



## A Tremendous Start to the Year



**Welcome to our first issue of the Keeneland Library Newsletter—a biannual newsletter highlighting Library happenings and impacts in the Bluegrass and beyond.**

Keeneland Library serves the industry and community year-round. We work every day to ensure our collections are preserved and accessible, to create engaging education and outreach programs that welcome newcomers and long-time racing fans alike, and to connect researchers to solid information and image resources as they publish or broadcast the studies and stories that shape the industry's narrative. Reach out or stop by soon. We look forward to working with you!



### ***In this newsletter you will find:***

Information on education and outreach, collections and preservation, research services, development initiatives and more!

## EDUCATION &amp; OUTREACH

## Keeneland Library Lecture Series

From suffragettes and early horse welfare advocates to owners of top racing stables, and from under-told stories of the history of the Kentucky Derby to our evening with the trailblazing jockey Diane Crump, we were pleased to showcase women in racing throughout our winter and spring Library Lecture Series programs.

Stay tuned to [keeneland.com/library](https://www.keeneland.com/library) to book your tickets for upcoming series events. Event proceeds benefit the Keeneland Library Foundation which supports Library preservation, education, and outreach projects.



## Community Outreach Programs



Keeneland Library delivered 37 free in-community educational programs that reached nearly 3,000 youth and adults between January and April, covering topics ranging from preservation best practices and local racing history to industry workforce shifts in the 1900s.

The Library also conducted industry research workshops for university equine studies students and gave talks on the history and industry contributions of African Americans, backside workers, and women in racing.



## Starting Gate Storytime

Hank the Horse brought joy with his message of literacy and giving to Keeneland Library Starting Gate Storytime families in May. With support from VisitLEX, families took home copies of Hank's inspirational story, activity books, horse plushies, and more.

Visit [keeneland.com/library](https://www.keeneland.com/library) for our 2025 Starting Gate Storytime lineup and join the more than 200 families who have been a part of the program series since its launch last year.

## CURRENT EXHIBIT

## Of Turf and Stone: Keeneland Through the Ages

Keeneland Library's current exhibit, *Of Turf and Stone: Keeneland Through the Ages*, celebrates the 90th anniversary of the founding of Keeneland Association. Featuring photographs and memorabilia tracing the development and evolution of Keeneland's grounds, architecture, and facilities, the exhibition presents an overview of the history and traditions that make Keeneland a crown jewel of Thoroughbred racing. The exhibit's photographs, curated from Keeneland Library collections and the Turf photographers who document today's race meets and events, showcase historical highlights and innovations at Keeneland from 1935 until today.





## COLLECTIONS &amp; PRESERVATION

## New Digital Collection

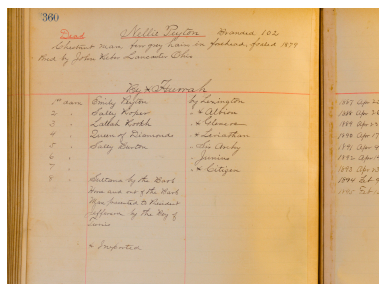
## THE PEB COLLECTION

Check out our new searchable digital resource showcasing the Library's Peb Collection. Pierre Bellocq, the internationally celebrated artist better known as "Peb," donated nearly a half-century of his caricatures and equine cartoons to the Library in 2009.

The digital Peb Collection includes approximately 3,000 works of art. Search the digital art repository at [collections.keeneland.com](https://collections.keeneland.com) to find your favorite horse, jockey, trainer, or racing personality from 1955 through 2009.



## Recent Gifted Acquisitions



## THE HAGGIN COLLECTION

We are wrapping our intake and conservation work on the Louis Lee Haggin II and Alma Headley Haggin Collection gifted to Keeneland Library by the Haggin family last fall. The collection features several hundred volumes invaluable to industry and academic researchers.

Comprising beautiful examples of limited print-run industry publications and editions not found elsewhere in the country, the collection, housed largely in the Library's rare book room, will be available to researchers this summer.



## THE FEATHERSTON COLLECTION

This spring, members of the Featherston family gifted Keeneland Library the incomparable George B. Featherston Collection. Featherston, a Turf photographer, local radio personality, and avid ambassador of the sport, was a recurring presence at Keeneland and other racetracks from the mid-1900s until his death in 1984.

The Library team will begin to process and archivally rehouse the collection's negatives this summer as the first step in making this significant collection of 20th century Turf photography available to our patrons worldwide.



## THE JOE HAASE COLLECTION

On the heels of her generous gift of the Rafferty Turfphotos Collection to Keeneland Library in December 2023, renowned Turf photographer Barbara Livingston gifted a small, but powerful collection of photographic negatives from the West Coast photographer, Joe Haase this spring.

In March, triaging the most compromised negatives first, the Library began to archivally rehouse each of the roughly 1,000 images captured on acetate film comprising the Joe Haase Collection. After ensuring the collection is stable, we will begin to build an index to heighten access to Haase's one-of-a-kind images of historic California racing venues, horses, and their connections.

## DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

## Grant Awards &amp; Sponsorship



## 250LEX CULTURAL GRANT

The 250Lex Cultural Grant will support our newest exhibit opening this fall that chronicles stories and contributions of Latinos in the Thoroughbred racing and breeding industry over the last century. The exhibit, thanks to the additional generous support of Susan Naylor/Safari North LLC and the Keeneland Association, will begin to travel in the community in 2026 after debuting in the Library. Stay tuned to [keeneland.com/library](https://www.keeneland.com/library) for more on the exhibit's launch.

## AMERICA250KY GRANT

We are also proud recipients of an America250KY grant to support traveling the Library's popular exhibit, *The Heart of the Turf: Racing's Black Pioneers*, and its education programs across the country. More than 200,000 youth and adults have been a part of the free outreach initiative in six states to date, and we are heading to New York and Florida later this year. Check out our traveling exhibit schedule at [keeneland.com/library](https://www.keeneland.com/library) to find an exhibit hosting site near you.



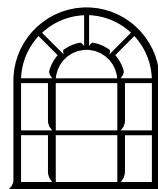
## SOCIETY OF COLONIAL WARS IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

As part of our ongoing celebrations of Lexington's 250th anniversary in 2025, Keeneland Library partnered with Transylvania University and the Lexington History Museum to celebrate the 200th anniversary of General Lafayette's visit to Lexington with a community reception at Keene Place, the only local surviving hosting site of Lafayette's historic visit to Lexington in May 1825. We extend our sincere thanks to all our event guests and to the event sponsor, the Society of Colonial Wars in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

## NEW IN 2025

## FRIENDS OF THE KEENELAND LIBRARY

We are grateful to all the supporters who have joined our Friends of Keeneland Library this spring. Your support matters, and we thank you! Find out how you can help us preserve and share more by becoming a Friend of Keeneland Library in 2025 at [keeneland.com/library](https://www.keeneland.com/library).



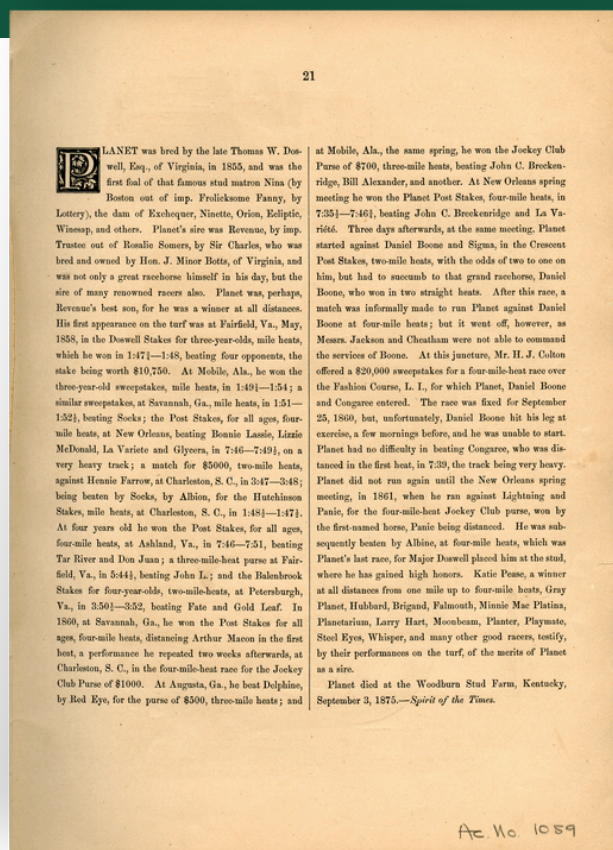
**KEENELAND**  
LIBRARY FOUNDATION



## RESEARCH SERVICES

## Spring Highlights

In addition to a busy spring providing research services for Triple Crown media coverage, civic and community organizations celebrating Lexington's 250th anniversary, and hundreds of journalists and broadcasters creating industry news stories, the Library also wrapped standout research and image contributions for upcoming exhibits at The Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Smithsonian. Another spring highlight is our work with National Public Radio broadcasts, including Freakonomics Radio podcasts scheduled to release this summer.



## Racetracks of America: From the Pre-Civil War Days to the 21st Century

We are proud to announce an upcoming publication released by the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame in partnership with Keeneland Library.

The first comprehensive chronicle of its kind, *Racetracks of America* will release this summer as a 450-page, image-packed compendium of U.S. racetracks past and present with contributions by the sport's leading writers. Sure to be a priceless companion to racing fans and historians, the book will showcase the special places at the heart of the American Thoroughbred racing experience.

Keeneland Library invested more than 650 hours in the book's research, image sourcing, and buildout. Be on the lookout in July via email notification and on [keeneland.com/library](http://keeneland.com/library) for details about how you can bring this limited-run publication home to your coffee tables and bookshelves this summer.

