

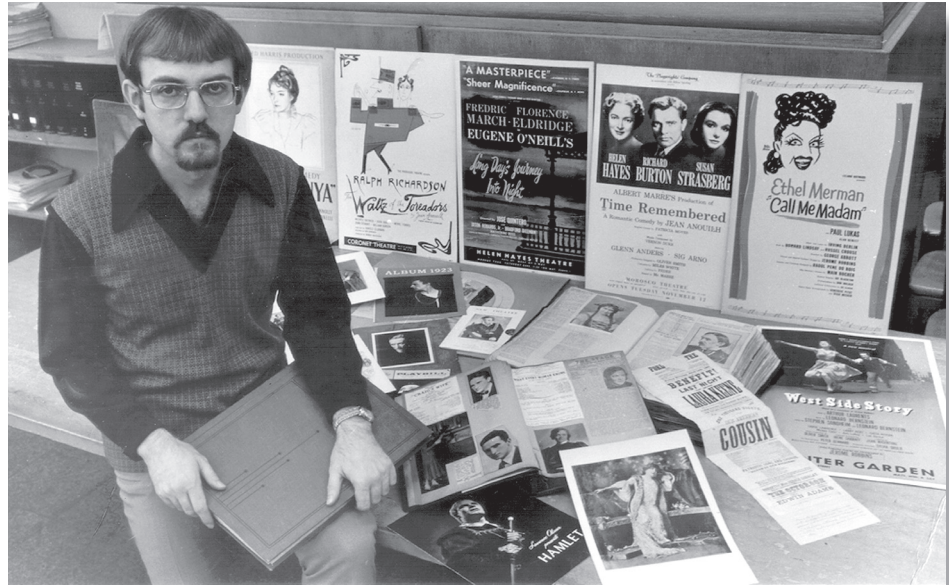
## A Message from Robert Shaddy

This issue of PageDown is dedicated to our colleague, Professor Richard Wall, Assistant Professor and Humanities Librarian, who passed away on Saturday, July 7, 2007. We offer a review of his career and memories from those who worked with Prof. Wall through the years. To further commemorate his life and career, a memorial event will be held on December 4, 2007, beginning at 3:00 pm. The two President's Conference rooms on the fifth floor of Rosenthal Library have been reserved. For further information, please call the Library Office at 718-997-3760.

Richard Wall received the Master of Library Science degree from Simmons College and the Master of Arts in English from Brandeis University. He was a member of the Queens College Library faculty since 1975. Professor Wall served as Humanities Librarian and Bibliographer for several areas: Comparative Literature, Drama, Theatre, Dance, English and American Literature, Media Studies, Film Studies, Journalism, and American Studies. He taught principles of information literacy and provided bibliographic instruction for courses ranging from freshman to graduate levels. He also provided general and specialized reference and research assistance to undergraduate and graduate students and faculty.

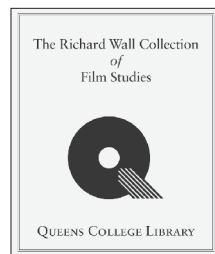
Professor Wall chaired the Library's Collection Development Steering Committee and Publications Committee and served as coordinator of exhibits in the Rosenthal Library. For many years, he was the Library's collection development specialist, coordinating the efforts of all subject bibliographers in matters of collection review, testing new electronic and digital products, and assisting in preparing recommendations for the

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Richard Wall, circa 1975, in his office.

## Richard Wall Film Studies Collection



It is a rare occurrence that a librarian is bestowed a great honor and hears his praise from many admirers while still among the living. Dick Wall was no ordinary librarian and had just such a special honor bestowed upon him. On February 26, 2007, we carried out a dream first conceived by Professor Stuart Liebman, former Chair of Media Studies, and honored Dick at a lovely reception. An overflow crowd, including President Muyskens, faculty, staff, and many of Dick's friends and colleagues, attended the event. As a surprise to Dick, we announced the creation of the Richard Wall Film Studies Collection.

Dick was our Film and Theatre Bibliographer. He was considered by his colleagues and the teaching faculty to be the most knowledgeable librarian scholar in these disciplines, and he built up an outstanding collection for the Queens College Library. He used the funds allocated to him judiciously, and added important resources to the library's holdings, with the cooperation of the faculty liaison, making it one of the best in the CUNY system.

