



WHAT IS PAST IS PROLOGUE

The Prologue Society Newsletter

November 23, 2015

FROM THE CHAIR

It's a busy season! Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, and Christmas keep us all busy this time of year. Things are no less busy for The Prologue Society.

Sean McMeekin will be with us on Thursday, December 10 to tell us about *The Ottoman Endgame: War, Revolution, and the Making of the Modern Middle East, 1908-1923*—an extremely pertinent topic for the world we live in. Please register for this event right away (instructions below).

Stacy Schiff did an outstanding job of telling us about her book, *The Witches: Salem 1692*, this past Friday. We were both enlightened and entertained by her excellent presentation.

Karl Rove is coming! He will be here one week from today to speak to us about *The Triumph of William McKinley: Why the Election of 1896 Still Matters*, a book that will be released by the publisher tomorrow. Political junkies, Republicans, Democrats, Independents and curiosity seekers will all be on hand for this timely talk.

And the Spring Season is lining up very well. So far we have commitments from Arva Moore Parks to talk about her new book on George Merrick (January 20), and from Fergus Bordewich to present his book, *The First Congress: How James Madison, George Washington, and a Group of Extraordinary Men Invented the Government* (February 24).

A confession: I am probably the last person to sign up for membership and for events on our new website, www.theprologuesociety.org. I finally got to it a week or so ago, and I'm here to tell you that it went very smoothly. The website is way easier than most to negotiate, and Debbie Hirshson, our coordinator, is only a phone call away (305-323-1154) to help those of us who are a bit phobic about electronic technology through the process. By the way, our online payment processing is secured through SunTrust Bank, so you may enter your credit card information without a second thought.

Best wishes from the Board for a wonderful holiday season. We give thanks for your continued interest in and support of The Prologue Society.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: This is the *only* notice you will receive to register for the December 10 luncheon. We are no longer sending out reservation cards for each event.

If you haven't yet sent in your membership application, please do so right away (or activate and pay for your membership online). You will need to be on the membership rolls before we can accept your reservation for this and all future luncheons of this season.

NEXT LUNCHEON: SEAN MCMEEKIN, DECEMBER 10

The Ottoman Endgame: War, Revolution, and the Making of the Modern Middle East, 1908-1923

To register:

- **The deadline for members to register for this luncheon is Sunday, December 6.**
- **Online:** Go to www.theprologuesociety.org and follow the instructions;
- **OR by telephone:** Call 305-323-1154 and talk to Debbie Hirshson or leave a voicemail message that you plan to attend;
- **OR by regular mail:** Send note with a check for \$50.00 per person to The Prologue Society, 18495 S. Dixie Highway #373, Miami, FL 33157.
- **Include** the names of your guests.
- **IMPORTANT: IF YOU REGISTER BY MAIL, you must also call Debbie** (or reply to this email) so that she knows to expect you!

To pay:

- **Enter your credit card number** on the website;
- **OR mail a check** for \$50.00 per person to The Prologue Society, 18495 S. Dixie Highway #373, Miami, FL 33157;
- **OR bring your check** with you to the event.

Note:

- **IMPORTANT: We are no longer** sending out registration cards for luncheon events.
- **This will be the *only* notice** you will receive to register for this luncheon.
- To speed up luncheon check-in and accounting, our preference is that you: 1) pay online, OR 2) mail a check well in advance of the luncheon.
- Mail is taking up to two weeks to reach our office. Remember to call or email Debbie right away if you're paying via the mail.
- You will soon receive information about the full Spring Season slate of authors, so stay tuned! There are some save-the-dates below.
- Our office will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday November 24-29. Email or call with questions and Debbie will follow up with you ASAP.

December 10: SEAN MCMEEKIN

The Ottoman Endgame: War, Revolution, and the Making of the Modern Middle East, 1908-1923

Sean McMeekin's freshly off-the-press book draws on his years of groundbreaking research in newly opened Ottoman and Russian archives. With great storytelling flair, he makes new the epic stories we know from the Ottoman front, from Gallipoli to the exploits of Lawrence in Arabia, and introduces a vast range of new stories to Western readers.



His accounts of the lead-up to World War I and the Ottoman Empire's central role in the war itself offers an entirely new and deeper vision of the conflict. McMeekin also brilliantly reconceives our inherited Anglo-French understanding of the war's outcome and the collapse of the empire that followed. The book chronicles the emergence of modern Turkey and the carve-up of the rest of the Ottoman Empire as it has never been told before, offering a new perspective on such issues as the ethno-religious bloodletting and forced population transfers which attended the breakup of empire, the Balfour Declaration, the toppling of the caliphate, and the partition of Iraq and Syria—bringing the contemporary consequences into clear focus.

Every so often, a work of history completely reshapes our understanding of a subject of enormous historical and contemporary importance. *The Ottoman Endgame* is such a book, an instantly definitive and thrilling example of narrative history as high art.

~ Penguin Press

photo credit: KoçUniversity, Istanbul, Turkey

UPCOMING LUNCHEONS

SAVE THE DATES

January 20, 2016

Arva Moore Parks will be with us for a second time this season, presenting her new book
George Merrick, Son of the South Wind.

February 24, 2016

Fergus Bordewich is scheduled to be our February author -- his book is titled
*The First Congress: How James Madison, George Washington, and a Group of Extraordinary Men
Invented the Government*.

THE REMAINDER OF OUR SPRING SCHEDULE WILL BE ANNOUNCED SHORTLY

*Not committing to a full season's schedule too early allows Cristina Nosti, board member and our
Books & Books liaison, the ability to add to our spring season authors with new releases
and newly-scheduled tours.*

ALL LUNCHEONS

are held in the Riviera Country Club Ballroom
1155 Blue Road, Coral Gables
12 Noon to 2:00 pm
Doors open at 11:30 am

For membership and luncheon information, please visit us online at www.theprologuesociety.org,
email us at theprologuesociety@gmail.com or phone us at 305-323-1154.

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