



AMONG FRIENDS

a newsletter for the members of the Friends of the Duke University Libraries

Student Writers Honored by the Libraries

The Haitian Revolution is the subject of the winning student paper in this year's Middlesworth Award competition sponsored by the Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Library. At a November 15 reception in the Biddle Rare Book Room at Perkins Library, Professor Ian Baucom presented the award to Daniel Singer for his paper entitled "Ideological Tidal Waves in the Caribbean: The Haitian Revolution and its Effects on the United States and Virginia, 1791-1810." Singer wrote the paper for Reeve Huston in History 196s, "American Democracy in the 19th Century."

Runner-up Julie Yang was recognized for her paper, "American Advertising Regulation and Children from Johnson to Reagan." In making the presentation, Professor Laura Edwards praised Yang for her skillful synthesis of materials and ideas. Three students received honorable mention for their work: Kristen Davis for "Whitman's Home-Grown Poem," Laura Fravel for "La Theorie et La Pratique du Jardinage: An Examination of 18th Century French Formal Garden Design through the Writing of Dezallier d'Argenville," and Madeline McKeever for "The James Fowler Rusling Papers: Navigating Civil War Pension Claims in Postbellum America."

The Chester P. Middlesworth Award was established in 1988 to encourage and recognize excellence in research, analysis, and writing by Duke University students in their use of primary sources and rare materials held by the Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Library. Both undergraduates and graduate/professional students are eligible to submit papers for consideration. Funding for the award is provided through an endowment created by Chester P. Middlesworth T'49, who was for many years the publisher of the *Record and Landmark* in Statesville, North Carolina.

Prepare to Party!

Earlier this year DukePlays: The Party brought a crowd of about 2,000 to Perkins, Bostock and the von der Heyden Pavilion for an evening of music, dancing, and mingling. Students, faculty, University staff and administrators, including members of the Board of Trustees, Friends of the Libraries, and alums enjoyed this opportunity to spend time together and get acquainted in an informal setting.

The Party was such a success that we're already planning a similar event for 29 February 2008. The 29 February party, which is being coordinated by Duke's Latino student association, Mi Gente, will have a "Latin chic" theme. The students will use the occasion to showcase culture and the arts and already propose to offer tango and salsa lessons as well as a reading or some other literary program. And, of course, there will be good food and music. So, mark your calendar and plan to attend if you are in Durham that evening.

A Last Minute Gift Idea—for the Libraries

December is the time of year when many of us spend a lot of time thinking about gifts—for friends and family and for the charities we support. Here is a gift idea for the Duke Libraries inspired by a 900-page law! The Pension Protection Act of 2006 covers a broad range of pension and tax reforms, including a charitable IRA rollover provision. This charitable IRA rollover is available to donors who are at least 70 1/2 years of age on the date of the gift.

If you meet the age requirement and would like to make a gift to the Duke University Libraries from an IRA (traditional or Roth), here are a few points to consider:

- You must make the gift on or before 31 December 2007
- The charitable IRA rollover can count toward the donor's required IRA distribution for the year of the gift
- Charitable IRA rollovers are limited to no more than \$100,000 in total in 2007
- The charitable IRA rollover should be transferred directly from the plan administrator of the IRA to the charity.

If you would like more detailed information or would like to notify Duke about a charitable IRA rollover for the Libraries, contact the University's Gift Planning Office at 919.681.0466—on or before 31 December, when the charitable IRA rollover provision expires.

Save the Date for the Friends Annual Dinner

Holding to the long tradition of meeting in the spring of each year for dinner and a talk by a writer, the Friends of the Libraries will gather on Thursday, 3 April, at the Sarah P. Duke Gardens' Doris Duke Center. The guest speaker for the event will be poet and novelist Haven Kimmel. She will be joined in conversation by Frank Stasio, host of WUNC's *The State of Things*.

Haven Kimmel has published three novels and two memoirs, beginning with New York Times best-seller *A Girl Named Zippy: Growing up Small in Mooreland, Indiana*, in 2001. This memoir was followed by *The Solace of Leaving Early* (2002), *Something Rising (Light and Swift)* (2004), *She Got Up Off the Couch, and Other Heroic Acts from Mooreland, Indiana* (2005), and *The Used World* (2007). Kimmel has also published a children's book, *Orville: A Dog Story* (2003), and *Killing the Buddha: A Heretic's Bible* (2004) based on the book of Revelation. A forthcoming novel, *Jodine*, which relates to the life of academia, may be available by the time the Friends meet in April.

To learn more about Haven Kimmel, visit her website at www.havenkimmel.com and her fan site at www.purityofheart.org.

Talking about Books

The inaugural year of Duke Reads began on 12 October with a Homecoming Weekend live chat with Osha Gray Davidson, author of *The Best of Enemies*. Since Duke's new online book club was announced in the spring, more than 600 people have registered to participate in discussions of seven books. Each month's discussion is being led by the person who selected the book.

Rita DiGiallonardo Holloway University Librarian and Vice Provost for Library Affairs Deborah Jakubs selected Lionel Shriver's *We Need to Talk About Kevin* for the first online book chat, which also took place in October. Her conversation with 30 participating readers was moderated by Frank Stasio, host of WUNC's *The State of Things*. Stasio also joined James B. Duke Professor of English Reynolds Price on 14 November for the virtual discussion of *Light Years* by James Salter.

Stasio will serve as moderator for the other meetings of the virtual book club as well. Duke Reads discussion leaders for the rest of this year and their books are:

President Richard Brodhead, *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri, 9 January; W. K. Boyd Professor of History Emerita Anne Firor Scott, *Middlemarch*, 20 February; Doris Duke Professor of Conservation Ecology Stuart Pimm, *Guns, Germs, and Steel*, 19 March; and Professor of English Tom Ferraro, *Mariette In Ecstasy* by Ron Hansen, 16 April.

