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Creating Global Understanding Through English

NATION'S CAPITAL AREA BRANCH

MARCH 2007

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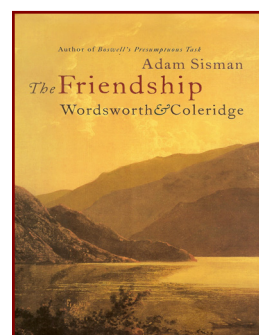
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A NEW PERSPECTIVE ON WORDSWORTH AND COLERIDGE *Award-Winning British Biographer Adam Sisman Talks About his Book*

If you read a late-November profile of **Tom Stoppard** in the *NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE*, you'll perhaps recall that a volume the playwright was described as reading with particular pleasure was *THE FRIENDSHIP: WORDSWORTH AND COLERIDGE* by **ADAM SISMAN**. We're pleased to note that Mr. Sisman will be us for a luncheon in a stately, historic setting that dates from 1825, when the brilliant writers depicted in this riveting narrative were flourishing. Mr. Sisman won the **National Book Critics Circle Award** for *Boswell's*



Presumptuous Task: The Making of the Life of Dr. Johnson, and

he'll talk about and inscribe copies of his latest study, which will be on hand for purchase thanks to our associates at **OLSSON'S**. According to Frances Wilson, in a laudatory review for London's *Sunday Telegraph*, "in Adam Sisman's hands" a "momentous" relationship that "has always had the dramatic intensity of a love story" ultimately "takes on the fatal inevitability of great tragedy."

A DIALOGUE ABOUT *SHAKESPEARE IN AMERICAN LIFE* *A Luncheon Conversation with the Curators of a Major Folger Exhibition*



In one of our city's most timely contributions to a six-month celebration of *SHAKESPEARE IN WASHINGTON*, the **FOLGER SHAKESPEARE LIBRARY** is mounting a key exhibition about the playwright's impact on American culture. This is a topic that recalls Miranda's charming lines about a "brave New World" and the wonders it held for the first Europeans to behold it. As such, it relates to the 400th anniversary of our nation's first permanent English settlement. To help address these themes we're delighted to welcome the editors of a prestigious

Arden edition of *The Tempest*, **ALDEN T. VAUGHAN** and **VIRGINIA MASON VAUGHAN**, who'll talk about a British poet's special resonance in 2007. They'll orient us to the artifacts they selected for display in the informative show the Folger has produced. And they'll sign copies of the Library's handsome catalogue for *SHAKESPEARE IN AMERICAN LIFE*, which will be on hand for purchase.

THURSDAY, MARCH 8

Luncheon, 12:15 Program, 1:00

1801 F STREET NW

ESU Members, \$25 Others, \$30
Program Only, \$10

The ESU's 18th Annual Shakespeare Competition

See the pages that follow for details about that and other attractions, among them events with actor **ROGER REES**, director **MICHAEL KAHN**, and author **WILLIAM STEVENSON**, who wrote *A MAN CALLED INTREPID*.

THE ESU *SHAKESPEARE COMPETITION* RETURNS TO THE LANSBURGH THEATRE

We hope you'll join us for an event that has established itself as one of the ESU's signature occasions: our annual *SHAKESPEARE COMPETITION FOR THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION*. The object of this much-admired contest is to enhance students' appreciation for and comprehension of a poet who has been described as history's most reliable guide to the mileposts of life. It provides



MONDAY, MARCH 5

Opening Round, 2:00

Buffet Reception, 6:30

Concluding Round, 7:30

LANSBURGH THEATRE

450 7th Street NW

No Admission Charge

an opportunity for entrants from the 10th, 11th, and 12th grades to display the insights and skills they've acquired in class as they recite Shakespearean sonnets and enact vignettes from such dramatic masterpieces as *Hamlet* and *Much Ado About Nothing*. Contestants come from public, private, and parochial institutions throughout the area, and their renderings are evaluated by an eminent panel of actors, directors, and teachers. Those who emerge as the top three contenders earn monetary prizes. And the student with the highest rating proceeds to LINCOLN CENTER in Manhattan for an April 23rd *NATIONAL*

