

BICENTENNIAL CHRONOLOGY

DECEMBER 1989

Librarian of Congress James H. Billington convenes the first meeting to discuss several approaches to the Bicentennial celebration. He emphasizes that the Bicentennial must “demonstrate why the history of the Library of Congress is relevant to the institution’s future and to the intellectual and cultural life of this country and of the world.”

MARCH 1995

The Librarian informs the Joint Committee on the Library about the Library’s developing Bicentennial plans and seeks congressional sponsorship of a bill to authorize two commemorative coins in 2000.

MAY 1996

The Librarian writes the Citizens’ Stamp Advisory Committee, requesting a Bicentennial stamp to be issued on April 24, 2000, the Library’s 200th birthday.

AUGUST 1996

In a letter to the director of the U.S. Mint, the Librarian seeks the approval of the Citizens Commemorative Coin Advisory Committee for two commemorative coins in 2000.

OCTOBER 1996

The staff Bicentennial Steering Committee is established and begins regular meetings. Chaired by John Y. Cole, director of the Center for the Book, the committee has the following members: Norma Baker, director of development; Jill Brett, public affairs officer; Jo Ann Jenkins, chief of staff; Geraldine Otremba, director of the Congressional Relations Office; Winston Tabb, associate librarian for library services; and Roberta Stevens, staff assistant. The Madison Council Advisory Committee for the Bicentennial meets for the first time.

AUGUST 1997

The Librarian makes a presentation in New York City before the U.S. Mint's Citizens Commemorative Coin Advisory Committee.



John Y. Cole, director of the Center for the Book, briefs members of the media about the Library's Bicentennial plans on Monday, October 6, 1997, in the Librarian's ceremonial office in the Jefferson Building. Librarian of Congress James H. Billington sits in the audience. (Photo by N. Alicia Byers)



Among the guests of Dr. and Mrs. James Billington (center) at a gala to launch the Library's Bicentennial on October 7, 1997, are General and Mrs. Colin Powell. (Photo by N. Alicia Byers)

OCTOBER 6, 1997

During a news conference in his ceremonial office in the Thomas Jefferson Building, Dr. Billington outlines preliminary plans for the celebration of the Library's Bicentennial, including the Bicentennial goal of "inspiring creativity in the century ahead by stimulating greater use of the Library of Congress and libraries everywhere" and the theme and logo "Libraries, Creativity, Liberty."

OCTOBER 7, 1997

The Bicentennial celebration is officially launched with a fund-raiser that is supported by the Library's Madison Council and that raises more than \$800,000 for the Bicentennial Fund.

NOVEMBER 13, 1997

At an all-day retreat, the Bicentennial Steering Committee agrees on a general schedule of Bicentennial events; adds "Gifts to the Nation" as a component of the commemoration; and invites Laura Campbell, director of the National Digital Library program, to become part of the committee. Lindy Boggs, U.S. ambassador to the Vatican, and Mark O. Hatfield, former senator from Oregon, are named honorary Bicentennial cochairst.

DECEMBER 1997

The Citizens Commemorative Coin Advisory Committee recommends to Congress that the nation's first bimetallic coin be issued to commemorate the Library's Bicentennial in 2000.



Posing with stamp designer Ethel Kessler, Librarian of Congress James Billington and Deputy Librarian Donald Scott (*center*) are (*left to right*) members of the Bicentennial Steering Committee: Geraldine Otremba, director of Congressional Relations; John Cole, cochair and director of the Center for the Book; Jo Ann Jenkins, cochair and chief of staff; Roberta Stevens, Bicentennial program manager; and Jill Brett, public affairs officer. Not pictured are Winston Tabb, associate librarian for library services; Laura Campbell, director of the National Digital Library; and Norma Baker, director of the Development Office. (*Photo by Jim Higgins*)

DECEMBER 18, 1997

The Bicentennial Steering Committee presents its overall plan for discussion and approval to the Librarian, the Library's Executive Committee, and the Library's Senior Management Reporting Group. Jo Ann Jenkins, chief of staff, is named cochair of the Bicentennial Steering Committee.

JANUARY 1998

The Bicentennial Steering Committee solicits proposals for Bicentennial projects from the Library's staff.

FEBRUARY 1998

Postmaster General Marvin T. Runyon informs Dr. Billington that the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee has approved a Library of Congress Bicentennial stamp for 2000.

JULY 1998

Roberta Stevens becomes Bicentennial program manager, and the Bicentennial Program Office begins operations.

OCTOBER 21, 1998

President Clinton signs the Library of Congress Bicentennial Coin Act of 1998, authorizing two commemorative coins for the Library's celebration.

Bicentennial Program Office staff members (*from left*) are Kathy Woodrell, Robert Sokol, Cynthia Jones, and Bicentennial Program Manager Roberta Stevens.



Staff members who submitted Bicentennial projects include (*clockwise from left*): Frank Evina, Sandra Sawicki (*back*), Charlynn Pyne, Charles Stanhope, Amparo Torres, and Helen Fedor. Chief of Staff Jo Ann Jenkins, cochair of the Bicentennial Steering Committee, stands to Evina's left. (*Photo by Glen Krankowski*)



A commemorative ten-dollar bimetalllic coin, made of gold and platinum (*above*), and a one-dollar silver coin are first issued on April 24, 2000, to honor the Library of Congress.

