The Library Company of PHILADELPHIA

John C. Van Horne Director

John C. Van Horne is the Director of the Library Company of Philadelphia, where he is responsible for all aspects of the management of the institution. Van Horne has been working at the Library Company for over twenty years. During his tenure at the institution, he has achieved many significant accomplishments. These include: increasing the Library Company's collections; establishing and endowing an innovative Program in Early American Economy and Society; completing two major capital projects; establishing a Research Fellowship Program for doctoral candidates and senior scholars; expanding the publication program, automating the library catalog; and collaborating with other Philadelphia-area institutions on exhibitions, conferences, publications, cataloging projects, and the creation of research centers.

For ten years prior to joining the Library Company, Van Horne was a full-time staff member of a research project that produced a microform and a ten-volume printed edition of the journals, correspondence, and drawings of Benjamin Henry Latrobe, famed American architect and engineer. From 1985 until the completion of the project in 1995, Van Horne remained on the team as a consultant.

Recently, Van Horne has been editor or co-editor of several books, including America's Curious Botanist: A Tercentennial Reappraisal of John Bartram (1699-1777); and Traveling the Pennsylvania Railroad: The Photographs of William H. Rau. Also, he has published a number of articles in recent years, such as "The Education of African Americans in Benjamin Franklin's Philadelphia" in Educating the Youth of Pennsylvania: Worlds of Learning in the Age of Franklin; "The History and Collections of the Library Company of Philadelphia," in The Magazine Antiques, and articles about the William Rau Collection of Pennsylvania Railroad Photographs in The Magazine Antiques, Pennsylvania Heritage, and Railroad History.

Van Horne received his bachelor's degree in history from Princeton University, and then completed both his master's degree and doctorate in history at the University of Virginia. He has received many awards and honors over the course of his career, including induction into the American Philosophical Society and the American Antiquarian Society.