As Maine Grows…
This hair-raising theatrical thriller is heading your way

Looking for Zora: The Many Lives of Zora Neale Hurston
October 17

Cuban Exceptionalism: Reflections on Latin American History
December 4

Power & Architecture in Rome
A photo essay

“Is it a Rose day?”
A Born to Read volunteer at work

Humanities in the VA
A new Literature & Medicine initiative

Selected Grants

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Uninterrupted Adventure; Often Desperate and Wild; Always Voluntary

Writing in 1862, in *Wandering Recollections of a Somewhat Busy Life*, Portland native John Neal (who clearly had a way with words) used this lively phrase to describe his experiences in Maine’s largest city. And while some might quibble with the merits of desperation and wildness, the notion of uninterrupted, voluntary adventure is quite appealing.

I like to think that the Council is itself in the adventure business. We serve as “intellectual outfitters,” whether the trips we organize are on the trails and byways of books, in person on the streets of places like Rome, or simply in the sense of community that seems to spring up each time people gather to “do the humanities” in public spaces around our state. We provide access to adventure for people of all backgrounds.

In this issue of *The Power and Pleasure of Ideas*, we’re sharing both recollections of adventures past, and news of excitement yet to come, here at the Council. This fall, we will host public symposia on topics as diverse as the history and culture of Latin America, and the work of Zora Neale Hurston. We’re also offering *As Maine Grows…*, our new traveling Theater of Ideas piece. That’s just a glimpse, but there is truly something for everyone.

These adventures are rarely desperate, but they are sometimes wild. We hope you will join one of them soon!

Erik C. Jorgensen
Executive Director
Maine is at an exciting moment in history, don’t you think? Our state is changing so rapidly and in so many ways, it’s nearly impossible to keep up with all the progress. There is population growth in southern Maine and on the coast. Clusters of businesses are springing up in our downtowns and our rural communities. We’re making an effort to change the make-up of our school systems, hoping to find a way to provide all the services we want but spend less money doing it. Heck, for a while we even toyed with reducing the number of members of the House of Representatives. Our Governor wants us to become a leader in wind technology, we’re constantly searching for new ways to keep young people from leaving and older folks from being too bored with our limitations. We seek ways to be innovative and, at the same time, preserve the charm and friendly spirit of the past. It’s exciting.

Do you ever wonder how we got here? How we arrived at this point where we seem to be going in every direction all at once? I wonder what they would have thought of our society back in the “old days”—nearly 500 years ago, say, when Giovanni da Verrazano first sailed into Casco Bay; or when George Popham and Raleigh Gilbert tried to create “North Virginia” at the mouth of the Kennebec. What would William King and the other heroes of statehood have thought just over 190 years ago if they knew what we know? It’s interesting to wonder.

Just like it’s interesting to wonder what the future might hold 20, 50, 100, 500 years from now. It’s exciting.

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For the most current schedule, call the Council at 207-773-5051, or visit [www.mainehumanities.org](http://www.mainehumanities.org).

Photo: Diane Hudson

David Greenham and Dennis Price bring history to life during their As Maine Grows... performance in front of a Westbrook audience in April.
years from now. What will our ancestors think about what choices we made?

This year, Dennis Price and I are touring Maine with *As Maine Grows…*, the fun, informative, “hair raising,” and thought-provoking story of Maine’s growth and development. It’s a 40-minute play, and it’s followed by a 30-minute discussion with the audience. We start with a history of our state, including some great stories of how we got here, and depictions of some of the important figures who helped determine our path. We talk about some of our modern efforts at controlling and planning for growth, and then, with your input and ideas, make an effort to look to the future.


If you didn’t get a chance to see our popular (and award-winning!) production of *Taxing Maine*—which you can still listen to right on the Maine Humanities Council website—you’re probably thinking that creating an entertaining and interesting play about growth and development is impossible. Well, I’m here to tell you that it’s only a little bit impossible. We sure don’t touch on every issue of development that we could. But the goal isn’t to show you how much we know. *We* don’t know that much. The goal is to get us all talking about these important issues we’re facing and how we might want to address them.