APRIL 5, 1999

The Library announces a “once-in-a-century” series of appointments for the Library’s poetry program in preparation for the Library’s Bicentennial. Robert Pinsky will serve an unprecedented third term as poet laureate consultant in poetry. The Library will have three special consultants in poetry: former poet laureate Rita Dove, Louise Glück, and W. S. Merwin.

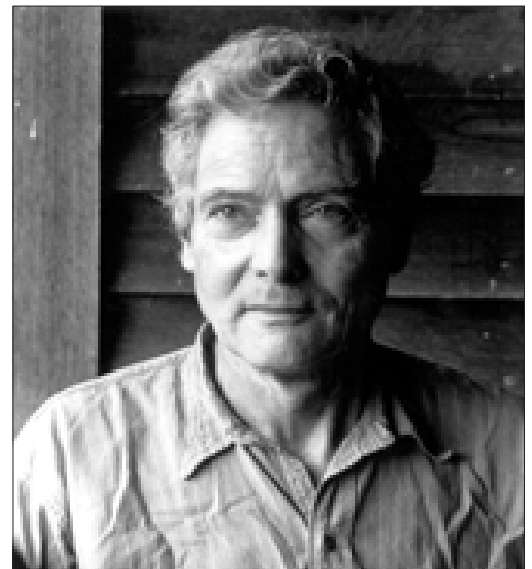
Robert Pinsky was appointed for an unprecedented third term as poet laureate consultant in poetry to promote various poetry initiatives during the Library’s Bicentennial year. *(Photo by Elizabeth Paul)*



Poet Rita Dove was named by the Librarian as a special consultant to join Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky and fellow poets Louise Glück and W. S. Merwin in promoting various poetry initiatives during the Library’s Bicentennial year. *(Photo by Fred Viebahn)*



The Librarian named Louise Glück to be a special consultant and to join Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky and fellow poets Rita Dove and W. S. Merwin in promoting various poetry initiatives during the Library’s Bicentennial year. *(Photo by James Baker Hall)*



Special consultant W. S. Merwin joined Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky and fellow poets Louise Glück and Rita Dove in promoting various poetry initiatives during the Library’s Bicentennial year. *(Photo by Matthew Carlos Schwartz)*

APRIL 14, 1999

The Bicentennial's Gifts to the Nation program is launched during a news conference announcing a \$1 million gift from Madison Council member Jerral Jones and his wife, Gene, to replace books lost in an 1851 fire that destroyed nearly two-thirds of Thomas Jefferson's library.

MAY 20, 1999

The first Bicentennial exhibition, *The Work of Charles and Ray Eames: A Legacy of Invention*, opens. All Bicentennial exhibitions celebrate the theme of "Libraries, Creativity, Liberty."

Jerral Jones, owner of the Dallas Cowboys, and his wife, Gene, present James Billington with a copy of *Hermes, or a Philosophical Inquiry Concerning Universal Grammar*, to launch the effort to reconstruct Thomas Jefferson's library. Mr. and Mrs. Jones give \$1 million toward this project. (Photo by Glen Krankowski)

Exhibition brochure from *The Work of Charles and Ray Eames: A Legacy of Invention* shows the two exuberant designers hand in hand.



JUNE 1999

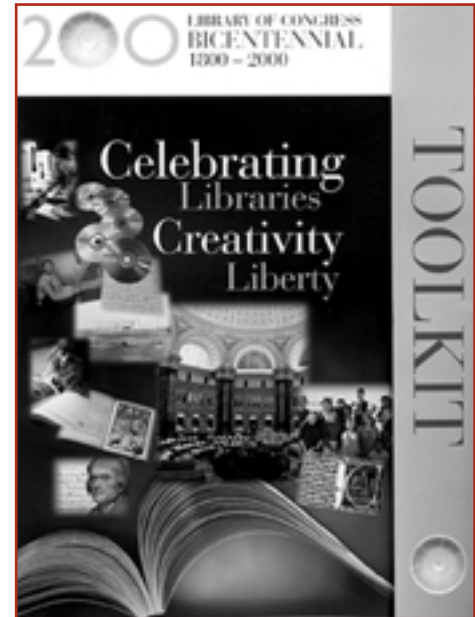
In cooperation with the American Library Association, the Library distributes nationwide a “Toolkit” and “Tip Sheet” with ideas for libraries to celebrate the Library of Congress Bicentennial.

JUNE 14-17, 1999

The first Bicentennial symposium, “Frontiers of the Mind in the Twenty-First Century,” is held. Distinguished scholars in some twenty fields of knowledge examine significant developments in the past century and explore the challenges ahead.

