Past + Present

The Sputnik Years

When a Russian rocket lofted Sputnik 1 into orbit on October 4, 1957, the worldwide reaction was a mixture of awe and apprehension. The Space Age—and the Space Race—had begun. American scientists had known the launch was coming because their Soviet counterparts had told them to expect it. But to an American public that had become accustomed to our country’s growing global primacy, the orbiting of Sputnik 1 was a traumatic wake-up call.

The launch came during the depths of the Cold War, when America’s space interests were almost entirely focused on building rockets powerful enough to deliver nuclear warheads across intercontinental distances. NASA did not yet exist, and the notion of traveling into orbit—let alone journeying to the moon and beyond—seemed little more than science fiction.

Kelly Beatty, award-winning senior editor for Sky & Telescope magazine, explores the events leading up to Sputnik’s launch exactly 60 years ago, and the crucial but largely forgotten role that everyday citizens played in tracking the first satellites.

Wed., Oct. 4, 6:45 p.m.; Ripley Center; CODE 1L0-174; Members $30; Nonmembers $45

Great Escapes

How Spies, Hostages, and Assets Survive and Get Out Alive

In Collaboration with the International Spy Museum

Escape-room challenges are popular among fans of spy thrillers, but what if your life actually depended on the result? Hear tales and tactics of memorable escapes, rescues, and evasions from the 1970s through today. Explore ingenious rescue and escape plans with the people who developed them and used them, as well as experts familiar with these life-or-death operations.

Tony Mendez is famous for the rescue of six stranded American diplomats depicted in the film Argo, but that was not his only delicate operation in Iran in 1979. He and Jonna Mendez share the extraordinary exfiltration story of the CIA’s top source in the country, an agent code-named RAPTOR. Hear how Mendez traveled to Iran in the tumultuous spring of 1979 and got RAPTOR out before the Revolutionary Guard could find him. (Oct. 4)

Daniel J. Mulvenna, a retired RCMP counter-espionage specialist and longtime friend of KGB officer Oleg Gordievsky tells the thrilling story of the double agent’s remarkable espionage career and daring escape from certain death in Moscow. (Oct. 11)

Malcolm W. Nance is a career counter-terrorism and intelligence officer for the U.S. government’s Special Operations, Homeland Security, and Intelligence agencies. Founder of the Advanced Terrorism, Abduction and Hostage Survival School, he discusses his own close calls, as well as the latest approaches to armed recovery and hostage rescue. (Oct. 18)

Wed., Oct. 4 (CODE 1M2-9021B), Oct. 11 (CODE 1M2-9021C), Oct. 18 (CODE 1M2-9021D), 10:15 a.m.; International Spy Museum, 800 F St., NW (Gallery Place/Chinatown Metro, Green/Yellow/Red lines); Members $25; Nonmembers $35

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• Digital eGuide giving you early access to the Smithsonian Associate
• Late-breaking program announcements
• eAlerts on programs that interest you most
• Important notices regarding your ticket purchases or your upcoming events

Opt in today at SmithsonianAssociates.org Go to “My Account” (upper right corner of the screen)
The Battle of Cedar Creek

Virginia's Shenandoah Valley was both a crucial invasion route and the breadbasket for the Confederacy during the Civil War, and as a result, it was a much-fought-over region. After the Union Army seized control of the valley and burned much of the crops, Confederate Gen. Jubal Early staged a last hurrah to wrest back control. What followed on October 19, 1864 was a surprising Confederate victory in the morning, and a smashing Union counterattack in the afternoon, made possible by Union Gen. Phil Sheridan's famous ride from Winchester. The battle was a lost cause for the Confederacy, as President Abraham Lincoln was reelected three weeks later with a mandate to win the Civil War.

Author and historian Garrett Peck leads a day-long tour of the last major battle in the Shenandoah Valley, a sequel to the New Market and Fisher's Hill tour from this past spring. It includes a visit to Belle Grove Plantation, a National Trust property at the center of the battlefield.

Sun., Oct. 15, 8 a.m.–6:30 p.m.; bus departs from the Holiday Inn Capitol, 550 C St., SW, with a pickup stop at the Vienna Metro south-side Kiss and Ride kiosk at about 8:25 a.m.; dress for outdoor walking; lunch included at the Historic Wayside Inn; CODE 1ND-003; Members $150; Nonmembers $200

The Romanov Dynasty
Tracing the Path of Triumph and Downfall

After enduring for more than three centuries, what made the Romanov dynasty vulnerable to come tumbling down exactly a hundred years ago? Romanovs oversaw and accelerated the expansion of the weak and floundering Tsardom of Muscovy into the majestic and proud Russian Empire. From a nation that was hardly considered a part of Europe on the continent, Russia flowered culturally as well as politically under tsars, emperors, and empresses.

