



news from The Library of America

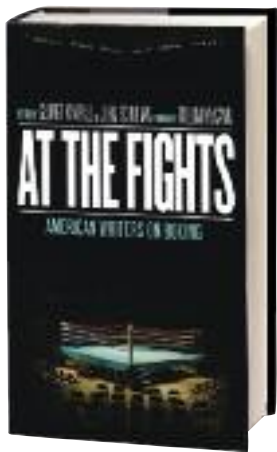
S U M M E R 2 0 1 1

C L A S S I C W R I T E R S , C L A S S I C B O O K S

W W W . L O A . O R G

At the Fights scores a knockout

American writers have been fascinated by the ring—by the primal contest inside the ropes and the crazy carnival world outside them. From neighborhood gyms and smoke-filled



arenas to star-studded casinos and exotic locales, they have chronicled unforgettable stories about determination and dissipation, great champions and punch-drunk has-beens, colorful entourages and outrageous promoters, and, inevitably along the way, about race, class,

and violence in America. Like baseball, boxing has a vivid culture and language all its own, one that has proven irresistible to career journalists and literary writers alike.

At the Fights: American Writers on Boxing, edited by George Kimball and John Schulian, is a gritty and glittering anthology of the very best writing and reporting about the fights. The collection

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Landmark publication for Civil War 150 Four-year, four-volume series to mark sesquicentennial

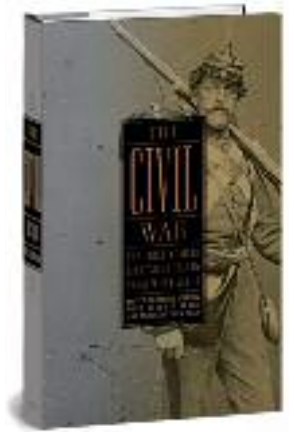
To mark the 150th anniversary of this nation's most searing and defining crisis, The Library of America presents the first volume of its most ambitious projects to date, *The Civil War: The First Year Told by Those Who Lived It*, a four-year, four-volume publishing event that will offer a firsthand narrative of the war years drawn from the broadest possible range of sources, including diaries, letters, speeches, military reports, newspaper articles, memoirs, poems, and public papers. Here is an unprecedented chorus of voices—white and black, male and female, soldiers and politicians, public intellectuals and private citizens—orchestrated into a retelling of the war that encompasses military and political events and their social and personal reverberations.

This first volume, *The Civil War: The First Year Told by Those Who Lived It*, spans fourteen months, from the election of Abraham Lincoln in November 1860 to the appointment of Edwin M. Stanton as Secretary of War in January 1862, a move that signaled new determination in the Union war effort. All together, over 120 pieces by more than sixty participants enable readers to trace the course of the

first year of the war as it unfolded—from the coming of secession and the firing on Fort Sumter, to the shattering battles at Bull Run and Ball's Bluff—with a powerful sense of the immediacy, urgency, and uncertainty that shape the experience of war.

The contents have been selected, annotated, and introduced by a distinguished

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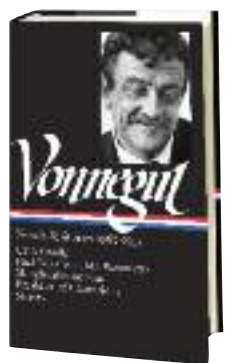
Comic gems launch Vonnegut edition

Like Mark Twain, Kurt Vonnegut (1922–2007) was a Midwestern Everyman steeped in the rhythms of American speech whose work was simultaneously cynical and hopeful, funny and profound. His cunningly relaxed delivery was so original, so finely calibrated, and so pitch-perfect an articulation of the Sixties' spirit that many critics overlooked the moral seriousness behind the standup-comic craftsmanship.

