

## Telfair Academy in Savannah Welcomes the Southern Federation



Before his death, Kahlil Gibran expressed the wish that he be buried in Lebanon. This wish was fulfilled in 1932, when Mary Haskell and Gibran's sister Mariana purchased the [Mar Sarkis Monastery in Lebanon](#). Gibran remains the most popular Lebanese-American writer ever.

Gibran willed the contents of his studio to Mary Haskell. There she discovered her letters to him spanning 23 years. She initially agreed to burn them because of their intimacy, but recognizing their historical value she saved them. She gave them, along with his letters to her, which she had also saved, to the University of North Carolina Library before she died in 1964. Excerpts of the over six hundred letters were published in "Beloved Prophet" in 1972.

Mary Haskell Minis (she wed Jacob Florance Minis after moving to Savannah, Georgia in 1923) donated her personal collection of nearly one hundred original works of art by Gibran to the [Telfair Museum of Art](#) in Savannah in 1950. Haskell had been thinking of placing her collection at the Telfair, the unique little gallery in Savannah, Georgia, as early as 1914. Haskell's extraordinary gift to the museum is the largest public collection of Kahlil Gibran's visual art in the country, consisting of five oils and numerous works on paper rendered in the artist's lyrical style, which reflects the influence of symbolism.

Located on Telfair Square in the heart of Savannah's famous historic district, the Telfair Academy of Arts and Sciences has been Savannah's wedding reception location of choice for decades. Designed by English architect William Jay and completed in 1820, the Telfair Academy is a National Historic Landmark building. It is the oldest public art museum in the South and provides every event held in the building with a backdrop that combines world-class art and historic architecture. With its romantic, three-story rotunda; classically beautiful sculpture gallery; remarkable period rooms; and intimate galleries featuring works from temporary traveling shows and from the museum's own permanent collection, the Telfair Academy makes the Federation's private Gibran showing a truly memorable event.

Don't miss this exciting "black tie" cocktail reception to be held on Friday evening, January 4, 2008. Child-care will be provided at the Westin Hotel during this function.