*As Maine Grows…* is almost certainly coming to a community near you—see the listing on page 1 or check the Council’s website, mainehumanities.org for performance dates, times and locations. If it’s not coming near you, get in touch and we’ll see what we can do to get it to you and your community. At this moment in history, we need to embrace the past, marvel at the present, and, above all, consider the future. I promise that after spending an hour with us, you’ll have had fun, learned at least one thing you didn’t know before, and perhaps even started a conversation with your neighbors that will help your community.

“At this moment in history, we need to embrace the past, marvel at the present, and, above all, consider the future.”

Greenham and Price insert a good dose of schtick as they recall the state’s past.

PHOTOS: DIANE HUDSON
ORA NEAL HURSTON’s novel, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, published in 1937, has been required reading in high school English classes for at least 25 years, thanks in part to the efforts of Alice Walker to revive interest in Hurston’s work. But Hurston—a protean, shape-shifting figure; by turns anthropologist, novelist, dramatist, folklorist, and cultural critic—remains enigmatic. As the only black student at Barnard College in 1925, Hurston studied with the path-breaking anthropologist Franz Boas. She was associated with, but deeply skeptical of, the Harlem Renaissance. She opposed the New Deal, yet participated in the Florida Writers Project of the Works Progress Administration. Her fiction is imbued with folklore, while her anthropological fieldwork retains a literary sensibility.

To help make sense of these contradictions, “Looking for Zora” will explore the life and work of this preeminent writer and interpreter of Southern African-American culture, without whom, some say, there would be no Maya Angelou or Toni Morrison. The program, supported by a We the People grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, will take place just three months before the 60th anniversary of Hurston’s death in poverty and obscurity. Through a combination of lectures and small-group discussion sessions, scholars will present the historical and biographical background, literary analysis, and cultural context necessary to begin to understand this fascinating writer. (The two scholars of the program are profiled on the next page.)

Every attendee will receive a copy of *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, which has recently been embraced as a selection of the National Endowment for the Arts’ “Big Read” project. At least twenty American communities, from Boston to Bakersfield, CA, have come together to read this story about

...Their Eyes Were Watching God breathes and bleeds a whole life’s worth of urgent experience.”

—from Dana Gioia’s Preface to the NEA Reader’s Guide
Janie Mae Crawford in the past two years. In his preface to the Reader's Guide at www.neabigread.org, former NEA Chairman Dana Gioia explains why the novel is worthy of attention: “Although Hurston wrote the novel in only seven weeks, Their Eyes Were Watching God breathes and bleeds a whole life’s worth of urgent experience.”

Don’t miss this program on October 17, 2009.

Cedric Gael Bryant is the Lee Family Professor of English at Colby College, where he also teaches in the African American Studies department. His specializations include African American and Southern literature, and race, gender, and sexuality. His scholarship has been published in The Southern Review, Modern Fiction Studies, The African American Review, and The Oxford Companion to African American Literature.

Tess Chakkalakal is an Assistant Professor of Africana Studies and English at Bowdoin College. She received her Ph.D. from York University, Toronto in 2003. She has researched and published on a number of African American writers, including Charles Chesnutt, James Weldon Johnson, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Olaudah Equiano, and Sutton E. Griggs.
IN THE HALF-CENTURY since Fidel Castro’s Revolution, the U.S. has staunchly upheld trade and immigration restrictions against Cuba, but signs of change are surfacing as the aging leader withdraws ever further from the public eye. In April of this year, President Barack Obama opened lines of communication by allowing Cuban-Americans to visit and send money to the island as often as they wish. If relations between the two countries are further normalized, how will the Cuban-American community react? How will the changes affect the island’s economy and people?

