

The WASHINGTON RARE BOOK GROUP

invites you to join us for a visit to

GUNSTON HALL LIBRARY & ARCHIVES

(with a tour of the mansion)

SATURDAY, OCT.25, 2008

11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

What could be a more brisk-Fall-weather kind of event than a Saturday on the Mason Neck peninsula along the Potomac River? The 550-acre Gunston Hall Plantation will welcome us for a visit to the library & archives and a tour of the house, built ca. 1755-1760 as the family home of George Mason (1725-1792), a prominent Virginia land-owner and revolutionary who drafted the first Virginia Declaration of Rights and its Constitution in 1776.

The Plantation's library and archives incorporates a wide variety of primary source materials (books, manuscripts, architectural drawings, etc.) covering "the social, cultural, economic, and political history of colonial and post-revolutionary Virginia and America," as its website notes (www.gunstonhall.org). The rare-book collection includes more than 1200 works on law, history, literature, architecture, gardening, and cookery of the 18th century, while the manuscript collection includes the personal papers and official documents of George Mason and other family members.

Librarian Michelle Lee will display and talk about Mason's own books and the collection of architectural design materials that complement the estate inventory records of the mansion's builder, William Buckland, and that document the archaeological studies and restorations of the estate's buildings and gardens. This will be followed by a tour of the mansion itself with Director David Reese, showing the concrete (or perhaps I should say "brick and mortar") ways in which the library holdings support historical research and preservation work at the Plantation.

The visit will close with a catered box lunch on the grounds and the chance to ramble around the gardens and visit the museum shop. There is a charge of \$12.00 per person for the lunch; a vegetarian option will be available for those who request it. Please send your check - to be received by Monday, Oct.20 - to Carol Clausen, 8315 N. Brook Lane, Bethesda MD 20814.

Gunston Hall is located about 20 miles south of Washington DC between Rte. 1 and the Potomac River. From Rte. 1, just south of Lorton and Pohick Church but before it merges with US 95, turn left onto Gunston Rd. (State Road 242) and proceed 3.5 miles to the estate entrance on your left. For directions from US 95 and elsewhere, see www.gunstonhall.org/welcome/directions.html.

For further information, call me at (202) 633-1176. I look forward to seeing you there!

Leslie K. Overstreet
President, WRBG

Membership Dues for 2009:

Please take time to renew your membership for 2009! Please send a \$20.00 check payable to WASHRBG to Melanie Gardner, 2014 Hermitage Ave, Silver Spring, MD 20902 [OR to P.O. Box 1851, Silver Spring, MD 20915].

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Phone: (H) _____ (O) _____

Email: _____ (please print clearly)

Collecting/Research Interests (Optional):
