

Delaware Humanities Forum
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**FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**

Iconic Delaware
Delaware Humanities Forum Symposium Inspired by ‘Place’

(Wilmington, Delaware-July 31, 2009) Delaware Humanities Forum caps off a year of Delaware-themed activities with a two-day event in Sussex County, *Picturing Delaware: Inside and Outside the Frame—Inspired by Place*. The event opens Friday, September 18, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the Milton Theatre with a keynote lecture and reception, and continues with a free symposium on Saturday, September 19, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. at the Milton Public Library.

Says Delaware Humanities Council President Larry Josefowski, “Milton is the perfect location for a symposium inspired by ‘place.’ Not only is it home to a great deal of well-preserved Victorian architecture, it has a rich industrial history. From ships to buttons to wreaths, Milton helped put Delaware on the map commercially during the last three centuries.”

Author and art historian W. Barksdale Maynard is Friday’s keynote speaker. His presentation, based on his award winning book, *Buildings of Delaware* (a volume in the *Buildings of the United States* series of the Society of Architectural Historians), will turn a spotlight on the churches and steeples, facades, architects, design styles and building materials that are iconic in the First State. A reception will follow.

Saturday’s schedule embraces three themes and is comprised of nearly a dozen presentations on topics such as industry, agriculture and the environment in Delaware. *Man’s Effect on the Land: Industry and Agriculture* will touch on subjects ranging from canneries to church camps to “choo choos.” *Land’s Effect on Man: The Environment* will turn attention on vocations dependent upon the First State’s unique landscape, such as river piloting and hunting. In *Portraying Place: Delaware’s Historical and Cultural Affairs* Curator Ann Baker Horsey will discuss two artists known for painting Delaware

imagery, Jack Lewis and Howard Schroeder; Ricky Sears, a drawing instructor at the Museum of Modern Art, New York, has documented the evolution of Bethany Beach through photography and painting, and will discuss the aesthetics of suburban development; and Stephen Ruszkowski, a 2009 Delaware Division of the Arts Fellow, will discuss the influence of Northern Delaware architecture on his painting.

“Delaware is often recognized for its preservation efforts,” says Executive Director Marilyn Whittington. She adds, “We are pleased to turn the humanities focus on things that Delawareans value historically—its architecture, its industrial past, its traditions and its landscapes—much of which is preserved and celebrated in Sussex County.” In 2008 – 2009, DHF sponsored a program that enabled Milton and Seaford to host the Smithsonian Institute’s traveling exhibit, *Between Fences*. The two towns uncovered a treasure trove of fence and boundary images and documentation, much of which has been added to the towns’ permanent historical collections.

All of the weekend’s activities reflect DHF’s anniversary theme. *Picturing Delaware: Inside and Outside the Frame* has offered glimpses of Delaware through the humanities, using archival photographs, paintings and other cultural material as the framework for reflecting on Delaware’s people, places and unique character. Past symposia have focused on Delaware’s history and its people.

This program is open to the public. Because seating is limited, RSVPs are requested no later than Monday, September 14; send an email with your name, email address and phone number to rsvp@dhf.org and payment instructions will be emailed to you. Payments for Friday’s lecture and reception will be accepted by mail, online or at the door. For more info: visit www.dhf.org, call (302) 657-0650 ext. 10 or toll free (800) 752-2060.

About the Delaware Humanities Forum

The humanities—subjects which include literature, ethics, political science and history—help people make a connection between their own lives and other people, cultures and ideas. Through grants and public program offerings, the Delaware Humanities Forum builds bridges to connect the daily life and work of people to the universe of human experience, thought and imagination. The Forum brings the public together with cultural,

educational and civic institutions statewide and focuses on issues of public interest and concern.

As a state division of the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Delaware Humanities Forum supports organizations by awarding grants and implementing project initiatives such as lectures, symposia, exhibitions, classroom programs and media projects. Your non-profit organization, school, library, or government agency may qualify for funding from the Forum. To learn more about funding opportunities and the other resources available through the Delaware Humanities Forum, visit our website at www.dhf.org or call (302) 657-0650 or toll free (800) 752-2060.

IF YOU GO:

Picturing Delaware: Inspired by Place

Date: Friday, September 18, 2009 at 7pm and Saturday, September 19, 2009 at 9am

Location: Friday-Milton Theatre, 110 Union Street, Milton, DE
Saturday-Milton Public Library, 121 Union Street, Milton, DE

Description: Picturing Delaware Symposium—Inspired by “Place.” Historians, curators and other experts offer glimpses of Delaware through the humanities, using iconic images of Delaware’s architecture, industry, traditions and landscapes. This two-day *Picturing Delaware*-themed event celebrates Delaware Humanities Forum’s 35th anniversary.

Price: Friday’s lecture and reception cost is \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door; Saturday symposium is free.

Contact Info: Because seating is limited, RSVPs are requested. Send an email with your name, address and phone number to rsvp@dhf.org and payment instructions will be emailed to you. For more info: visit www.dhf.org, call (302) 657-0650 ext. 10 or toll free (800) 752-2060.