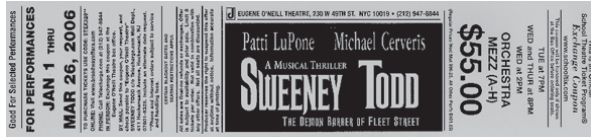
We also profited from Dick's active membership in the Theatre Library Association and his connections with directors and members of major film and theatre libraries in New York City. As chair of the TLA Book Awards Committee, he received review copies from publishers for award consideration. These were later donated to the library and enriched our collection considerably. In Dick's modest estimate, we received \$10,000 worth of books annually.

Sadly, Dick passed away peacefully, surrounded by friends in his apartment in his beloved theatre district this past summer. After his death, we established The Richard Wall Film Studies Fund. Since then, many contributions from QC faculty, staff, and admirers in other universities have been made to the fund. Every book purchased with these funds has a specially designed bookplate bearing Dick's name and the name of the donor. For a list of recent additions to the collection, do a key word search in CUNY+ online catalog for Wall Richard. In addition, Dick's family has donated his private collection of many books, videocassettes, *Playbills*, and other theatre memorabilia to the Library.

The deep hole left with Dick's passing can hardly be filled, but the collection bearing his name will be a fitting and lasting tribute to the memory of a prince of a librarian for generations to come.

*Shoshana Kaufmann*

## Our Light on Broadway: Dick Wall



THEATRE  
LIBRARY  
ASSOCIATION



**As Pyramus says in the play-within-a-play in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, "O wall, O sweet and lovely wall/Show me thy chink, to blink through eith mine eyne," so did our Wall always stand ready to help the light of knowledge shine through.**

He was a devoted librarian, specializing in the arts.

I became friendly with Dick soon after he arrived at Queens College when we discovered a mutual interest in musical theatre. He was always interested in my projects. When he knew I was searching for a particular piece of information, he would go out of his way to help me find it. And we would keep each other apprised of what was happening on the Broadway musical stage. He also brought to my attention musicals he had seen in Washington where he frequently went to engage in his own research on the musical theatre.

As a librarian, he encouraged me to bring to his attention any books on the theatre we might purchase. If the budget of the English Department was insufficient, he would check whether the Drama, Theatre & Dance Department would be interested in sharing the cost. The result was that the college built up a wonderful collection of theatre-related books.

In addition to his work at the college, Dick became very active in the Theatre Library Association. Here he became chair of the annual Book Awards Committee. This is a major TLA committee, and Dick carried out his responsibilities superbly—as I can attest as a fellow TLA member.

Turning again to *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, we find Thesus stating, "as imagination bodies forth/The form of things unknown, the poet's pen/Turns them to shapes, and gives to airy nothing/A local habitation and a name."

How often, however, it has been with the insight and help of Dick Wall that those "forms of things unknown" were founded and concretized.

*William Green*  
*English Department*

Just as the lights are dimmed on Broadway for a beloved actor, actress, producer, director, choreographer, or any well-known member of the theater community, so too, at Rosenthal Library, we dimmed the lights, so to speak, on July 7, 2007 when our dear friend and cherished colleague, Richard Wall, passed away.

I am now an avid theatre-goer and devotee because of Dick Wall. He was personally responsible for reconnecting me to the sheer magic, magnificence, and profound delight of theatre, having been a confirmed cinephile for many years. He clued me into the many discount outlets, Off-Broadway productions, educators' rebates and secrets of making the theatre affordable so that I could take advantage of the fantastic theatre that this city—like no other city in America—has to offer.

I understand why Dick's love of theatre was contagious. There is nothing quite like the electricity, vibrancy, and intimacy of flesh and blood human beings acting in front of a live audience. As Shakespeare wrote in *The Taming of the Shrew*,

"They thought it good you hear a play/  
And frame your mind to mirth and merriment,  
Which bars a thousand harms and lengthens life."

Whenever I would excitedly knock on his door to tell him that I had managed to get tickets to a coveted show—*Sweeney Todd*, *Primo*, *Doubt*, *I Am My Own Wife*, *The History Boys*, *Bridge and Tunnel*, come to my mind—he would have either seen it already or had obtained tickets much sooner in advance than I had. I loved exchanging notes with him after I had been to a show or hearing his review before I went.

