

## NATIONAL HUMANITIES MEDAL

*In November 2005, President George W. Bush awarded nine individuals and one organization the National Humanities Medal for their outstanding efforts to deepen public awareness of the humanities.*

### WALTER BERNS

Walter Berns has spent a lifetime defending and illuminating the Constitution. Since earning his master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Chicago, Berns has taught at Louisiana State, Yale, Cornell, Colgate, the University of Toronto and is the John M. Olin University Professor Emeritus at Georgetown University. Currently, he is a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute.

Berns has written seven books and numerous works appearing in the *Atlantic Monthly*, *New York Times*, and *Wall Street Journal* on American governance and society. A staunch supporter of the Electoral College, Berns edited *After the People Vote: A Guide to the Electoral College* and appeared before the House Subcommittee on the Constitution, arguing against electoral reform. In 2001, Berns published *Making Patriots*, in which he promotes the right to dissent.

Berns has served on the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, the National Council on the Humanities, and the Council of Scholars in the Library of Congress.

### MATTHEW BOGDANOS

On April 21, 2003, Marine Colonel Matthew Bogdanos led a special recovery team into Baghdad to reclaim stolen antiquities from the Iraq National Museum. Forty items were stolen from the public gallery, 3,150 from storage rooms, and ten thousand from the secure vaults in the basement. "It was as if Stonehenge and the National Mall had all been destroyed in a single swoop, ten thousand years of civilization wiped out in a single moment," says Bogdanos.

Bogdanos and his team secured the museum and started their investigation in an active war zone. Out of the thirteen thousand items stolen, Bogdanos and his team have recovered about six thousand artifacts by offering amnesty for their return and conducting raids on informers' tips.

Bogdanos describes his time in Iraq and the black market for antiquities in his book, *Thieves of Baghdad*. "If there had ever been a literal 'cradle' where civilization was born, you could not get closer to it than the female face in limestone known as the Mask of Warka, and the Sacred Vase from the same ancient city. If someone had walked off with these things, we had to get them back," writes Bogdanos. When not on active duty, Bogdanos serves as the senior homicide trial counsel in the New York County District Attorney's Office.

### EVA BRANN

For the last forty-eight years, Eva Brann has used great books to teach her students at St. John's College. Brann, a professor, or tutor as they are called, participates in St. John's singular curriculum—the college uses the classic works of literature, philosophy, mathematics, history, and science to teach students in discussion-based sessions. The college does not group students by major or department, rather it uses seminars to discuss the evolution of Western thought. "By and large, everything is done in common, which means that they the students can always talk to each other. And they do," says Brann.

Brann has been able to continue her individual interests while at St. John's. She has published *Homeric Moments: Clues to Delight in Reading the Odyssey and the Iliad*, *The Music of The Republic: Essays on Socrates' Conversations and Plato's Writings*, and *The World of the Imagination*, among others.

### JOHN LEWIS GADDIS

Teacher and scholar John Lewis Gaddis has written about the history of the Cold War for the last forty years. The diplomatic historian began teaching at Ohio University, and in 1997 moved to Yale University, where he encourages his students to write “second and third drafts” of history as governments release more information.

Working with the early documents available on the Cold War, Gaddis wrote *The United States and the Origins of the Cold War*, for which he won the Bancroft Prize. As more documents became accessible, he revised his work and published *Strategies of Containment: A Critical Appraisal of Postwar American National Security Policy* in 1982. Building on the work of his students, Gaddis wrote *We Now Know: Rethinking Cold War History*. He says, “It was very much a book that stands on the shoulders of my students who were doing this work.”

### LEWIS LEHRMAN AND RICHARD GILDER

As part of a business plan and public service, Lewis Lehrman and Richard Gilder have collected more than sixty thousand documents of American history. They began collecting independently in the 1960s—Lehrman, as a Yale University professor, acquired early American documents, and Gilder accumulated Civil War maps. After beginning a friendship in the late 1960s, they decided to begin collecting together around two criteria. “Any document had to say something important about American history that others would profit from studying.... Also, a document needed an investment value, because that often is a very good test of how much a document will be appreciated by the market,” says Lehrman.

The Gilder Lehrman Collection now includes a signed copy of the Thirteenth Amendment that abolished slavery and General Robert E. Lee's farewell address. Many historical documents, says Gilder, “allow us to picture American history. They're handwritten, containing spelling errors—they're very personal. When you read them, you really get a sense of the people who put them together.” Lehrman and Gilder have created two institutes for higher education. In 1994, they founded the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, and in 1998, the Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery was established.