Historian George Munro examines the rulers most responsible for the dynasty’s success in its first two centuries in power—especially Peter the Great, Catherine the Great, and Alexander I—and the factors that led to its tragic downfall. Munro also discusses contemporary Russia's re-evaluation of Romanov rule after years of total rejection.

Thurs., Oct. 19, 6:45 p.m.; Ripley Center; CODE 1M2-925; Members $30; Nonmembers $45

Untangling the Legend of Lionheart

How do we sort out the truth of King Richard I from his legend? Was Lionheart a brave warrior who liberated Jerusalem and a hero of the tales of Robin Hood, or a vicious killer and failed monarch?

The third of the legitimate sons of King Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine, Richard was never expected to accede to the throne. Once he was crowned in 1189, he turned his attention to the Third Crusade and his effort to regain Jerusalem for Christendom sealed his popularity as a brave warrior.

However, there was also a dark side to his reign. The religious and social conflicts of the times, including a series of anti-Semitic attacks on the Jews of England, were intensified by Richard's decision to bar Jews from participating in his coronation, and riots followed. The largest attack in York is still referred to as England's Masada.

Ralph Nurnberger, a professor of international relations at Georgetown University, untangles the life and legacy of this legendary king.

Thurs., Oct. 19, 6:45 p.m.; Ripley Center; CODE 1H0-284; Members $30; Nonmembers $45

More INFORMATION and TICKETS at SMITHSONIANASSOCIATES.ORG and 202-633-3030
Announcing Inside Science
Smithsonian Associates' new science literacy initiative

Science is for everyone. If you are curious about life on distant planets...if you want to know more about how your body works...if you are concerned about the environment...if you like to take things apart to see how they work...if animals fascinate you...if you are an experimental cook...if you seek stories of discovery and innovation...then science is for you.

This fall, Smithsonian Associates launches Inside Science, an initiative that can help you expand your knowledge and understanding of science in all its forms. This ongoing series of expert-led programming across the range of scientific topics draws on specialists from the Smithsonian and beyond. Inside Science is also a community of like-minded participants who have the opportunity to participate in a lively online learning exchange, enjoy access to unique behind-the-scenes tours, and attend special events.

Whether you're a science fan, or are simply curious about the world around you, Inside Science offers a valuable and rewarding way to better understand science in the context of our lives.

Intrigued? Visit smithsonianassociates.org/science for more information on how to participate.

Look for these programs—and more—with the Inside Science icon.

De-extinction
Genomic Engineering of Mammoth Proportions
Wed., Oct. 11, 6:45 p.m.
Can DNA sequencing resurrect the woolly mammoth? Learn why geneticist George Church is working to make it possible. (p. 24)

The Grisly World of Victorian Surgery
Tues., Oct. 31, 6:45 p.m.
Medical historian Lindsey Fitzharris leads a fascinating Halloween-night excursion into the germ-ridden and often-deadly Victorian operating room. (p. 27)

The Fate of Rome
Nature's Triumph Over Human Ambition
Wed., Nov. 8, 6:45 p.m.
Learn how volcanic eruptions, climate instability, and devastating viruses and bacteria contributed to the dissolution of the Roman Empire. (p. 28)

Code Girls
The Women Who Decrypted World War II
Wed., Nov. 15, 6:45 p.m.
In 1942, more than 10,000 women were recruited for a top-secret project to serve as code-breakers for the U.S. Army and Navy. Author Liza Mundy tells the amazing story. (p. 40)

What It's Like To Be a Dog
Thurs., Nov. 30, 6:45 p.m.
What if we could actually know what was going on in our pets' brains? It's possible, according to neuroscientist Greg Berns. (p. 28)

Scott Kelly: A Year in Space
Fri., Nov. 3, 7 p.m.
Astronaut Scott Kelly discusses the dangers, achievements, and many challenges he encountered during his record-breaking year aboard the International Space Station. (p. 27)
The Russia that Just Won’t Go Away
What Is This Eternal Survivor’s Secret?

What is it about Russia and Russians that has allowed them to survive seemingly insurmountable obstacles over the centuries? At the beginning of the 17th century, Russia barely survived a period called the “Time of Troubles.” Three times in the past century, Russia endured prolonged catastrophes that could have easily shattered state and society.

After World War I, the Russian empire crumbled; there were two revolutions and a protracted civil war, but Russia survived. During World War II, the enemy attacked in June 1941, leaving death and destruction in its wake. The Russians somehow fought back and within two years turned the tide of war. Finally, early in the 1990s, when the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics broke up into 15 constituent republics, Russia did not dissolve into many states, nor did it fight a civil war.

