depression, but cheerfully and industriously adjusted itself to the conditions, and though making some sacrifices along certain lines, has continued to make the stress felt as little as possible on the main work."

While today's economic troubles are nowhere near the level of those experienced in the 1930s, they do reinforce the idea that our public libraries remain a bulwark of support for citizens. Public libraries offer programs for all ages, reference services, Internet access, computer classes, spaces for teens and for public meetings, books, magazines, newspapers, and more. Libraries play a key role in K-12 education with story hours and reading programs (for toddlers through teens), and by providing safe space and computers for students doing their homework. Adults come to the library for classes and programs, recreational and educational reading, and, increasingly, to use computers to find tax forms and health information, prepare résumés, and hunt for jobs.

NEW ECONOMIC REALITIES

More people who can no longer afford Internet connections or book purchases are turning to local libraries. Unemployed workers are using library computers to search for jobs, complete applications, or file for unemployment.

At the Library of Virginia, for example, the number of patrons asking for assistance with online employment sites or help filing unemployment claims has risen 36 percent since the second quarter of fiscal year 2008–2009 (when we began tracking). The number of people waiting to use a computer has risen 101 percent compared to a year ago and nearly 300 percent compared to the second quarter of fiscal year 2008–2009.

In February, the Library surveyed the state's 91 public library systems to see how the economy was affecting general and Internet usage and the ability of libraries to purchase materials and offer classes. With a response rate of 65 percent (59 systems), the survey presented staggering statistics. Ninety percent of the libraries that responded reported an increase in library users. Nearly that number listed an increase in persons using the Internet. More than 80 percent reported an increase in materials borrowed. Only half of Virginia's libraries are able to offer classes in computer skills because of limitations in space, the number of computers, Internet speed, and available staff members.

The numbers don't tell the entire story, however. Drive by a public library before it opens and see the lines of individuals waiting for the doors to open. Read the "thank you's" left in suggestion boxes. Even more revealing are the survey comments about library users:

"A young mother told us, 'We'll be reading a lot more, since we had to give up our satellite TV and Internet.'"

"A woman who works out of her home came in to use the library's public Internet terminals to complete work because her electricity had been turned off. She hoped that by completing her work she would be paid and could have her electric service reconnected."

"Many people who are filing for unemployment for the first time have no computer skills at all."



BEYOND BOOKS

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: 1. A children's event packs the house at the main downtown branch of the Portsmouth Public Library. 2. A visitor selects DVDs at the Newport News Public Library (courtesy Newport News Public Library System). 3. Staff members at the Library of Virginia offer free computer assistance to job seekers.

"A local teacher working on her doctorate used interlibrary loan to borrow books needed for her course and reported saving the \$500 she would have spent purchasing them."

As companies throughout Virginia shed workers and close plants, free access to computers in public libraries becomes more important. The expert staff members who guide users through the sea of digital information—pointing out reliable sites for job searches and helping the less computer-savvy navigate the often unfamiliar technology—reflect the adaptability of librarians and libraries.

Computers and the Internet have revolutionized all areas of society. To apply for many government jobs, you must submit your application online. To get a job at Target, Wal-Mart, or McDonalds, you must apply online. To receive unemployment benefits, not only must you apply online but you must also file weekly updates. In most communities, the public library is the *only* location with computers and free Internet access. Individuals who are not computer literate face tremendous disadvantages.

"Many, many people who are filing for unemployment for the first time have no computer skills at all," said a librarian from central Virginia. "Before we can even begin to help them with the Virginia Employment

Commission Web site, we have to teach them fundamentals of computer use (how to use the mouse) and help them set up a free e-mail account. Only then can we actually help them with their claims.” This comment illustrates the level of service libraries are being called on to perform.

LIBRARIES RESPOND AND ADAPT

What does the future hold for libraries? Libraries of all kinds—public, school, and college—strive to provide more information resources in all formats to their users. Unfortunately, the nation’s libraries, especially those that are funded by government support, are not immune to the current economic climate. Not only are library budgets declining in many places, but the cost of materials—books, DVDs,

computers, and Internet access—are also all rising at the same time. So while more people are going to libraries rather than buying a book, subscribing to a newspaper, or paying for Internet service, libraries are finding it increasingly difficult to spread their budgets to meet those needs.

