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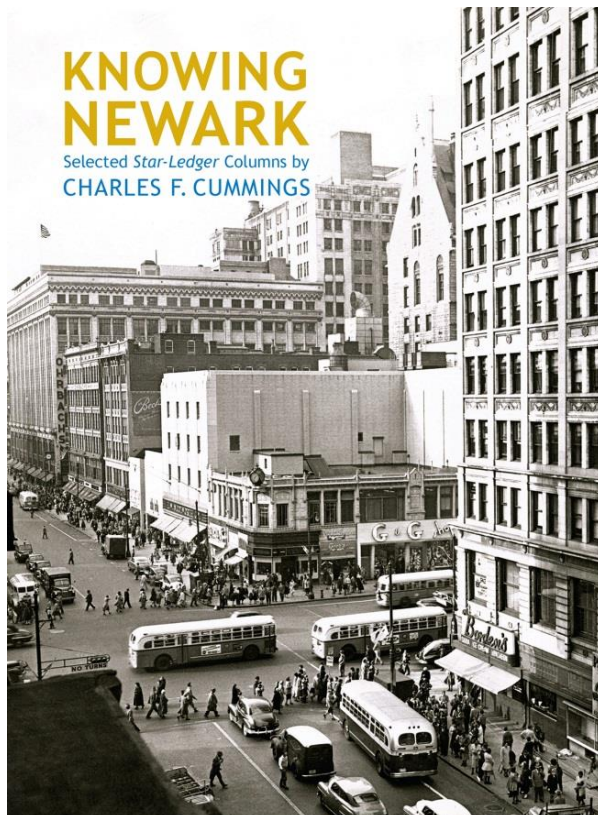
## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Newark Public Library Announces Publication of *Knowing Newark: Selected Star-Ledger Columns by Charles F. Cummings* with Companion Website



The Newark Public Library announces the publication of *Knowing Newark: Selected Star-Ledger Columns by Charles F. Cummings*. This 112-page book features 31 columns about Newark written by noted librarian, historian, and author Charles F. Cummings. The book will be distributed for free at the Main Library and seven branch libraries throughout Newark's 350th anniversary year.

The Library has also created a companion *Knowing Newark* website that will make all 500 of Cummings' columns available for the first time. The first 100 columns are already online at <http://knowingnewark.npl.org/> and the rest will be added over the course of the year. Each illustrated column is keyword searchable.

Featured in the Newark This Week section of the *Star-Ledger* from 1996 to 2005, *Knowing Newark* columns provided information on an astonishing variety of topics in Newark history, from the founding in 1666 to the present. There is no other resource on Newark as full of details or covering as many topics as Cummings' columns, but they have never before been collected for use by students, teachers and the public.

“The Library is delighted to make the *Knowing Newark* columns available to the public as part of our contribution to Newark Celebration 350,” said Timothy Crist, president of the Library’s board of trustees. Crist selected the columns for the book and is guiding the creation of the website. “The columns are like treasure maps, guiding readers to fascinating stories and little-known facts,” he added. “We’re convinced the book and website will prove invaluable for students and everyone interested in Newark’s history.”

Junius Williams, chair of Newark Celebration 350, which provided funding for creating the website, sees the *Knowing Newark* website as providing a substantial boost to developing a Newark curriculum for the schools. “We’re excited that students will be able to find stories and information about immigrant groups, neighborhoods, places where their parents and grandparents worked, and all sorts of cultural organizations. There is no other resource that can provide as much information on Newark as Cummings’ columns. The Library has done us all a huge favor.”

Thomas J. Alrutz, Interim Director of the Library, expressed his gratitude to the many funders who made the book and website possible. “Our friends and supporters understand the critical role the Library plays in serving the Newark community. We could not have done this without them.” He noted the Edison Properties Newark Foundation, Newark Celebration 350, the Newark History Society, the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, as well as private citizens, as key funders for the project.

In addition to being distributed for free in the Library branches, the book may be ordered through Amazon.com for \$6.74 including postage and handling.

Charles F. Cummings was Newark Public Library’s Assistant Director for Special Collections and Statewide Outreach, joining the staff in 1963. Best known for his work as the Head of the Library’s New Jersey Information Center, which is now named for him, Cummings added substantially to the Center’s collections of Newark-related material, curated a number of history exhibitions, and was widely known as an authority on and advocate for Newark history.

Appointed City Historian in 1988, Cummings was a charter member of the Newark Preservation and Landmarks Committee, and much sought after as a speaker and walking tour leader. He wrote and co-authored a number of books, including *Remembering Essex: A Pictorial History of Essex County, Newark: The Golden Age*, and *History of Newark, New Jersey, 1666-2002*. He taught Newark history as an Adjunct Professor at Rutgers University-Newark.

*Knowing Newark* will draw attention to Newark’s rich and diverse history, providing information about the economic, political and cultural development of the city, and documenting the periods of conflict and resolution of key issues over Newark’s 350 year

history. Newark Public Library is making available a resource that enhances and informs the anniversary celebration of 2016, and continues as a lasting resource in the years to come.

For more information about the publication and the website, please contact the staff of the Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center, at 973-733-7775, or by email to [njreference@npl.org](mailto:njreference@npl.org).

**About the Newark Public Library**

The Newark Public Library is the largest municipal library in New Jersey with a collection of more than 1.5 million books, audio and visual materials, and unique collections of prints, photographs, and historical documents. The historic Main Library is at 5 Washington Street in downtown Newark. The seven branches serve as neighborhood anchors in the City. Among the many free resources offered to the community throughout Newark are assistance with employment searches, cultural programs and films, exhibits, book signings, business research, and other events for adults and children. The Library is a vital part of the civic and cultural fabric of Newark.

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