Historian George E. Munro explores the nature of each of these catastrophes, providing a narrative of the basic events defining each crisis, and suggesting how it was that state and society managed to hold together. Common themes emerge that also help to explain Russia’s current domestic situation and its role in the world.

9:30 a.m. The Great War and the Civil War
11 a.m. The Great Patriotic War
12:15 p.m. Lunch (participants provide their own)
1:30 p.m. The 1990s
3 p.m. Russia Still Has Not Gone Away
Sat., Oct. 21, 9:30 a.m.–4:15 p.m.; Ripley Center; CODE 1M2-926; Members $90; Nonmembers $140

Memorial commemorating the 1,000th anniversary of Russia in front of a Russian Orthodox Church, Novgorod, 1862

Leo Tolstoy, 1897

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The 1920s: Daring To Be Modern

How Manhattan Became an Isle of Joy

The city’s bustle cannot destroy The dreams of a girl and boy. We’ll turn Manhattan Into an isle of joy. (Lyrics to “Manhattan” by Lorenz Hart)

This 1925 tune by Rodgers and Hart celebrated New York City as a playground of delights from Coney Island to “the Bronnix.” In Pulitzer Prize-winning Greater Gotham: A History of New York City from 1898 to 1919 (Oxford University Press), historian Mike Wallace chronicles the growth of the city’s great cultural institutions. Although mostly Anglo-Protestant money built the Metropolitan Museum of Art and New York Public Library, for example, it was within the enclaves of Jewish, Italian, Irish, and German immigrants that the city’s institutions of popular culture formed: ethnic theaters, vaudeville houses, nickelodeons, movie studios. New Yorkers and out-of-towners alike sought the attractions of Times Square and Coney Island. And African American New Yorkers’ ragtime, cakewalk, and “jass” music fed the era’s dance crazes nationwide.

Greater Gotham is available for sale and signing.

Mon., Oct. 23, 6:45 p.m.; Ripley Center; CODE 1W0-010; Members $30; Nonmembers $45

In Search of Ancient Israel

Two centuries of archaeological excavation and exploration in the Holy Land and its environs have revealed more than we ever knew about the people, culture, society, and religion of ancient Israel. Religious artifacts and writings dating back to ancient Egypt, Canaan, and Mesopotamia have uncovered information about historical events as well as religious beliefs and practices not mentioned in the Bible.

What is emerging is an ever-clearer picture and a fuller understanding of the people of ancient Israel and the society that produced the Bible.

In this illustrated all-day program, biblical scholar Gary Rendsburg presents an overview of new findings about the world of ancient Israel. Topics include the earliest reference to Israel, inscribed on an Egyptian stele; archaeological evidence of Israel’s emergence in Canaan; early remains of written Hebrew; the establishment of the kingdoms of Judah and Israel; and the rise of pure monotheism.

9:30 a.m. Searching for Ancient Israel: The Earliest Traces
11 a.m. In Search of David and Solomon
12:15 p.m. Lunch (participants provide their own)
1:30 p.m. In Search of Israel and Judah
3 p.m. In Search of God

Sat., Oct. 28, 9:30 a.m.–4:15 p.m.; Ripley Center; CODE 1M2-929; Members $90; Nonmembers $140

Mummies and Their Mysteries

Kings to Crocodiles to Eva Perón

The practice of mumification dates back thousands of years. Its Egyptian developers believed the body had to be preserved to live well in the afterlife. Egyptologist Bob Brier (also known as Mr. Mummy), discusses the history of mummies from ancient to modern times. He provides an overview of the techniques, processes, and beliefs behind the long lost-art of mumification as practiced by the ancient Egyptians and illuminantes ancient mysteries, including new findings about the murder of Pharaoh Ramses II and the causes of death of that most famous of mummies, King Tut. Brier also takes a lighthearted look at mummies in the movies from the 1932 classic The Mummy starring Boris Karloff to this summer’s Tom Cruise remake. He also touches on the million-plus mumified animals found buried at Saqqara and ends the day describing instances of the ancient practice in modern times.

9:30 a.m. How Did They Do That?
10:30 a.m. Uncovering Buried Clues
11:45 a.m. Mummies and the Movies
12:15 p.m. Lunch (participants provide their own)
1:15 p.m. Egypt’s Animal Mummies
2:15 p.m. King Tut
3:15 p.m. Mummies in Modern Times

Sat., Oct. 28, 9:30 a.m.–4 p.m.; CODE 1H0-279; Ripley Center; Members $90; Nonmembers $140
The Secret Revolution
Espionage, 1776 Style

Intelligence work is as American as cherry pie and as old as the Republic. Civilian and military leaders of the American Revolution used espionage, covert action, counterintelligence, deception, and cryptanalysis to offset the British army’s advantage in men and arms and help win the fight for independence.