### MARY ANN GLENDON

During her freshman year at Mount Holyoke College, Eleanor Roosevelt inspired a young Mary Ann Glendon. Roosevelt planted a seed that culminated in Glendon's most recent book, *A World Made New: Eleanor Roosevelt and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. “I have come to see the story of Mrs. Roosevelt and her colleagues as one that gives encouragement to those of us who want to believe...that human affairs need not forever be governed by force and accident,” says Glendon. “They can be affected to some extent by reflection and choice.”

Glendon transferred to the University of Chicago, where she received her undergraduate degree and a law degree; she practiced in Chicago from 1963 to 1968. Glendon began teaching at Boston College Law School and moved to Harvard Law School in 1987. In addition to her book on Roosevelt, she has also published *The New Family and the New Property*, *The Transformation of Family Law*, *Rights Talk: The Impoverishment of Political Discourse*, and *A Nation Under Lawyers*.

## LEIGH AND LESLIE KENO

An interest in antiques began very early for Leigh and Leslie Keno. The twin brothers started collecting wrought iron door handles they found in local barns and houses in upstate New York. “Once we found an object, we wanted to learn as much as we could about it,” says Leslie Keno.

Now, the brothers are experts in American antiques and appear regularly on PBS’s *Antiques Roadshow* and their own series,  *Finds*. “The best part of the show is hearing what the owners have to say about the pieces,” says Leigh Keno. “We make a point of letting the person talk and tell their story.”

Leigh Keno, who was once vice president in the appraisal department at Christie’s, owns Leigh Keno American Antiques. Leslie Keno is senior vice president and senior specialist of American furniture and decorative arts and director of business development at Sotheby’s in New York.

## ALAN CHARLES KORS

“The Enlightenment was a phenomenon that worked for greater tolerance,” says history professor Alan Charles Kors. “It was an age that encouraged the freest possible intellectual life.” As an Enlightenment scholar, Kors has dedicated his career to increasing knowledge and tolerance.

Since 1968, Kors has taught at the University of Pennsylvania and now occupies the George H. Walker Endowed Term Chair. In 2002, he published the *Oxford Encyclopedia of the Enlightenment*, for which he served as editor-in-chief, and received the Lindback Foundation Award and the Ira Abrams Memorial Award for distinguished teaching.

Besides his scholarly work, Kors is an active proponent of academic freedom. “If you find yourself in higher education and at universities at moments of unfairness and abuse of power, then you have a moral responsibility both to higher education and to your students and to a free society to do something about the state of rights and liberties,” says Kors. In reaction, he has published *The Shadow University: The Betrayal of Liberty on America’s Campuses* with civil liberties attorney, Harvey Silvergate. In 1998, Kors and Silvergate started FIRE: Foundation for Individual Rights in Education.

## JUDITH MARTIN

When etiquette columnist Judith Martin was a young girl vacationing in Egypt, she was drawn to an ancient letter from a father to his son, detailing what he should and should not do. Her father, a United Nations economist, told her, “If you want to understand a society... look at their rules. What they are being told not to do, that’s what they are doing, because otherwise you wouldn’t have to tell them not to do it.”

For nearly thirty years, as “Miss Manners,” Martin has written on etiquette, offering advice on everything from befuddling forks to greedy brides and grooms. Her twice-weekly column originated in the *Washington Post* and is now syndicated. She has penned ten books, including *Star-Spangled Manners*, a historical study of etiquette in American democracy, and two novels.

Martin says, “I define etiquette books very loosely. I read novels with manners and philosophical and religious tracts.” She graduated from Wellesley College and joined the *Washington Post* as a copy editor. She would answer calls on etiquette, and since 1978, Martin has presided over America’s manners from her column.

## THE PAPERS OF GEORGE WASHINGTON

Six hours before he died, George Washington said to his secretary Tobias Lear, “I find I am going, my breath cannot last long....Do you arrange and record all of my late military letters and papers. Arrange my accounts and settle my books...and let Mr. Rawlins finish recording my other letters which he has begun.”

Washington’s obsession with his correspondence and books began early on in his public career. During the Revolution, he hired a staff to record his letters in legible handwriting and continued the practice throughout his life. “He had a sense that the Revolution was an extraordinarily important event in the history of this nation and that he was going to play a very important role in this,” says Theodore Crackel, editor-in-chief of the *The Papers of George Washington*.

In 1969, the University of Virginia and the Mount Vernon Ladies’ Association began compiling and publishing Washington’s documents from around the world. So far, they have published fifty-four volumes of the projected ninety-volume series.