



# WHAT IS PAST IS PROLOGUE

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The Prologue Society Newsletter

May 23, 2016

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## FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Friends of Prologue --

The Prologue Society ended its 24<sup>th</sup> season with a smashing event—Simon Montefiore's presentation of his fascinating book on the Romanov dynasty. He asked me to set this up in interview format, and that seemed to work very well for both of us.

We have had a terrific season this year—Arva Moore Parks and Howard Kleinberg led off with a cocktail event in which they discussed their experiences in writing history. Then Tim Weiner informed and entertained us with his book and his impersonation of Richard Nixon. Stacy Schiff then told us about the witches of Salem, followed by Karl Rove, who turned out to be a great speaker and a gentleman as well. Then we got a serious history lesson from Sean McMeekin on the last days of the Ottoman empire. In January, Arva came back to tell us about her wonderful biography of Coral Gables's own George Merrick, a treat that many of us had been looking forward to. Fergus Bordewich followed Arva with a wonderful presentation on the first four years of the United States Congress, and then Les Standiford told us about William Mulholland's aqueduct to Los Angeles. In April, Janice Nimura regaled us with tales of the young Japanese girls sent to America to learn Western ways, and then in May Simon Montefiore closed the season with a bang with his report on the Romanov dynasty. Whew!

NOW is the time to talk to your friends, neighbors, and countrymen (countrypersons?) about The Prologue Society. A strong membership means strong authors. If you know anyone interested, please contact Debbie Hirshson at [theprologuesociety@gmail.com](mailto:theprologuesociety@gmail.com) and she will be sure that they will receive the publicity for the 2016-2017 season.

I will sign off as your Chair now. Leading The Prologue Society for the past three years has been a great personal and professional experience for me, and I thank each and every one of you for participating in this important cultural institution in Miami. Special thanks must go to the members of the Board and to Debbie Hirshson. Tony Miyar of the The Education Foundation has also lent a hand on many occasions, and both Debbie and I are grateful to him. And continuing gratitude is due to Fred Reinhardt of Brickell Bank, Cristina Nosti of Books & Books, and Carmen and Michael Lewis of *Miami Today*. Without these sponsors, we could not have made the transition from Northern Trust Bank.

As I turn the gavel over to Marijean Miyar, I am quite confident that we can expect bigger and better things in the coming years. The Prologue Society, now completely on our own, is alive and well. Thank you all for helping to make this happen.

I now turn to my own research and writing. I hope one day to be invited to present at The Prologue Society the book I am working on, a study of Pope Nicholas III (Dante's first bad pope)—but meanwhile I will continue to be a devoted member of our wonderful Society.



Dabney (Bud) Park

## 2016-2017 SEASON

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Your board will be busy over the summer, preparing another exciting season for our members and guests. Typically, our annual mailing goes out to everyone sometime in August and our luncheons run September through April.

*Thank you*  
to our generous sponsors:



MIAMI TODAY

BOOKS & BOOKS

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For membership and luncheon information, please visit us online at [www.theprologuesociety.org](http://www.theprologuesociety.org), email us at [theprologuesociety@gmail.com](mailto:theprologuesociety@gmail.com) or phone us at 305-323-1154.



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