

UCSD Literature professor to lead salon for Friends of the Library

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UCSD LITERATURE PROFESSOR DONALD WAYNE TO LEAD SALON FOR FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Literature professor Donald Wayne will give the second of three "salons" sponsored by the Friends of the University of California, San Diego Library at 5 p.m., Tuesday, February 7, in room 263 of the Central University Library.

Wayne's topic will be "Power, Politics, and Renaissance Culture: The Case of Ben Jonson." Admission is free and the public is welcome.

The salons are in the classic tradition of the 17th and 18th century French salons in which speakers and guests participated in animated discussions of specific topics.

Wayne will frame a discussion of the work of the seventeenth-century poet and playwright Ben Jonson within a broader set of questions concerning the tendency of twentieth-century aesthetics to separate, if not to exclude, issues of political and social history from the study and appreciation of art and literature.

Recent scholarship has broken with this tradition by focusing on the role played by Renaissance literature in the construction of modern notions of self and society. Jonson's career exemplifies the emerging importance of the secular author as a medium for legitimating or contesting the authority and power of the state.

Wayne, a former chairman of the Literature Department received a Guggenheim Fellowship last year which allowed him to pursue his study of Jonson.

Those planning to attend the salon may wish to read Jonson's "Volpone" in advance. Further information may be obtained by calling the Office of the Friends of the Library, 534-2533.

The final salon of the year will be held Tuesday, April 25, at 5 p.m. and will feature UCSD history professor Robert Westman who will discuss "Sleuth Work in the Margins: Using Annotations to Study the History of Early Science."

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