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The Library Company OF PHILADELPHIA MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER



Founded by Benjamin Franklin in 1731  www.librarycompany.org

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The Stewardship Program



Library Company Images Now on SepiaTown Website

The screenshot shows the SepiaTown website interface. At the top, it says 'SEPIATOWN FROM HERE TO THERE' and 'INFORMATION'. Below that, there are navigation links: 'home', 'comments', 'image info', 'share', and 'map view'. The main content area features a historical image titled '100 Block of Chestnut Street, east view' with a description: 'View of the north side of Chestnut Street, east of Second Street, to the river Delaware Philadelphia, PA, USA, 1843'. To the right of the historical image is a modern street view image of the same location, showing a multi-story brick building and a street with cars.

Become a Steward of the collections of the Library Company and sponsor your own piece of history! Through our Stewardship Program, you can support the purchase of interesting and important rare books, pamphlets, prints, and photographs. Each month, we will list new items available for stewardship on our website. Click below for more information about the program and to see the complete list of



The Library Company has uploaded several images from the Print and Photograph Department onto SepiaTown, an interactive website where visitors can view historical images from all over the world based on geographic location. SepiaTown's homepage centers in on New York City but we hope to draw enough attention to Philadelphia to make it their new opening page!

The Library Company has selected a variety of prints and photographs depicting Philadelphia in various time periods spanning from the mid-19th century to the mid-20th century. A unique feature of SepiaTown is a then/now feature (see the link near the upper right corner of the screen) juxtaposing the recent google street view with the historical image, often a stark contrast.

We hope this international site will broaden the Library Company's audience and expose our collection to new viewers. To see the Library Company's collection, either search for a Philadelphia location by keyword or maneuver the map over Philadelphia. SepiaTown's homepage can be found by clicking here: <http://www.sepiatown.com>

[Click here for more LCP news](#)

Library Company's Collection of African Americana Featured in Philadelphia Inquirer

In a recent Philadelphia Inquirer article staff writer Tom Stoelker highlighted the Library Company's collection of African



stewardship opportunities.

Frederick Gutekunst, photographer, *Estella Pincus*, albumen print carte-de-visite, August 31, 1878.

[Click here for more information.](#)

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African American History Phil Lapsansky.



[Click here to read the full article](#)

New Article by Librarian James Green Available Online

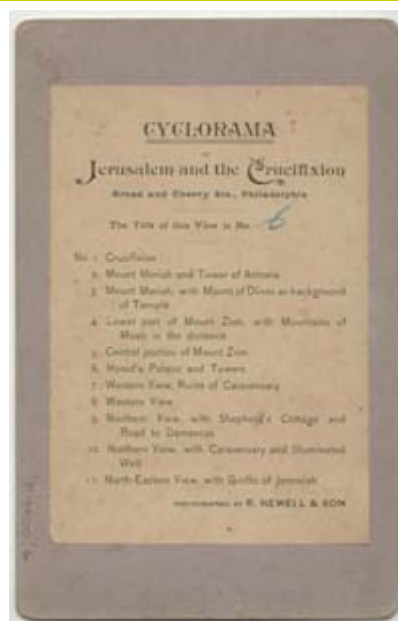
Librarian James Green published an article in the September Readex eNewsletter entitled "Supplementing Early American Imprints: The Extraordinary Collection of Michael Zinman". The article outlines the generous contributions of Mr. Zinman which significantly expanded the Library Company's imprint collection.

[Read more on the Readex website](#)

Curator's Favorite

R. Newell & Son, Jerusalem on the Day of the Crucifixion cyclorama in Philadelphia, ca. 1888.

Recently cataloged as part of a project generously supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities to process, catalog, and digitize many of our ephemera collections, this series of eleven stereographs created by the Philadelphia photographic firm R. Newell & Son documents the *Jerusalem on the Day of the Crucifixion* cyclorama. The cyclorama was displayed in Philadelphia at the northeast corner of Broad and Cherry Streets from 1888 until 1890 in a circular brick building constructed specifically for this visual form of entertainment.



Part theater, part fine art, cycloramas were an accessible, popular urban spectacle in America and Europe in the second half of the nineteenth

century. These panoramic, cylindrical paintings provided spectators with 360-degree views of life-like dramatic historical scenes. Hundreds of cycloramas commemorating battle scenes were created after the Civil War, including Paul Philippoteaux's "Battle of Gettysburg," installed in 1885 in the same circular brick building as the *Jerusalem* panorama on North Broad Street. (That cyclorama is known to have been destroyed, but another of Philippoteaux's four versions has been restored and is now on view at Gettysburg National Park Museum and Visitor Center.)

[Click here to read full article](#)

Members-Only Trip

Wednesday, October 27

Please join the Library Company for a tour of two of Philadelphia's most remarkable historic landmarks, the Masonic Lodge and the Rodeph Shalom Synagogue. This members-only, guided tour will examine architecture and artifacts from the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. The cost for the trip is \$65, including lunch.



For Questions Call: Susie Montgomery (215-546-6490) or Lois Brodsky (856-795-4129) To register and pay by credit card contact Marcelle Williams, Membership and Development Coordinator, 215-546-3181

[Click here to download the PDF flier for the trip](#)

Nag Hammadi Codices Program with Julia Miller



Friday, October 29 reception at 5:30 p.m., program at 6:00

Julia Miller, former senior conservator on the staff of the University of Michigan conservation lab, will discuss the Nag Hammadi Codices. Ms. Miller will focus on the 1945 find along with related discoveries in terms of bookbinding history and materials.

Please RSVP online at: <http://www.librarycompany.org/events/index.htm> or call 215-546-3181.

To learn more about the Nag Hammadi Codices visit: <http://www.nag-hammadi.com/index.html>

[Click here for more Library Company events](#)

October Ben's Lens



As part of our National Endowment for the Humanities ephemera cataloging grant, Visual Materials Cataloger Linda Wisniewski cataloged a series of twenty-two stereographs of an estate. Taken about 1865 by Philadelphia commercial photographer Robert Newell, the images depict a main house, outbuildings, and extensive yards and gardens at an unidentified location. Family members ride horses, pick fruit, read, play croquet, gather to eat on the porch and under a tent, and stitch on an enormous American flag. The only identification on the stereographs is a manuscript note on one reading: "For Mr. Wilson with Compliments of the Artist." Robert Newell, the photographer, is not known to have travelled outside the greater Philadelphia area and we are hoping that one of our Ben's Lens readers will recognize the house and grounds. Four representative stereographs from the series have been scanned for this Ben's Lens. These stereographs are wonderful images that would be made even more valuable to researchers if we could learn more about them.

[Click here for the October Ben's Lens](#)

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