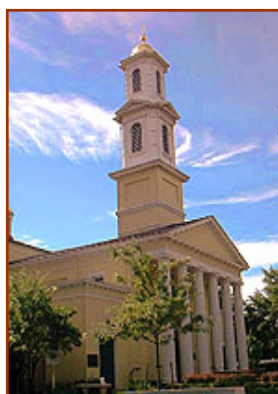
SHAKESPEARE COMPETITION whose winner will receive a scholarship to the *Midsummer Conservatory Program* at the *BRITISH AMERICAN DRAMA ACADEMY* in Oxford.

Owing to the kindness of the *NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY*, each participant will be recognized with a substantive keepsake. As in the past, primary support will be supplied by the *MORRIS AND GWENDOLYN CAFRITZ FOUNDATION*, with generous help from *DR. MARJORIE J. WILLIAMS* and from the *SHAKESPEARE THEATRE COMPANY*, whose Managing Director, *NICHOLAS T. GOLDSBOROUGH*, will deliver welcoming remarks. In addition to the students who will be applauded for their efforts on the *LANSBURGH* stage, this gathering will also permit *ESU WASHINGTON* to honor an outstanding teacher, who will garner a fellowship for study in Great Britain, and a performer from the *ACADEMY FOR CLASSICAL ACTING*, who'll win the *WALTER L. WRIGHT AWARD FOR EXCEPTIONAL PROMISE IN THE DRAMATIC PROFESSION*. This year's recipient of the *WRIGHT* laurel, *JOSH THELIN*, will join *ACA* Program Director *CATHERINE WEIDNER* (pictured here) and *ESU WASHINGTON* Executive Director *JOHN ANDREWS* for a conversation during the Concluding Round of the *COMPETITION*. This dialogue, focusing on how an aspiring actor trains for a successful career in drama, will take place while the contest judges are deliberating. For more information, including details about other speakers who will grace the festivities, visit www.esuwdc.org and click on *Shakespeare*.



ST. JOHN'S: A RECEPTION AND PROGRAM AT THE "CHURCH OF THE PRESIDENTS"

Thanks to *Daisy Crowley*, the head of *ESU WASHINGTON's Hospitality Committee*, we're all invited to a soiree in one of our country's most venerable sanctuaries. Established in 1815



on the north side of Lafayette Square, *ST. JOHN'S CHURCH* was designed by *Benjamin Latrobe*, an architect who is most vividly remembered for his key role in completing the *UNITED STATES CAPITOL*, and it has been attended by every Chief Executive since James Madison. Providing a brief overview on this remarkable institution, and going on to describe its place in the international Anglican community, will be a noted leader, *DR. WESLEY SAMUEL WILLIAMS JR.*

After a lengthy career with one of the nation's most influential legal firms, *COVINGTON & BURLING*, Dr. Williams is now President and Co-Chair of *LOCKHART COMPANIES*, a conglomerate based on St. Thomas, and a trustee of the *UNIVERSITY OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS*. A former Chairman of the *FEDERAL RESERVE BANK OF RICHMOND*, and a member of the boards of such corporations as *BEAR STEARNS* and *SALOMON INC.*, Dr. Williams has long been involved in ecclesiastical affairs. He has chaired the Overseers Committees for *HARVARD DIVINITY SCHOOL* and for Harvard's *MEMORIAL CHURCH*, for example, and he's performed a similar function for the *EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WASHINGTON*. Dr. Williams will address a variety of topics, among them the controversies that have recently prompted several U.S. congregations to dissolve their ties with the national *EPISCOPAL CHURCH*.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21

Reception, 6:00 Program, 6:30

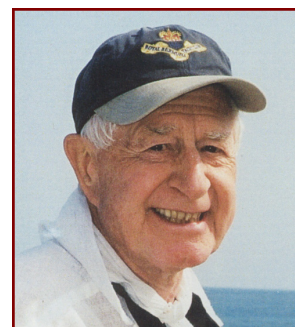
ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1525 H Street NW

