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Emory Acquires Rushdie Archive

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Hog Hammock Library opens on Sapelo

On Saturday, December 9, the Three Rivers Regional Library System formally dedicated the Hog Hammock Public Library on Sapelo Island. Novelist and journalist Tina McElroy Ansa was the featured speaker.

Housed in a blue, two-room building that formerly served as the island’s school, the library will supplement its own collection by bringing full PINES accessibility to the 60-plus permanent residents of Hog Hammock as well as to the state workers who live on the island part time.

Attendees at the dedication ceremony demonstrated their support for the new library by purchasing book bags decorated with its logo. The popular fund-raising items feature a proud Geechee woman holding a rice fanner basket. The logo was created by Jim Denk, an award-winning designer with The Charlotte (N.C.) Observer.

Emory acquires Rushdie archive

Salman Rushdie, one of the most celebrated authors of our time, will join the faculty of Emory University as Distinguished Writer in Residence and place his literary archive at Emory’s Robert W. Woodruff Library.

In making the announcement, Emory President James Wagner said “Salman Rushdie is not only one of the foremost writers of our generation, he is also a courageous champion of human rights and freedom.” Rushdie is the celebrated author of nine novels including Midnight’s Children (1981), Shame (1983), The Satanic Verses (1988), The Moor’s Last Sigh (1995), and, most recently, Shalimar the Clown (2005).

Midnight’s Children is widely regarded as a masterpiece of world literature; in 1993 it was selected as “the Booker of the Bookers,” the best novel published in the 25-year history of Britain’s prestigious Booker Prize. Rushdie is equally well-known, however, for the worldwide uproar that greeted his 1988 novel The Satanic Verses, for being condemned to death by the Ayatollah Khomeini, and for the ensuing debate over freedom of expression that those events prompted. Iran revoked the fatwa on Rushdie’s life in 1998, and he has since then resumed a more public role including serving for the past two years as President of PEN’s American Center, where he was a vocal advocate for persecuted writers around the world.

The Rushdie papers include multiple drafts of all of Rushdie’s novels and other writings from Grimus (1975) to Shalimar the Clown (2005), including manuscripts of two unpublished novels and other writings. The papers also contain a large quantity of correspondence with a wide literary circle, materials documenting Rushdie’s life under the fatwa, notebooks and journals maintained since 1973, photographs, and other related personal and literary papers. Once processing is completed, the Salman Rushdie papers will be the primary resource for all subsequent studies of Rushdie’s life and work.

The Rushdie archive will be housed in the Manuscript, Archives and Rare Book Library (MARBL) of the Robert W. Woodruff Library. For more information, please contact MARBL at MARBL@emory.edu or call 404-727-6887.

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