

THE MORGAN CELEBRATES THE HOLIDAYS

*ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT OF A CHRISTMAS CAROL, HOLIDAY AMERICANA,
PUBLIC PROGRAMS, AND SPECIAL SHOPPING HOURS*

CHARLES DICKENS'S *A CHRISTMAS CAROL*

On view November 20, 2012–January 13, 2013

Every holiday season, the Morgan displays Charles Dickens's original manuscript of *A Christmas Carol* in Pierpont Morgan's historic Library. Dickens wrote his iconic tale in a six-week flurry of activity, beginning in October 1843 and ending in time for Christmas publication. He had the manuscript bound in red morocco as a gift for his solicitor, Thomas Mitton. The manuscript then passed through several owners before Pierpont Morgan acquired it in the 1890s.



HOLIDAY AMERICANA

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Travel back to Valley Forge on Christmas day, 1777, when **General George Washington** penned a letter to Massachusetts delegate Elbridge Gerry, imploring him to use his influence in the Continental Congress to support the suffering troops during the long, cold winter campaign against the British.

Explore the season's impact upon literature in the handwritten manuscript of **Truman Capote's comical early story**, *A Christmas Vacation*, written when he was only eleven years old.

Discover how the modern American concept of Santa Claus was shaped by Clement Clark Moore's poem *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*, which first

appeared in book form in the 1825 almanac on view.

Read **Henry David Thoreau**'s 1857 journal entry in which he describes being entranced by the "glorious" frost on a storefront window displaying holiday gifts.

See original sheet music from some of the most **memorable holiday tunes** composed by American songwriters during the first half of the twentieth century, including Irving Berlin's *White Christmas* (1942), Mel Tormé's *The Christmas Song* (1946), and Meredith Wilson's *It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas* (1951).

HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

Winter Family Day

Sunday, December 2, 2–5 pm

This year's annual Winter Family Day celebrates the exhibition *Beatrix Potter: The Picture Letters* and the Morgan's annual display of Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol*. Peter Rabbit, Jeremy Fisher, Jemima Puddle-Duck, and some of their most mischievous friends will join forces with Scrooge, Bob Cratchit, and the Ghost of Christmas Present to sweep families into a whirlwind of exuberant fun! Families are invited to join this merry bunch and enjoy puppets, an art workshop, strolling characters, a costume photo shoot, and more. Appropriate for ages 3–12.

All events are free with museum admission

Caroling at the Morgan

Friday, December 14, 6:30–8:30 pm

Friday, December 21, 6:30–8:30 pm

Traditional and popular holiday music will be performed throughout the Morgan by singers from Mannes College The New School for Music.

Free with museum admission

Gallery Talk: Holiday Treasures from the Morgan's Collections

Friday, December 14, 7 pm

In this informal one-hour tour, curators will discuss the creation of the holiday Americana on view in the Morgan's historic McKim building.

Free

EXTENDED SHOPPING HOURS

The Morgan's award-winning Shop will hold special holiday hours: Mondays from November 26–December 24, 10:30am–5:00pm. The Shop will also be open during regular museum hours.

SPONSORSHIP



The activities of The Morgan Library & Museum are made possible in part by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Morgan Library & Museum

The Morgan Library & Museum began as the private library of financier Pierpont Morgan, one of the preeminent collectors and cultural benefactors in the United States. Today, more than a century after its founding in 1906, the Morgan serves as a museum, independent research library, musical venue, architectural landmark, and historic site. In October 2010, the Morgan completed the first-ever restoration of its original McKim building, Pierpont Morgan's private library, and the core of the institution. In tandem with the 2006 expansion project by architect Renzo Piano, the Morgan now provides visitors unprecedented access to its world-renowned collections of drawings, literary and historical manuscripts, musical scores, medieval and Renaissance manuscripts, printed books, and ancient Near Eastern seals and tablets.

General Information

The Morgan Library & Museum
225 Madison Avenue, at 36th Street, New York, NY 10016-3405
212.685.0008
www.themorgan.org

Just a short walk from Grand Central and Penn Station

Hours

Tuesday–Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; extended Friday hours, 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; closed Mondays, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. The Morgan closes at 4 p.m. on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. The Morgan will be open on the following holiday Mondays in 2012: Labor Day, September 3; Columbus Day, October 8; Christmas Eve, December 24; New Year's Eve, December 31.

Admission

\$15 for adults; \$10 for students, seniors (65 and over), and children (under 16); free to Members and children 12 and under accompanied by an adult. Admission is free on Fridays from 7 to 9 p.m. Admission is not required to visit the Morgan Shop.

Images

Charles Dickens (1812–1870)

A Christmas Carol in Prose. Being a Ghost Story of Christmas

London: Chapman and Hall, 1843

The Morgan Library & Museum, New York. PML 30615

Photography: Graham S. Haber

George Washington (1732–1799)

Autograph letter to Elbridge Gerry, Valley Forge, December 25, 1777

The Morgan Library & Museum, New York. MA 157

Photography: Graham S. Haber

Gilbert Stuart (1755–1828)

George Washington, 20 March 1797

Oil on canvas

28.9 × 24.1 inches

Clark Art Institute, Williamstown, Massachusetts

(Please note, this portrait is not on view)