Reception & Program, \$25

SPYMISTRESS—THE REAL 'M' RECALLED BY A WRITER WHO KNEW VERA ATKINS

We know her now, of course, through the *James Bond* films in which she is depicted by *Dame Judi Dench*. But *Ian Fleming* based his *M* on a real super-agent, who was beautiful, ruthless, and irresistibly seductive. These were the qualities that drew her to the attention of legendary spy-master *William Stephenson*, the figure who would later become the subject of *WILLIAM STEVENSON's* bestselling books about *A Man Called Intrepid* and *Intrepid's Last Case*. We're pleased that, through the good offices of *ESU* board member *Gillian Quinby*, we're collaborating with the *WOMAN'S NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CLUB* on a luncheon that features Mr. Stevenson's latest volume, a biography of *Vera Atkins*, the *SPYMISTRESS* who supervised

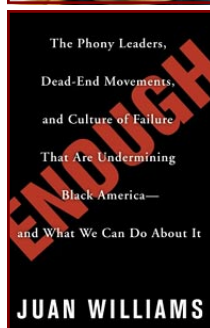


Britain's top-secret **Special Operations Executive**. The stirring exploits and the exemplary courage of SOE agents have been justly celebrated in literature, drama, and film. But the pivotal role of Vera Atkins has until now been cloaked in silence. Demobilized in 1947, she retired to her beloved retreat on the English Channel, refusing to discuss her wartime activities or release her private papers.

The only person she trusted to record her life, as he had done with "Intrepid," was William Stevenson. We look forward to his account, and we're pleased that he'll be inscribing copies of his long-awaited narrative, which will be available for purchase.

JUAN WILLIAMS SOUNDS OFF ON WHAT HE DECRIES AS PHONY 'VICTIMHOOD'

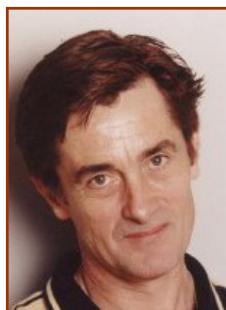
Feeling that many African-American leaders have departed from key tenets of the civil-rights movement, NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO correspondent JUAN WILLIAMS has decided that it's time to challenge an emphasis on "victimhood" that he criticizes as self-destructive. In *ENOUGH*, he takes aim at a "culture of failure" that is "undermining Black America." Mr. Williams will talk about these and other issues during a luncheon gathering that has been arranged by the WOMAN'S NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CLUB. He'll then sign copies of his publication, which will be available for purchase. Mr. Williams is the author of *Thurgood Marshall: American Revolutionary*. He has also given us *Eyes on the Prize: America's Civil Rights Years, 1954-1965*, a companion to the 2003 PBS series *This*



Far by Faith: Stories from the African American Religious Experience. Mr. Williams spent 21 years at *The Washington Post*, and he has also written for such periodicals as *The Atlantic Monthly*, *Ebony*, *Fortune*, *Newsweek*, and *The New Republic*. He is a regular panelist on *Fox News Sunday*, and he has also appeared on such programs as *Crossfire*, *Nightline*, *Oprah*, and *Washington Week in Review*. Among the honors that have been bestowed upon him is an Emmy Award for TV documentary writing.

SPEAKING OF SHAKESPEARE WITH ACTOR, DIRECTOR, AND WRITER ROGER REES

ROGER REES achieved stardom in the title part of the ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY's epic 8-hour rendering of Dickens' *Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby*, for which he collected both an Olivier Award and a Tony. He went on to create the leading roles in the original London productions of



two Tom Stoppard hits, *The Real Thing* and *Hapgood*. On Broadway Mr. Rees has starred in *Indiscretions*, *A Man of No Importance*, *The Rehearsal*, and *Uncle Vanya*. Mr. Rees is a director and writer as well as a versatile actor, and he spent two decades as a member of the ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY, performing such leading roles as the title character in *Hamlet*. He now presides over one of America's most respected arts institutions, the WILLIAMSTOWN THEATRE FESTIVAL. A popular figure in TV series such as *Cheers* (where he earned plaudits as Kirstie Alley's suitor, an English tycoon named Robin Colcord) and *The West Wing* (where he played Lord John Marbury, the British Ambassador), as well as in films like *Crazy Like a Fox*, *The Emperor's Club*, and *Frida*, he'll present a one-man anthology, *What You Will*, at the FOLGER THEATRE during the weekend that precedes this engagement; call (202) 544-7077 for tickets to that entertaining program.