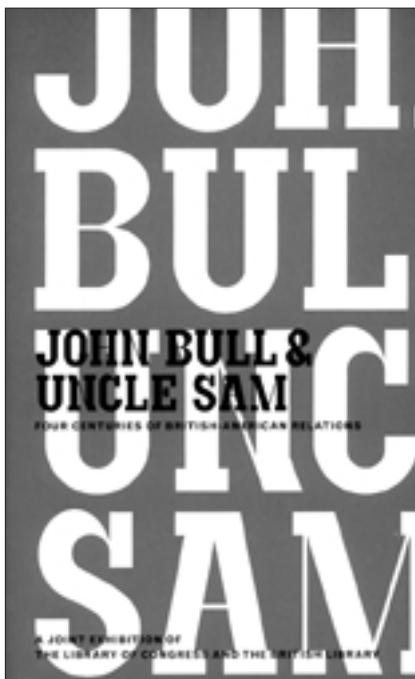
Among the speakers at the “Frontiers of the Mind in the Twenty-First Century” symposium are (*front row*) Pierre Manent, Michael Fishbane, Mary Douglas, David Baltimore, Kwabena Nketia, Judith Brown, Martin Rees, Mohammed Arkoun, Michael Monastyrsky, Laura Nader, and Daniel Bell; (*back row*) Vyacheslav Ivanov, Michael Woodford, Bruce Alberts, Jerome Friedman, Eric Lander, Marc Davis, Jonathan Spence, Prosser Gifford, Bert Bolin, Steven Pinker, Nils Hasselmo, Gerald Edelman, Leon Lederman, Neil Smelser, Shlomo Aviner, Wallace Broecker, and Charles Rosen. (*Photo by Pat Fisher*)

Developed jointly by the Library of Congress and the American Library Association, the Bicentennial Toolkit wins first place in the “Best Promotional Campaign” category from the National Association of Government Communicators.





"Inquiring Minds" wins grand prize in the national photography contest "Beyond Words: Celebrating America's Libraries," sponsored jointly by the Library of Congress and the American Library Association. The photograph features three young children using a computer at the Liverpool (N.Y.) Public Library. (Photo by Kirsten Baker, 1999)



John Bull & Uncle Sam: Four Centuries of British-American Relations features items from both the British Library and the Library of Congress. The exhibition, documented in this brochure, illuminates the common history of Britain and the United States.

JUNE 26, 1999

Winners of the national photography contest "Beyond Words: Celebrating America's Libraries" are announced. Sponsored jointly by the Library of Congress and the American Library Association, the contest invited photographers to feature people using libraries.

OCTOBER 1999

To mark the Bicentennial, the Music Division launches "I Hear America Singing," a three-year series of concerts, recordings, and educational programs emphasizing America's musical heritage from colonial days to the end of the twentieth century. Taking its title from Walt Whitman's poem, the series is excerpted for radio broadcast nationally and internationally.

NOVEMBER 18, 1999

The second Bicentennial exhibition, *John Bull & Uncle Sam: Four Centuries of British-American Relations*, opens and will remain on view until March 4, 2000.

FEBRUARY 29-MARCH 1, 2000

The Congressional Research Service sponsors “Informing the Congress and the Nation,” a Bicentennial symposium for Congress and its staff.

MARCH 7-10, 2000

The Bicentennial symposium “Democracy and the Rule of Law in a Changing World Order” is sponsored jointly by the Law Library of Congress and New York University School of Law.



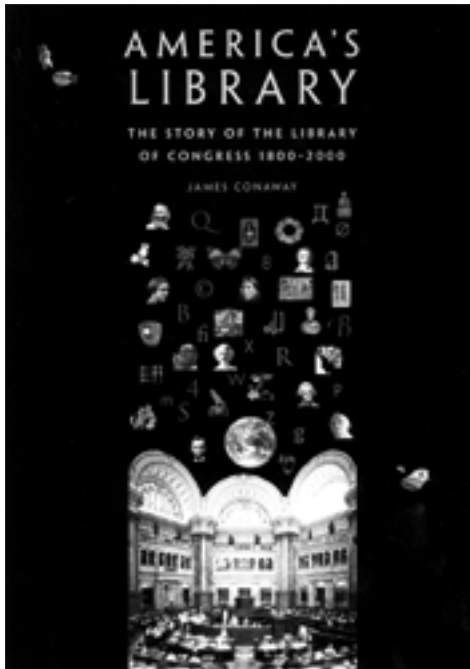
Sponsored jointly by the Law Library of Congress and New York University School of Law, the Bicentennial symposium “Democracy and the Rule of Law in a Changing World Order” takes place on March 7-10, 2000.



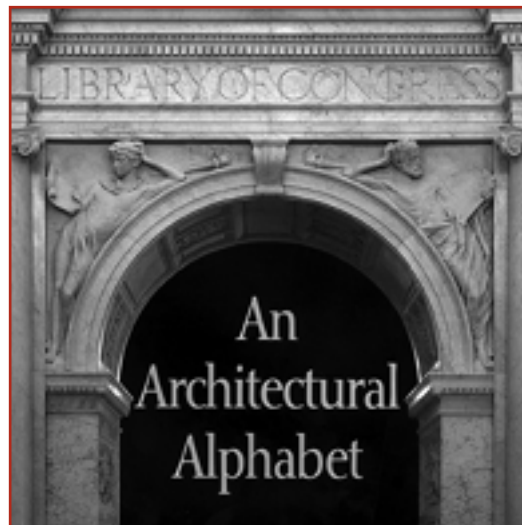
Former Representative David Skaggs, former Senator Nancy Kassebaum Baker, Librarian of Congress James Billington, former Senator Dale Bumpers, and former Representative Mickey Edwards discuss how Congress collects, disseminates, and acts on information. This Bicentennial symposium, “Informing the Congress and the Nation,” is sponsored by the Congressional Research Service. *(Photo by Yusef El-Amin)*