But the news is still good for libraries: they are seen more than ever as community centers, not just as buildings with books. As information has moved from print to digital, libraries have expanded their collections and made more material available on the Web. In order to remain relevant to patrons of all ages, libraries have added new programs geared to teens and seniors, as well as offering coffee bars and snack shops.

Each library will continue to face unique challenges and serve different audiences,

but all strive to serve society’s needs. More important, libraries seek not only to meet the demands of today’s patrons, but also to anticipate the needs of patrons in the future. As social institutions deeply rooted in the fabric of American culture, libraries are well poised to face these challenges and will continue to play a critical role in equalizing access to information. Libraries are both the product of and the reflection of a democratic society.

Janice M. Hathcock is public information and policy coordinator, Elizabeth Lewis is director of Library Development and Networking, and Suzy Szasz Palmer is deputy librarian of Virginia.

WHAT’S NEW ON THE WEB?

Amazing Architecture and African American Records

New digital collections and content available on VirginiaMemory.com

“Spinnin’ on Top of the World” Article Added to Virginiana Collection

Vince Brooks, senior local records archivist, adds his article “Spinnin’ on Top of the World” to our Virginiana collection on Virginia Memory, in which he discusses Richmond architect Haigh Jamgochian’s plans for a revolving hotel in Virginia Beach. See images of the motorized model for the hotel and learn more about the Library’s Jamgochian collection of intriguing architectural records added to the archival collections in August 2004 (Accession 41492).

New Digital Cohabitation Registers Added to Local Government Records Collection

The Library is excited to announce the release of a brand new digital collection of records of pre-Civil War marriages of enslaved people, called cohabitation registers. Part of our Local Government Records collection, cohabitation registers are a treasure trove for African American researchers, including genealogists and historians. These records, dating from 1866, provide valuable information about recently freed enslaved people who had been cohabiting as man and wife prior to the war when it was illegal for them to marry. Included are the names and ages of husbands, wives, and their children; their county of residence; names of former owners; and occupations for the husbands. Check back often for the addition of registers from more counties.

—Kathy Jordan, Digital Initiatives and Web Resources Manager



ROUND AND ROUND

Richmond architect Haigh Jamgochian created this motorized model for a proposed revolving hotel in Virginia Beach that would provide a new view every hour. He planned to float the building on a thin layer of hydraulic fluid and use hydraulic pressure to rotate the two 20-story structures.

Grisham Tapped for Lifetime Achievement

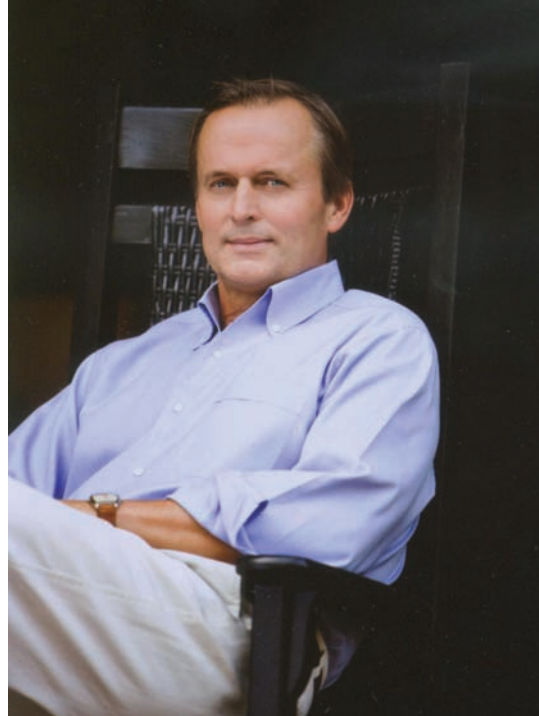
Best-selling author to be honored at annual Literary Awards

One of the highlights of the Library of Virginia's Literary Awards is the presentation of the Lifetime Achievement Award. The Library is pleased to announce that the 2009 Literary Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented on October 17, 2009, to internationally best-selling author and Virginia resident John Grisham.

