



Special Events Office  
Room 105  
The New York Public Library  
5th Avenue and 42nd Street  
New York, New York 10018

---

## Jefferson Lecture and Reception

Wednesday, May 8, 1991

\_\_\_\_\_ (I/We) will attend the lecture.

\_\_\_\_\_ (I/We) will not attend the lecture.

\_\_\_\_\_ (I/We) will attend the reception.

\_\_\_\_\_ (I/We) will not attend the reception.

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

---



National Endowment for the Humanities  
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20506

Request for Tickets  
1991 Jefferson Lecture  
Wednesday, May 1, 1991  
Washington, D.C.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Last \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ Initial \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Daytime \_\_\_\_\_ Evening \_\_\_\_\_

Number of tickets\_\_\_\_\_ (limit 2 per request)

Tickets are nontransferable  
 Tickets will be issued in order of receipt of request  
 Please reply by mail by Wednesday, April 17, 1991

The National Endowment for the Humanities  
presents the twentieth annual  
Jefferson Lecture in the Humanities

**"Of Heroes, Villains, and Valets"**

by  
**Gertrude Himmelfarb**

Wednesday, May 1, 1991

8 p.m.


The Departmental Auditorium  
Constitution Avenue  
between 12th and 14th Streets, Northwest  
in the City of Washington

Dessert reception to follow  
at the National Museum of American History  
Constitution Avenue

*Admit one*  
*No reserved seats*

*Admission by ticket only*  
*Tickets are nontransferable*





---

The  
National Endowment  
for the Humanities  
presents the

---

Jefferson Lecture  
in the  
Humanities

---

The Departmental Auditorium  
Washington, D.C.

Wednesday, May 1, 1991

The New York Public Library  
New York City

Wednesday, May 8, 1991



---

The  
National Endowment  
for the Humanities  
presents the

---

Jefferson Lecture  
in the  
Humanities

---

*Washington Program*

The Departmental Auditorium  
Washington, D.C.  
Wednesday, May 1, 1991

*New York Program*

The New York Public Library  
New York City  
Wednesday, May 8, 1991



---

National Endowment for the Humanities  
Washington Program

*Welcome and Remarks*

Lynne V. Cheney  
Chairman

National Endowment for the Humanities

*Introduction*

Leon R. Kass

Addie Clark Harding Professor

The College and the Committee on Social Thought  
University of Chicago

*The Twentieth*

*Jefferson Lecture in the Humanities*

Gertrude Himmelfarb

**"Of Heroes, Villains, and Valets"**

*Special Presentation*

*Reception*

National Museum of American History

---

New York Public Library  
New York Program

*Opening Remarks*  
Lynne V. Cheney  
Chairman  
National Endowment for the Humanities

*Introduction*  
Timothy S. Healy  
President  
The New York Public Library

*The Twentieth  
Jefferson Lecture in the Humanities*

Gertrude Himmelfarb

**"Of Heroes, Villains, and Valets"**

*Reception*  
Celeste Bartos Forum



## Gertrude Himmelfarb

"If the Victorians had no dogmatic social ideology, no binding religious faith, they did have a compelling, almost obsessive faith in morality," wrote Gertrude Himmelfarb in *Marriage and Morals Among the Victorians* (1986). "As revelation, ritual, and religious authority failed them, they clung all the more firmly to the most categorical of all imperatives: an inner law, a sense of rectitude inherent in man which was presumed to be a sufficient guide to private and public behavior, and which could be violated only at the risk of inviting a retribution as certain as any devised by church or state." Himmelfarb has spent the past fifty years studying, teaching, and writing about not only the morals, but also the science, literature, and politics of Victorian England.

Born in New York City in 1922, Himmelfarb attended Brooklyn College, where she earned a B.A. in 1942. She pursued graduate study at the University of Chicago and earned a Ph.D. in history in 1950. She also studied at the Jewish Theological Seminary and Cambridge University. During her twenty-three-year teaching career at the Graduate School of the City University of New York, Himmelfarb served as chairman of the doctoral program in history and as Distinguished Professor of History.

Himmelfarb is a member of the British Academy, the Royal Historical Society, the American Philosophical Society, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She also serves on the board of directors of the Woodrow Wilson International Center and Institute for Contemporary Studies and on the councils of the Library of Congress and the American Enterprise Institute. She is a former member of the National Council on the Humanities.

Himmelfarb's books include *Lord Acton: A Study in Conscience and Politics* (1952), *Darwin and the Darwinian Revolution* (1959), *Victorian Minds* (1968), *On Liberty and Liberalism* (1974), *The Idea of Poverty* (1984), *Marriage and Morals Among the Victorians* (1986), *The New History and the Old* (1987), and the forthcoming *Poverty and Compassion: The Moral Imagination of the Late Victorians*. She has edited collections of works of Lord Acton, Thomas Malthus, and John Stuart Mill, and has contributed essays and articles to numerous volumes and journals. She has served on the editorial boards of the *American Historical Review*, the *American Scholar*, and the *Journal of British Studies*.