Kurt Vonnegut: Novels & Stories 1963–1973, edited by Sidney Offit, is the first in a multi-volume edition of his enduring fiction. This volume captures Vonnegut at the pyrotechnic height of his powers. It opens with *Cat's Cradle* (1963), in which a would-be historian of the bombing of Hiroshima finds himself a privileged witness to the icy end of the world. *God Bless You, Mr. Rosewater* (1965) chronicles the alcoholic unraveling and spiritual rebirth of a good-hearted dreamer.

Slaughterhouse-Five (1969)—the book that earned Vonnegut worldwide fame, and one of the iconic masterpieces of twentieth-century American literature—is the tale of Billy Pilgrim, who, being unstuck in time, is doomed to relive continually both the firebombing of Dresden and his abduction by space aliens. And in a text enhanced by the author's spirited line drawings, *Breakfast of Champions* (1973) describes the fateful meeting of a luckless science-fiction

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Daniel Aaron receives National Humanities Medal



Arnold Rampersad, another honoree, receives the National Humanities Medal from President Barack Obama.

Daniel Aaron, a founder and Life Trustee of The Library of America, was one of ten Americans awarded the National Humanities Medal by President Obama at a White House ceremony this spring. The medal is the nation's highest public honor for individuals and groups whose work has broadened our understanding of the humanities. The National Endowment for the Humanities suggests names to the White House, which makes the final selection.

The Victor S. Thomas Professor of English and American Literature Emeritus at Harvard University, Aaron is widely regarded as one of the founders of the field of American Studies. He graduated from the University of Michigan in 1933, received his Ph.D. from

Harvard in 1943, and taught for over three decades each at Smith College and Harvard. A widely respected literary scholar, his publications include *Men of Good Hope*, *Writers on the Left*, *The Unwritten War*, and, most recently, the memoir *The Americanist*. Aaron helped to secure seed funding in the late 1970s for what would become The Library of America and was the organization's first president.

Also honored that day were five others with connections to The Library of America: Bernard Bailyn, Joyce Carol Oates, Arnold Rampersad, and Gordon S. Wood (*see page 3*) who have all edited volumes in the series, and Philip Roth whose works are collected in The Library of America. ★



Daniel Aaron, at the time of the founding of The Library of America.

EVENT PHOTOS INSIDE



MORE NEW TITLES INSIDE



Bill Moyers in conversation with James K. Galbraith Fellows of The Library of America and their guests gathered at the Grolier Club in New York to celebrate the publication of *John Kenneth Galbraith: The Affluent Society & Other Writings 1952–1967*. Economist James K. Galbraith, volume editor and son of John Kenneth Galbraith, and television journalist Bill Moyers spoke about the elder Galbraith's work and its particular relevance today.

Sixth and final volume of Henry James's novels published

The complete fiction available at last

Nearly thirty years in the making, The Library of America's edition of the complete novels of Henry James is crowned with a sixth and final volume collecting three late masterworks: *Henry James: Novels 1903–1911*, edited by Ross Posnock. Included are two masterpieces of his extraordinary late period—*The Ambassadors* (1903) and *The Golden Bowl* (1904)—along with his last extended narrative work, *The Outcry* (1911), a short comic novel of social manners.

This volume rounds out The Library of America's eleven-volume edition of Henry James's complete fiction, which also includes a five-volume set of the complete stories.

Considered by James to be his most finely constructed novel, *The Ambassadors* recounts the attempts of a conscientious American to convince the son of a friend to return home from Paris—and in doing so plays the charm of the Old World against the provincialism of the New. In *The Golden Bowl*, an American woman marries an Italian prince while her father unknow-



New!

ingly marries the prince's former mistress; James underscores both the fragility and strength of human ties and further develops what he once called the "complex fate, being an American." Originally written for the stage but never produced, James reworked *The Outcry* into a highly successful comic novel of social manners that also deals with the ethics of art collecting. Included as an appendix is "The Married Son," the chapter James contributed to *The Whole Family* (1908), a multi-author novel conceived by William Dean Howells that portrays a fractious family whose struggles mirror the frustrated collaborative efforts of the book's twelve contributors. ★



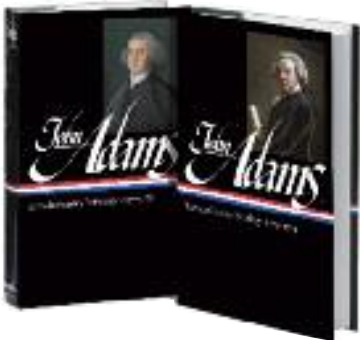
Ross Posnock, editor, is professor of English and comparative literature at Columbia University and the author of several books, including *Henry James and the Problem of Robert Browning* and *The Trial of Curiosity: Henry James, William James, and the Challenge of Modernity*.

