Democracy, Republicanism, and State Building in the Age of Jefferson: An International Symposium

In late November 2012, Monticello's most attended international conference was held in Beijing, China. More than 60 scholars from 12 universities attended Democracy, Republicanism, and State Building in the Age of Jefferson: An International Symposium.

The Robert H. Smith International Center for Jefferson Studies and Peking University's Department of History presented the two-day symposium, featuring prominent American, Chinese, and European scholars, including Pulitzer Prize-winning historian and professor Gordon S. Wood; American historian, Pulitzer Prize-winning author, and Stanford University professor Jack Rakove; Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation Professor of History at the University of Virginia emeritus and author Peter Onuf; and British historian Harry Dickinson.

The conference included session topics such as Thomas Jefferson and the Question of Democracy, Thomas Jefferson and Mao’s Revolution and Jefferson and State/Nation-Building in Early America.

Thomas Jefferson Foundation President and CEO Leslie Greene Bowman, Saunders Director of the Robert H. Smith International Center for Jefferson Studies Andrew Jackson O'Shaughnessy, Richard Gilder Senior Curator Susan Stein, and Historian Christa Dierksheide represented Monticello.

Mike Zuckerman, professor at the University of Pennsylvania, praised the program, sharing, “The Center has been indispensable—and uniquely indispensable—in the promotion of early American history in China. [We] saw for ourselves the sophistication of those young Chinese scholars at the conference. Virtually all of it is a product of the past five years. And much of it is directly due to the Center.”

The Robert H. Smith International Center for Jefferson Studies global partnership program is committed to spreading knowledge of Jefferson and his era through a network of scholars, universities, and teachers through programs including lectures, books, fellowships, and international conferences.

ROBERT H. SMITH INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR JEFFERSON STUDIES AT MONTICELLO
Conferences and Symposiums in 2013

July 16, Montalto
TOM Talk: “Being Jefferson” featuring Bill Barker

September 10 & 12, Shadwell
TOM Talk: “Jefferson’s First Family Home at Shadwell Plantation” featuring Derek Wheeler

September 24, Montalto
Alan Taylor, Pulitzer Prize winner and member of the ICJS Advisory Board, launches his new book The Internal Enemy: Slavery and War in Virginia, 1772-1832

October 9, Jefferson Library
Writer Andrea Wulf talks about her new book Chasing Venus: The Race to Measure the Heavens

October 26, Montalto
“Diplomacy and Transitioning Governments: Critical Lessons”: The American Academy of Diplomacy’s Annual Conference featuring Sir Paddy Ashdown

November 13, Milstein Theater
TOM Talk: “The Image of the President in the American Mind” featuring a panel of speakers