



The Library Company OF PHILADELPHIA

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WORD AND IMAGE IN AMERICAN AUTOBIOGRAPHY, 1790-1850

Christopher Hunter, the Library Company's 2008-2009 William H. Helfand Fellow in Visual Culture presents his research on Benjamin Franklin images within the context of his autobiography.



Frontispiece portrait from *The Works of Dr. Benjamin Franklin*. Baltimore: N. Hickman, 1835. Collection of the Library Company of Philadelphia.

Wednesday, January 14, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

(Reception at 5:30 p.m.; program begins at 6:00 p.m.)

Presented by the Library Company's Visual Culture Program

PHILADELPHIA, January 06, 2008: Christopher Hunter, a PhD Candidate in Comparative Literature at the University of Pennsylvania, will speak about the role of visual matter – particularly author portraits and illustrations – in Early Republic and Antebellum autobiography. He will explore how such images play a crucial role in mediating the reader's encounter with the author's life-story. Does it matter if the wrong person is portrayed? If the portrait is pure invention? That the writers of autobiography rarely had a hand in the visual features of their books? Join us for an intriguing program, three days before the 303rd birthday of Benjamin Franklin, America's most famous autobiographer.

On **Wednesday, January 14**, Hunter, the Library Company's 2008 William H. Helfand Fellow in Visual Culture will present *Word and Image in American Autobiography* at the Library Company of Philadelphia, 1314 Locust Street.

A reception will begin at 5:30, with the program to follow from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. The event is **free** and open to the public, but reservations are requested. Contact Lauren Propst at lpropst@librarycompany.org or 215-546-3181 to RSVP.



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The Library Company's Visual Culture Program promotes the use of historical images as primary source material in studying the past and disseminates information about the collection, interpretation, and care of historic visual material.

Background Information about the Library Company

The Library Company of Philadelphia is an independent research library concentrating on American society and culture from the 17th through 19th centuries. Free and open to the public, the Library Company houses an extensive non-circulating collection of rare books, manuscripts, broadsides, ephemera and works of art. The mission of the Library Company is to preserve, interpret, make available, and augment the valuable materials within our care. We serve a diverse constituency throughout Philadelphia and the nation, offering comprehensive reader services, an internationally renowned fellowship program, an online public access catalog, and regular exhibitions and public programs. Located at 1314 Locust Street, Philadelphia, it is open to the public free of charge from 9:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Monday through Friday. The Library Company can be found online at www.librarycompany.org.

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