To order, call 1-800-964-5778 or go to www.loa.org. Subscribers: order your copy at www.loa.org/customer.

Henry James: Novels 1903–1911 has been endowed with a gift from the estate of Richard Poirier (see page 5).

Engaging and colorful writing from founder John Adams

“I must study Politicks and War that my sons may have liberty to study Mathematicks and Philosophy, in order to give their Children a right to study Painting, Poetry, Musick, Architecture,” wrote John Adams, who devoted his considerable energy, tenacious intellect, and eloquent pen to his country’s service. Powerful polemicist, leading member of the Continental Congress, brilliant constitutional theorist, and tireless diplomat, Adams was a figure of towering importance during the birth of the



John Adams: Revolutionary Writings 1755-1783 has been endowed in honor of James Grant (see page 5).

American republic. Now, joining The Library of America’s acclaimed volumes devoted to the Founders, comes *John Adams: Revolutionary Writings 1755-1783*, an authoritative two-volume set of the essential writings of this great American patriot, edited by Gordon S. Wood. Once overshadowed by Washington and Jefferson, Adams has become the subject of renewed interest, with a best-selling biography and a television mini-series reintroducing him to millions. To date, however, no comprehensive selection of his vitally important writing has been available to general readers. This new edition charts his education, early career, courtship and marriage, and his experience of the American Revolution from the early stirrings of discontent in 1761 to his negotiation of the Treaty of Paris in 1783. Throughout both volumes are Adams’s characteristically warm and frank letters—especially those to his “dearest friend” Abigail—and extensive and revealing excerpts from his diary and autobiography, personal writings that convey the excitement and dangers of the emerging crisis with Britain, as Adams became a leader of the Patriot cause.

Included are the full texts of his most important political writings: *A Dissertation on the Canon and the Feudal Law* (1765), which transformed a young Boston lawyer into a leader of the emerging American resistance to British rule; the “Novanglus” essays (1775), with the rejoinders of Adams’s Loyalist opponent Daniel Leonard (“Massachusettensis”); the influential *Thoughts on Government* (1776); and the “Report of a Constitution for Massachusetts,” Adams’s 1780 blueprint for what remains the world’s oldest working political charter. The volumes are published with support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Bodman Foundation. ☆ To order, call 1-800-964-5778 or go to www.loa.org. Subscribers: order your copy at www.loa.org/customer.

“There is no comparable written record of a prominent American family. . . . Not Washington, not Jefferson or Madison or Hamilton, not even Franklin for all that he wrote, was so forthcoming on paper as was John Adams.” —David McCullough



Gordon S. Wood



Eric & Deborah Sherman, G. Warren Whitaker



Phyllis Lee Levin & Gordon S. Wood

Photos by Cheryl Hurley

Gordon S. Wood, editor of the John Adams volumes, spoke about the American founder to Fellows of the Library of America and their guests at the Harvard Club in New York in the spring. Wood is the Alva O. Way University Professor Emeritus at Brown University and the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Radicalism of the American Revolution*. In March President Obama awarded him the National Humanities Medal. His latest book is *The Idea of America: Reflections on the Birth of the United States*.

