



# EXHIBITION PROSPECTUS

Henr Ricus fons hanc carta dicitur  
Carta II Hen Ric

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Willelmus dei gratia  
Rex Angl  
Hibernie & Francie  
Lycieps Episcopus  
Abbas Monachorum  
Comitibus Baronibus  
Justiciariis vicariis  
Propositis amantibus

& omnibus vobis & fidelibus suis  
Pervenit ad nos in hac parte  
Carta quod nos in hac parte  
salute anime nre & a  
cessor & successor nror ad equal  
tatem etc etc & emendationem  
regni nri spontanea & bona vo  
luntate nra dedimus concessimus  
& hac carta nra confirmavimus  
nisi p nob & heredibus nris imper  
tun de consilio venerabilis patris  
nri S. Sa martini pbrs card  
inalis & aplice sedis legati  
dum Walteri Episcopi lycieps & alior  
Episcopi Angl Ricardi archieps Com  
itibus pectoris nri & regni  
nri & alior fidelium Com Arch

# *MAGNA CARTA: MUSE AND MENTOR 800 YEARS OF A GREAT TRADITION*

Beginning in the fall of 2014 the Library of Congress will be hosting one of the four original 1215 exemplifications of Magna Carta, the great charter of rights and liberties that stands at the historic heart of English and American Constitutional Law. One of the earliest statements of limited government and a point of departure for centuries of thought on individual rights, Magna Carta has become the world's most enduring symbol of the rule of law. Its visit marks the opening month of the Library of Congress's major exhibition for 2015, a celebration of the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the document: *Magna Carta: Muse and Mentor*.

The exhibition will present precious medieval manuscripts, printed books, pamphlets and

other priceless documents from the collections of the Library of Congress that tell the story of the heritage of Magna Carta. It will trace the path of Magna Carta's influence from King John and the Barons at Runnymede Meadow in 1215 through the rise of English political liberty and the American founding to current events in the unfolding story of the rule of law throughout the world.

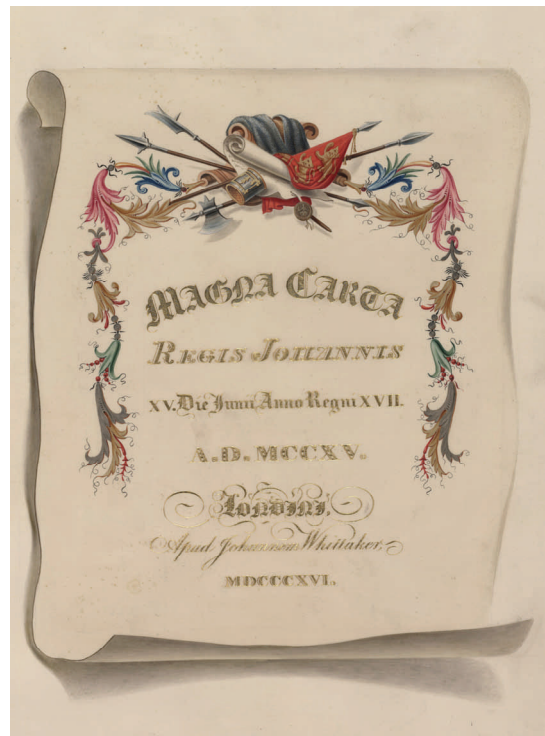
At the heart of the exhibition will be the Lincoln Cathedral copy of Magna Carta. The Lincoln Cathedral Magna Carta is one of four existing exemplifications of Magna Carta dating from 1215 and bearing the seal of King John. The Lincoln Magna Carta along with the other three 1215 copies were given Memory of the World Status by UNESCO for their singular world

historical significance. Its name derives from the document's regular custodian, the Lincoln Castle and Cathedral in Lincoln, England. Magna Carta will be on loan to the Library of Congress from Lincoln Castle for the opening month of the exhibition giving American audiences a first-hand look at one of the lasting treasures of human history.

The opening date of the exhibition, November 28, 2014, was chosen to correspond with the seventy-fifth anniversary of the first time the Lincoln Cathedral Magna Carta visited the Library of Congress. On November 28, 1939 Magna Carta was placed on temporary deposit at the Library of Congress in order to protect it from damage that might come to it as a result of the war. The British Ambassador to the United States, Philip Henry Kerr, the 11<sup>th</sup> Mar-

quess of Lothian, Lord Lothian, accompanied Magna Carta to the Library and in an official ceremony handed the document over to Librarian of Congress Archibald MacLeish.

