

Fall into our Frieze Lectures Series

The Rock Island Public Library

September 24, 2009



2009 Frieze Lecture Series Celebrates “Overlooked Anniversaries”

Programs are a partnership between Augustana College & Rock Island Library

Abraham Lincoln and Charles Darwin aren't the only notable bicentennial birth anniversaries of 2009. The Rock Island Public Library and Augustana College will mark “anniversaries you might have overlooked” on four Thursdays this fall at the Rock Island Library.

The 12th annual fall lecture series presents four lectures at 2 p.m. on each Thursday, October 22 through Nov. 12, in the Community Room of the Rock Island Main Library, 401 19th Street. The product of a private/public partnership between the college and the library, the annual Frieze Lecture Series offers a taste of art and culture with no grades or tests. It is named after the architectural feature of 12 authors carved in a band around the top of the landmark building. Coffee and thought-provoking conversations follow each presentation. Topics include:

Oct. 22: “The Real Mary Wollstonecraft.” Wollstonecraft is now sometimes confused with her daughter, M. W. Shelley, the author of *Frankenstein*. But her achievements are more various and important than her famous daughter's. She wrote a riveting history of the early stages of the French revolution (John Adams read it *twice*). She's the author of *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, a founding text for the feminist movement (and a favorite book of *Abigail Adams*). She was a pioneer of travel-writing and nature-writing in her account of a visit to rural Norway and Sweden. And her life is more amazing than her books. Come celebrate Mary's 250th birth anniversary with English professor **Don Erickson**, who holds the Dorothy J. Parkander Chair in World Literature at Augustana.

Oct. 29: “Felix Mendelssohn, Revisited” Felix Mendelssohn's skills as a composer, conductor, writer and producer had far reaching effects on the musical world still felt today. But his posthumous reputation is also fascinating for what it reveals about the changing times during the two centuries that followed his brief life of 38 years. Felix Mendelssohn wrote music that was lionized during his day, silenced for reasons having nothing to do with its intrinsic worth after his death, and is now garnering new appreciation in our time. Come celebrate the composer's 200th birthday and hear some music as well with **Dr. Deborah Dakin**, adjunct instructor of viola and music appreciation at Augustana.

Nov. 5: “The Wisdom of Oliver Wendell Holmes, Reconsidered.” Oliver Wendell Holmes was a poet, physician and philosopher, as well as the father of renowned Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. The elder Holmes is regarded by many as one of this nation's leading intellectuals of the mid-19th century, and his wisdom is as relevant today as

ever. Holmes' writings – including his still widely quoted “Breakfast-Table” series of essays – have been favorites of **Augustana College President Steve Bahls** for many years. In marking the 200th anniversary of Holmes birth, President Bahls will consider not only Holmes' famous words of wisdom, but also the many ways in which they have been used in contexts far removed from their author's original intent. When his popular quotes are put into context, they reveal subtler and more profound truths.

Nov. 12: “Lord Tennyson's Reaction to 19th Century Science” Alfred, Lord Tennyson served as Poet Laureate of the United Kingdom from 1850 to his death in 1892, one of the longest tenures in history. His lifespan from 1809 to 1892 placed him in a unique position to comment on the Victorian age of progress, a time of rapid change in science, medicine and technology. **Dr. Roald Tweet**, professor emeritus of English and former holder of the Conrad Bergendoff Chair in the Humanities will consider how the poet's writings reflected a concern for the conflict between faith and scientific knowledge.

The series is free and open to the public, with handicapped access and an elevator available via the library's south portico entrance. Ample free parking is available to the east of the historic building. For more information about this library program, visit www.rockislandlibrary.org or call 309-732-7303.