She lives in Washington, D.C. and is married to Irving Kristol. They have a son, William, and a daughter, Elizabeth.

## The Jefferson Lecture

In 1972 the National Endowment for the Humanities established the Jefferson Lecture in the Humanities as the highest official award the federal government bestows for distinguished intellectual achievement in the humanities. The lecture provides the opportunity for an outstanding thinker to explore, in a public forum, matters of broad concern in the humanities and to affirm the relationship between the great works of the humanities and the intellectual, moral, and political traditions of our civilization. The Jefferson lecturer is chosen each year by the National Council on the Humanities.

### Previous Lecturers

1972

The first Jefferson lecturer, *Lionel Trilling*, in his address, "Mind and the Modern World," examined contemporary culture in relation to the humanities.

1973

*Erik H. Erikson*, in the second lecture, "Dimensions of a New Identity," examined the American identity as it evolved during Jefferson's lifetime and into contemporary society.

1974

In the third lecture, "Democracy and Poetry," *Robert Penn Warren* probed poetry's role in modern industrial society with special attention to the concept of self.

1975

*Paul A. Freund*, in the fourth lecture, "Liberty: The Great Disorder of Speech," focused on the benefit of freedom of speech and of the press, as well as on the responsibilities of those who exercise these freedoms.

1976

The fifth Jefferson lecturer, *John Hope Franklin*, explored "Racial Equality in America," the foundations of racism and its implications for contemporary society. Dr. Franklin spoke in Chicago, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C.

1977

The sixth Jefferson Lecture, "The Writer and his Country Look Each Other Over," was *Saul Bellow's* nostalgic recollection of his growth as a writer in Chicago during the Great Depression. The two-part lecture was given in Washington, D.C., and Chicago.

1978

*C. Vann Woodward*, in the seventh lecture, "Europe's America," addressed historical and contemporary European views of America. He gave his lecture in Washington, D.C., and Seattle.

1979

*Edward Shils*, in the eighth lecture, "Render unto Caesar...", discussed the reciprocity of rights and duties among the government, society, and the universities. He delivered his lecture in Washington, D.C., Chicago, and Austin.

1980

*Barbara Tuchman* presented her lecture, the ninth in the series, on "Mankind's Better Moments," examining those rare times in world history when humans were at their best in creating and developing a better life. Tuchman spoke in Washington, D.C., and London.

1981

*Gerald Holton* delivered the tenth Jefferson Lecture, "Where Is Science Taking Us?," in Washington, D.C., and Boston. Holton examined the historical relationships between the humanities and the sciences and the dependence of science on value judgments.

1982

*Emily T. Vermeule* presented the eleventh Jefferson Lecture, "Greeks and Barbarians: The Classical Experience in the Larger World," in Washington, D.C. Her lecture, illustrated with slides, discussed the significance of archaeological discoveries.

1983

*Jaroslav Pelikan*, the twelfth Jefferson lecturer, delivered a two-part lecture, "The Vindication of Tradition," in which he examined "Tradition as History" and "Tradition as Heritage." He gave the lectures in Washington, D.C., and Chicago.

1984

The thirteenth Jefferson Lecture, "The Humanities and the Defense of a Free Society," was delivered by *Sidney Hook* in Washington, D.C., and New York City. Hook examined the problem of maintaining allegiance to democratic ideals in the face of rising worldwide totalitarianism.



1985

In the fourteenth Jefferson Lecture, "Literature in a Technological Age," *Cleanth Brooks* claimed that the age of technology has obscured the importance of literature and given rise to a synthetic prose that is "gutless, bloodless, and thoroughly inhuman." He delivered the lecture in Washington, D.C., and New Orleans.

1986

*Leszek Kolakowski* delivered the fifteenth Jefferson Lecture, "The Idolatry of Politics," in Washington, D.C., and Chicago. Acknowledging the legacy of the Enlightenment, Kolakowski cautioned against converting political commitments into moral principles, thus "fabricate(ing) gods for an ad hoc use in a political power game."

1987

In the sixteenth Jefferson Lecture, "The Intellectual World of the Founding Fathers," *Forrest McDonald* paid tribute to the bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution by examining the intellectual origins that shaped America's founding. He presented the lecture in Washington, D.C., and Lawrence, Kansas.

1988

Tracing the American communitarian state from its beginnings in World War I through the major events of the twentieth century and contemporary America, *Robert Nisbet* delivered the seventeenth Jefferson Lecture, "The Present Age and the State of Community," in Washington, D.C.

1989

In the eighteenth Jefferson Lecture, "The Fateful Rift: The San Andreas Fault in the Modern Mind," *Walker Percy* explored his belief that the failure of modern scientists to account for the way language connects the physical and the mental has led them to become confused in their own analytical models. Percy delivered the lecture in Washington, D.C.

1990

*Bernard Lewis* explored Muslim attitudes toward the West in "Western Civilization: A View from the East," the nineteenth Jefferson Lecture. In particular, he addressed the radically different views of the relationship of religion to government. Lewis delivered his remarks in Washington, D.C. and Stanford, California.

