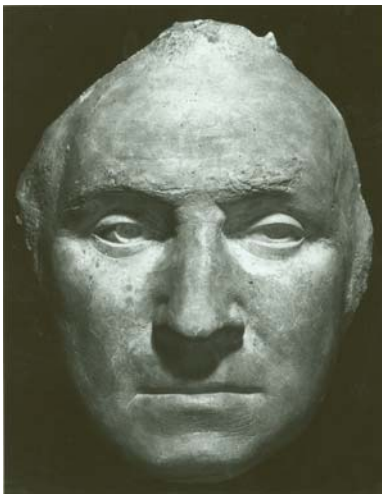


**GEORGE WASHINGTON'S *LIFE MASK*, THOMAS JEFFERSON LETTER,  
DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE NOW ON VIEW AT THE MORGAN LIBRARY  
& MUSEUM**

**New York, NY, June 29, 2007**—Three important items associated with America's Founding Fathers are now on view at The Morgan Library & Museum.



Jean-Antoine Houdon, *Life Mask of George Washington*, 1785, The Pierpont Morgan Library, Purchased by Pierpont Morgan.

In the rotunda of the Morgan's celebrated McKim Building, a plaster life mask of George Washington (1732–1799) is on display. Created by French sculptor, Jean-Antoine Houdon (1741–1828), the cast was made in 1785 when the artist visited Washington at his Mount Vernon home.

A unique item and considered the truest likeness of the country's first president, Houdon later made a clay bust of Washington based on the mask as well a life-sized sculpture now in the Richmond, Virginia, capitol building.

Also on view in the rotunda is a letter from Thomas Jefferson (1743–1826) to his daughter, Martha Jefferson Randolph. Written in 1797 from Philadelphia, Jefferson laments the “rancorous” political scene in Philadelphia and looks forward to the “pleasure of my family society.”

The Declaration of Independence, drafted by Jefferson and approved by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, is the most timeless and eloquent of American historical documents. The Morgan copy, on view in the Annex building, is considered one of the finest of the twenty-five recorded copies of the first printing of the Declaration.

## **THE MORGAN LIBRARY & MUSEUM**

A complex of buildings in the heart of New York City, The Morgan Library & Museum began as the private library of financier Pierpont Morgan, one of the preeminent collectors and cultural benefactors in the United States. Today it is a museum, independent research library, musical venue, architectural landmark, and historic site. Nearly a century after its founding, the Morgan maintains a unique position in the cultural life of New York City and is considered one of its greatest treasures. With the 2006 reopening of its newly renovated campus, designed by renowned architect Renzo Piano, the Morgan reaffirmed its role as an important repository for the history, art, and literature of Western civilization from 4000 B.C. to the twenty-first century.

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

The Morgan Library & Museum

225 Madison Avenue, at 36th Street, New York, NY 10016-3405

212.685.0008

[www.themorgan.org](http://www.themorgan.org)

### **HOURS**

Tuesday–Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; extended Friday hours, 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; closed Monday, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year’s Day.

The Morgan closes at 4 p.m. on Christmas Eve and New Year’s Eve.

### **ADMISSION**

\$12 for adults; \$8 for students, seniors (65 and over) and children (under 16); free to Members and children 12 and under accompanied by an adult. Admission is free on Fridays from 7 to 9 p.m. Admission to the McKim rooms is without charge during the following times: Tuesday, 3 to 5 p.m.; Friday, 7 to 9 p.m.; Sunday, 4 to 6 p.m. Admission is not required to visit the Morgan Shop.