APRIL 2000

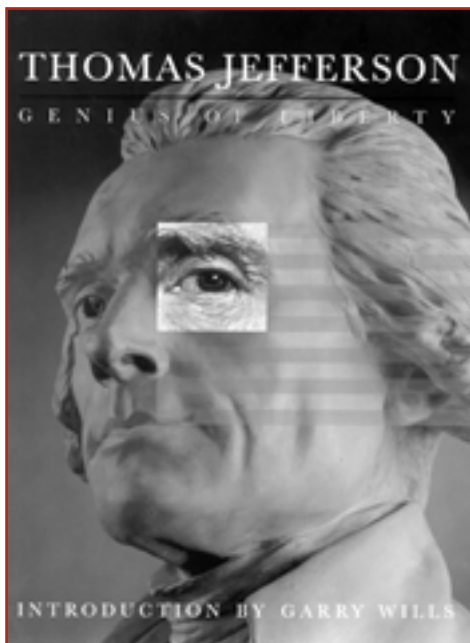
Three books are published in honor of the Library's Bicentennial: *America's Library: The Story of the Library of Congress, 1800–2000*, by James Conaway (Yale University Press); *Thomas Jefferson: Genius of Liberty*, with an introduction by Garry Wills and essays by Pauline Maier, Charles A. Miller, Annette Gordon-Reed, Peter S. Onuf, and Joseph J. Ellis (Viking Studio); and *The Library of Congress: An Architectural Alphabet* (Pomegranate).



America's Library: The Story of the Library of Congress, 1800–2000, by James Conaway is published by Yale University Press for the 200th anniversary of the institution, providing an accessible and fascinating history in a beautiful book.



The Library of Congress: An Architectural Alphabet (Pomegranate) illustrates unusual architectural details as it guides the reader on a delightful and captivating tour of the Thomas Jefferson Building, its arches, helixes, quoins, spandrels, vaults, and more.



Thomas Jefferson: Genius of Liberty, with an introduction by Garry Wills, includes essays by Pauline Maier, Charles A. Miller, Annette Gordon-Reed, Peter S. Onuf, and Joseph J. Ellis. These scholars explore the life of this complex man whose views influenced every major political event in our nation's early life. The book is a companion to a Library of Congress Bicentennial exhibition on Jefferson.

APRIL 3-4, 2000

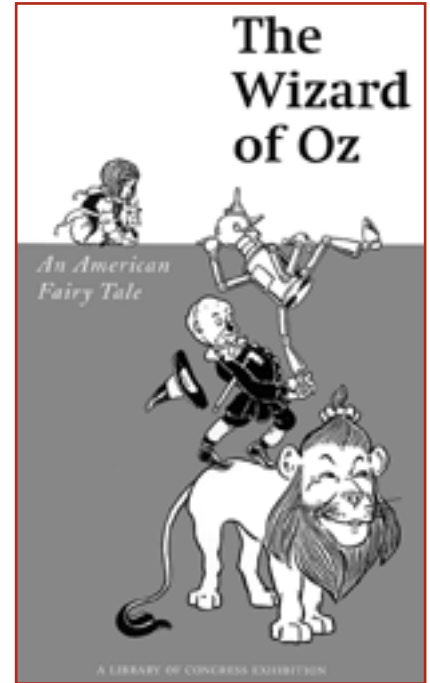
The Bicentennial symposium “Poetry and the American People: Reading, Voice, and Publication in the 19th and 20th Centuries” is held as one of the Library’s Bicentennial initiatives. At the culmination of the Favorite Poem project, Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky presents to the Library tapes made during the past two years of Americans from all walks of life reading their favorite poems.

APRIL 11, 2000

Coin designs are announced at a press conference held in the U.S. Capitol.

APRIL 21, 2000

The third Bicentennial exhibition, *The Wizard of Oz: An American Fairy Tale*, opens and will remain on view until September 23, 2000. The exhibition celebrates the 100th anniversary of one of the most famous works ever registered for copyright by the U.S. Copyright Office in the Library of Congress.



The Wizard of Oz: An American Fairy Tale, an exhibition that marks the centennial of the copyright registration by L. Frank Baum of one of America’s favorite stories, draws thousands of viewers to see Oz-related items.



Representative William M. Thomas (R-Calif.) unveils images of the Library’s Bicentennial commemorative coins. Other members of Congress at the congressional press briefing are (left to right) Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.), Representative Vernon J. Ehlers (R-Mich.), and (far right) Senator Ted Stevens (R-Alaska). Dr. Billington greets Senator Moynihan. (Photo by Paul Hogroian)

“Favorite Poem” readers, including former Poet Laureate Rita Dove, greet members of the audience after the April 3 presentation in the Library’s Coolidge Auditorium. This is the culmination of the project to record 1,000 Americans reading poems they love. (Photo by Yusef El-Amin)





The Library of Congress Bicentennial commemorative stamp, designed by Ethel Kessler, is issued on April 24, 2000.