★ CRITICAL PRAISE ★

Lynd Ward *Six Novels in Woodcuts*

“Long before there was *Maus* or *Watchmen*, there was Lynd Ward . . . now beautifully and deservedly reprinted by The Library of America.” —*Time*

“For the experience of seeing all [Ward’s] wordless books as they were meant to be read, the Library of America set is essential.” —Steven Heller, *The New York Times Book Review*

“The Library of America, doing what it does best, offers six of Ward’s woodcut novels . . . in a beautifully printed two-volume set.” —*BOMB Magazine*

John Kenneth Galbraith *The Affluent Society & Other Writings*

“[A] beautifully bound new edition . . . worth (re)reading if only for Galbraith’s elegantly understated prose.” —*Bloomberg Businessweek*

H. L. Mencken *Prejudices*

“To read the six original *Prejudices* is to come closer to the Mencken who once bestrode the republic of American letters like a destroying angel.” —Terry Teachout, *The New Criterion*

“Thanks to the splendid Library of America set, we can again enjoy H. L. Mencken at length and at full throttle.” —Michael Dirda, *Times Literary Supplement*

“*Prejudices* teems with exaggerated visual metaphors. Mencken hot-wires descriptive language, mashes together argot high and low, in order to shake his readers awake.” —Bill Marx, *Columbia Journalism Review*

Saul Bellow *Novels 1970-1982*

“These three books had Bellow in complete command of talents and writing with a kind of self-confidence to which only he had ever earned.” —Eric Alterman, *The Nation*

Ralph Waldo Emerson *Selected Journals* (two volumes)

“A splendid addition to The Library of America series . . . these volumes are captivating.” —*Choice Magazine*

“Superlatively assembled” —Phillip Lopate, *Harper’s Magazine*

“An informal history of the young republic viewed from its most interesting armchair.” —*Times Literary Supplement* (London)



“Book City” by Eric Drooker



A Night at the Fights A celebration of *At the Fights: American Writing on Boxing* at the New York Athletic Club took on the character of a reunion as contributors to the collection, their families, and friends recounted anecdotes and stories about their years covering the sport and the colorful characters drawn to it. Guests also paid tribute to veteran journalists George Kimball and John Schulian, editors of the anthology. The ambience of ringside was evoked with video clips of fights covered in the book, a bell, and a miniature boxing ring. More than 150 guests attended the event, which was organized by Young Fellow Amanda O'Brien-Brown.

At The Fights

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begins with Jack London's account of the epic 1910 battle between Jack Johnson, the first African American heavyweight champion, and James Jeffries, who London called the "Great White Hope." Irwin S. Cobb and H. L. Mencken offer accounts of Jack Dempsey's fight with Georges Carpentier, the first "Fight of the Century" that captivated the world; Richard Wright records the reaction to Joe Louis's historic first-round knockout of Max Schmeling; and A. J. Liebling, by many accounts the greatest writer of all on boxing, draws a brilliant comic portrait of a manager who *really* identifies with his fighter.

Great boxing writing flourished after World War II when Jimmy Cannon pro-

filed Archie Moore, the greatest fighter of the 1950s, and James Baldwin and Gay Talese captured Floyd Patterson's epic tilt with Sonny Liston. And then came Cassius Clay, soon to be Muhammad Ali, whose electrifying prowess inspired pieces by George Plimpton and Dick Schaap. Also included are Norman Mailer on the Rumble in the Jungle; Mark Kram on the Thrilla in Manila; Pete Hamill on legendary trainer and manager Cus D'Amato; Mark Kriegel on Oscar De La Hoya; and David Remnick and Joyce Carol Oates on Mike Tyson. National Book Award-winning novelist Colum McCann weighs in with a foreword. ★

George Kimball is a longtime sportswriter and the author of *Four Kings: Leonard, Hagler, Hearns, Duran and the Last Great Era of Boxing*. John Schulian was a sports columnist for the *Chicago Sun-Times* and *Philadelphia Daily News* and is the author of *Writers' Fighters and Other Sweet Scientists*. Both Kimball and Schulian are recipients of the Nat Fleischer Award for Excellence in Boxing Journalism, awarded by the Boxing Writers Association of America.

