

Lee and Grant

Capital University's Schumacher Gallery

September 8-October 20, 2009

Opening Reception September 11, 5:00-7:30

By the end of the Civil War, most Americans considered either Robert E. Lee or Ulysses S. Grant to be a hero. The reputations of the two generals, molded in part by a sectional bias that would enhance the achievements of one often to the detriment of the other, would wax and wane over the next 140 years.

The exhibit *Lee and Grant* provides a major reassessment of the lives, careers, and historical impact of Civil War generals Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant. It also encourages audiences to move beyond the traditional mythology of both men and rediscover them within the context of their own time—based on their own words and those of their contemporaries. *Lee and Grant* presents photographs, paintings, prints, coins, reproduction clothing, accoutrements owned by the two men, documents written in their own hands, and biographical and historical records to reveal each man in his historical and cultural context, allowing audiences to compare the ways each has been remembered for almost 150 years.

"Visitors will enjoy discovering similarities and differences between Lee and Grant that are rarely pointed out," said Dr. William M. S. Rasmussen, exhibition co-curator and the Lora M. Robins Curator of Art at the Virginia Historical Society. "These generals have been explored by historians for decades, but *Lee and Grant* is the first exhibition to present the two men together

so that visitors can make decisions about them, side by side, based on facts. We hope that after they view *Lee and Grant*, visitors will give more thought to the legacies of both generals."

Lee and Grant has been made possible by NEH on the Road, a special initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The exhibit was originally developed by the Virginia Historical Society, and co-curated by Dr. William M. S. Rasmussen, Lora M. Robins Curator of Art at the Virginia Historical Society and Dr. Robert S. Tilton, Chairman of the Department of English, University of Connecticut, Storrs. This exhibit is toured by Mid-America Arts Alliance through NEH on the Road. NEH on the Road offers an exciting opportunity for communities of all sizes to experience some of the best exhibitions funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). Mid-America Arts Alliance was founded in 1972 and is the oldest regional nonprofit arts organization in the United States.

SUMMARY

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Organized By: Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, Virginia

Toured By: Mid-America Arts Alliance through NEH on the Road

Curators: Dr. William M. S. Rasmussen, Lora M. Robins Curator of Art, Virginia Historical Society and Dr. Robert S. Tilton, Chairman of the Department of English, University of Connecticut, Storrs

Commentary: "This exhibition is more than a study of Lee and Grant," states co-curator Dr. William M. S. Rasmussen. "These generals have come to symbolize the two regions that fought the Civil War—each was a product of his region and his rearing. When we investigate the values that they championed and their decisions, which literally changed the course of this country's history, we discover the sectional legacies that many contemporary Americans have inherited from southern gentry and from Yankee self-made men."