This seventy-fifth anniversary was chosen to celebrate the United States' role in preserving the heritage of Magna Carta throughout the ages, both in the literal sense of ensuring the survival of our most treasured artifacts and in the broader sense of embodying its spirit in our laws and institutions.



In an effort to contribute to that heritage, the Library of Congress will host a symposium in association with the exhibition. The Library will invite recognized scholars from a variety of disciplines including Law, History and Political Science to present original research on Magna Carta and its influence in

the legal and political history of the nations it has touched.

While the Library is committed to advancing scholarship, the exhibition itself will be written and curated both in order to be informative to the specialist and to be easily understood by the general public. It will be accompanied by a virtual exhibition on the Library of Congress's website along with educational materials based on the exhibition for teachers to use in civics instruction for students in grades K-12.

The Library of Congress looks forward to taking a leading role in the American commemoration of the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of Magna Carta in 2015. We hope to honor the legacy of Magna Carta by sharing the richness of Magna Carta related materials that the Library of Congress has preserved in its collections.



Certificate awarded to Johann Georg Elsas. Ms. 1727 (LCCN: 2004572903)

# WHY SPONSOR *MAGNA CARTA: MUSE AND MENTOR?*

The exhibit *Magna Carta: Muse and Mentor* will be displayed in a major exhibit hall of the Jefferson Building at the Library of Congress for approximately six months beginning November 28, 2014. Central to this important exhibit is the display of one of the four remaining 1215 exemplifications of Magna Carta. This historic document will be on loan from Lincoln Castle and Cathedral, England.

The exhibit will present a wide of range of rare materials from the Library's collections to trace Magna Carta's influence from 1215 to the founding of our own government and current world events. The Library of Congress will also host a

symposium at which recognized scholars from multiple disciplines will present research on Magna Carta and its influence over the ages.

The Library's Magna Carta exhibit is an integral part of the world-wide observations of the 1215 signing of Magna Carta. Queen Elizabeth II is patron of Magna Carta Trust's 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, and the Library of Congress is working closely with the Trust. Celebratory events surrounding the 2015 anniversary are already in progress and widely publicized in the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth countries.

The Library of Congress is seeking individual, foundation and corporate sponsors for this exhibit. A detailed budget for the exhibit will be available. The cost of the exhibit will be approximately \$850,000. Prospective sponsors should be aware that:

Nearly **1.7 million people** visited the Library of Congress from October 2010 to September 2011.

The exhibit will be viewed over the holiday seasons of Christmas and New Year, as well as in April and May, which traditionally experience **peak visitor numbers**.

The previous exhibit in the gallery Magna Carta will occupy attracted **60,000 people** over the course of four months.

The exhibit will be curated to be of interest and accessible to a **wide range of people**, from judges, lawyers and legal professionals to school children.

The close proximity of the Library of Congress to congressional offices, the Supreme Court, multiple law firms, federal government agencies, and several universities will help attract an **important professional and academic audience**.

The Library of Congress will vigorously promote the exhibit and seek **local, national and international media attention** to ensure the highest possible attendance.

The American Bar Association may organize a **traveling facsimile** of the exhibit to tour the United States, thus gaining national exposure for the exhibit.

The exhibit will be highlighted on the Library of Congress website, which recorded **73.4 million visits** and **512 million page views** in fiscal year 2011. The exhibit will also be promoted on the Law Library and the Trust's websites. The Law Library's website will incorporate additional information targeted to the interests of legal practitioners.

A special Magna Carta **online exhibit** featuring educational components will be on the Library's website and will continue there long after the exhibit closes. The Library of Congress's online exhibitions average one million viewers each month. The Library will also provide training sessions for teachers to help them incorporate the exhibit into their classroom curriculums.

In addition to appropriate acknowledgements, a variety of other benefits, including access to the symposium and invitation-only special events, will be available to sponsors. The Law Library will work with prospective sponsors to ensure that the benefits received meet their needs. For more information contact **Robert R. Newlen**, Assistant Law Librarian for Collections, Outreach and Services at 202.707.4313.



Magna Carta Regis Johannis XV. die Junii anno regni XVII A.D. MCCXV. (LCCN: 2004572905)