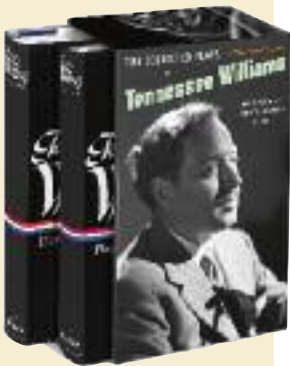
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The Collected Plays of Tennessee Williams

A deluxe boxed set for his centennial

To celebrate this year's centennial of Tennessee Williams's birth, The Library of America presents its acclaimed two-volume edition of his plays in a collector's boxed set. Gathering works written from the 1930s to the 1980s, this is the most complete collection ever published of the playwright who transformed the American stage. The set contains thirty-two plays, including classics such as *The Glass Menagerie*, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, *The Rose Tattoo*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, and *Sweet Bird of Youth*. The volumes were edited by Mel Gus-sow and Kenneth Holditch.

To order, call 1-800-964-5778 or go to www.loa.org.



"The masters of the ring possess a unique nobility. That nobility is perfectly framed in this remarkable volume from The Library of America. . . . This is as close as you can get without catching a hook to the head."

— *The New York Times Book Review*, June 5, 2011

Gifts endow volumes of John Adams, Eudora Welty, and Henry James

111 volumes endowed; Guardians Fund reaches \$5.9 million

The Guardians of American Letters Fund has grown in the past year with the adoption of nine volumes, bringing the Fund to \$5.9 million as of May 2011; adoptions now total 111 volumes (of 215 published), ensuring their permanent availability. With an ever-growing backlist, reprint costs now exceed \$1 million annually, straining The Library of America's working capital. The Guardians help the organization keep pace with the growth in reprint expenditures by making a one-time tax-deductible contribution to the Fund. In recognition of this generosity, the donor's name appears on an acknowledgment page of every future printing of the endowed volume. A complete list of volumes awaiting adoption appears at www.loa.org. A list of Guardians appears on page C. Or, contact Karen Duda at 212.308.3360 or kduda@loa.org.

Through an anonymous gift to the Guardians of American Letters Fund, *John Adams: Revolutionary Writings 1755–1783* (two volumes) were endowed and



James Grant

will be kept in print in honor of James Grant. Grant is the author of the 2005 biography *John Adams: A Party of One*. He has published five books on finance and financial history and is the founding editor of *Grant's Interest Rate Observer*, a prominent journal of the financial markets that is published twenty-four times a year. Mr. Grant and his wife, Patricia Kavanagh, live in Brooklyn and have four children.

• Evelyn and Michael Jefcoat of Laurel, Mississippi, were devoted friends of Eudora

Welty and long-time admirers of her work. Mr. Jefcoat reports that over the years he and his wife have given away at least a hundred copies of the LOA edition of Welty's writings and keep several on hand for instant access. After Welty's death in 2001, the Jefcoats helped with and paid for the restoration of her beloved garden at

Eudora Welty in the garden at her house, c. 1941. The house and garden are featured in *American Writers at Home* by J. D. McClatchy, a special illustrated publication of The Library of America.



Photo by Eudora Welty ©, LLC

her home in Jackson, Mississippi. "Currently we are underwriting the first book on her garden and her life as a gardener," Mr. Jefcoat said. They were delighted to endow *Eudora Welty: Stories,*



Photos by Cheryl Hurley

Attending a dinner in New York celebrating the publication of the John Adams volumes and their endowment in honor of James Grant were Elizabeth W. Smith, LOA trustee, and Charles Grant and Patricia Kavanagh, son and wife of James Grant.

Essays, and Memoir in honor of the Eudora Welty Foundation with a gift to the Guardians of American Letters Fund.