MICHAEL KAHN, THE DIRECTOR WHO IS GIVING US SHAKESPEARE IN WASHINGTON

We're privileged to join the WOMAN'S NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CLUB in a salute to one of the globe's most esteemed producers and directors. MICHAEL KAHN has won accolades on Broadway and at the NEW YORK SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL and has overseen such artistic enterprises as the AMERICAN SHAKESPEARE THEATRE in Stratford, Connecticut, and the MCCARTER THEATRE in Princeton, New Jersey. During four decades in LINCOLN CENTER at the JULLIARD SCHOOL's Drama Division, which he helped establish in 1968 and which he headed until a few months ago, Mr. Kahn has helped train such actors as William Hurt, Harvey Keitel, Kevin Kline, Laura Linney, Patti LuPone, Kelly McGillis, Christopher Reeve, and Robin Williams. Meanwhile, since his



arrival in the Nation's Capital in 1986 as artistic director of what is now known as the SHAKESPEARE THEATRE COMPANY, Mr. Kahn has transformed a small, embattled troupe at the FOLGER LIBRARY into what major periodicals like *The Economist* and *The Wall Street Journal* have described as one of the finest classical ensembles in the world. As that organization prepares to begin occupying its magnificent new home at the HARMAN CENTER FOR THE ARTS, Mr. Kahn is teaming up with Michael Kaiser, Executive Director of the KENNEDY CENTER, to coordinate a remarkable, unprecedented commemoration of SHAKESPEARE IN WASHINGTON.

THURSDAY, MARCH 22
Cash-Bar Reception, 11:30 Lunch 12:30
Program, 1:00 p.m.
1526 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE
ESU Members, \$25 Others, \$30
Program Only, \$10

MONDAY, APRIL 2
Reception, 12:00 Lunch, 12:30 p.m.
THE UNIVERSITY CLUB
1135 16th Street NW
Luncheon & Program, \$45

TUESDAY, MARCH 27
Cash-Bar Reception, 11:30 Lunch 12:30
Program, 1:00 p.m.
1526 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE
ESU Members, \$25 Others, \$30
Program Only, \$10

THURSDAY, APRIL 5
Cash-Bar Reception, 11:30 Lunch 12:30
Program, 1:00 p.m.
1526 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE
ESU Members, \$25 Others, \$30
Program Only, \$10



THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION
OF THE UNITED STATES

Creating Global Understanding Through English
NATION'S CAPITAL AREA BRANCH

1604 New Hampshire Avenue NW Washington, DC 20009-2512

Since 1920, when it originated in response to a parallel organization that had been established two years earlier in Great Britain, the English-Speaking Union of the United States has sought to foster social and cultural cohesion through the resources and traditions of a language that has become increasingly indispensable as a means of international communication. Through a diverse array of offerings, some of which are shared with audiences around the world through radio and TV, the national capital's ESU endeavors to advance a noble mission.

ESU Nominating Committee

In anticipation of ESU WASHINGTON's *ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING*, to take place on a date in May to be announced in the near future, a **NOMINATING COMMITTEE** is now receiving recommendations for directorial positions to be filled. Those who wish to communicate with this important panel — comprised of **Stephen F. Black, D. Elizabeth Crompton, A. Graham Down, Ian S. McDonald (Chair), and Sarah Williams** — may do so between now and **Friday, April 27**, by post to **4621 Hunt Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD 20815**, by e-mail to crisianmcd@aol.com, or by phone to **(301) 654-2069**. Messages may also be conveyed through the ESU office, by post to the address at left, by fax to **(202) 234-4639**, or by e-mail to esuwdc@msn.com.

