

WASHINGTON RARE BOOK GROUP
P.O. Box 1851
Silver Spring, Maryland USA 20915

The WASHINGTON RARE BOOK GROUP

invites you to join us for a

CELEBRATION of GILBERT & SULLIVAN

on Wednesday, Sept. 16, 2009, 5:15-7:00 p.m.

at the Smithsonian's Dibner Library (National Museum of American History).

“...except for the plays of Shakespeare, no other English stage works have been so often performed... as the Gilbert & Sullivan operas.”

(The Pierpont Morgan Library exhibition catalogue, 1989, p.8)

...or so thoroughly enjoyed. To kick off the new event-year, the Smithsonian's Dibner Library is hosting a display of printed ephemera and memorabilia relating to the operas of Gilbert & Sullivan, selected from the collection of David Stone of Fairfax VA. Mr. Stone has brought together every conceivable form of printed, hand-written, illustrated, recorded, and manufactured material, reflecting the range and depth of his interest in and knowledge of the 14 operas. If you've ever enjoyed hearing – or attempted to sing along with – that “very model of a modern Major-General” (*The Pirates of Penzance*) or wondered about the origins of Pooh-Bah, Lord High Everything Else (*The Mikado*), you'll be fascinated by the items on display. On the other hand, if all of this is Greek to you, a wonderful treat awaits: Programs, posters, sheet music, photographs, books, souvenir toys and fans, advertising trade cards, and much more re-create the theater world of the 1870s-'90s, when W.S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan's comic operas were the rage of London and New York.

Join us at this lively and entertaining event, which will include a reception of hors d'oeuvres and wine. **The event is free for members, guests, and friends, but reservations are required for security purposes.** Please telephone or e-mail me at (202) 633-1176 or overstreetL@si.edu by Wednesday, Sept.9. And please remember to include the names of any guests.

The Dibner Library is located in the National Museum of American History, Constitution Ave. between 12th and 14th Sts. NW. We'll meet inside the Constitution Ave. entrance. Remember the metal-detectors and security process that you'll have to go through, and please note that **participants MUST arrive before 5:30** when the Museum closes. Parking on the Mall is still tight before 5:30, so, as always, we recommend the Metro; the Museum is equi-distant between the Smithsonian and Federal Triangle stops on the Orange and Blue lines.

We look forward to seeing and catching up with everyone!

Leslie K. Overstreet
President, WRBG