To provide context for these timely questions, the Maine Humanities Council will host “Cuban Exceptionalism: Reflections on Latin American History,” a day-long program for teachers and the general public. As its title suggests, the content of this program will by no means be limited to Cuba. Latin America is an enormously complex region that is impossible to understand through a single country; Cuba, however, will serve as a case study, as scholars discuss the ways in which it is and is not typical of the larger region. Cristina García’s _Dreaming in Cuban_, which offers a literary perspective on the complexities and contradictions of Cuba in the 1970s, will serve as the text. Lectures and small-group sessions will address the novel, as well as the colonial history of Cuba, the Revolution, and the post-revolution era. Two Maine scholars (profiled at right) are helping the Council plan and present the program.

Join us for this experience, to both deepen and broaden your understanding of Latin America.

“Cuba is a peculiar exile, I think, an island-colony. We can reach it by a thirty-minute charter flight from Miami, yet never reach it at all.”

—from Cristina García’s _Dreaming in Cuban_
POWER & ARCHITECTURE IN ROME
PHOTOS BY ERIK C. JORGENSEN AND PETER AICHER

In March 2009, the Maine Humanities Council organized a ten-day study tour, *Power and Architecture in Rome: Augustus to Mussolini*. Led by classicist Peter Aicher of the University of Southern Maine, the program explored, mostly through walking tours, the ways in which rulers have used public architecture to project state power, from the imperial period to the 20th-century Fascist era.

“Every day was varied and fantastic, presenting another building block to add to one’s understanding of the layered history of the city…. Peter’s enthusiasm and knowledge of the city were infectious.” – Alison Hildreth

1 Interior of the Pantheon Dome
2 Scholar and group leader, Professor Peter Aicher
3 Altar of Augustan Peace, in a new museum designed by Richard Maier
4 Capitoline Museum
5 Hadrian’s Villa, Tivoli
6 Pro-Mussolini Mosaic, Foro Italico
7 Ardeatine Caves, site of massacre by the Germans, 24 March 1944
8 Temples of the Largo Argentina
9 Umbrella Pines, Palatine Hill
10 The Appian Way
11 Outside the Cave of St. Benedict, Santo Speco
In 1996, the Retired Senior Volunteer Program placed an ad in the Kennebec Journal calling for people age 55 and over to read aloud in child care centers. The ad caught Rose Golden’s eye. Rose had retired from the newspaper business and moved from New Jersey to Maine the year before. She had no background in education; with the exception of her grandchildren, she had little contact with young people. But Rose went through training to become a Born to Read volunteer, and she’s been visiting the MaineGeneral Early Learning Center in Augusta once a week ever since, making her the longest-serving volunteer on the current roster.

Rose always starts her visits in the preschool room. She stacks two child-sized chairs and perches on top, rifling through her Born to Read tote bag. The first book she pulls out is Aliki’s Quiet in the Garden, but the 4- and 5-year-olds are anything but quiet as they pull out their carpet squares and form a sloppy circle. Rose is not daunted by their chatter: she learned long ago not to expect to start at the front cover of a picture book and read straight through to the end. Instead, she moves the book from left to right and turns the pages so everyone can see. This technique, which literacy experts call a “picture walk,” helps engage children in making predictions about a story before it’s read aloud. Whatever it’s called in the field, Rose knows that it works to settle her group.

Another technique that Rose has developed from a combination of Born to Read training, experience, and good instinct, is the use of “book vocabulary” such as “illustrations,” “author,” and “characters.” The children take these words in stride, so today she gives them a new one. “I think these illustrations really enhance the book,” she says. “Don’t they help you to imagine the story?” The children have something new to teach Rose today, too. They reveal that they’re planting a garden at their child care for the first time this year, and when asked what they’re growing, one girl calls out “soybeans!” Rose admits that while she has fond memories of devouring fresh garden peas with her brother, she has never tried planting soybeans.

The emphasis of Born to Read, consistent with early literacy research,
is not reading instruction, but the conversation that takes place before, during, and after reading aloud. Conversation presents new words and concepts to children in context. It helps them connect the stories they hear to their own lives, so that they can see Quiet in the Garden, for instance, as a reflection of their own green patch beyond the classroom walls. By the time Rose closes the book, they know that a “radish” is something you grow, just like a soybean. They also know that their friend Rose cares about their garden project, and the stories they have to tell about it.