APRIL 24, 2000

The Library's 200th birthday party is held. After many days of rain, the sun shines on the Library, its friends, and its staff. Highlights include the issuing of the commemorative stamp and two commemorative coins in ceremonies in the Great Hall; the launching of America's Library <www.americaslibrary.gov>, an easy-to-use Web site for families and young people; the announcement of three resolutions (from the U.S. Congress, the American Library Association, and the California State Senate) and two proclamations (from the president of the United States and the mayor of the District of Columbia) congratulating the Library on its Bicentennial; a program and concert on the U.S. Capitol's East Lawn honoring eighty-four Living Legends—men and women who have made creative contributions to American life—and featuring top American singers and entertainers; a luncheon for the Living Legends; and an evening gala to celebrate the opening of the major Bicentennial exhibition, *Thomas Jefferson*.



The first-day-of-issue ceremonies for a commemorative stamp and coins are held on April 24, 2000, in the Great Hall of the Thomas Jefferson Building of the Library of Congress, 200 years after President John Adams signed an act establishing the Library in Washington. (Photo by Christina Tyler Wenks)



Unveiling the Library's commemorative stamp are (from left) Sarah Ann Long, president, American Library Association; Ethel Kessler, stamp designer; Henry Pankey, mid-Atlantic area vice president, U.S. Postal Service; James Billington, Librarian of Congress; and C. Douglas Lewis, vice chairman, Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee. (Photo by Larica Perry)

Autographing certificates of authenticity for purchasers of coins are coin sculptors or engravers (seated from left) Thomas D. Rogers and John M. Mercanti from the U.S. Mint. (Photo by Fern Underdue)



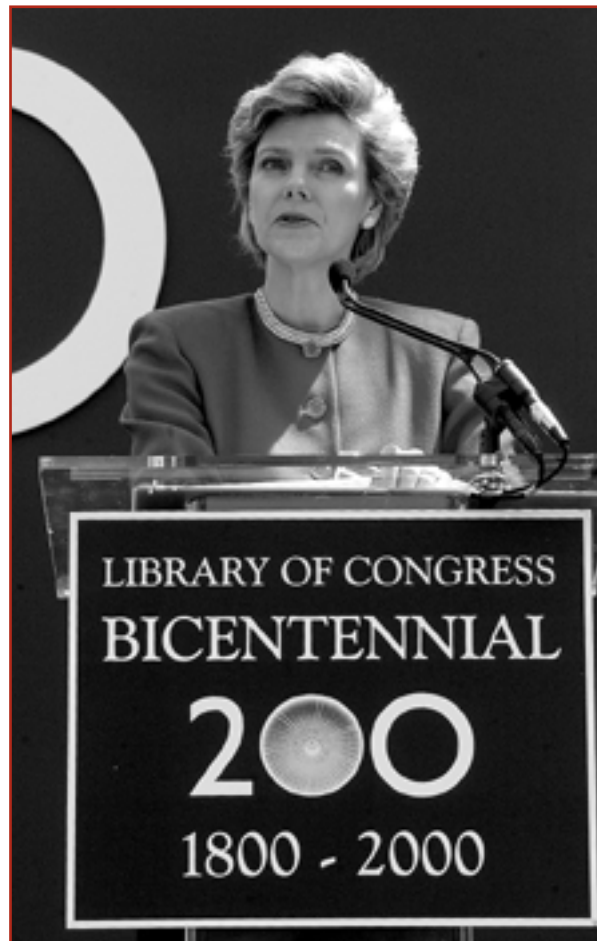
The Ad Council launches a campaign to promote the America's Library Web site. Images of children playing with cardboard cutouts of historical figures, such as George Washington, suggest a way to have fun with history.



(From left) Marjorie Billington and James H. Billington join more than 5,000 people at the Bicentennial birthday celebration concert on the lawn at the East Front of the U.S. Capitol on April 24, 2000. (Photo by MH Photography & Concepts)



The America's Library Web site offers interactive ways for children to learn about history.



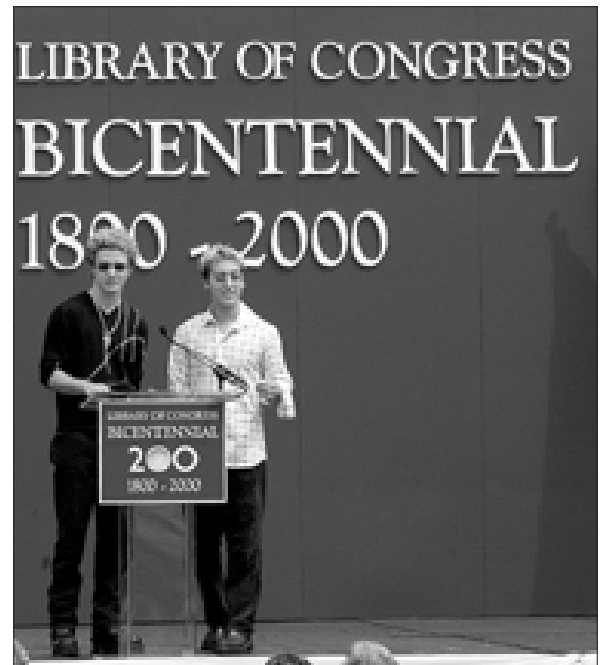
Cokie Roberts, journalist and news analyst for ABC News, hosted the program for the Library's birthday party, April 24, 2000. (Photo by MH Photography & Concepts)