• A gift from the estate of Richard Poirier, a founder and former chairman of The Library of America, who died in 2009, has provided the resources to adopt a volume in honor of Cheryl Hurley, LOA president, who was given the choice of which volume to endow. "Dick and I shared a special affection for Henry James and loved talking about him," Hurley said. "I think Dick would approve of my choice of *Henry James: Novels 1903–1911*, which includes *The Ambassadors* and *The Golden Bowl*. What a thrill to be associated with those masterpieces!" ★

Stephen Crane's poetry will be a revelation for many readers

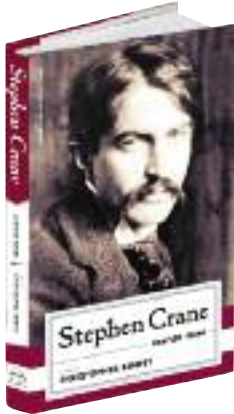
The reputation of prose masterpieces like *The Red Badge of Courage* and *Maggie: A Girl of the Streets* ought never to obscure Stephen Crane's singular

contribution to American poetry. Just as Crane's novels and sketches helped usher in a new mode of impressionistic realism, his poems are like no one else's before or since, extraordinary harbingers of the poetic revolution of the early

twentieth century. *Stephen Crane: Complete Poems* presents in full *The Black Riders* (1895), *War Is Kind* (1899), and the best of his uncollected poems. In these works, Crane forged his own idiom: abrupt, compact, sharply visual, and brutally indifferent to the niceties of late Victorian verse. These spontaneous utterances—Crane said they came to him "in

"Stephen Crane: Collected Poems is an eye-opener. I've devoured it. Twice. I've recommended it to all my students. Thanks for bringing this out."
— Mary Stewart Hammond, poet, who teaches master classes in poetry in New York

little rows, all made up, ready to be put down on paper," sometimes five or six a day—seem now like a prophetic blast of the modernist era that was to follow. In this newest volume (#31), the acclaimed American Poets Project presents all of Crane's indelible poetry complete in a compact and authoritative edition. It is edited by Christopher Benfey, Mellon Professor of English at Mount Holyoke, whose books include *The Double Life of Stephen Crane* and *American Audacity*. ★
To order, call 1-800-964-5778 or go to www.loa.org. Subscribers: order your copy at www.loa.org/customer.



Susan Cheever



William T. Buice III & Patricia Klingenstein



Danielle Granath



Betty Sargent & Ellen Marcus

Photos by Cheryl Hurley and Andrea Stillman

Susan Cheever speaks on Louisa May Alcott

Fellows of The Library of America heard Susan Cheever discuss her book *Louisa May Alcott: A Personal Biography* in New York. Alcott's three novels about the March family are available in *Louisa May Alcott: Little Women, Little Men, Jo's Boys*. Cheever is the daughter of acclaimed novelist and short story writer John Cheever, whose works are available in two Library of America volumes, *Complete Novels* and *Collected Stories & Other Writings*, edited by Blake Bailey.



Painting the Town Red

The Fellows of The Library of America toured the display of quilts spanning three hundred years at "Infinite Variety: Three Centuries of Red and White Quilts," an installation of more than 650 red and white American quilts at the Park Avenue Armory in New York. The quilts, no two exactly alike, are from the collection of Joanna S. Rose, a Charter Fellow.



David Rose



Anita Wien & Candace Wainwright, Fellows Co-Chair



Jeanette Sarkisian Wagner



Mary Carr Patton & Benita Potters

Photos by Cheryl Hurley

Building bridges with literature

LOA Worldwide receives new funding

With grants from three foundations and individual gifts from Fellows and friends, The Library of America will send 100-volume sets to fifty libraries, universities, and cultural centers in eight countries with large Muslim populations. The destination countries, all in the Middle East, North Africa, and East Asia, include Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines. The goal of the program is to offer new avenues to a deeper understanding and appreciation of the United States, its history, and its culture.

The institutions, chosen with the assistance of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State, are among the most prominent in their countries, and many have long-established American Studies programs. But because of poor funding, government controls, and civil unrest, even the most famous works of American literature and history are often lacking.

The cost of each set is \$2,600. Bloomberg Philanthropies, the Mark Krueger Charitable Trust, and the Charina Endowment Fund have made grants to cover sixty percent of the cost of the sets. Individual gifts of \$1,000 to \$5,000 will be sought to cover the remaining forty percent.