In the toddler room, the routine is relaxed. The children tumble together on one rug, jumping up by turn to help turn pages, sing songs, and point to colors. They delight in the cardboard props that go along with Rose’s special toolbox book. One girl tells everyone about the hammer her mother has at home. A boy chimes in to explain what a saw is for. Rose spends more time with the pencil than any other tool. She demonstrates how to hold it, mimes using it to write, and gestures to the basket of crayons on the art table to connect the prop to the real thing. Without putting too fine a point on it, she suggests that the pencil is the most powerful tool of all.

Does it matter to these toddlers that Rose demonstrates writing instead of just reading aloud? They’re too young to pronounce most words, let alone write them. Yet research consistently shows that exposure to language prepares children for school more reliably than any flash card or computer program. Exposure in the context of interactions with caring adults is even more reliable.

“Rose has provided our children with something so special to look forward to each and every week,” says Julie Battersby, director of the Early Learning Center. “The children ask, on a daily basis, ‘Is this a Rose day?’” The equation is simple and powerful: because the children love and trust Rose, they are invested in what she shows them; they associate pencils with pleasure, reading with relationships, words with wonder.

By the time Rose reaches the infant room, all but one of the babies is napping. She shares two board books with Owen before packing her bags to leave. “I don’t know who has more fun,” she says as she leaves, “me or the kids.” Rose’s skill as a reader—developed not from a career as a teacher, but from years of practice—shows that anyone can turn a love of reading into a gift for the young children in their community.
Veterans Administration hospitals and health care facilities (VA hospitals) present the dedicated professionals who work in them with one of the most challenging settings in health care. Not only are the resources of VA facilities under great strain, the needs and number of patients they care for are increasing every day. The veterans being served often struggle with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), severe physical disabilities, substance abuse, chronic illness, homelessness, poverty and a system that at times is not able to meet their needs. Unfortunately, the veterans’ anger and frustration can often be directed at those who care for them.

The humanities—specifically, the facilitated reading and discussion model of the Maine Humanities Council’s Literature & Medicine program—can make a difference in this setting. Pilot programs in Maine and Vermont VA hospitals have demonstrated that the impact of Literature & Medicine is very significant for participants from VA facilities, where work and stress loads have been both changed and increased by the influx of severely wounded soldiers from Afghanistan and Iraq, and where patients often face particularly severe physical and psychic wounds. A physician from the White River Junction, Vermont, VA, a national trauma center, writes: “The Literature & Medicine group attracts a range of people at the hospital who might not have much opportunity to talk and reflect with one another. This is very important, especially as the VA is undergoing a lot of changes. We are all being tested and stressed in new ways as we move from treating a primarily geriatric population who faced combat years ago to veterans in their twenties, many with young families, who may only have been out of the war for a few weeks. This shift raises many ethical issues and demands a change in our approach. The Literature & Medicine group provides an outlet for us all to talk about these issues, which is very helpful.”

With support from a recent major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Maine Humanities Council will be able to offer Literature & Medicine to the staff at 15 VA hospitals through partnerships with other state humanities councils across the country. The Maine council will provide training and technical assistance (the first of which was a training in June 2009 in Chicago), but each council will organize the VA program in its own state. There is a desire among these councils to do what they can, consistent with their respective missions, to address the needs of veterans who have served, and may still suffer for, their country.

Tammy Duckworth, Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary for Public and Intergovernmental Affairs speaks to participants at Literature & Medicine’s first Training Institute in June 2009. Photos: Steve Davis
INTERVIEW

Lizz Sinclair interviewed Dan and Deb Hamilton for the Spring 2009 issue of Synapse, the eZine of the Literature & Medicine program. Following is a brief background of the interview, which can be read in full online at mainehumanities.org/programs/litandmed/synapse/hospital_s09.html:

Literature & Medicine at Togus
Veterans Administration Medical Center

Founded at the end of the Civil War, the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Togus, Maine, was the first VA hospital in the country. Togus was also the first to host Literature & Medicine. In fact, it was the strong response to the program from participants at Togus—and later at the VAMC in White River Junction, Vermont—that prompted us to offer the program to other VA hospitals across the country.

