



NATIONAL SPORTING LIBRARY & MUSEUM
A RESEARCH CENTER FOR EQUESTRIAN AND FIELD SPORTS

PRESS RELEASE

DATE 5/30/2012

FROM:
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Caption: New York Times best-selling author of *The Eighty Dollar Champion* and 2010 Daniels Fellow, Elizabeth Letts, with Harry de Layer, owner of Snowman, the champion jumper, and NSLM Librarian Lisa Campbell.

**Five Authors Address Enthusiastic Readers at the Second Annual
National Sporting Library and Museum Book Fair on May 26, 2012**

MIDDLEBURG, VA - The popular second annual National Sporting Library and Museum Book Fair featured five authors who spoke and signed books. The fair was part of the 53rd Hunt Country Stable Tour and was free and open to the public.

New York Times best-selling author and Daniels Fellow, Elizabeth Letts, engaged the crowd with her tale of perseverance in *The Eighty Dollar Champion*, the unlikely story of a plow horse called Snowman who became a champion jumper in the 1950's and his owner, Dutch immigrant Harry de Layer.

Kathryn Masson, whose many beautiful books about architecture and design are presented by the prestigious publishing house Rizzoli, entertained with humorous tales of getting the perfect photo.

Masson was followed by Patrick Smithwick, horseman, writer, and son of legendary steeplechase jockey, A. P. "Paddy" Smithwick. The author selected coming-of-age anecdotes to read. An unexpected note involved Middleburg photographer Howard Allen, who had presented Smithwick with a photo he had taken years ago of "Paddy" Smithwick receiving a racing trophy from Jackie Kennedy.

Life-long horsewoman and amateur steeplechase jockey Anne Hambleton talked about the process of writing *Raja: Story of a Racehorse*, her tale of a heroic horse modeled in the fashion of earlier children's classics. *Raja* recently won an independent publishing IPPY Bronze Medal in the juvenile fiction division.

Concluding the day was F. Turner Reuter, Jr., author of *Animal and Sporting Artists in America*, a thirty-year project that became a book published by the National Sporting Library and Museum in 2008, now in its second edition. Reuter's presentation became a conversation with the author, a dreamed-of experience for many a book club.

Participants were able to watch demonstrations by master bookbinder Jill Deiss of Cat Tail Run Hand Bookbinding, Winchester, Virginia. They also could browse and purchase remainders from the 2011 Duplicate Book Sale held by the Library to raise money for its Book Acquisition Fund. The remainders may be accessed and purchased by anyone visiting the Library.

Captions: All photos courtesy of the National Sporting Library and Museum

3422 - New York Times best-selling author of *The Eighty Dollar Champion* and 2010 Daniels Fellow, Elizabeth Letts, with Harry de Layer, owner of Snowman, the champion jumper, and NSLM Librarian Lisa Campbell.

3407 - Middleburg photographer Howard Allen and Patrick Smithwick with picture taken by Allen of the author's father receiving a trophy from Jackie Kennedy.

3391 – Jill Deiss giving a bookbinding demonstration.

3393 – Enthusiastic Book Fair participants.

The National Sporting Library and Museum is dedicated to preserving and sharing the literature, art and culture of equestrian and field sports. Founded in 1954, the institution has over 24,000-books dating from the 16th-21st centuries. The John H. Daniels Fellowship program supports the research of visiting scholars. The Museum, a newly renovated and expanded historic building on the Library campus, houses exhibits of American and

European fine sporting art. Information is shared through exhibitions, lectures, seminars, publications and special events. The NSLM is open to researchers and the general public. Admission is free. Library Hours: Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Museum Hours: Wednesday-Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday noon to 4 p.m. For more information, visit www.nsl.org or call 540-687-6542. NSLM 102 The Plains Road, Middleburg, VA 20117

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