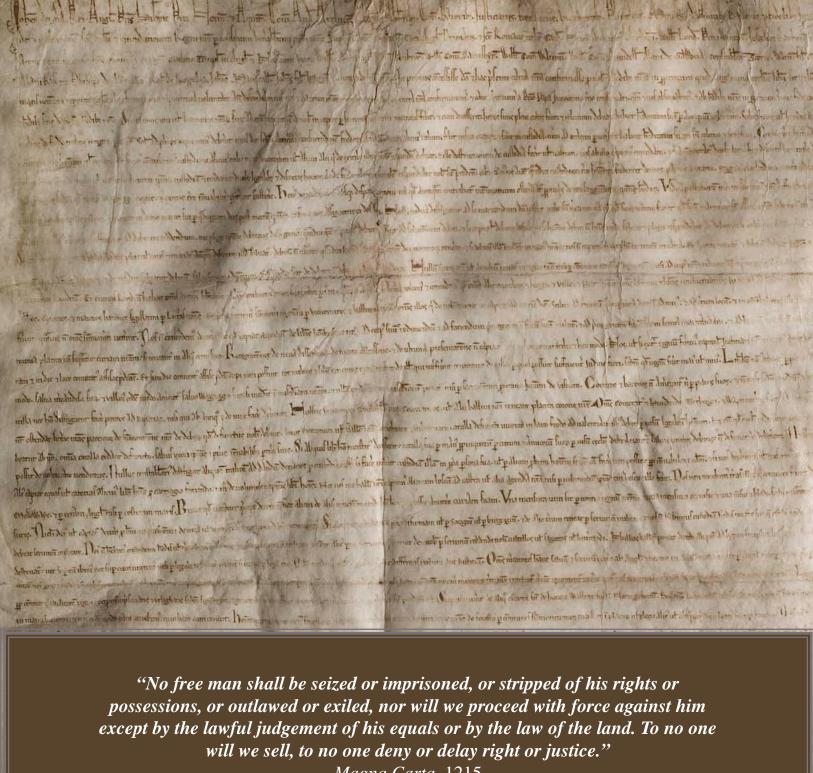


MAGNA CARTA: MUSE AND MENTOR

800 YEARS OF A GREAT TRADITION

A LIBRARY OF CONGRESS EXHIBITION PROPOSAL

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Magna Carta, 1215

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Executive Summary

Beginning in November 2014, the Library of Congress will host the Lincoln Cathedral 1215 Magna Carta in a landmark exhibition, *Magna Carta: Muse and Mentor.* The Library of Congress is seeking private support to help bring this unique treasure to Washington and fund the exhibition.

Magna Carta, the Great Charter of rights and liberties, stands at the heart of English and American law and it has influenced the legal systems of many other democratic nations. One of the earliest statements of limited government and a point of departure for centuries of debate on individual rights, Magna Carta has become the world's most enduring symbol of the rule of law.

The Library of Congress exhibition will be a significant part of the worldwide commemoration of the 800th anniversary of the first issue of Magna Carta. The Library's exhibition will provide American audiences with a first-hand look at one of the lasting treasures of human history. By drawing on the wealth of related materials preserved in the Library's collections, the exhibition will tell the story of 800 years of Magna Carta's influence on the history of political liberty.

In organizing the exhibition, the Library will take into account the plans of other institutions with which it has relationships, such as the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration, the British Library, and the U.K.-based Magna Carta 800th Anniversary Committee. The exhibition will complement the holdings and displays of the National Archives and the British Library.

*Magna Carta: Muse and Mento*r also celebrates the 75th anniversary of the only previous occasion when the Library had the privilege of hosting this treasure of English and American history. Now as then the presence in America of this seminal document will serve to further public understanding of Magna Carta and the rule of law.

Cover: Magna Carta Regis Johannis XV. die Junii anno regni XVII A.D. MCCXV. London, 1816–1818. Law Library, Library of Congress



Executive Summary

The Library intends to attract the widest possible audience for this exhibition. This drive for national attention offers many opportunities for sponsors.

