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PRESS RELEASE

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REFLECTIONS ON THE

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RIVER



The Library Celebrates

TALL STACKS

New Web Page Links River's Past with the Future

The Public Library Celebrates
Tall Stacks Online with
"Reflections on the River"
through October

A new web page, *Reflections on the River: The Library Celebrates Tall Stacks*, brings the age of steamboats to the electronic highway. Created by the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County as a tribute to the city's rich river heritage, it's the primary gateway to the Library's version of Tall Stacks. Individuals can access a complete line-up of exciting programs and exhibits to be presented free by the Library through this one central navigational point at www.cincinnati.library.org/tallstacks/.

"It's a one stop site for everything the Library is doing this fall in celebration of the river and Tall Stacks," said Sandy Bolek, the Library's Web Site Coordinator. "In addition, those who want to delve deeper into the river's past, and the monumental role it played in the development of Cincinnati, will find a wide variety of suggested reading resources featured from the Library's vast collection."

Through a link on the web page, the curious-minded can learn even more by logging onto the Library's online digital exhibit, *Three Voices from Cincinnati's Past*. By combining audio, images and text, this multidimensional online exhibit provides a unique snapshot into the 19th century. "Inspired by other educational sites, such as ones created by the Smithsonian, it's a fascinating way for the Library to take advantage of the flexibility of the Web," continued Bolek. "Viewers will be able to see a variety of interesting materials from the collection without making a trip to the Library."

In this exhibit, three people who either lived in or passed through Cincinnati during the 1800s offer their impressions of the city. Accompanying each narrative are images from the Library's collection of books, maps, photographs, and other documents. The individuals are:

- ◇ Eliza C. Potter—This African American businesswoman, who spent three months in a Kentucky jail for assisting a runaway slave and journeyed to France working as a maid and governess, recorded her experiences and insights in her autobiography, *A Hairdresser's Experience in High Life* (1859).
- ◇ Frances Trollope—Beset by financial misfortune and marital difficulties in England, Ms. Trollope moved to America in 1827 with the intention of building a utopian community in Tennessee. Horrified by the primitive living conditions there, she fled upriver to Cincinnati. In 1832, she launched her career as a writer with the publication of *Domestic Manners of the Americans*.
- ◇ James S. Wise—This steamboat captain began his career on the river as a steamboat clerk in the late 1850s. Following the Civil War he invested in several steamboats, served as superintendent of a Cincinnati packet boat company, and was partner in a steamboat supply business.

Library's Programs & Exhibits Bring History Alive

As part of this exciting, community-wide celebration of the Queen City and the river, the Library's series of free programs and exhibits, made possible by the Friends of the Public Library, offers something for all ages. A photo contest, *Teens and Tall Stacks: A Picture Tells a Thousand Words*, preceded by several workshops, will help teens develop photography skills. Along with other lively programs, Captain Bill Judd's *Steamboats for Kids* will inspire young river enthusiasts.

A variety of exceptional exhibits and lectures geared toward adults are also part of this river-inspired mix. Noted photographer Andrew Borowiec's exhibit, made possible by the Fey Trust Fund, features 60 photos from his critically acclaimed book, *Along the Ohio*. It can be viewed at the Main Library from September 1-October 31. Art prints by noted marine artist Michael Blaser, whose latest print, *Winter Packets*, is to be featured during Tall Stacks, will be also be on display at the Main Library from September 4-November 15 (along with books, illustrations, pamphlets and other materials related to steamboats depicted in his images). In addition, both artists will give talks about their work and the influence the Ohio River has had on their art and their lives. A series of mini displays featuring aspects of the river will also be on view from September 15-October 20 at various branches around Hamilton County.

Another major exhibit to be held at the Main Library features the history of Cincinnati's Verdin Bell Company and the bell casting process. A program about the process and Verdin's story behind the makings of the world's first traveling bell foundry, will also be presented in conjunction with the exhibit at the Main

Library. By the end of the year, the company will cast a signature Bicentennial bronze bell on site in every county around Ohio. As part of a two-day public event during Tall Stacks, Verdin will once again ignite the spirit of Ohio's Bicentennial as it casts Hamilton County's bell, October 15-16.

Visit the Library's Booth at Tall Stacks

Amid the "tall stacks" of the Library, as well as on the riverfront, the fun and excitement will continue to flow. For an interactive literature experience, all ages will enjoy the festivities at McGuffey's Circle in Sawyertown. Stop by the Library's booth to see what the Library has to offer, where you can also learn more about Cincinnati's past by logging onto the Library's online digital exhibit.

√**Information about events at the Main Library and 41 branch libraries is available on the Internet site: www.CincinnatiLibrary.org.**