



*The Friends of the Freer House
The Merrill-Palmer Institute*



WAYNE STATE
UNIVERSITY

Presents

2005 Annual Meeting

Open To The Public/No Admittance Fee



Thursday, November 10th

The Freer House/71 East Ferry



6:00 PM - Tours of the Freer House

7:00 PM Lecture/Light Reception Following

“Detroit: Freight Cars Before Automobiles”

A New Book and Lecture By

John Douglas Peters

Before the automobile, came the railroad, before Ford and the Dodge Brothers came Charles Lang Freer and Frank J. Hecker, and before Detroit became the nation's auto capital, it was the freight car manufacturing center of America. This powerhouse industry at the end of the 19th century was built by the extraordinary talents of Freer and Hecker, men whose vision and business acumen left an indelible mark on the economic, civic and cultural life of both Detroit and the nation.

The Friends of Freer House is proud to present a very special evening with J. Douglas Peters, co-author of a new book on the history of the railroad freight car manufacturing company formed by Freer and Hecker in Detroit in late 1800s. Mr. Peter's extensive research has uncovered fascinating details about this major industry of the 19th century and the freight car company formed by Freer and Hecker that continues as American Car and Foundry to this day.

Doug Peters is an attorney and shareholder with the law firm of Charfoos and Christensen and has the pleasure of working each day in the firm's offices located in the Hecker-Smiley Mansion on Woodward Ave.

Join the Friends of Freer House for a delightful evening highlighting Mr. Freer's exceptional history of his career in this presentation by J. Douglas Peters. The program will begin with a brief update on the opportunities and challenges facing the Freer House restoration efforts.

RSVP Requested BY NOV. 8TH

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