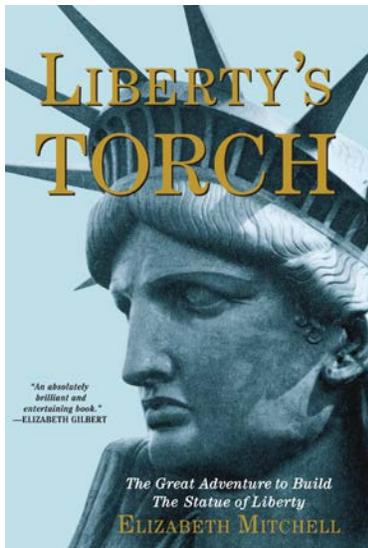


Press Release
June 2014

Liberty's Torch: The Great Adventure to Build the Statue of Liberty, Author Lecture and Book Signing



Come listen to author, Elizabeth Mitchell tell the story of the envisioning, funding and building of the Statue of Liberty for the first time, dispelling long-standing myths around its creation

Date: Tuesday, July 15, 2014

Time: 12:30pm

Location: National Archives at New York City, Learning Center, 3rd Floor, Alexander Hamilton U.S. Custom House building, 1 Bowling Green, NY, 10004

Books will be available for purchase for (\$27) after the lecture. A book signing will also follow the lecture.

Registration Recommended at newyork.archives@nara.gov or 866-840-1752

“Elizabeth Mitchell is an inspired writer and *Liberty's Torch* is a great book. While the French sculptor Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi, is Mitchell's colorful hero, a gallery of historical figures like Victor Hugo and Joseph Pulitzer make grand appearances. My takeaway from *Liberty's Torch* is to be reminded that the Statue of Liberty is the most noble monument ever erected on American soil.”—**Douglas Brinkley, Professor of History at Rice University and author of *The Wilderness Warrior: Theodore Roosevelt and the Crusade for America***

Book Details:

The Statue of Liberty has become one of the most recognizable monuments in the world: a symbol of freedom and the American Dream. But the story of the creation of the statue has been obscured by myth. We all know the legend that the statue was a gift from France, but that implies that the government of France gave it to the government of America. In reality, it was the inspiration of one quixotic French sculptor, Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi, hungry for fame and adoration.

Inspired by descriptions of the Colossus of Rhodes, the young Bartholdi first envisioned building a monumental statue of a slave woman holding a lamp that would serve as a lighthouse for Ferdinand de Lesseps's proposed Suez Canal. But after he failed to win this commission, and in the chaotic wake of the Franco-Prussian War, Bartholdi set off for America, where he saw the perfect site for his statue: Bedloe's Island in New York Harbor. Before long, he was organizing the construction of a massive copper woman in a Paris workshop. Through spectacular displays of the statue's arm and torch in Philadelphia at the 1876 World's Fair, and the statue's head at the 1878 Paris Exhibition, along with other creative fundraising efforts, Bartholdi himself collected almost all of the money required to build the statue. Meanwhile, he brought luminaries

including Gustave Eiffel, Victor Hugo, Ulysses S. Grant, Joseph Pulitzer, and Emma Lazarus into his scheme.

LIBERTY'S TORCH tells the story of an artist, entrepreneur, and inventor who fought against all odds to create this wonder of the modern world.

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About the Author:

Elizabeth Mitchell is an editor, journalist, and author. She is the author of two nonfiction books: *Three Strides Before the Wire: The Dark and Beautiful World of Horse Racing*, and *W: Revenge of the Bush Dynasty*.