An example of "soft diplomacy," LOA Worldwide has undeniable benefits for the United States. A State Department official writes that LOA Worldwide has "profound potential to foster a deeper understanding of the United States, its people, and its history." ★

Vonnegut

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writer and an unhinged Pontiac dealer who disastrously believes that everyone but himself is a robot. Rounding out the volume are three brilliant short stories and revealing autobiographical accounts of the bombing of Dresden. ★



Photo by Star Black

Sidney Offit, volume editor, has written novels, books for young readers, and memoirs including, most recently, *Friends, Writers, and Other Countrymen*. He was senior editor of *Intellectual Digest*, book editor of *Politics Today*, and contributing editor of *Baseball Magazine*. He wrote the foreword to *Look at the Birdie*, a collection of Vonnegut's unpublished short fiction.

To order, call 1-800-964-5778 or go to www.loa.org. Subscribers: order your copy at www.loa.org/customer.

Library of America Paperback Classics: four new titles

The Library of America Paperback Classics series adds four new titles this season: *Benjamin Franklin: The Autobiography*, introduced by Daniel Aaron; *Thomas Jefferson: Selected Writings*, introduced by Tom Wicker; *Walt Whitman: Leaves of Grass*, introduced by John Hollander; and *American Speeches: Political Oratory from Patrick Henry*

to Barack Obama, edited and introduced by Ted Widmer. In addition to the introduction, each book includes a detailed chronology of the author's life and career, an essay on the choice of the text, and explanatory notes. The prices range from \$7.95 to \$17.95 depending on length, making them ideal for classroom use. The series now numbers eighteen titles.

To order, call 1-800-964-5778 or go to www.loa.org/paperbackclassics



Photos by Karen Duda

From left: Roland Folter, T. Kimball Brooker, Cheryl Hurley (LOA President), William M. Griswald (Director of the Morgan), and Sheelagh Bevan.

Morgan Library comes to call

The Visiting Committee for Printed Books and Bindings at the Morgan Library and Museum, chaired by T. Kimball Brooker, held its spring meeting at the offices of The Library of America. In addition to its regular business, the committee heard a presentation about The Library of America's history and mission.



G. Thomas Tanselle, LOA trustee, and John Bidwell, Astor Curator of Printed Books and Bindings at the Morgan.

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The Library of America gratefully acknowledges the many individuals and foundations that generously supported its work in the past year with contributions to the Annual Fund.

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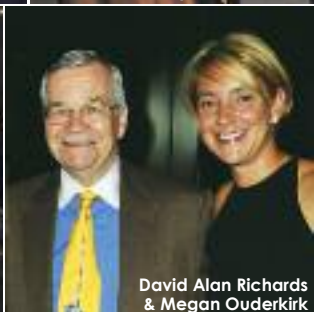
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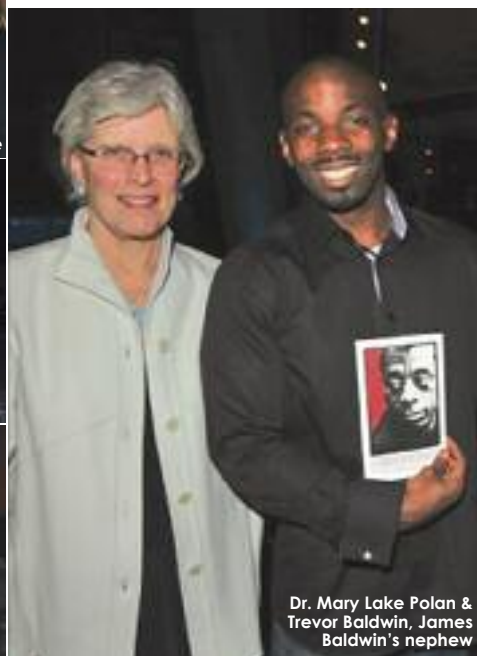


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