LOCATION

The exhibition will be displayed in the South Gallery of the Library's magnificent Thomas Jefferson building, which drew 1.08 million visitors in fiscal year 2012. Situated across the street from the United States Capitol and next to the Supreme Court Building, the Jefferson Building is an ideal location for an exhibition highlighting the importance of Magna Carta in the development of the rule of law and of democratic traditions.

A previous exhibition in the South Gallery, *The Last Full Measure: Civil War Photographs from the Liljenquist Family Collection*, drew a record attendance of more than 300,000 visitors in a period of only four months. Other recent exhibitions in the space include *To Know Wisdom and Instruction: The Armenian Tradition at the Library of Congress* and *Words Like Sapphires: 100 Years of Hebraica at the Library of Congress*, 1912-2012.

PROMOTION

The Library of Congress will vigorously promote and advertise the exhibition in Washington and the national media. The exhibition and its sponsors will be highlighted on the Library of Congress website, which recorded 73.4 million visits and 512 million page views in fiscal year 2011.

SPONSOR BENEFITS

Sponsor benefits include acknowledgment in all print, video, social media, and Internet materials for the exhibition; a link from the Library of Congress's website to a non-commercial page on a corporate sponsor's website; preview and private tours of the exhibition and the Library of Congress; attendance at the official exhibition opening with VIP reception; special access to the exhibition symposium and other invitation-only, exhibition-related events, and invitations to signature Library of Congress events.

Lord Lothian (*right*), British ambassador to the United States, transfers the Lincoln Magna Carta to Librarian of Congress Archibald MacLeish (*left*) for safekeeping during World War II, 1939. Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress



To Know Wisdom and Instruction: The Armenian Tradition at the Library of Congress exhibition, South Gallery, Jefferson Building. Courtesy of Michael Remorenko



Exhibition Overview

Magna Carta: Muse and Mentor will have as its centerpiece the Lincoln Cathedral Magna Carta, one of only four surviving copies of Magna Carta dating from its original issue in 1215. The 1215 Magna Carta is on loan from Lincoln Cathedral in England. In 2009 the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) granted "Memory of the World" status to all four surviving 1215 copies for their singular world historical significance.

The exhibition will trace the long history of Magna Carta and its influence on events and political thought through the centuries. It will explore the meaning of the document in the time of King John, its use as a constitutional guarantee of liberties during the seventeenth-century conflict between the English Crown and parliament, the revolutionary cast it took on for the founders of the United States, and its role as a beacon of individual rights during the civil rights movements of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. It will also examine how popular culture and memory have reimagined King John and the Great Charter.

The exhibition also will highlight the Lincoln Magna Carta's previous visit to Washington. Beginning on November 28, 1939, the Library of Congress displayed the Magna Carta for a short time before sending the document to Fort Knox, Kentucky, for safekeeping during World War II. The British ambassador to the United States, Philip Henry Kerr, the 11th Marquess of Lothian, handed the document over to Librarian of Congress Archibald MacLeish in an official ceremony.

Opening this exhibition near the 75th anniversary of the Lincoln Magna Carta's first visit to the Library of Congress celebrates the role of the United States in preserving the heritage of Magna Carta, both in the literal sense of ensuring the survival of one of the world's most treasured artifacts and in the broader sense that the laws and institutions of the United States continue to embody the spirit of Magna Carta.

The exhibition will draw from the Library's vast collection of approximately 152 million items. Many of the items in the exhibit will come from the Law Library of Congress (www.loc.gov/law). With more than 2.82 million print volumes in its collection, it is the world's largest law library and the most comprehensive collection of legal materials ever assembled.

