



Dear Members & Friends of Prologue,

I am absolutely delighted to report that The Prologue Society's first venture into virtual programming this fall was a great success! Jon Meacham, H.W. Brands and Tom Ricks, three of the outstanding historians writing today, gave marvelous presentations on their excellent new books, moderated by our own Dave Lawrence, Bud Park and yours truly. Please understand that I am not for a moment suggesting that engaging an author on a laptop or an iPad compares to meeting the author in the flesh and sharing lunch with like-minded friends in a lovely environment, but until we're all vaccinated and safe, these presentations are wonderful alternatives and we will continue them in January, February, March and April of 2021.

On **January 28th at 1:00pm** we are proud to be able to present the engaging and talented author **Simon Winchester**, who will talk to us about his new book ***Land: How the Hunger for Ownership Shaped the Modern World***. *Land* will not be released until January 19th, so we will be among the very first to hear about this book. Winchester is the author of *The Professor and the Madman: A Tale of Murder, Insanity and the Making of the Oxford English Dictionary* and *Krakatoa: The Day the World Exploded*, and many other brilliant and fascinating works of non-fiction. Winchester has been a Prologue speaker on two previous occasions and was a huge success, both as an author and raconteur. The last time he was here he spoke about his relationship with James/Jan Morris, the esteemed journalist and travel writer who died just a few weeks ago. Winchester's story of how Morris profoundly changed his life is one of the most surprising and touching accounts of mentorship I have ever heard. If we're lucky, he will tell it again in January.

On **February 25th at 1:00pm** we'll be joined by **Janice Nimura** as she presents her latest book, also due out in January, ***The Doctors Blackwell: How Two Pioneering Sisters Brought Medicine to Women and Women to Medicine***. Nimura authored *Daughters of the Samurai: A Journey from East to West and Back*, for which she joined us during the Spring 2016 season.

We've invited **Rachel Holmes** to join us in March (***Sylvia Pankhurst: Natural Born Rebel***), and we've asked **Ross King** to visit with us again in April (***Bookseller of Florence: The Story of the Manuscripts That Illuminated the Renaissance***). Holmes will likely be with us on March 25th; Ross, who was a Prologue guest author during our 2012 and 2016 seasons, has his book released on April 13th, so we expect to announce a mid- to late-April date. Members should watch their email inboxes for future Spring 2021 scheduling announcements.

We hope you're as excited about this lineup as we are!

For those of you who have not renewed for this season, please do so now. We need your moral and financial support, now more than ever! By renewing now, you will not only be able to hear and see our Spring 2021 authors, you will also have access to our Fall 2020 authors' recorded Crowdcast presentations.

Current members who missed Meacham, Brands or Ricks, or who would like to see them again, simply visit www.Crowdcast.io (Chrome is the recommended browser), sign in & enter your email address if asked (they'll then email you a link to use), and visit your "Dashboard" where you'll see all three of our presentations-then simply click and enjoy.

Remember that this season's members are automatically registered for our Crowdcast events and they receive all our featured books, mailed to them at no additional cost. Please visit us online or contact us to easily register or renew your membership for 2020-2021.

My colleagues on the Board instructed me to make this piece "heartfelt, and kinda light"-difficult instructions to follow in these troubled times. Please stay safe and take care of yourselves and if you haven't renewed, please, do it now.

Thanks,

Jim Herron
Vice Chair