## The National Endowment for the Humanities

The National Endowment for the Humanities is an independent grant-making agency established by Congress in 1965 to support scholarship, research, education, and public programs in the humanities. By definition, the humanities include, but are not limited to, the study of the following disciplines: history; philosophy; languages; linguistics; literature; archaeology; jurisprudence; the history, theory, and criticism of the arts; ethics; comparative religion; and those aspects of the social sciences that employ historical or philosophical approaches.

Grants are made through five divisions—Education Programs, Fellowships and Seminars, Public Programs, Research Programs, and State Programs—and two offices, the Office of Challenge Grants and the Office of Preservation. Responsibility for grant awards rests by law with the Chairman of the Endowment, who is advised by the National Council on the Humanities, a board of twenty-six distinguished private citizens.

## The Departmental Auditorium

Completed during the spring of 1935, the auditorium is unique in its construction. For acoustical purposes, the walls and massive columns are faced with synthetic stones composed of crushed oyster shells. Formerly known as the Connecticut Wing, the auditorium is located on Constitution Avenue between the U.S. Customs Service and the Interstate Commerce Commission. Designed by architect Arthur Brown, the three structures provide a single dominant expanse of monumental classical architecture along Constitution Avenue. Perhaps the most important event held in the Departmental Auditorium was the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty on April 4, 1949. For this historic event, President Harry S. Truman welcomed the secretaries of state or the foreign ministers of twelve nations.

## The New York Public Library

Astor, Lenox, and Tilden Foundations

**T**he New York Public Library, one of the five great research libraries of the world, plays a central role in the social and cultural life of New York City, and is often referred to as "a great, free university." It is really eighty-six libraries, and is unique in combining major research facilities and a branch library system within one overall structure. There are four Research Libraries, with collections of more than 36 million items in more than 3,000 languages and dialects, which are heavily dependent on private contributions for their upkeep. The eighty-two circulating Branch Libraries located in three boroughs of New York City are supported by funds from local government.

The Research Libraries include the Central Research Library on 5th Avenue and 42nd Street, containing the core of the research collections. The Performing Arts Research Center at Lincoln Center and the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture each contain the preeminent collections in the United States in their respective fields, while the Library at 43rd Street contains invaluable archives of newspapers and patents. Exhibitions provide increased public access to the Library's collections through the display of materials usually viewed by scholars, and provide a forum for public education.

The Branch Libraries offer a wide variety of services. New Yorkers can obtain a free library card enabling them to borrow a wide variety of materials. These range from books, films, records, audio and videocassettes, to both recorded and braille materials for blind and physically handicapped users. The Branch Libraries also provide free literacy tutoring, English-language instruction, and more than 20,000 free cultural programs and classes each year to children, teenagers, and adults.

## The National Museum of American History

The National Museum of American History, authorized by Congress in 1954 and opened to the public in 1964, was designed in a modified classical style, faced with rose-white Tennessee marble. The museum's basic mission is to illuminate, through collections, exhibitions, research, publications, and educational programs, the entire history of the United States, including the external influences that have helped to shape national character. Among the notable items exhibited are the desk used by Thomas Jefferson in drafting the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Edison's phonograph, the John Bull locomotive, and a Model T Ford. The museum has the responsibility for the care and preservation of more than 16 million objects which the Smithsonian Institution has acquired over the last century.

## Special Presentation

*Writings by Thomas Jefferson*, edited by Jeffersonian scholar Merrill D. Peterson, will be presented to Gertrude Himmelfarb by Lynne V. Cheney, Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Through this gift, the Library of America has chosen to honor the Jefferson Lecturer and the intellectual and civic virtues exemplified by Thomas Jefferson. The library, a nonprofit corporation that has been supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities, publishes the works of America's foremost writers in a uniform series of hardcover editions. *Writings by Thomas Jefferson* is the twentieth volume in its collection.

"There are rights which it is useless to surrender to the government and which governments have yet always been found to invade. These are the rights of thinking and publishing our thoughts by speaking or writing; the right of free commerce; the right of personal freedom."

—Jefferson: *Writings*  
Letter to David Humphreys, 1789

"I do not pretend that language is science. It is only an instrument for the attainment of science."

—Jefferson: *Writings*  
Notes on the State of Virginia

## Acknowledgments

Demonstrating a shared commitment to excellence and achievement in education and scholarship, the following donors join the National Endowment for the Humanities in presenting the twentieth annual Jefferson Lecture in the Humanities. The Endowment gratefully acknowledges their cooperation and generous support.

Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation  
Earhart Foundation  
Hallmark Cards, Inc.  
John M. Olin Foundation, Inc.  
Philip F. Schoch Trust

The May/June issue of *Humanities*, the bimonthly review of the National Endowment for the Humanities, is available free at the entrance. This edition features a conversation between Gertrude Himmelfarb and Chairman Lynne V. Cheney. The Jefferson Lecture will be broadcast nationwide on National Public Radio in May. Check local listings for dates and times.