The techniques they employed were remarkably sophisticated even by today’s standards, and Founding Fathers such as George Washington and Benjamin Franklin became adept practitioners of intelligence tradecraft. There’s much more to the secret side of the Revolution than Nathan Hale and Benedict Arnold, as the outcome of several key military episodes may have hinged on the role of spies and disinformation. And after we won our independence, some early presidents drew on their wartime experiences with intelligence to accomplish important foreign policy objectives.

David Robarge, chief historian at the CIA, explores the fascinating secrets of the Revolutionary War.

Mon., Oct. 30, 6:45 p.m.; Ripley Center; CODE 1H0-285; Members $30; Nonmembers $45

The Incomparable Ella
A 100th Birthday Tribute

Ella. Like a select few in music, you recognize her by her first name alone. Ira Gershwin said he never knew how good his songs were until he heard Ella Fitzgerald sing them.

John Edward Hasse, curator of the current Smithsonian exhibition Ella Fitzgerald at 100: First Lady of Song, draws on film and video clips, rare photographs, and original recordings to provide insight into Fitzgerald’s extraordinary life and career.

Hear classic renditions of sensitive ballads such as “Embraceable You” and “The Man I Love” and thrilling performances including “Mack the Knife” and “How High the Moon.” View seldom-seen video footage of Fitzgerald with other musical greats of the era. Learn about her warm personality (she trustingly welcomed busloads of tourists into her Beverly Hills home) and find out about the only kind of song that she did not perform well. Hasse also shares stories about meeting Fitzgerald at the Smithsonian and how its Ella Fitzgerald Collection came about.

Thurs., Nov. 2, 6:45 p.m.; Ripley Center; CODE 1M2-930; Members $30; Nonmembers $45

Prohibition in Washington, D.C.

Where the Noble Experiment Flopped

The “noble experiment” of Prohibition began nationwide in 1920, but thanks to Congressional fiat and the lack of home rule, the nation’s capital ostensibly went dry on Nov. 1, 1917.

Washington was intended to be the model dry city for the country, but it ended up with more than 3,000 speakeasies and a widespread disregard for the law of the land. Even Congress employed its own bootleggers.

On the centennial of the beginning of the local booze ban, author, historian, and tour guide Garrett Peck leads a cocktail-driven journey through DC’s not-so-dry past.

Afterward, enjoy samples of Prohibition-era cocktails.

Wed., Nov. 1, 6:45 p.m.; Ripley Center; participants must be 21 or older with ID; CODE 1L0-179; Members $35; Nonmembers $50

Written Out of History

In the earliest days of our nation, a handful of unsung heroes—including women, slaves, and an Iroquois chief—made crucial contributions to the Republic. They pioneered the ideas that led to the Bill of Rights, the separation of powers, and eventually, the abolition of slavery. But somehow, says Utah Senator Mike Lee, they have been mostly forgotten—sometimes by accidents of history, sometimes by design.

In his new book Written Out of History (Sentinel), Lee gives these four Americans their voice. They include Aaron Burr, known by history as a villain, but who was a far more complicated figure; Mercy Otis Warren, a prominent female writer in the Revolution and a protégée of John Adams, who vigorously debated against the encroachment of federal power; Canastego, an Iroquois chief whose words taught Benjamin Franklin the basic principles behind the separation of powers; and Elbridge Gerry, who championed individual rights and greater power for the states—and without whom there would be no Bill of Rights.

Written Out of History is available for sale and signing.

Wed., Nov. 1, 6:45 p.m.; Ripley Center; CODE 1B0-224; Members $20; Nonmembers $30
The Black Sea
Civilizations at the Crossroads of Europe and Asia

Herodotus, the ancient Greek historian, painted a picture of the Black Sea as the domain of barbarians and monsters. It gave rise to some of the most enduring of the Greek myths—the intrepid Argonauts and the quest for the Golden Fleece. Indeed, from antiquity, it has been a crossroads of civilizations, empires, and strategic interests. A parade of invaders and traders—Scythians, Greeks, Romans, Tatars, Italians, Turks, and Russians—have shaped the mixed cultures that ring this ancient sea. But until recently, the Black Sea world was considered the far edge of Europe, divided between the Russian and Ottoman empires and later divided again between the communist and capitalist worlds during the Cold War.