Determined by a diverse panel of judges, the Lifetime Achievement Award has been given both posthumously and to living recipients. Grisham joins a stellar cast of past recipients: Ellen Glasgow (1998), Edgar Allan Poe (1999), Anne Spencer (2000), Booker T. Washington (2001), Mary Lee Settle (2002), Louis D. Rubin Jr. (2003), George Garrett (2004), Merrill D. Peterson (2005), William Styron (2006), Tom Wolfe (2007), and Rita Dove (2008). Grisham plans to be in attendance to accept his award.

Since publishing his first novel (*A Time to Kill*) in 1988, Grisham has written one novel a year, all of which have become international best sellers. More than 235 million John Grisham books are currently in print worldwide, translated into 29 languages. In addition to writing, Grisham devotes his time to charitable causes, including the recent "Rebuild the Coast Fund," which raised \$8.8 million for Gulf Coast relief in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Grisham and his family split their time between their farm in Mississippi and their home near Charlottesville, Virginia.

Tickets for the Literary Awards can be purchased by calling 804.692.3900.



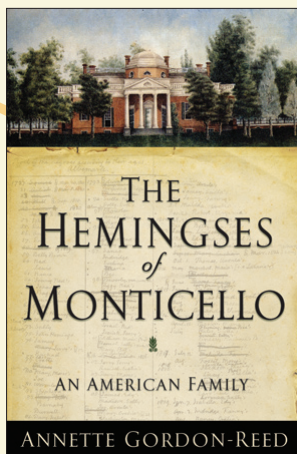
CELEBRATION 2009

12TH ANNUAL
Library of Virginia
Literary
Awards
CELEBRATION
10.17.2009

PRESENTED BY



LITERARY LUNCHEON



A Lens on American Cultural History A CONVERSATION WITH ANNETTE GORDON-REED

Please join us as we welcome Annette Gordon-Reed, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Hemingeses of Monticello: An American Family*, as this year's featured author at the 2009 Library of Virginia Literary Luncheon. Moderator for the event will be Dan Roberts, associate professor in the University of Richmond School of Continuing Studies and host of the radio series *A Moment in Time*.

Saturday, October 17

11:30 AM

Hilton Garden Inn Richmond Downtown
(FORMERLY THE MILLER & RHOADS BUILDING)

For more information or to purchase tickets, please call 804.692.3900.



Summer 2009 Events calendar

All events are free unless otherwise noted.

Every Tuesday & Thursday, July 21–December 3
2:00–2:45 PM

GALLERY WALK

Docent-led Tour of

Poe: Man, Myth, or Monster

Place: Exhibition Gallery and Lobby
RSVP by calling 804.692.3592. Space is limited. Join our docents every Tuesday and Thursday at 2:00 PM for a tour of the exhibition. **No tours on Tuesday, Sept. 8, or Thursday, Nov. 27.**

Thursday, July 30 | 5:30–7:30 PM

The General Assembly of 1619: Myths and Realities

Place: Lecture Hall. Fee \$12. Purchase tickets online at www.preservationvirginia.org/calendar. Dr. Warren M. Billings, Distinguished Professor of History, Emeritus, at the University of New Orleans, will speak on “The General Assembly of 1619: Myths and Realities” in the inaugural offering of Preservation Virginia’s annual Jamestown Lecture on Representative Government, jointly sponsored by Preservation Virginia and the Library of Virginia. For more information, call 757.229.0412, ext. 2.

Thursday, August 6 | Noon–12:45 PM

GALLERY WALK

Curator-led Tour of

Poe: Man, Myth, or Monster

Place: Exhibition Gallery and Lobby
RSVP by August 4 to 804.692.3592. Space is limited. Join exhibition curator Chris Semtner for an in-depth tour of the exhibition.

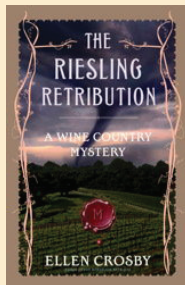
Tuesday, August 11

6:00–7:00 PM

POE BOOK TALK SERIES

The Riesling Retribution: A Wine Country Mystery

Place: Lecture Hall
Ellen Crosby will launch the fourth in her mystery series featuring wine and great descriptions of the



Attend and Win a Featured Book!