Dan Hamilton, a Physician Assistant at Togus for twenty years, has been the driving force behind Literature & Medicine there. Both he and his wife Deb Hamilton, a Home Health and Hospice nurse, have participated in Literature & Medicine for nine years. With a number of VA hospitals slated to host the program for the first time in 2010, Lizz wanted to talk to them about their experiences with Literature & Medicine.

ANTHOLOGIES

Literature & Medicine Anthologies for Health Care Professionals and General Readers

Literature & Medicine groups are always searching for meaningful readings and often have tight budgets. A good anthology is a tremendous resource, and can help facilitators and group members explore readings they might not otherwise find. Although there are many literature and medicine anthologies available, the Maine Humanities Council’s two offerings are different because they deliberately reflect the wide range of readings that Literature & Medicine groups discuss, with representation of—and from—a variety of health care professionals and people of diverse backgrounds, situations, and conditions.

Echoes of War, edited by Suzanne Hunter Brown

Upon receiving the National Endowment for the Humanities grant for expansion to VA facilities, the Maine Humanities Council asked Suzanne Brown, long-time facilitator at White River Junction VAMC and many other Literature & Medicine sites, to compile a collection of short readings that address issues particularly relevant to those caring for veterans. In her introduction, Brown writes, “The selections in this anthology focus on issues unique to, or more acute in, hospitals for soldiers. Nevertheless, any group of health care professionals can benefit from the readings, both because all health care facilities will increasingly see veterans and because ‘veterans’ issues’ often illuminate general medical concerns. I hope, too, that the general public will appreciate these readings as a way to better understand the experience of the men and women who fight for us.”

The readings in Echoes of War address a variety of medical and social concerns, including homecoming, trauma, aging, ethics, memory, and cultural conflict. Contributors include Anne Brashear, Raymond Carver, André Dubus, Louise Erdrich, George Garrett, Atul Gawande, Arthur Kleinman, Nancy Mairs, Marilyn Nelson, Veneta Masson, Platon, John Stone, and Brian Turner.

Imagine What It’s Like, edited by Ruth Nadelhaft

The University of Hawai‘i Press published the Council’s first anthology in June 2008, with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield, the Morton Family Foundation, and the Hawai‘i Humanities Council. It includes work by Dannie Abse, Felicia Nimue Ackerman, Henri Barbusse, Joy Harjo, Leslie Nyman, Jonathan Shay, and many others.

Both publications feature the full scope of literary genres, from poetry and fiction to plays and memoirs; the editor’s useful commentary, which provides context for the individual selections; and suggestions for longer readings. For information on ordering either anthology, please visit mainehumanities.org/resources, and click on “Publications.”
$1,000 Maine National History Day

The Maine State Archives hosts this annual competition in which Maine students in grades 6-12 prepare papers, exhibits, documentaries, websites, or performances that explore a broad historical theme. The theme for 2009, “The Individual in History,” asked students to explore the role of one person, famous or not, in history. Winning entries included the website “Steve Jobs: Apple’s God,” the documentary “Judith Magyar Issacon: Holocaust Survivor Turned Human Rights Activist,” and the paper “Changing the Face of Medicine: Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell.” First- and second-place winners qualified to attend the National History Day contest at the University of Maryland in June.