Today, the Black Sea remains a fascinating bridge between Europe and the Middle East and between the cultures of Eastern Orthodox Christianity and Islam. Charles King, professor of international affairs and government at Georgetown University, journeys into the turbulent past and present of this fascinating region—from ancient Greek seafarers to the glories of Ottoman Istanbul to the current issues in Ukraine.

10 a.m. Mysteries of the Black Sea World
11:30 a.m. The Age of Empires
12:45 p.m. Lunch (participants provide their own)
1:45 p.m. Odessa and Istanbul: Cosmopolitan Cities
3 p.m. Strategy and the Future

Sat., Nov. 4, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.; Ripley Center; CODE 1H0-275; Members $90; Nonmembers $140

Harpers Ferry
American History in Brilliant Color

Tucked in the Blue Ridge Mountains and seated at the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers, the historic town of Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, is steeped in history—and spectacular fall foliage. Take in the beauty—and the local history—during an excursion led by historian Garrett Peck. Learn about John Brown’s ill-fated 1859 raid on the town’s armory that presaged the Civil War; the history of the C&O Canal; and the changing economics of local industry. An optional hike to Maryland Heights (a 3-mile round trip) offers a chance to see the leaves at the peak of the season and enjoy a panoramic view of the town below.

Sat., Nov. 4, 7:30 a.m.–6:30 p.m.; bus departs from the Holiday Inn Capitol, 550 C St., S.W., with a stop at I-270, Exit 26 Urbana carpool lot, at about 8:25 a.m.; bring your camera; dress for outdoor hiking; tour includes 4 hours of walking and standing; photo ID required; lunch at local restaurant is included; CODE 1ND-008; Members $150; Nonmembers $200

What time does the program end?
Unless noted, Smithsonian Associates programs run 1.5–2 hours, including Q&A
In 1829, James Smithson, an Englishman who never visited this country, left his full estate to the United States to create an institution for the “increase and diffusion of knowledge.” That bequest made the Smithsonian that we know today possible, and has made a difference in the lives of hundreds of thousands of people—and continues to do so.

Smithsonian Associates plays an important role in carrying out the mission of learning that grew from Smithson’s gift. You have an opportunity to extend and enhance that legacy of generosity when you include Smithsonian Associates in your estate planning.

Leaving a gift in your will or revocable living trust is one of the most popular ways to ensure that future generations continue to experience the Smithsonian’s world of knowledge through Smithsonian Associates. You may designate a specific dollar amount or a percentage of your estate to benefit Smithsonian Associates, while also providing for your loved ones.

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- You retain control of your assets during your lifetime
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- You can specify the amount of your gift
- You receive recognition as a member of Smithsonian Legacy Society

Consider following James Smithson’s example as you plan for the future. Your gift will benefit many—and you’ll have the satisfaction of knowing that your bequest directly supports Smithsonian Associates and its role in the Smithsonian’s 170-year-old tradition of learning and discovery.

To find out more about how to make a bequest to Smithsonian Associates, please contact Vesna Gjaja at 202.633.8697 or send an email to gjajav@si.edu.
Past + Present

Traditional Roots of Modern China
How an Ancient World View Drives Contemporary Policies

Chinese civilization—encompassing history, cosmology, and elite and popular cultures—has long fascinated the West. Since the 18th century, Americans have looked at China with admiration and derision, as a font of obscure and practical wisdom, a nation of refinement and barbarism, and a source of enlightened pacifism and radical violence.

Although the United States viewed China as a threat during the Cold War, American engagement has been essential to China’s rise since diplomatic relations were established in 1979. Now, The People’s Republic is the only nation with the potential to challenge America’s international standing and change global practices in ways that harm American interests. It is critical to remember that “China” refers to one fifth of humankind, to a history and culture, and to a nation-state.

Wilson Center Kissinger Institute on China and the United States Director Robert Daly traces the nation’s 21st-century ambitions to the social and cultural practices rooted in the earliest dynasties.

9:30 a.m.  Pangu’s Bones: How Geography Shaped Chinese Culture
11 a.m.  The Struggle for Harmony: Qi and Chinese Attitudes Toward Nature
12:15 p.m.  Lunch (participants provide their own)
1:30 p.m.  Culture, Technology, Wealth, Power
3 p.m.  Three Ways To Look at China

Sat., Nov. 4, 9:30 a.m.–4:15 p.m.; Ripley Center; CODE 1M2-931; Members $90; Nonmembers $140

The Burr Conspiracy
An Early American Crisis

After the fateful duel between Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr in 1804, Burr’s political career took an interesting turn. Murder charges against him were dismissed, but the ramifications of the fatal skirmish persisted. After serving out his term as vice president, Burr headed west, ostensibly to gather support for the creation of an empire beyond the Appalachian Mountains—or so it seemed.