(From left) Mickey Hart and Bob Weir, former Grateful Dead musicians, perform at the Library's birthday concert. (Photo by Natalie J. Evans)



(From left) Justin Timberlake and Lance Bass from the pop group 'N Sync participate in the Library's birthday concert. (Photo by MH Photography & Concepts)



A Living Legend, Tito Puente, performs at the Library's birthday concert. (Photo by Christina Tyler Wenks)



The Kan Kouran West African Dance Group excites the crowd with rhythm and colorful costumes. (Photo by Natalie J. Evans)



The Smokey Town Singers
drum and chant. *(Photo by Gail
Fineberg)*



Pete Seeger, a Living Legend, sings *Turn! Turn! Turn!* *(Photo by Paul
Hogroian)*



Jazz singer Dianne Reeves performs at the Library's
birthday concert. *(Photo by Paul Hogroian)*



Deputy Librarian Donald Scott and Librarian James Billington thank Michele Glymph and Anne McLean of the Library's Music Division for their work coordinating the Bicentennial concert.



Onlookers watch as illusionist and Living Legend David Copperfield makes them believe he has shrunk to about two feet in height. *(Photo by Christina Tyler Wenks)*

The Library of Congress honors eighty-four Living Legends for creative contributions to American life, awarding each person a medal for these achievements.



Among the Living Legends honored on April 24, 2000, are *(left to right)* Jeane Kirkpatrick, Alan Lomax, Gordon Parks, Katherine Paterson, Jaroslav Pelikan, Colin Powell, and Tito Puente. *(Photo by MH Photography & Concepts)*



Big Bird and Maria stepped from the “Sesame Street” television screen to enjoy the festivities and helped blow out the candle on the Library’s 200th birthday cake.
(Photo by Paul Hogroian)



Senator Ted Stevens (R-Alaska), Librarian of Congress James Billington, and historian David McCullough attended an evening reception on April 24 and the opening of the Bicentennial exhibition *Thomas Jefferson*. (Photo by Yusef El-Amin)



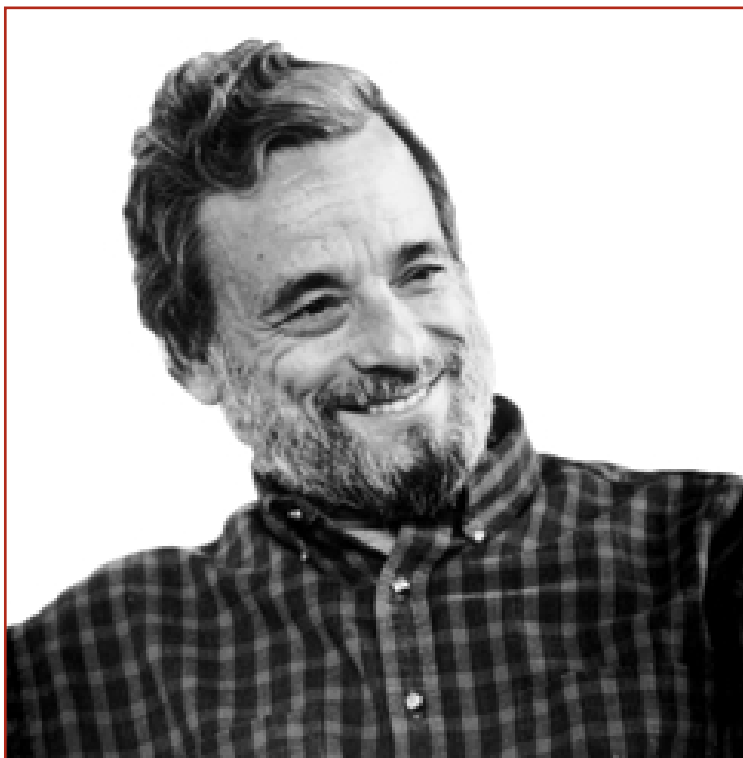
These visitors are among the first to view the *Thomas Jefferson* exhibition. The exhibition marks the first time that Jefferson’s library is assembled again in Jefferson’s original order. (Photo by Joseph Brooks)



The exhibition *Thomas Jefferson* reassembles Jefferson’s personal library and displays items from the collections that shed light on the man as founding father, architect, inventor, scholar, book collector, president, and slaveholder.



A collage of second-day-of-issue cachets from across the United States, where libraries celebrated the Bicentennial of the nation's library by hosting stamp events.



Composer Stephen Sondheim.