The Library of Virginia will hold a drawing for a FREE COPY of the featured author’s work at each of its Book Talk events. Registration takes place before each event. You must be present to win.

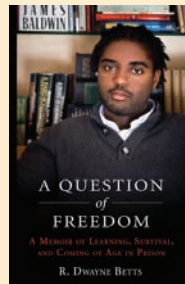
Virginia wine country. She continues the saga of Lucie Montgomery, a wine and history aficionado, who owns and operates a vineyard, a winemaking operation, and a catering business on a historical site near the Blue Ridge Mountains in Virginia.

Wednesday, August 12 | 6:00–8:00 PM

BOOK TALK

A Question of Freedom: A Memoir of Learning, Survival and Coming of Age in Prison

Place: Conference Rooms
Dwayne Betts will speak about and sign his memoir. Betts was a good student from a lower-middle-class family when, at 16, he and a friend carjacked someone. A bright young kid, he served his eight-year sentence as part of the adult population in some of the worst prisons in Virginia. Betts confronts profound questions about violence, freedom, crime, race, and the justice system. Co-sponsored by JustChildren, Families & Allies of Virginia’s Youth, the Black History Museum and Cultural Center of Virginia.



Friday, August 14 | 4:00–6:00 PM

OPEN HOUSE FOR EDUCATORS

Poe: Man, Myth or Monster

RSVP by August 7 to 804.371.2126 or tameka.hobbs@lva.virginia.gov. This open house for educators features a gallery walk with exhibition curator Chris Semtner, interim director of the Poe Museum; a preview of education programs offered by the Library of Virginia and the Poe Museum; and a reception at St. Johns Church.

Saturday, August 15 | 10:00 AM–2:00 PM

FAMILY DAY AT THE LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

I Know Poe

Place: Conference Rooms
Experience Virginia’s rich past by exploring documents representing 400 years of the state’s history, as well as events, giveaways, and tours of the exhibition *Poe: Man, Myth, or Monster*. Enjoy activities such as face painting, crafts, a scavenger hunt, and performances by the Haunts of Richmond, a haunted attraction that brings local ghost stories and legends to life.

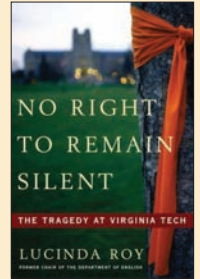
Tuesday, September 8

Noon–1:00 PM

BOOK TALK

No Right to Remain Silent: The Tragedy at Virginia Tech

Place: Conference Rooms
Lucinda Roy, an Alumni Distinguished Professor and former chair of the English department at Virginia Tech, will discuss and sign *No Right to Remain Silent: The Tragedy at Virginia Tech*, which recounts the tragic events of April 2007 and the school’s response to the massacre.



Weds.–Fri., Sept. 9–11 | 11:00–12:30 PM

PERFORMANCES BY HAUNTS

OF RICHMOND Poe Mania!

Special performances for school groups only.

Place: Lecture Hall.
Fee \$5 for students.

Call 804.371.2126 for details. Join us for a manically energetic, dramatic tribute to the Master of the Macabre, Edgar Allan Poe. Witness some of his darkest and most riveting tales spun live, onstage in a rich tapestry of terror and suspense.



Thursday, September 10

7:00–8:00 PM

PERFORMANCE BY HAUNTS OF RICHMOND

Poe Mania!

Open to the public.

Place: Lecture Hall. Fee \$7. Call 804.371.2126 for details.

See description above.

Tuesday, September 15

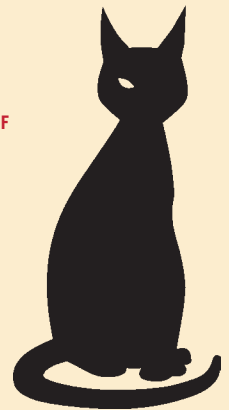
Noon–1:00 PM

MINING THE TREASURE HOUSE TALK

Virginia Made:

Researching the Southern Decorative Arts through County and State Records

Place: Conference Rooms
Chris Kolbe, Archives Research Services coordinator, will discuss the value of using original Virginia county, city, and state government records to locate information about Virginia furniture makers and decorative arts craftspeople.