$3,950 Lessons from the Tam O’Shanter

The Freeport Historical Society recently acquired an oil painting of the merchant ship Tam O’Shanter, which sailed out of Freeport in the 19th century. The painting will be exhibited alongside artifacts and documents tied to the experiences of Maine mariners and their families, and especially to Tam O’Shanter. In addition, the Freeport Historical Society planned a series of public events, “Lessons from the Tam O’Shanter,” to engage a broad audience in maritime history. The series began in January with a concert of sea shanties linked to Maine, and continued in February with a program of dramatic readings by descendants of Maine sea captains of letters written during the age of commercial sail. In March, Robert Lloyd Webb presented an illustrated lecture tracing the history of ship portraits created by pier-side artists, of which the Tam O’Shanter is just one example. In April, Freeport welcomed Dr. Glen Gordinier of Mystic Seaport, who portrayed Yankee mariner Josiah Gardner recounting his adventures at sea. The series picks up again on September 25 with a talk entitled “Yankee Shipmasters: Swashbuckling Middle Class Guys... Or Were They?” (suggesting that in fact, most captains were responsible businessmen). Two more lectures, on October 16 and November 20, will address the China trade, both old and new, and the specific voyages that are on record for the Tam O’Shanter. For more program details, please visit www.freeporthistoricalsociety.org or call (207) 865-3170.

$600 Bringing History to Life

As part of the group’s fifth annual Victorian Tea and in honor of the 200th birthday of Abraham Lincoln, the Friends of the Parsonsfield Seminary presented reenactors Phillip Chetwynd and Sally Mummey. Since 1991, Chetwynd and Mummey have been known for their portrayals of President and Mary Todd Lincoln, during which they speak on personal experiences with slavery and the Underground Railroad. Many attendees dressed in period attire for the tea, and a local harpist accompanied the light repast following the Lincoln presentation. Parsonsfield Seminary, formerly known as the Free Will Baptist Seminary in the United States, was a stop on the Underground Railroad in the first half of the 19th century, and it is decorated to recall that era on the occasion of the Victorian Tea. To learn more, visit www.parsonsfieldseminary.org.

$3,000 Fiber Maine-ia Conference

The United Nations has designated 2009 the “International Year of Natural Fiber,” and Maine is celebrating with Fiber Maine-ia, a year’s worth of events culminating in a statewide conference in Orono on October 10 and 11. The conference celebrates our state’s textile heritage and the place of fiber in the cultural economy. A variety of formats, including lectures, demonstrations, and hands-on experiences, will expose participants to fiber arts and economy both current and historic. There will be displays of vintage hand-knit lace, presentations on agricultural practices, instruction on caring for heirloom textiles, readings from letters sent home to Maine by girls working in Massachusetts textile mills, and much more. An exhibit of fiber-related photographs from the “Acadian Hard Times” collection is planned to coincide with the conference, and the Story Bank recording booth will be on site to collect oral histories for the Maine Folklife Center. Teachers will be able to select from a strand that provides them with resources for incorporating fiber study into standards-based social studies, mathematics, science, art, and literature curricula. The conference is coordinated by the Friends of Dr. Edith Marion Patch and the Page Farm and Home Museum in Orono; to learn more or to sign up, please visit www.umext.maine.edu/fibermaine-ia/conference.htm.

$5,000 Increasing Visitor Access to Cultural Opportunities

In 2008, the 19th Century Willowbrook Village in Newfield, Maine, deployed a number of strategies to increase visitor access to cultural opportunities. They developed a 13-minute orientation video, revised the museum’s visitor guide and website, and recovered historic film footage of rural trades. The museum now features 48 hands-on stations (including four with historic film footage of ice harvesting, sleighing, horse shoeing, and logging) as part of its Passport Through Time booklet program for families. The new materials help modern visitors understand how industrialization impacted 19th-century rural life. Willowbrook is open from Memorial Day through the end of October. Explore their new website, www.willowbrookmuseum.org.
PORTLAND

$910  Documenting Old Maine Jewry
This statewide effort to collect, present, and preserve historical information has already placed over 20,000 records of Jewish Mainers on its website. In 2009, volunteers who have been trained in oral history are interviewing residents in their eighties and nineties about the character and quality of family and community life for Jewish immigrants and first generation Americans. The oral history project will enhance the photographs, documents, and information on the website, www.davidkrut.com/pj.

