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“Lafcadio Hearn’s Japan Today” with Steve Kemme at the Main Library · November 21

September 26, 2004 marked the 100th anniversary of the death of Lafcadio Hearn. To pay tribute to this well-known writer, translator, educator, and one of the first Western authors to detail 19th century Japanese life, a symposium, *Lafcadio Hearn in International Perspectives*, was recently held in four cities in Japan over a nine-day period. On Sunday, November 21, 2:00 p.m., Steve Kemme of *The Cincinnati Enquirer*, who attended the conference, will present a program at the Main Library: *Lafcadio Hearn’s Japan Today*. The program will be held at the Main Library (800 Vine Street) in the Huenefeld Tower Room (south building, third floor).

Lafcadio Hearn, who was born in Greece in 1850, raised in Ireland, and schooled in England and France, arrived in Cincinnati at the age of 19. From 1872-1877 he wrote for both the *Enquirer* and the *Commercial*, closely recording Cincinnati’s life and society in over 330 articles.

While in Cincinnati, Hearn worked as a private secretary and translator for Thomas Vickers, the Librarian of the Cincinnati Public Library. He was in the personal employ of the librarian, not an actual library employee. The author spent a lot of time reading his favorite French authors at the Library. In a manuscript fragment in Hearn’s own hand, he wrote that he “wandered the streets and nourished his dreams in the public library.”

In 1874 journalist Lafcadio Hearn and Henry Farny, staff artist of *The Cincinnati Enquirer*, teamed up to produce *Ye Gliglampz, A Weekly Illustrated Journal Devoted to Art, Literature, and Satire*. This venture was Cincinnati’s equivalent of *Punch*. In 1983 the Friends of the Public Library published a limited-edition facsimile of this journal, which is available for purchase in the Friends Shop. Through November 21 the Rare Books & Special Collections Department will display the only complete set of this journal known to exist, which happens to be annotated by Hearn.

- ✓ **Our goal is to make our programs accessible to everyone. Please request ADA services one week in advance at 513-369-4406 (TTY 369-4409).**
- ✓ **Information about events at the Main Library and 41 branch libraries is available on the Internet site: www.CincinnatiLibrary.org.**