Wednesday, September 16 | 2:00–4:00 PM

UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND OSHER COURSE

Keepers of the Past:

Behind the Scenes at the Library of Virginia

Place: Conference Rooms

Brent Tarter, program manager, Education and Outreach, will discuss "The History of the Library of Virginia."

Wednesday, September 23 | Noon–12:45 PM

GALLERY WALK

Curator-led Tour of Poe:

Man, Myth, or Monster

Place: Exhibition Gallery and Lobby

RSVP by September 21 to 804.692.3592.

Space is limited. Join exhibition curator

Chris Semtner for an in-depth tour of the exhibition.

Wednesday, September 23 | 2:00–4:00 PM

UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND OSHER COURSE

Keepers of the Past:

Behind the Scenes at the Library of Virginia

Place: Conference Rooms

Ginny Dunn, library manager, Archives

Research Services, will discuss "The Library of Virginia's Web Site and Image Databases."

Minor Weisiger, Archives Research Services coordinator, Virginia Heritage Research Center, will discuss "Private Papers Collections at the Library of Virginia."

Tuesday, September 29 | 6:00–7:00 PM

POE BOOK TALK SERIES

Virginia in Verse: The Poetry of Michelle Boisseau and John Casteen

Place: Conference Rooms

Michelle Boisseau, author of *A Sunday in God-Years*, and John Casteen, author of *Free Union: Poems*, will discuss and sign their books of poetry. Co-sponsored by

the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School.



Wednesday, September 30 | 2:00–4:00 PM

UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND OSHER COURSE

Keepers of the Past:

Behind the Scenes at the Library of Virginia

Place: Conference Rooms

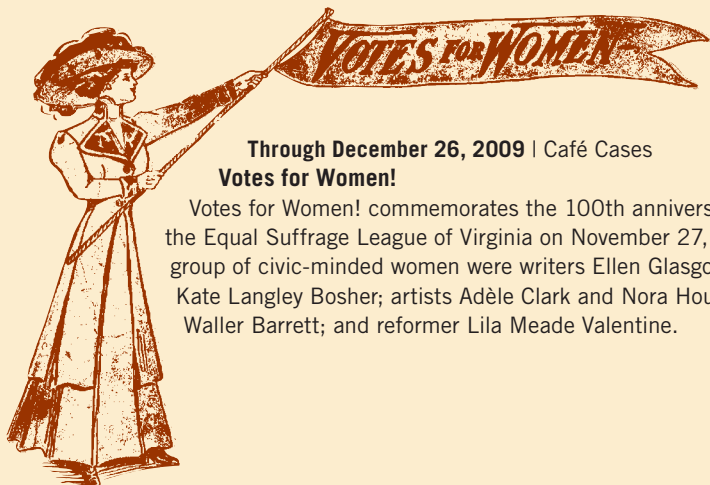
Tom Camden, director of Special Collections, will present "A White Glove Tour" of Special Collections.

exhibitions at 800 east broad

Through December 5, 2009 | Exhibition Gallery & Lobby

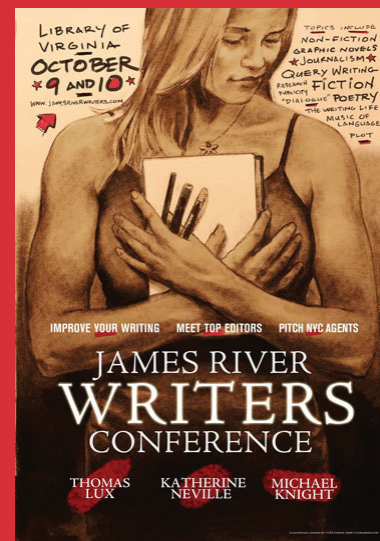
Poe: Man, Myth, or Monster

What do you know about Edgar Allan Poe? The popular Poe is as much a fictional creation as are the characters in his stories. Organized in partnership with the Poe Museum, *Poe: Man, Myth, or Monster* commemorates the 200th anniversary of the birth of Poe, America's first internationally renowned author. Materials displayed include rare copies of *Tamerlane* and *Al Araaf*, the newly restored Poe family Bible, and a desk from the office of the *Southern Literary Messenger*, where Poe was editor.