Was he planning to liberate Spanish Mexico? Or was he promising land in the Orleans Territory? Rumors and innuendo, repeated in newspapers and political circles, ultimately led to Burr being tried for treason.

Historian James E. Lewis Jr. addresses the role of conspiracy and crisis in the early Republic’s politics and political culture. He also looks at how biased newspaper reports, partisan politics, the federal government, and notions of honor and gentility overwhelmed attempts to reveal the truth about the “chief villain of the Founding Fathers.”

His book The Burr Conspiracy: Uncovering the Story of an Early American Crisis (Princeton Press) is available for sale and signing.

Mon., Nov. 6, 6:45 p.m.; Ripley Center; CODE 1A0-037; Members $20; Nonmembers $30

Location Changes

Our programs occasionally move to a different location from the one published on tickets.

We do our best to inform ticket holders of location changes by mail, phone, and email. (Do we have your email address?)

You are advised to confirm the location by calling our customer service staff at 202-633-3030 (M–F; 9–5)

You can also visit SmithsonianAssociates.org for the most up-to-date information.
The Norman Invasion

William’s Unlikely Conquest

The 1066 invasion and occupation of England by Duke William II of Normandy (later known as William the Conqueror) changed the course of history. But it never should have succeeded.

English King Harold Godwinson’s army should have easily repelled William’s invading force. But as William waited in vain for the wind to allow his fleet to cross the English Channel, a Scandinavian army landed in northern England in early September 1066. King Harold defeated the Scandinavians at the Battle of Stamford Bridge on Sept. 25, but by then the winds in the Channel shifted and William landed in southern England three days later. Harold was forced to race south to meet him without his full fighting force. Thus, on October 14, the Battle of Hastings became an unlikely triumph for France.

Historian Jennifer Paxton sets the scene for the Norman Conquest and examines how its initially bitter legacy led to the creation of the England we know today.

Mon., Nov. 13, 6:45 p.m.; Ripley Center; CODE 1M2-932; Members $30; Nonmembers $45

Illumination depicting Duke William II of Normandy and King Harold of England at the Battle of Hastings, ca. 1280

Gilbert and Sullivan and the Savoy Tradition

In Cooperation with the Georgetown Gilbert and Sullivan Society

Lyricist and playwright William S. Gilbert and composer Arthur S. Sullivan formed one of the greatest theatrical teams in history. Beginning with the premiere of their first collaboration, Trial by Jury, in 1875, the stage was set for some of the most hilarious, melodious operettas ever written.

Sharp satirists of Victorian society, in their operettas Gilbert and Sullivan took no prisoners. The two happily needled the age’s rigid class system, government, monarchy, the Royal Navy, grand opera, and the reigning literary-artistic Aesthetic movement. Their works highlighted the Savoy Theatre’s stage history and brought British comic opera to its peak.

Steinway Artist and musical theater expert Robert Wyatt and performers from the Georgetown Gilbert and Sullivan Society introduce the theatrical duo and the cultural and societal trends that informed their work. Through musical recordings, film clips, and live performance, listen to excerpts from some of their most beloved works—from the Yeoman of the Guard, The Mikado, and The Gondoliers to HMS Pinafore and The Pirates of Penzance—and experience how they combined musical sophistication with scathing satire to achieve international success.

Tues., Nov. 14, 6:45 p.m.; Ripley Center; CODE 1M2-933; Members $30; Nonmembers $45

The Lafayette Escadrille

Legends with a Cause

In the early days of World War I, a couple of Americans who had volunteered for France talked the government into allowing American volunteers to fly alongside the French in a unit of fighter pilots called the Escadrille Américaine, which later became the Lafayette Escadrille. The goal was to generate publicity that would persuade the United States to enter the war. It worked better than expected.

The Americans of the famed Lafayette Escadrille risked everything to defend America’s oldest ally, and became legends in the process, helping to propel America out of neutrality. Paul Glenshaw, an aviation expert and filmmaker, draws on rare, unpublished sources to tell the story of the rash young men who took to the air and made history 100 years ago. Glenshaw also previews clips from a documentary film he is making about the Escadrille, who have been called the “founding fathers of American combat aviation.”