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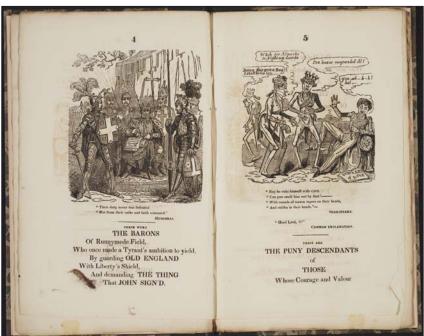
The Law Library

The Law Library's collection of rare books consists of approximately 60,000 volumes, most of which are printed books dating from before 1801. The collection also contains bound manuscripts from as early as the twelfth century, and it holds one of the nation's preeminent collections of printed legal works from the fifteenth century.

On display in the exhibition will be numerous original documents from the Law Library's collections that both illuminate the context of Magna Carta in medieval and early modern England and show how that charter came to occupy such an important place in the law and political thought of the United States. The Law Library's extensive holdings of rare Anglo-American legal works will be particularly highlighted.

The Library's exhibit also will illustrate the global impact of the principles embodied in Magna Carta. It will trace Magna Carta's influence on other countries' politics and law as its principles were transmitted through the English and American traditions. The Law Library of Congress's rich and extensive collection of foreign laws is exceptionally well-suited to support this focus.





Above: The Queen and Magna Charta: or, The Thing that John Signed. London, 1820. Law Library, Library of Congress



Exhibition Items

Items from the Law Library that will be displayed in the exhibition include:

- The fourteenth-century manuscript *Magna charta cum statutis angliae*. (Great Charter with English Statutes). Intricate colored pen work graces this small version of Magna Carta. Among the Law Library's rarest books, this miniature manuscript is still in its original pigskin wrapper.
- The *Zhalovannaia Gramota Dvorianstvu* (Carta Granted to the Nobility). St. Petersburg, 1785. Granted by Empress Catherine II of Russia in 1785 and initially intended to apply only to nobility, the carta contained ideas of liberty that were later interpreted to extend to others.
- Ad laudem et gloria[m] cunctipotentis ac beate virginis Marie, totaq[ue] celestis curia paruus codex qui Antiqua statuta vocatur explicit. London: Richard Pynson, 1514. This book is the first printed edition of Magna Carta.
- The General Laws and Liberties of the Massachusetts Colony, By Order of the General Court, Holden at Boston, May 15th, 1672, Edward Rawson, Sect. Cambridge, MA: Printed by Samuel Green for John Usher, 1672. Revised and reprinted. This book records the first time the language of Magna Carta appears in the laws of a North American colony.
- Sir William Blackstone's *The Great Charter and Charter of the Forest, with Other Authentic Instruments: To Which Is Prefixed an Introductory Discourse, Containing the History of the Charters.* Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1759. This edition of all existing and conflicting texts of Magna Carta was created by William Blackstone (1723–1780), the eminent eighteenth-century British jurist.
- A Conference Desired by the Lords and Had by a Committee of Both Houses. London: Printed by A. N. for M. Walbancke and R. Best, 1642. This record of the 1626 meeting of John Selden, Edward Coke, and others that yielded the idea of Magna Carta as the fundamental law of England and the foundation of English liberties was printed at the beginning of the English Civil War.
- William Hone's *The Queen and Magna Charta: or, The Thing that John Signed: Dedicated to the Ladies of Great Britain.* London: T. Dolby, 1820. A political satire comparing frivolous nobles preoccupied with scandalous rumors about the marriage of King George IV with the heroic memory of the barons who confronted King John at Runnymede, this book is illustrated by the renowned nineteenth-century English cartoonist Robert Cruikshank.