Through December 26, 2009 | Café Cases
Votes for Women!

Votes for Women! commemorates the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Equal Suffrage League of Virginia on November 27, 1909. Among the small group of civic-minded women were writers Ellen Glasgow, Mary Johnston, and Kate Langley Bosher; artists Adèle Clark and Nora Houston; physician Kate Waller Barrett; and reformer Lila Meade Valentine.



James River WRITERS Conference 2009

Friday & Saturday
October 9–10, 2009
at the Library of Virginia
800 East Broad Street
Richmond

FEATURING

Katherine Neville

New York Times best-selling author
of *The Eight* and other thrillers

Thomas Lux

author of 11 collections of poetry

Michael Knight

literary novelist

Lee Boudreaux

editor, HarperCollins's
Ecco imprint

Karen Lotz

president & publisher
Candlewick Press

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
WWW.JAMESRIVERWRITERS.ORG

WANTED: Your Family Papers

Gifts-in-kind donations add depth to Library collections

Reasons for giving to the Library of Virginia Foundation are as varied as the donors themselves. Many donors support the mission of the Library and find it easiest to support the Foundation's annual fund, while others give gifts of time through volunteerism. Some choose to create a legacy through a planned gift left in their will. Other donors choose to make an impact on the Library through a gift-in-kind.

Do you have old books or family papers collecting dust in your attic? You might be surprised to learn how useful those materials could be. An item that seems insignificant to you could be a valuable gem to a researcher.

The Library and the Library Foundation have small yearly budgets to purchase notable pieces for the collections, but many of our best acquisitions come through gifts-in-kind. Each year the Library receives hundreds, even thousands, of items from the personal collections of people from throughout Virginia and across the country. These include books, business documents, maps, newspapers and periodicals, and personal family papers and Bible records. According to Tom Camden, director of Special Collections, gifts-in-kind are always important for collection building, "but even more so during periods of economic downturn and budget trimming. Gifts-in-kind, in a very practical sense, free up very scarce budgeted resources, which can then be used for the acquisition of materials normally not received as gifts."

Last year, Charles H. "B" Smith Jr. donated a very rare copy of the Fry-Jefferson map of Virginia, one of the earliest detailed maps of the state, which became the focal point of our recent exhibition on Virginia maps. The *Richmond Times-Dispatch* recently highlighted a gift from Mary Blanton Easterly, who donated her collection of family papers and other writings to the Library of Virginia (SEE BOX).

Each of these gifts helps to increase the depth of information in our collections, often providing previously unknown facts about people, places, and events in Virginia history. Many times the donors themselves aren't even aware of the importance of the information that their gifts hold. Donors may also choose to keep their original documents and allow the Library to make copies. When a gift-in-kind is made, the donor receives a detailed list of the items received, which can then be used at tax time to calculate a charitable donation.

For more information, please contact Dan Stackhouse, director of development, at 804.692.3813 or dan.stackhouse@lva.virginia.gov.

Richmond woman donates decades of writings, memorabilia to Library

Excerpted from an article by Jeremy Slayton published in the Richmond Times-Dispatch, March 26, 2009. Reprinted with permission.

[Mary Blanton] Easterly, 85, is donating her extensive collection of family papers, writings and other memorabilia saved over the years to the Library of Virginia, where they will be catalogued, archived and made available for the public. She will be honored with a reception at the Library of Virginia.

Sandra G. Treadway, Librarian of Virginia, said Easterly's collection—which she described as a treasure trove—ensures that the voices of Virginia women are heard as part of the archive. The Library hopes other women submit their own collections of family papers and correspondence to the archive.

"During Women's History Month, it is even more important to share these stories that helped shape the commonwealth and even the nation," said Mary Beth McIntire, executive director of the Library of Virginia Foundation.

The papers Easterly submitted include personal letters between her and her late husband, Harry Watkey Easterly Jr., during

their college years and later during his service as a Marine at Iwo Jima and Okinawa during World War II.

She gave the Library some journals written by her father, Richmond physician Wyndham Bolling Blanton Sr., when he was serving in France during World War I. They include "pretty graphic pictures of operations they did on the wounded," she said.

