



## President's Letter

Among Jefferson's innumerable passions, books ranked high. His personal collection is legendary, having served as the foundation for the indispensable Library of Congress. After depriving himself of those nearly 7,000 volumes, he then proceeded to accumulate several thousand more. Jefferson was also anxious that Americans have access to libraries of their own. In 1809 he wrote to John Wyche, "Nothing would do more extensive good at small expense than the establishment of a small circulating library in every county."

The Thomas Jefferson Foundation has taken these words to heart – although on a much grander scale – in the form of the new Jefferson Library. The only presidential library dedicated to a Founding Father, its facilities and amenities will help keep the ideas and ideals of Jefferson and his fellow patriots alive, in truly 21st-century ways.













The 15,500-square-foot Jefferson Library is wired to accommodate state-of-the-art computer and Internet systems. (Imagine how much Jefferson would have enjoyed this Information Age, and how much he would have accomplished.) The library features reading and study spaces, an editorial suite, conference and meeting rooms, and administrative offices. Above all, the library has shelf space for 28,000 volumes. In short, the Jefferson Library will be an unparalleled resource for Jefferson scholars.

Bolstered by these superlative facilities, the International Center for Jefferson Studies will continue its ever-expanding array of programs. Fellows from around the globe will pursue topics that continue to impress Jefferson's principles on an

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increasingly large audience. Scholarly conferences will take place both at Kenwood and in a growing number of international locales. The Foundation's publications program will continue apace. And the ambitious *Papers of Thomas Jefferson: Retirement Series* project will move forward in its new, permanent home in the library.

As proud as we are of the new Jefferson Library, we recognize that the Foundation could not have built, furnished, or staffed it without the outstanding support of numerous contributors. Of special note has been the involved and dedicated leadership of Trustee Mrs. Martin S. Davis (Luella) .

We are grateful to the many individuals who have supported and continue to support our dual mission of education and preservation, and we believe the new library is a perfect – and active – monument to Jefferson's ideals.

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Daniel P. Jordan". The script is cursive and elegant.

President

**COMMENTS? [newsletter@monticello.org](mailto:newsletter@monticello.org)**