To participate in Duke Reads, sponsored by the Duke Alumni Association, the Duke University Libraries and several other campus organizations, register at www.DUKEREADS.com.

Recommended by a Friend...

Zigzag: The Incredible Wartime Exploits of Double Agent Eddie Chapman

Nicholas Booth
New York: Arcade Publishing, 2007

In telling the story of Zigzag, the British code name for Eddie Chapman during World War II, the author relies heavily on information from MI5 papers declassified as recently as early 2007, tapes of reminiscences recorded by Chapman and his wife in 1994, and interviews with his wife and others close to him. Although Chapman is credited with shortening the war and saving the lives of hundreds of British citizens, the book does not have adventures on every page. If you are used to the speed and excitement of spy stories on the screen, you may find that Chapman's story moves rather slowly. Real spies and even double agents do not lead lives of constant derring-do. In addition to telling lies convincingly and carrying out or pretending to carry out elaborate plots, they spend weeks and months waiting for orders, trying to stay out of trouble, dealing with boredom, and waiting longer.

Chapman was a convincing and effective double agent, but he was not perfect. His impatience and love of bragging worried both his German and British handlers. The Germans continued to use him in part because their intelligence was so bad they usually had no idea when he was lying. The British, who treated him as the criminal he was (he was a convicted safecracker before the war), finally dropped him in November 1944 because they felt he could no longer be trusted. But along the way Chapman accomplished much for the British, carried along by his love of adventure and excitement.

—Barbara Branson

The Used World

Haven Kimmel
New York: Simon & Schuster, 2007

I was sorely disappointed to learn there was no Santa, no Sherlock Holmes, and no Perry Mason, but that trio of disappointments could not compare to my despair upon finishing Kimmel's latest novel and realizing there was no Jonah, Indiana, and no Hazel Hunnicutt's Used World Emporium. I would never again meet Hazel and her two employees, (lonely, but not for long) forty-plus Claudia Modjeski and broken-hearted (but not for long), twenty-something Rebekah Shook.

In *The Used World* I learned of the power, both negative and positive, of love, of friendships, of religion, and of family. I discovered, in startling ways, how the past is never really past, no matter how you try to bury it. From the first sentence—"Claudia Modjeski stood before a full-length mirror in the bedroom she'd inherited from her mother, pointing the gun in her right hand—a Colt .44 Single Action Army with a nickel finish and a walnut grip—at her reflected image."—until the very last—"What feels like the end of the world never is. It NEVER is."—the reader is in for a real treat. Read it slowly and savor each scene.

—Liz Roland

Rockbound

Frank Porter Day
Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1989

Chosen as the "Canada Reads" book of 2005, *Rockbound* drops the reader smack dab in the middle of the rugged and isolated life of an inland sea fishing village on an island in Nova Scotia. A member of our book group, whose family descended from the German and French settlers who inhabited the marine islands of Nova Scotia, was eager to introduce us to a bit of her heritage. The story is a compelling one of young David Jung who arrives on the island of Rockbound to claim his inheritance from the stern and unforgiving self-proclaimed "king" of the island, Uriah Jung. In a story of epic proportion, David proves his worth as he surmounts seemingly impossible trials in "his voyage of destiny." *Rockbound* was published originally in 1928. Its author, Frank Porter Day, was a Nova Scotia native whose life included early experiences with the rigors and dangers of fishing life. Day was also

a boxer, the leader of the Breton Highlanders, and an Oxford scholar who went on to become president of Union College in Schenectady, New York.

—Dale Gaddis

Into the Wild

Jon Krakauer
New York: Random House, 1996

The release of the movie *Into the Wild* has rekindled interest in Jon Krakauer's compelling account of Chris McCandless, a 24-year-old Emory graduate from an affluent family whose nomadic existence ended in starvation in the Alaskan wilderness of Denali National Park in 1992. Drawn to Chris's story by a similar passion for adventure and his own troubled father/son relationship, Krakauer masterfully weaves together facts, clues and speculation about Chris's life and death. Each chapter opens with a stirring literary quote, Thoreau to Pasternak, found highlighted in one of Chris's books or journals. Retracing Chris's post-college wanderings, interviewing acquaintances along the way, quoting journal entries and family members, and comparing Chris's soul-searching with other adventurers, Krakauer vividly presents both a gripping human story and a testament to the powerful allure of wilderness on the American psyche. Adventuresome or not, readers will find this story riveting.

—Gerry Larson

Silver Pigs: A Marcus Didius Falco Mystery

Lindsey Davis
New York: St. Martin's Minotaur, 2006

"When the girl came rushing up the steps, I decided she was wearing far too many clothes." With this intriguing first sentence, Lindsey Davis kicks off *Silver Pigs*, the first of her mystery novels set in ancient Rome. Marcus Didius Falco, veteran of the Legions, inhabitant of one of the shadier quarters of the city, and private investigator, is imperial Rome's answer to Philip Marlowe. Davis does an excellent job of translating the classic tough-guy detective story to an entirely different time period; the intriguing mystery (involving the illegal smuggling of British silver into Rome) is enlivened by well-developed characters and just the right amount of humor. She's also done massive amounts of historical research, and it shows; the story never feels like a historical treatise, but the reader is surrounded by the details of life in the Roman Empire. The series continues with *Shadows in Bronze* and has now reached 18 volumes in the U.S.

—Dale Gaddis

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