APRIL 25, 2000

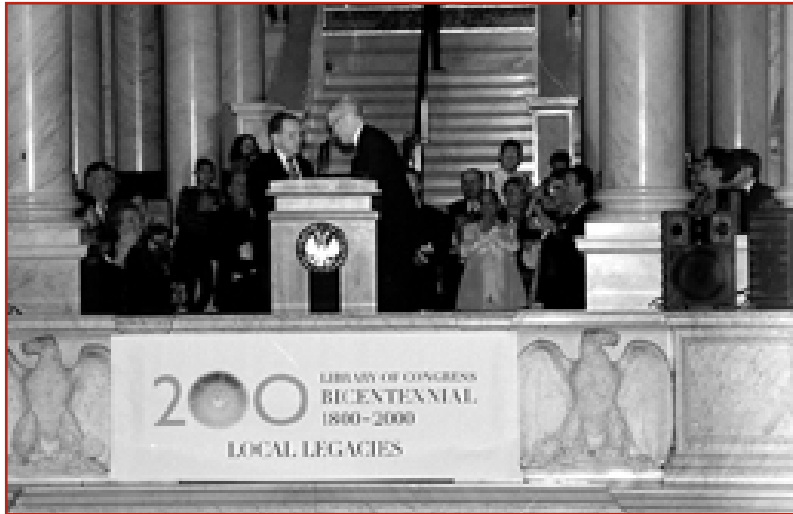
Second-day-of-issue celebrations for the Library's stamp are held across the nation.

MAY 22, 2000

The Library celebrates Stephen Sondheim's seventieth birthday with a special tribute concert as part of the Bicentennial concert series "I Hear America Singing."

MAY 23, 2000

Nearly 2,000 Local Legacies project participants, including many members of Congress, gather in the Library's Great Hall to celebrate the culmination of this project to document America's local cultural traditions.



Dr. Billington thanks Senator Ted Stevens (R-Alaska), chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library, for his support of the Local Legacies project. *(Photo by Yusef El-Amin)*



Representative Vernon Ehlers (R-Mich.) poses with visitors at the Local Legacies celebration. *(Photo by Yusef El-Amin)*



Representative Bob Ney (R-Ohio) celebrates his state's Local Legacies with constituents at a reception in the Great Hall on May 23, 2000. *(Photo by Yusef El-Amin)*



In native dress, a member of Los Isleños of St. Bernard's Parish, Louisiana, attends the Local Legacies celebration. (Photo by Yusef El-Amin)



(From left) Roberta Stevens, Bicentennial program manager, and members of the Local Legacies team Peter Seligman, Stephen Kelley, Rachel Mears, Peter Bartis, Denise Gotay Theunissen, Constance Carter, Robert Sokol, Cynthia Jones, and Evelyn McCleaf gather with Deputy Librarian Donald Scott and (back row, center) the Librarian. (Photo by Christina Tyler Wenks)



James Hardin, American Folklife Center, talks to a touring group of Local Legacies participants from Maple Falls, Washington, who submitted "Reflections from the Heart of a Small Community: Mt. Baker Foothills and Maple Falls Schools, 1899–1999, A Collection of Photos and Memories." (Photo by Liz Paul)

Don Powell, Long Leaf, Louisiana, asks Marvin Kranz, specialist from the Manuscript Division, about the Library's collections. Powell and his wife, who is standing to his right, participated in the Local Legacies project titled "Southern Forest Heritage Museum: History of Forestry and the Forest Industry in the South." (Photo by Joseph Brooks)





Participants in the annual Lamb Day parade, a festival that involves the entire rural sheep-herding community of Fountain Green, Utah, are pictured here for a Local Legacies project. *(Photo by Richard Menzies, 1984)*

Photographs of participants in the pie-eating contest at New Hampshire's Danbury Grange and Community Fair become part of a Local Legacies project. *(Photo by Lyn Ellis, 1999)*



Francisco Rosario turns wood in his shop in Manatí, Puerto Rico, part of a celebration of Puerto Rican crafts. This craft is documented as a local cultural tradition as part of the Local Legacies project. *(Photo by Giovanni Rufino, 1999)*



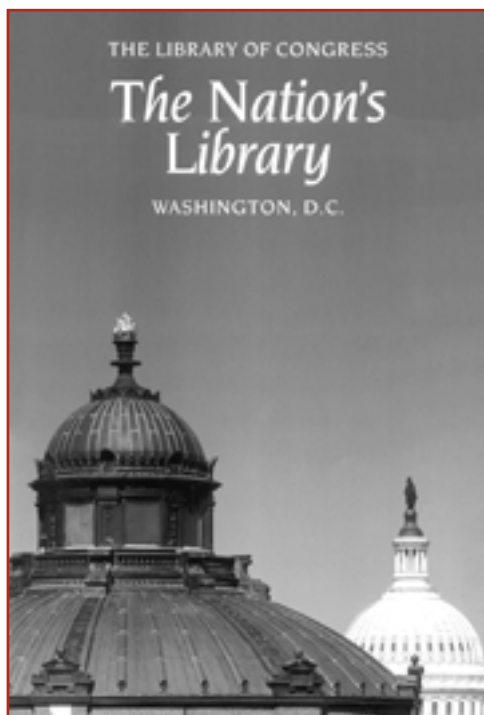
Jimmy Garrison performs at the 1972 Ann Arbor, Michigan, Jazz and Blues Festival. His performance becomes part of a Local Legacies document in the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. *(Photo by Ira Lax, 1972)*

SEPTEMBER 2000

The *Nation's Library: The Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.*, by Alan Bisbort and Linda Barrett Osborne (Scala Publishers), the first guide book to the Library of Congress in more than a decade, is published.

