Atlantic Emancipations McNeil Center for Early American Studies and the Library Company, Philadelphia

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International Conference on Atlantic Emancipations, April 10-12, 2008, sponsored by the McNeil Center for Early American Studies and the Library Company, Philadelphia. The year 2008 marks the bicentennial of two important events in the history of slavery and freedom in the Atlantic world: the official end of the overseas slave trade in the United States (following the passage of statutes in the U.S. and Great Britain the previous year) and the maturation of Pennsylvania's gradual abolition law -- the world's first emancipation statute. These two events offer an exciting opportunity for reflection on the broader theme of black freedom struggles in the Atlantic world during the late-eighteenth and early-nineteenth centuries.

This major international conference will convene over forty scholars of slavery and abolition for extended discussion of a range of themes relating to black freedom movements throughout the Atlantic world. Steven Hahn, Pulitzer Prize winning author of "A Nation Under Our Feet," will serve as keynote speaker. Plenary sessions feature Richard Blackett, Laurent Dubois, Gary Nash, Cassandra Pybus, Sue Peabody, and Manisha Sinha.

Among many other issues, panel sessions will examine maroonage, emancipation and rebellion; the meaning of the Haitian Revolution in Atlantic world politics and society; war and emancipation in different national and imperial contexts; comparative emancipations in different imperial and local contexts; the prospect and peril of interracial activism in and beyond the United States; black emigration movements and the migrations of people of color to different locales in the Atlantic basin; legal cultures in pre- and post-emancipation societies; the gendered meanings of emancipation; the politics of emancipation through time and space; and the technologies of freedom (including printed discourse) throughout the Atlantic world.

A Library Company exhibition, "Black Founders and the Atlantic World," will accompany the conference. In addition, selected conference essays will be published in an edited volume appearing in the University of Georgia Press series entitled "Race in the Atlantic World, 1700-1900."
For more information on the conference, please go to the following website: www.librarycompany.org/emancipations/.