Tues., Nov. 14 6:45 p.m.; Ripley Center; CODE 1W0-012; Members $30; Nonmembers $45

Members of the Lafayette Escadrille, Beunoee, France, 1916

D’OYLY CARTE

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With Performance

Poster for The Yeomen of the Guard at the Savoy Theatre, 1897

More INFORMATION and TICKETS at SMITHSONIANASSOCIATES.ORG and 202-633-3030
Past + Present

Code Girls
The Women Who Decrypted World War II

In 1942, reeling from Japan’s devastating surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, the United States military launched a secret program to recruit young female college graduates to act as codebreakers in the newly ramped-up war effort.

More than 10,000 women served as codebreakers for the U.S. Army and Navy from 1942 to 1945. They took on highly demanding top-secret work involving complex math and linguistics and their efforts paid off: They cracked a crucial Japanese code, giving the United States an advantage in the Battle of Midway; their false communications caught the Germans flat-footed in the lead-up to the Normandy invasion; and their careful tracking of enemy vessels saved many British and American sailors’ lives.

Liza Mundy, author of Code Girls: The Untold Story of the American Women Code Breakers of World War II (Hachette Books) tells the story of these remarkable young women who helped secure an Allied victory.

Wed., Nov. 15, 6:45 p.m.; Ripley Center; CODE 1L0-176; Members $20; Nonmembers $30

This program is presented in advance of the Smithsonian American Ingenuity Awards on November 29.

Thomas Paine
The Revolutions of a Founding Father

When Thomas Paine died in June 1809 only a dozen people came to his funeral held in Westchester County near the 250-acre farm gifted to Paine by the people of the state of New York in gratitude for his role in stirring the American Revolution.

Historian Richard Bell examines Paine’s humble origins, gifts for political argument, and rise to celebrity status during the American Revolution after the publication of his immensely popular pamphlet, Common Sense (1776), credited by many with catalyzing a mass movement driven by the cause of independence.

He also explores the surprisingly bitter backlash Paine later experienced with the publication of Right of Man (1791), a manifesto in support of the social and political extremism of the French Revolution; and Age of Reason (1794), a defense of deism, reason, and free thought. Paine died a pariah, too radical and uncompromising for the cautious new country he had helped call into being.

Thurs., Nov. 16, 6:45 p.m.; Ripley Center; CODE 1M2-935; Members $30; Nonmembers $45

This program is presented in advance of the Smithsonian American Ingenuity Awards on November 29.

Delightful Destinations
Smithsonian Associates Overnight Tours

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania: Christmas City
Sun.—Mon., Dec. 3–4

The season sparkles brightest here. Get in the spirit by browsing at the traditional Christkindlmarkt and strolling through the Historic Moravian Bethlehem District. (p. 14)

The Met’s Magnificent Museums
Sat.—Sun., Jan. 13–14

The Metropolitan Museum is the perfect focus for art-filled weekend in Manhattan. Take in all three branches of this cultural powerhouse—the landmark Fifth Avenue museum, the new Met Breuer, and the Cloisters—as well as enjoy a night at one of the city’s legendary hotels. (p. 23)
The Protestant Reformation

October 31 this year—Reformation Day—marks the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation that began with Martin Luther’s 95 Theses. Luther’s protest against indulgences grew into a full-blown reform of doctrine and continues to reverberate today. The Protestant Reformation, however, was not a single, uniform movement, as the name suggests, and its story is complex and multifaceted. It is viewed more accurately as a series of reforms that varied by religious concerns and by region, shaped by particular political and social contexts that had gestated during the medieval period.

John M. Freymann, permanent military professor in history at the U.S. Naval Academy, reviews the emergence and development of the 16th-century reformations from the late Middle Ages into the early modern period. He examines the major shifts in religious thought and practice, including John Calvin’s theology, which spread across Europe outside German and Scandinavian lands; and the English Reformation, instigated by King Henry VIII. He also explores the Roman Catholic Church’s attempts to fight the Protestant movement and the beginnings of a new religious landscape in the Americas.

9:30 a.m.  Late Medieval Background
11 a.m.  The Spread of the Lutheran Movement
12:15 p.m.  Lunch (participants supply their own)
1:15 p.m.  Reformations throughout Europe
2:45 p.m.  Aftermath

Sat., Nov. 18, 9:30 a.m.–4 p.m.; Ripley Center; CODE 1H0-298; Members $90; Nonmembers $140

Write the Stories of Your Ancestors

You’ve gathered information about your ancestors. It’s time to share their stories. Leading genealogy expert John Colletta explores the many ways to assemble and write the saga of a family.

Using vivid examples and case studies, he demonstrate how to turn biographical facts into an engaging narrative. Whether you publish digitally or on paper, for your close relatives or a broader readership, basic principles of analysis and literary expression apply. The process is engrossing, and the end product will be your unique gift to future generations.