PRESQUE ISLE

$500  Foreign Language Day
On April 16, 2009, for the third consecutive year, high school teachers and students from Presque Isle, Ashland, and Mars Hill attended Foreign Language Day at the University of Maine in Presque Isle. The students took mini-lessons in language and culture from faculty, staff and students, both native speakers and those who have traveled abroad. Folk or ethnic dance and international food were also components of the day. The cultures represented included France, Italy, Puerto Rico, Portugal, China, Nepal, Poland, and Germany. Project director Claire Davidshofer, Professor of French, comments, “gone are the days when being monolingual was sufficient. Our lives are now intertwined with the lives of citizens of other countries in the world. Foreign Language Day at the University of Maine at Presque Isle is attempting to plant the seeds of understanding and respecting world diversity.”

SACO

$1,000  Heat Stroke: New England Wax, Artists Working in Encaustic
A special exhibition at the Saco Museum featured work from New England Wax, an association of artists who work in encaustic (a beeswax-based painting medium). Juried by Katherine French, Director of the Danforth Museum in Framingham, Massachusetts, the exhibition offered the opportunity for local and regional artists to exhibit their work together and exchange ideas. This grant helped fund a lecture by Kim Bernard about the history of this ancient medium, as well as art-making activities and school tours. This award was made jointly with the Maine Arts Commission.

THOMASTON

$950  Revolution and Evolution: Federal Period Clothing
This exhibition of historic costumes at the General Henry Knox Museum was curated by Mary Doering, a professor in the Corcoran College of Art and Design’s Masters of Decorative Arts program and a private collector of 18th-century clothing. Its five-week run included a specialized tour led by costume historian Julie Stackpole and a lecture by the guest curator. Participants in the Knox Museum’s 2009 summer teacher institute exploring everyday life in early American history attended Doering’s lecture and used the exhibition as a hands-on resource.

SOUTHERN MAINE IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY

Kim Bernard (North Berwick, ME), Hippodrome, 2007, plywood, encaustic, and lead, 35 x 43 x 19
Diane Bowie Zaitlin (Saco, ME), Arroyo, 2007, encaustic/collage, 9 x 9
Gregory Wright (Lowell, MA), Congregation IV, 2007, encaustic, 14 x 14

In the spring of 2009, the Museums of Old York presented a series of events exploring the experiences and perspectives of Native, English, and French people in 17th-century Maine. In the one event, two re-enactors (one depicting a French Jesuit priest; the other a habitant, or settler) provided insight into the origins of conflict between Anglo and French populations in Maine. In another, a panel discussion of French-Canadian residents recounted their experiences in light of the history of Anglo/French tensions.
LITERARY GHOSTS
LITERARY ROAD TRIPS
LITERARY MYSTERIES

For more than 25 years, the MHC has offered Community Seminars. These inspiring and stimulating reading and discussion programs use conversation facilitated by scholars around literary themes to help participants exchange ideas and discover new ones. Community Seminars are now being offered at four sites statewide—Falmouth, Augusta, Camden, and Bangor.

2010 Themes:
Literary Ghosts in Augusta
Literary Mysteries in Bangor* and Camden
Literary Road Trips in Falmouth

The $300 [$200] fee includes:
• six full dinners [“brown-bag”]
• six books from the theme
• scholar-provided materials and background information

For booklists and schedules, visit www.mainehumanities.org/community-seminars.

SEMINARS

WINTER WEEKEND
2010:
MIDDLEMARCH

Join us in Middlemarch, a provincial town where ambitions run high and intellects are strong.

On March 12 and 13, 2010, the MHC will hold its annual Winter Weekend at Bowdoin College in Brunswick, with George Eliot’s Middlemarch, one of the finest English masterpieces, as the text.

Each year, participants explore a pivotal work with talks by scholars on different aspects of the book. This opportunity for devoted book-lovers to congregate and luxuriate in the company of great literature sells out early, so call now—not many seats remain.

For more information or to register, call 207-773-5051 or visit www.mainehumanities.org/programs/2010.html (a printable registration form is available online).