BEING A REPRINT AND FAC-SIMILE OF THE FIRST AMERICAN EDITION OF

Wagna Charta

PRINTED IN 1687 UNDER THE DIRECTION OF WILLIAM PENN BY WILLIAM BRADFORD



PHILADELPHIA

Printed for The Philotithon Club

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Public Programs

SYMPOSIUM

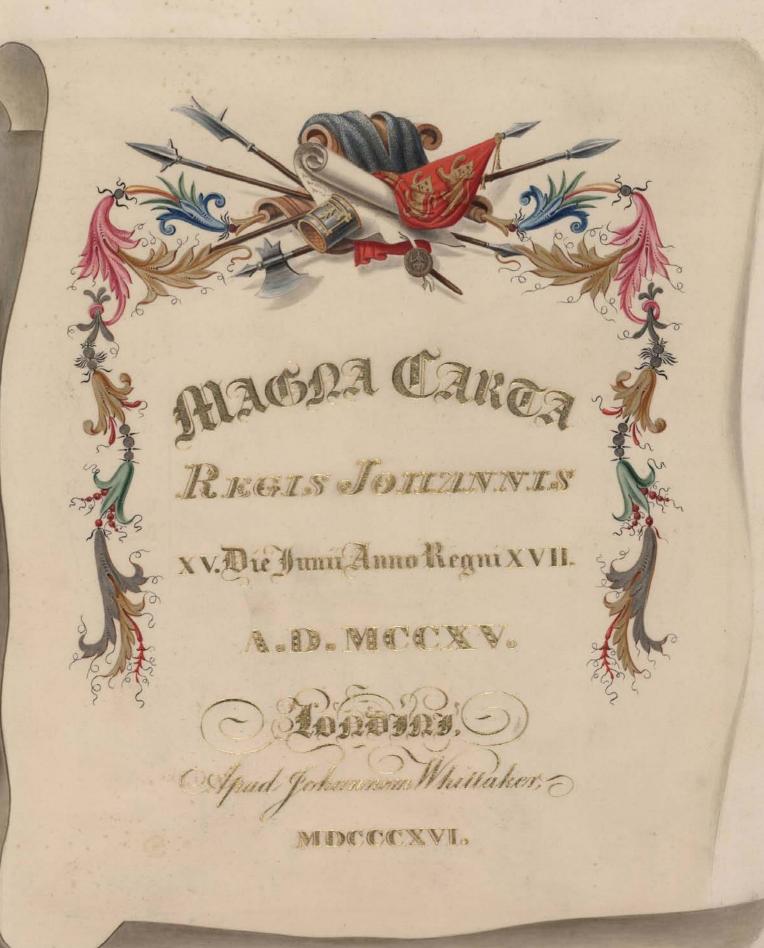
The Library will hold a one-day symposium in conjunction with the exhibition. The symposium's goal is to discuss the links between the principles of Magna Carta and issues in society today. Although generations of Americans have learned about Magna Carta in school, they rarely connect the freedoms they enjoy to the Great Charter. By bringing together scholars, historians, and contemporary thinkers, the Library intends to encourage new ideas about the influence of Magna Carta.

Preliminary plans for the symposium include a lecture on the history of Magna Carta, an interview on how Magna Carta informs contemporary legal thought, and a session on the role of the United States in promoting the rule of law or a session on the linkages between history and law. The audience will have an opportunity to ask questions for selected sessions. The Library intends to promote the symposium on its website (www.loc.gov) and through social media, and it will also post a webcast of the symposium on its website.

AUDIENCE

As the oldest federal cultural institution of the United States government, the Library of Congress has a long history of creating interpretive exhibitions to reach ever larger and broader audiences. The Library's exhibitions attract and educate the public. They also encourage visitors to become lifelong users of the Library's collections and resources. An online Magna Carta exhibition and educational materials will be posted on the Library of Congress website.

"The democratic aspiration is no mere recent phase in human history. . . . It was written in Magna Carta." Franklin Delano Roosevelt, 1941 Inaugural Address



Educational Outreach Initiatives

In conjunction with the exhibition, the Library of Congress will develop a series of special programs including lectures, gallery talks, teacher workshops and educational materials, docent-led tours of the exhibit, and more, as outlined below.

ONLINE EXHIBIT

Magna Carta: Muse and Mentor will be available as an online exhibition that follows the themes of the onsite exhibition. An average of three million viewers worldwide view the Library of Congress online exhibitions each month. The exhibition will take its permanent place among the many acclaimed exhibits on the Library of Congress Website (www.loc.gov/exhibits).