Thanks for Your Generosity

Everyone associated with the **ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION** is enormously grateful for your willingness to facilitate its offerings with your support. The **ESU** now girdles the planet, with a stately London address at **DARTMOUTH HOUSE** near Berkeley Square, and those who take part in any of its local, regional, and national communities are nourished by a vibrant global network.

In an effort to keep our members alert to the broader dimensions of the **ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION**, we now offer everyone who affiliates with the **ESU** at the **Contributor** level or above a colorful periodical, **ESU NEWS**, which comes out six times a year from our international headquarters in Mayfair. If you're not yet receiving it, you may upgrade with a call to **(202) 234-4602**.

Through an enticing assortment of edifying events, and through such enterprises as an annual **SHAKESPEARE COMPETITION** for secondary-school students, a variety of **FELLOWSHIP AWARDS** to encourage substantive exploration in academic and artistic settings, and a volunteer-based tutoring service, **ENGLISH IN ACTION**, for those who aspire to better command of a tongue that is not native to them, **ESU WASHINGTON** is dedicated to extending a precious legacy. To help sustain this legacy, all you need to do is supply the information requested in the form to the right and submit it by post, phone, fax, or e-mail. Below are the **ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION**'s present membership categories.

ASSOCIATE (Individual \$45, Dual \$65)

*Event notices, local and national
ESU member publications*

SUBSCRIBER (Individual \$75, Dual \$100)

*All ASSOCIATE-level benefits plus 1 coupon
for a regular ESU event (that is, an
event priced at \$40 or less)*

CONTRIBUTOR (Individual \$125, Dual \$150)

*All SUBSCRIBER-level benefits plus 1 additional
coupon to be used at a regular ESU event
plus 6 issues a year of ESU NEWS*

DONOR (\$250)

*All CONTRIBUTOR-level benefits plus 2 additional coupons
to be used at regular events and 1 coupon for a special
occasion (that is, one priced at more than \$40)*

BENEFACTOR (\$500)

*All DONOR-level benefits plus 4 additional coupons to be used at
regular events, 1 additional coupon for a special occasion,
and recognition in selected print materials*

PATRON (\$1,000)

*Free admission for 2 persons to all regular events,
4 coupons for use at special occasions, and
recognition in selected printings*

SPONSOR (\$2,500)

*All PATRON-level benefits plus free admission for up
to 4 additional guests at all ESU gatherings*

Response Form

I wish to ___ renew or ___ enroll in the **ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION** at the \$____ level. I wish to make a tax-deductible donation to the **ESU** of \$____ to support its educational and cultural endeavors.

For **Mar. 5 (Shakes. Comp.)**, reserve ___ space(s) at no charge for ___ the Opening Round, ___ the Buffet Reception, ___ the Concluding Round.
For **Mar. 6 (Sisman)**, please reserve ___ space(s) at \$25, ___ at \$30, ___ at \$10.
For **Mar. 8 (Vaughans)**, reserve ___ space(s) at \$25, ___ at \$30, ___ at \$10.
For **Mar. 21 (St. John's)**, please reserve ___ space(s) at \$25.
For **Mar. 22 (Stevenson)**, reserve ___ space(s) at \$25, ___ at \$30, ___ at \$10.
For **Mar. 27 (Williams)**, reserve ___ space(s) at \$25, ___ at \$30, ___ at \$10.
For **Apr. 2 (Rees)**, please reserve ___ space(s) at \$45.
For **Apr. 5 (Kahn)**, reserve ___ space(s) at \$25, ___ at \$30, ___ at \$10.

My check for \$_____ to **THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION** is enclosed.
Charge ___MC___Visa_____ (___ / ___).

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone, Fax _____

E-Mail _____

*Member rates for ESU events are available to anyone affiliated with **BABA, CantabDC, LSE alumni, the Royal Society of Arts, the Shakespeare Guild, the Washington Society for Churchill, the Woman's National Democratic Club, and various other organizations that cooperate with the ESU.***

Please visit us online, and check for calendar updates, at www.esurwdc.org.