9:30 a.m.  Compiling a Multigenerational Account
11 a.m.  Building Historical Context Around an Ancestral Event
12:15 p.m.  Lunch (participants provide their own)
1:30 p.m.  Principles of Good Writing and Storytelling
3 p.m.  Do’s and Don’t’s of Writing Historical Narrative

Sat., Dec. 2, 9:30 a.m.–4:15 p.m.; Ripley Center; CODE 1M2-936; Members $90; Nonmembers $140
Indiana Jones: The Eternal Explorer
The Politics of Archaeology, Empires, and Exploration

The dashing archeologist-adventurer Indiana Jones as both a movie character and an archetype offers a lens through which to examine the political controversies and historical contexts of archaeology and exploration from Pompeii to the Space Race. Justin M. Jacobs, associate professor of history at American University, leads the expedition into real-life and Hollywood-style history.

 Jacobs considers common themes—and unique exceptions—drawn from the personalities and careers of some of the most famous explorers and archaeologists of the past 250 years. He looks at the longstanding association of archaeologists and scholars with espionage, considers the modern museum's relationship with archaeologists as innumerable antiquities showed up in Western collections, and describes the cast of characters that helped the historical equivalents of Indy to get what they wanted.

The nationalist tide of resistance that ended Western expeditions reached its climax with Howard Carter and the tomb of King Tut in 1923, and ended just prior to World War II. The romance associated with these long-ago adventures has been kept alive by Hollywood, especially in the Indiana Jones films. But do they make any historical sense? Jacobs weighs fact against cinematic fiction to examine the ways in which popular culture intersects with the truth of the past.

DEC 7 Who Was Indiana Jones?
JAN 4 Why Does That Belong in a Museum?
FEB 1 Who Enabled Indiana Jones?
FEB 22 Who Confronted Indiana Jones?
MAR 22 Did Hollywood Get It Right?

5 sessions; Thurs., Dec. 7–March 22, 6:15–8:15 p.m.; Ripley Center; CODE 1B0-230;
Members $90; Nonmembers $140

Individual sessions: Dec. 7 (CODE 1B0-231); Jan. 4 (CODE 1B0-232); Feb. 1 (CODE 1B0-233); Feb, 22 (CODE 1B0-234); March 22 (CODE 1B0-235); Members $20; Nonmembers $30

World Art History Certificate elective: Earn 1 credit

The Olmec Culture
Monuments, Masterpieces, and Mysteries

The Olmec culture flourished in several civic and ceremonial centers along the Gulf of Mexico more than 3,000 years ago, from 1500 to 400 B.C. Best known for their carvings of colossal stone heads, the Olmec were masters of monumental sculpture, and also produced an array of other distinctive artworks in stone, ceramic, wood, and jade. Olmec civilization, as it was named, was found to be older than that of the Aztec or the Maya, and may well have been the “mother culture” of all Mesoamerican civilizations. Their civilization also provides some of the earliest evidence of urban planning and systems of numbering and glyphic writing in North America.

George L. Scheper, senior lecturer in advanced academic programs at Johns Hopkins University, provides a cultural overview of Olmec achievements.

9:30 a.m. The Discovery
11 a.m. The Olmec World: San Lorenzo and La Venta
12:15 p.m. Lunch (participants provide their own)
1:30 p.m. Masterpieces of Art and Iconography
3 p.m. A Civilization in Context
Sat., Dec. 9, 9:30 a.m.–4:15 p.m.; Ripley Center; CODE 1M2-937; Members $90; Nonmembers $140
Hannibal’s Oath
The Life and Wars of Rome’s Greatest Enemy

In the spring of 218 B.C., Hannibal and his army of 90,000 foot soldiers, 12,000 cavalry, and 37 elephants prepared to leave New Carthage in southeastern Spain to undertake a seemingly impossible mission. His goal was to cross the Alps and surprise Rome with an attack from the north, in an attempt to break the republic’s hold on Italy.

Although thousands of men lost their lives in this dangerous quest—more than in any of the battles that followed—their general’s leadership abilities and strategic foresight ensured the success of their mission. By crossing the Alps with an entire army, Hannibal secured his name in history.

Drawing on his new biography, Hannibal’s Oath: The Life and Wars of Rome’s Greatest Enemy (Da Capo Press), historian John Prevas discusses Hannibal’s extraordinary character in the context of his legendary success and ultimate failure, and the events that made the Carthaginian general a larger-than-life figure.

Hannibal’s Oath is available for purchase and signing.

Wed., Dec. 6, 6:45 p.m.; Ripley Center; CODE 1L0-181; Members $20; Nonmembers $30