There are books of poems written by Easterly's mother, a composition notebook from 1945 filled with a schedule for Easterly to follow to care for her newborn son, and a diary from her father-in-law about his time living in Russia.

To accompany the writings, the collection includes about 15 volumes of scrapbooks and photo albums, said Jim Greve, senior collections development archivist at the Library of Virginia.



HISTORY CAPTURED

Mary Blanton Easterly's donation of family papers to the Library includes scrapbooks and photograph albums. Photo credit: Mark Gormus/*Richmond Times-Dispatch*.

A Great Night in February

African American Trailblazers event celebrates honorees

The Library of Virginia's African American Trailblazers in Virginia History program highlights the accomplishments of African Americans who have made significant contributions to Virginia and the nation. The 2009 Trailblazers ceremony and reception was hosted by Daphne Maxwell Reid on February 26 and sponsored by Capital One and the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*.



VIRGINIA VANGUARD

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT—1. **Daphne Maxwell Reid** hosts the Trailblazers program. 2. (LEFT TO RIGHT): **Phil Wiggins** of the duo Cephas & Wiggins accompanies **Ashanti Hobbs** and **Gregg Kimball** in an impromptu jam session. 3. A distinguished group poses after the ceremony (LEFT TO RIGHT): **Daphne Maxwell Reid**, host; **Claudia Whitworth**, honoree; **Phil Wiggins**, longtime recording partner of honoree John Cephas; **Leland Melvin**, honoree; **Nikkol Porter**, relative of honoree Dangerfield Newby; **Afeworki Paulos**, son of honoree Edna Lewis; **Charlene Ligon**, daughter of honoree Evelyn Butts; and **Oliver Hill Jr.**, son of honoree Oliver White Hill. 4. Winners of the Trailblazers Student Essay Contest

(LEFT TO RIGHT): **Imani Brooks**, **Jessica Moniz**, and **Nicholas DeLaPena**, are recognized by **Jessica Artur** (BACK ROW) from the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, a contest and program sponsor.



Contributions Acknowledged

Virginia Women in History event celebrates honorees

The Library's Virginia Women in History program honors women who have made significant contributions to society that have often been overlooked in the history books. The March 26 awards ceremony and reception, hosted by Lisa LaFata Powell, marked the ninth year of this signature event, which celebrates National Women's History Month. Students can get involved in the program by nominating honorees each year. The program was sponsored by Dominion, the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, and WTVR CBS 6.

WONDER WOMEN

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT—1. Honoree **Joann Hess Grayson** displays a photograph of her work with the students of Island Creek Elementary School in Alexandria. 2. Poet **Claudia Emerson** accepts her award from Librarian of Virginia **Sandra Treadway**. 3. Honoree and former Attorney General **Mary Sue Terry** chats with food historian **Nancy Carter Crump**, who accepted an award on behalf of Mary Randolph, author of the first American regional cookbook. 4. **Kenneth Stafford Bradby** (TOP LEFT), who accepted the award on behalf of his great-great-grandmother Caroline Bradby Cook, is joined by family and friends from the Pamunkey Indian tribe.



WHY MEMBERSHIP MATTERS:

Tameka B. Hobbs
PROGRAM AND EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Learning Lab will bring the Library of Virginia experience to a new, younger audience

One of my favorite quotes about the value of history comes from historian Carl Becker. Writing in 1935, Becker stated that “the history that lies inert in unread books does no work in the world. The history that does work in the world, the history that influences the course of history, is living history, that pattern of remembered events . . . that enlarges and enriches the collective specious present.” His words speak to the capacity of history to enrich our perspectives on our everyday walk and, more important, the need to make history, the power of the past, accessible to all.

This work occurs daily at the Library of Virginia. Monday through Saturday, researchers of all stripes use our collections to research and tell all matter of stories about the people and institutions that have shaped their communities, the commonwealth, and our nation. The vast majority of them, however, are over eighteen years of age.

That reality prompts an important and challenging question: How can the Library make its collections, and the incredible stories they tell, more accessible, interesting, and relevant to young people? How can we create opportunities for young visitors and students to interact with items in our collections in order to discover and create meaning from the past for themselves?