TEACHER WORKSHOPS

Teacher Workshops give educators from around the country the opportunity to discover, learn, and develop strategies to teach about the world-renowned collections and exhibitions at the Library of Congress and related online programs.

TEACHERS' RESOURCE PAGES

The Library's online Teachers' Resource Pages offer primary source materials, activities, lesson plans, discussions, and suggestions for using the collections in classroom curriculum. A page dedicated to the themes of the exhibition will provide invaluable information to help educators teach about Magna Carta.

EXHIBITION PUBLICATIONS

An illustrated brochure will accompany the exhibit. Drawing on the exhibition's central themes, the brochure will summarize the content of the exhibition and the original materials presented in it.

GALLERY TALKS

Curator-led special tours and other focused public talks will be presented within the exhibition. Gallery Talks are free and open to the public.

TOURS

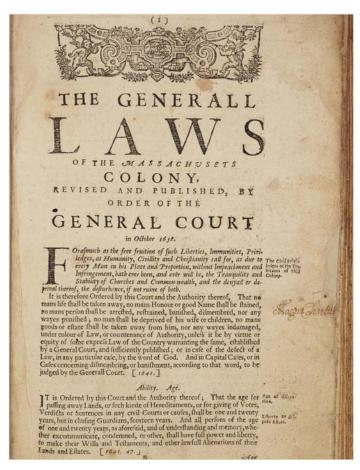
The Library will conduct tours of *Magna Carta: Muse and Mentor* for Members of Congress, individuals, school groups, student groups, youth organizations, and adult organizations.



Traveling Exhibition

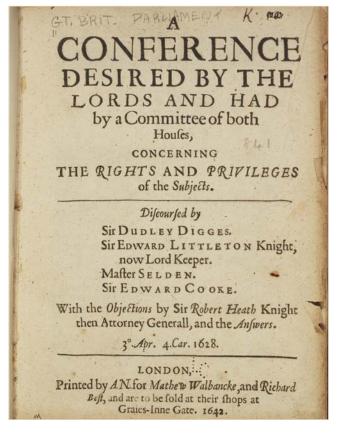
AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION TRAVELING EXHIBITION

A facsimile traveling exhibit organized by the American Bar Association will extend the exhibition's national reach and its educational impact. This exhibit will tour the U.S., displaying the exhibit at public libraries, state and local courthouses, schools, and community centers.



Above: The Generall Laws of the Massachusets Colony. . . . Boston, 1672. Law Library, Library of Congress

Below: A Conference Desired by the Lords and Had by a Committee of both Houses. . . . London, 1642. Law Library, Library of Congress



Opposite page: Magna Carta Regis Johannis XV. die Junii anno regni XVII A.D. MCCXV. London, 1816–1818. Law Library, Library of Congress

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The Library of Congress intends to create an exhibition with the scope and depth appropriate to Magna Carta's influence over the past 800 years. And this enduring symbol of the rule of law will be introduced to a new generation through the symposium, online exhibition, and various outreach programs.

Sponsors can be confident that association with this landmark Library exhibition will reflect well on them and their organizations. They can also take pride in knowing that their support will further the continued positive effect of Magna Carta on future generations as well as preservation of the treasured legal and political traditions that began with the document.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information about sponsorship opportunities, contact Robert R. Newlen, Assistant Law Librarian for Collections, Outreach and Services at 202-707-4313, e-mail RNewlen@loc.gov.

"Here is a law which is above the King and which even he must not break. This reaffirmation of a supreme law and its expression in a general charter is the great work of the Magna Carta; and this alone justifies the respect in which men have held it."

Winston Churchill. A History of the English-Speaking Peoples: The Birth of Britain, 1956

Opposite page: John Acton. Constitutiones legitime seu legatine regionis Anglicane. Paris: Wolfgang Hopyl, 1504.