OCTOBER 5, 2000

The Library announces an unprecedented gift of \$60 million from Madison Council chairman John W. Kluge as part of the Bicentennial Gifts to the Nation program. The gift will establish the John W. Kluge Center in the Library of Congress and the John W. Kluge Prize in the Human Sciences. It will include endowed chairs in several areas of the human sciences.



The Nation's Library: The Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., by Alan Bisbort and Linda Barrett Osborne (Scala Publishers), provides a guide to the Library's history, collections, organization, activities, building plans, reading rooms, and services.



The Librarian thanks John Kluge for his \$60 million gift to the Library during an October 5, 2000, press conference outside the Senate chamber. Pictured behind Dr. Billington are several members of the Joint Committee on the Library. They are (*left to right*) Steny Hoyer (D-Md.); Jim Davis (D-Fla.); Representative William Thomas (R-Calif.), committee vice chairman; Senator Ted Stevens (R-Alaska), committee chairman; Representative John Boehner (R-Ohio); and Vernon Ehlers (R-Mich.). Members of the committee not pictured are Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.) and Senator Christopher Dodd (D-Conn.). (*Photo by Christina Tyler Wenks*)



Mr. and Mrs. John Kluge (*from left*) and Dr. and Mrs. James Billington prepare to attend a gala to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the James Madison Council. (*Photo by Vivian Ronay*)



Maria and John Kluge greet (*from left*) Senator Christopher Dodd (D-Conn.), and Senator Ted Stevens (R-Alaska) at a Senate reception following the announcement of Mr. Kluge's gift to the Library. (*Photo by Vivian Ronay*)



Madison Council Vice Chairman Edwin Cox and Chairman John Kluge blow out the candles on the group's tenth anniversary cake. (*Photo by Vivian Ronay*)

OCTOBER 6, 2000

The Madison Council celebrates its tenth anniversary. The Library thanks the council for its support with a display of representative projects and items that its generosity has made possible. Since its founding in 1990, the 103-member Madison Council has provided \$134.6 million in support of 208 Library initiatives, including major support for the Bicentennial.



The Librarian of Congress (*left*); Roch Carrier, National Librarian of the National Library of Canada; and Winston Tabb, associate librarian for library services, attend the Bicentennial symposium “National Libraries of the World: Interpreting the Past, Shaping the Future.” (*Photo by Larica Perry*)



(*From left*) John David Marshall, library historian, and John Y. Cole, director of the Center for the Book, participate in the Bicentennial symposium “National Libraries of the World: Interpreting the Past, Shaping the Future.” (*Photo by Charlynn Spencer Pyne*)

OCTOBER 23-26, 2000

The Bicentennial symposium “National Libraries of the World: Interpreting the Past, Shaping the Future” explores the influences shaping national libraries today. The conference is cosponsored with the American Library Association’s Library History Round Table along with the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions’ National Libraries Section, Reading Section, and Library History Round Table.

OCTOBER 30-31, 2000

The Bicentennial symposium “To Preserve and Protect: The Strategic Stewardship of Cultural Resources” focuses on the Library’s role in safeguarding its collections, which represent the nation’s intellectual heritage.

NOVEMBER 15-17, 2000

The Bicentennial symposium “Bibliographic Control for the New Millennium: Confronting the Challenges of Networked Resources and the Web” is sponsored by the Cataloging Directorate of Library Services and brings together authorities in the cataloging and metadata communities to discuss outstanding issues involving improved descriptive information and access to resources on the Internet within the framework of international standards.



Beatriz Haspo, a preventive conservation intern and fellow from Lampa-dia/Vitae Foundation of Brazil, demonstrates a clamshell-style book housing to Harvard librarian Nancy Cline during the Bicentennial symposium “To Preserve and Protect: The Strategic Stewardship of Cultural Resources.” (Photo by Yvonne French)



Beacher Wiggins, the Library’s director for cataloging, hosts the Bicentennial symposium “Bibliographic Control for the New Millennium: Confronting the Challenges of Networked Resources and the Web.” (Photo by Ana Cristan)



Mary Ellen Withrow, treasurer of the United States, and Chairman of the Madison Council John Kluge (*right*) with a plaque to thank the Council for its strong support of the sale of the Library's Bicentennial coins. James Billington and Edwin Cox, Madison Council vice chairman, join in celebrating the council's tenth anniversary. (*Photo by Vivian Ronay*)

The Library's Bicentennial time capsule is dedicated on December 20, 2000, during a ceremony in the Thomas Jefferson Building. (*Photo by Marita Clance*)



DECEMBER 2000

The Library meets its goal of mounting 5 million digital items on the Library's American Memory Web site by the end of the Bicentennial year. The U.S. Mint reports sales of 251,548 silver coins and 34,571 bimetalllic coins, yielding a potential surcharge of nearly \$3 million to fund Library of Congress programs from the issuance of Bicentennial commemorative coins. By year's end, the Gifts to the Nation program resulted in 384 cash gifts, totaling \$109.8 million in support for Library programs and initiatives.

DECEMBER 20, 2000

The Bicentennial year draws to a close with the sealing of a time capsule containing some eighty-five items documenting the daily life of the Library's staff in 2000. It is stored in a safe in the Librarian's ceremonial office in the Library of Congress Thomas Jefferson Building.

