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Thank you to every human who has made 20 years of Wikipedia possible. **Join the celebration.**

## Welcome to Wikipedia,

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### From today's featured article



#### Elizabeth Willing Powel

(February 21, 1743 – January 17, 1830) was an American [socialite](#) and a prominent member of the [Philadelphia](#) upper class of the late 18th and early 19th centuries. After the [American](#)

[Revolutionary War](#), she established a [salon](#) of the [Republican Court](#) of leading intellectuals and political figures. She corresponded widely, including with the political elite of the time. A close friend to [George Washington](#), she was among those who convinced him to [continue for a second term as president](#). She wrote extensively, but privately, on a wide range of subjects, including politics, the role of women, medicine, education, and philosophy. Powel is said to be the person who asked [Benjamin Franklin](#) "What have we got, a republic or a monarchy?", to which he replied "A republic ... if you can keep it"; over time the role played by Powel in this exchange has been all but removed. Hundreds of her letters and several of her portraits survive. ([Full article...](#))

Recently featured: [John C. Breckinridge](#) · [Mercenary War](#) · [James P. Hagerstrom](#)  
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### Did you know ...

- ... that [Saint Émilie de Rodat](#) (*pictured*) founded the [Sisters of the Holy Family of Villefranche](#) in 1815, a French religious order that provides free education for poor girls?

### In the news

**COVID-19 pandemic:** [Disease](#) · [Virus](#) · [By location](#) · [Impact](#) · [Vaccines](#) · [Portal](#)

- [Dutch prime minister Mark Rutte](#) (*pictured*) and his [cabinet](#) resign as a result of the [child welfare fraud scandal](#).



Mark Rutte

- [An earthquake](#) on the Indonesian island of [Sulawesi](#) kills at least 56 people and injures more than 830 others.
- [Donald Trump](#) becomes the first U.S. president [to be impeached twice](#) after the [House of Representatives](#) charges him with [incitement of insurrection](#).
- In Ireland, [an investigation](#) into church-run homes for unwed mothers and their babies details the deaths of 9,000 children between 1922 and 1998.

**Ongoing:** [Indian farmers' protest](#)

**Recent deaths:** [Osian Ellis](#) · [Seyoum Mesfin](#) · [Ndubuisi Kanu](#) · [Grace Robertson](#) · [Gerry Cottle](#) · [Bryan Monroe](#)

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### On this day

**January 17: World Religion Day** (2021)

Euskara  
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Français  
Galego  
한국어  
Hrvatski  
Bahasa Indonesia  
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Simple English  
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Suomi  
Svenska  
ไทย  
Türkçe  
Українська  
Tiếng Việt  
中文  
Complete list

- ... that [Barack Obama's](#) 2020 book *[A Promised Land](#)* took longer to write than any other presidential memoir in the past hundred years?

- ... that Turkish [artistic gymnast Ümit Şamiloğlu](#) is the creator of a special [grip](#) in the [horizontal bar](#) event?

- ... that after releasing their debut album *[Black Focus](#)*, the English band Yussef Kamaal was denied entry to the United States because one member's visa was revoked by the Trump administration?

- ... that attorney [Styles Hutchins](#) was the first African American to argue a case in a court in [Georgia](#)?

- ... that the [flameback coral shrimp](#) is often found in close proximity to the [yellow-edged moray eel](#), suggesting that they may have a [cleaning symbiosis](#)?

- ... that according to one critic, video-game designer [Kitty Horrorshow](#) does not exploit the [Lovecraftian](#) "fear of the unknown", but instead the "fear of the familiar"?

- ... that [this year's Boat Race](#) between [Oxford](#) and [Cambridge](#) will take place on the [River Great Ouse](#) instead of the [River Thames](#) for the first time since 1944?

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Saint Émilie de Rodat

- 1377 – [Pope Gregory XI](#), the last [Avignon pope](#), entered Rome after

a four-month journey from [Avignon](#), returning the papacy to its original city.

- 1893 – [Lorrin A. Thurston](#) and the [Citizens' Committee of Public Safety](#) led the [overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom](#) and the government of Queen [Lili'uokalani](#).

- 1946 – The [United Nations Security Council](#) (*chamber pictured*), the organ of the [United Nations](#) charged with the maintenance of international peace and security, held its first meeting at [Church House, Westminster](#).

- 2002 – [Mount Nyiragongo](#) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo began erupting, killing hundreds and leaving about 120,000 people homeless in the nearby town of [Goma](#).

[William Backhouse](#) (b... 1593) · [David Beatty, 1st Earl Beatty](#) (b... 1871) · [Gauhar Jaan](#) (d... 1930)

More anniversaries: [January 16](#) ·

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United Nations Security Council chamber

## Today's featured picture

*[Stitching the Standard](#)* is an oil-on-canvas painting by the English painter [Edmund Leighton](#), who specialised in [Regency](#) and [medieval](#) subjects. Measuring 98 by 44 centimetres (39 by 17 in) and currently in a private collection, this is probably the work listed as *The Device* by Leighton's biographer Alfred Yockney among the paintings dating from 1911. Leighton's draughtsmanship and attention to detail were meticulous, and his work had a considerable influence on early filmmakers by providing his conception of the medieval world.

Painting credit: [Edmund Leighton](#)

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- **Help desk** – Ask questions about using Wikipedia.
- **Local embassy** – For Wikipedia-related communication in languages other than English.
- **Reference desk** – Serving as virtual librarians, Wikipedia volunteers tackle your questions on a wide range of subjects.
- **Site news** – Announcements, updates, articles and press releases on Wikipedia and the Wikimedia Foundation.
- **Village pump** – For discussions about Wikipedia itself, including areas for technical issues and policies.

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### MediaWiki

Wiki software development



### Wikibooks

Free textbooks and manuals



### Wikinews

Free-content news



### Wikisource

Free-content library



**Wikispecies**

Directory of species



**Wikiversity**

Free learning resources



**Wikivoyage**

Free travel guide



**Wiktionary**

Dictionary and thesaurus

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