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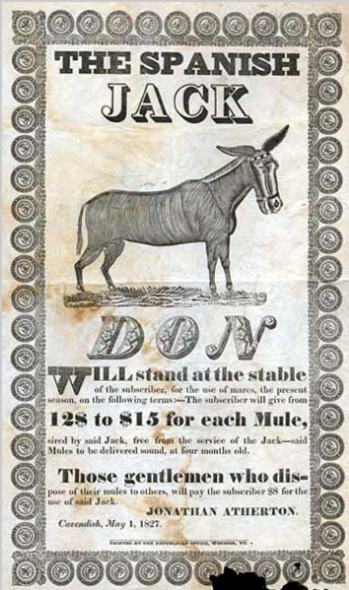
Gazing through History: Program in Visual Culture Launches at the Library Company with the Philadelphia Print Shop's "Talking Prints"

PHILADELPHIA March 14, 2008: The Library Company of Philadelphia is pleased to announce the launch of a new Program in Visual Culture. Building on its large collection of prints, photographs, broadsides, illustrated books, and ephemera, the program will promote the use of historical images as primary source material for studying the past and will disseminate information about the interpretation, collection, and care of historical visual materials.

The study of visual culture has been growing in popularity since the 1970s, but now "the level of research and writing on prints and maps is expanding greatly and subject studies are widening," says Christopher Lane, co-owner of the Philadelphia Print Shop, located in the Chestnut Hill area. "The very best prints and maps are becoming significantly more valuable" as scholars develop a new appreciation for old images.

On April 3rd, Lane will join Donald Cresswell, co-owner of the Philadelphia Print Shop, in kicking off the Program in Visual Culture with "Talking Prints: An Evening of Conversation at the Library Company of Philadelphia." They will share stories of their years in the field, including what drew them to the world of prints. They will discuss their favorite historical American prints—and why these prints are important. Audience members will have the chance to interact with the speakers during an extended question and answer session.

"Talking Prints" will be held in the Library Company's Reading Room at 1314 Locust Street from 5:30 – 7:00 p. m. A reception will begin at 5:30 with the program to follow at 6 o'clock. The program is open to the public free of charge, but reservations are requested. Please contact Sharon Thompson-Nowak at sthompson-nowak@librarycompany.org or 215-546-3181 to R.S.V.P.





The Library Company OF PHILADELPHIA

About the Speakers

In addition to opening The Philadelphia Print Shop in 1982, Dr. Cresswell and Mr. Lane have worked as appraisers, lecturers, editors, writers, book reviewers, and curators for a wide range of organizations, including the Library of Congress and the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Since 1997, they have appeared as print and map appraisers on the *Antiques Roadshow*. Their combined fields of expertise and interest include natural history prints, Currier & Ives, prints of Niagara Falls, the history of cartography, and American intellectual history.

About the Library Company

The Library Company of Philadelphia is an independent research library concentrating on American society and culture from the 17th through 19th centuries. Free and open to the public, the Library Company houses an extensive non-circulating collection of rare books, manuscripts, photographs, broadsides, ephemera, and works of art. The mission of the Library Company is to preserve, interpret, make available, and augment the valuable materials within our care. We serve a diverse constituency throughout Philadelphia and the nation, offering comprehensive reader services, an internationally renowned fellowship program, an online public access catalog, and regular exhibitions and public programs. Located at 1314 Locust Street, Philadelphia, it is open to the public free of charge from 9:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Monday through Friday. The Library Company can be found online at www.librarycompany.org.

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