On the Importance of Historical Literacy: What Good is History?

March 25, 2016 — 7:30pm — Huntington Library, Los Angeles

Two of America’s most talented historians, Alan Taylor and Elizabeth “Lil” Fenn join in conversation about the relevance of history and the humanities in today’s times, and we should listen to them. Why? Because history matters, because history is the fragile tether that not only connects us to what and who came before us, it is by way of history that “then” has become “now.” Asking questions of history brings perspective, knowledge, maybe even lessons.

Alan Taylor
Two-time Pulitzer Prize winner
the Thomas Jefferson Chair in American History at the
University of Virginia is the recipient of two Pulitzer Prizes.
A renowned scholar of early America, his historical research
ranges across questions of belonging, of racial politics and
identity in the colonial era, and of the politics and economics
of the infant American republic.

Elizabeth “Lil” Fenn
Pulitzer Prize winner
is the Walter and Lucienne Driskill Professor of Western
American History and Chair of the History Department at the
University of Colorado, Boulder. She won a Pulitzer Prize for
her innovative history of the Mandan peoples of the northern
Great Plains, and she is also the author of a penetrating study
of the role of smallpox in the history of North America.