It was from this impetus that the idea of establishing a Learning Lab at the Library of Virginia was born nearly one year ago. Once established, the lab and its programs will harness the power of primary source documents as tools to empower students to apply their own skills of inquiry and analysis while exploring Virginia’s history, resulting in layered, personal, and exciting interactions with the past. Comprised of dedicated spaces within the Library, the lab and its programs will improve our ability to address the cognitive needs of younger audiences and the instructional objectives of educators.

Your contributions to the development of our educational programs can help bring this vision to life. The Learning Lab concept offers unique opportunities for young people to experience the remnants of the past for themselves. Whether from 20 or 200 years ago, items from the past remind us of the steady march of time, which converts our present into our past much more quickly than we sometimes appreciate.

The Learning Lab will help foster a subtle but important appreciation in younger generations that things have not always been as they are; that something as seemingly inevitable as a building stands

on what was once mud and wilderness, growing from idea and effort into stone and steel, becoming the neighborhoods, communities, and institutions that today we hold dear; that, in the same way, speeches, letters, pamphlets, and books become the foundation for movements, revolutions, laws, and government; and, most



important of all, that younger generations are the heirs to a great heritage of ideas and lessons, from which they can learn and build a world of their own.

Your contributions to the development of our educational programs can help bring this vision to life. The Learning Lab concept offers unique opportunities for young people to experience the remnants of the past for themselves.



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New Library of Virginia profile page

The Library of Virginia has expanded its presence on the social networking Web site Facebook.com with a new and improved public profile page. If you’re a Facebook member, we invite you to become a fan of the Library. On our page we’ll keep you updated on events, book talks, and other relevant news. When you log in, simply search Library of Virginia—when you see the colorful Library of Virginia logo, you’ll know you’re in the right place. If you have problems finding us or need more information, please e-mail Dan Stackhouse at dan.stackhouse@lva.virginia.gov.

WRITE WHAT YOU LOVE

A conversation with internationally best-selling suspense author Steve Berry moderated by Katherine Neville

Join us as we welcome internationally best-selling suspense author Steve Berry for a conversation moderated by his colleague in suspense Katherine Neville.

A fixture on the *New York Times* best-seller list, Berry subscribes to the adage that it's better to "write what you love" than to "write what you know."

Join us for what promises to be a riveting conversation between these two masters of their genre.

Friday, October 16, 2009, at noon
The Library of Virginia

The event is free, but seating is limited. Please call 804.692.3900 to reserve your seat or for more information.

Photograph by Kelly Campbell



✂ *Enjoy the Benefits of Membership* THE SEMPER VIRGINIA SOCIETY

Membership gives you the opportunity to help the Library of Virginia fulfill its mission as guardian of the world's most important collection of materials about Virginia and early America. Your gift will have an impact on areas such as preservation, acquisitions, and public programming, which are in critical need of resources. Benefits include advance notice of lectures, readings, and events, as well as a 10% discount in the Virginia Shop (located on the Library's first floor), and more. For a complete list of benefits, or to join online, visit www.lva.virginia.gov or call 804.692.3900. Mail form with payment to: Library of Virginia Foundation, 800 E. Broad St., Richmond, VA 23219-8000.

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Fleet-footed Firefighters

“This Day in Virginia History” entry features the Massanutten Hose Company



SPOTLIGHT

GREAT IN 1908

These serious-looking Strasburg firefighters distinguished themselves as world and state champion reel racers at a summer gathering of the Virginia Firefighter's Association. Image courtesy of the Waynesboro Public Library Photograph Collection.

Visit the the Library's "This Day in Virginia History" entry for August 28 on the Virginia Memory Web site (www.virginiamemory.com/reading_room/this_day_in_virginia_history) and you'll find this handsome group portrait of the Massanutten Hose Company.

Formed in 1906, the company provided fire protection for the citizens of Strasburg, Virginia. In August 1908 the team beat other Virginia fire companies to become "World and Va. State Champions"

in a reel race competition held in Harrisonburg by the Virginia State Firefighter's Association. The Massanutten Hose Company won the race with times of 27 1/12 and 27 1/10 seconds. Later the company changed its name to the Citizens Fire Company, before becoming the Strasburg Fire Department in 1938.