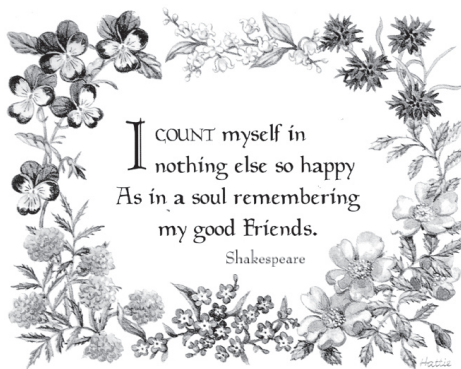
Dick was a walking Baedeker of theatre. He could name the playwrights, directors, original cast members, choreographers, lyricists, and more of any given show that you might be discussing with him without having to look them up. He could list the revivals of any number of venerable Broadway plays

and compare them all with both serious criticism and his inimitable wry wit. His massive collection of Playbills was a treasure trove of primary source material for research, Barham Rotunda exhibits, and PageDown illustrations.

Dick would always invite us to the annual Theatre Library Association (TLA) Awards in June. (See next article.) A gang of us would trek uptown to hear Dick speak about the book awards and to applaud him. Afterwards, we would have a great time schmoozing at the reception and hobnobbing with the great Tony Award-winning actress and doyenne of theatre, Marian Seldes, who would say to one of us in her exuberant style that "if you are friends of Richard, then you must be friends of the theatre."

Now, the light in Dick's office, Rosenthal 342, still shines warmly, beckoning passersby to peek in at an exhibit assembled by his colleagues in his honor. I go inside, sit in his chair, and study the mementos of a passionate calling and career. There are original theatre and film posters from *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* and *The Birds*; photographs and compliments about Dick's highly regarded "100 Years: 100 Novels: *The Best English Languages of the Century*" exhibit; letters from faculty expressing their appreciation to Dick for his excellent teaching methods; the plaque for the Richard Wall Collection of Film Studies; handwritten drafts; a coffee mug; and his blue V-neck sweater.

But his note card placed on the computer keyboard is what, I believe, expresses the core of our feelings about Dick:



*Lisa Flanzraich*  
*Library*

## In Memory of Dick Wall

Dick Wall was my esteemed colleague for many years, and now that he lives on in his deeds and in our memories I am aware of the deep imprint he left on me. In the course of daily practice of librarianship at Queens College, we did not cross paths too often, but when we did it was always meaningful. He would advise me on what play to see, and it would be memorable, or what NYC program to recommend to my guests, and his suggestions would just fit and delight each person. He would discuss with me a piece of literature in contexts where I was not much at home, and in doing so would open windows onto new meanings. Or we would exchange family reports, and I would notice how time and again his ailing mother would have a good spell following Dick's visit with her. And who ever could forget Dick's way with words?

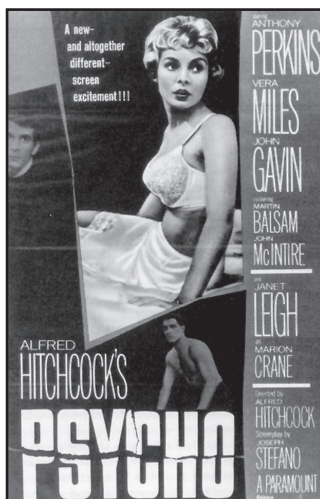
Professionally, several experiences with Dick remain vivid. Once I was substituting for him in research instruction to literature classes, some in English and a few others in romance languages, and needed to come up to speed quickly on the intricacies of the Modern Language Association (MLA) and some other, very interesting resources relevant to francophone literatures. There was not much time to discuss them, all by phone, and I made notes on just about everything he said and took off from there (this was in the pre-electronic era). The classes went reasonably well; I enjoyed the adventure and met wonderful people, and lived to tell the tale to Dick on his return. Afterward, I kept an eye from a distance on MLA & its kin, and just found a saved email from Dick on "teaching the MLA bibliography" that he sent to QC librarians on Wed., 13 Oct 2004, 10:23:36. It begins: "One of you asked me yesterday about searching in MLA, and I thought it might

be helpful to point out to everyone in general who may be teaching MLA: The strongest point I always try to make about the MLA bibliography is . . ." Five more well-structured paragraphs followed, the whole a perfect miniature lesson in MLA. This was Dick. Expert, understated, and sharing librarian, teacher, and scholar, he loved what he did.

Another time, Dick disagreed with my view of a professional library issue, and expressed his disapprobation in words to the effect that he would not expect that of me. Somewhat wounded, I thought of his disagreement and yet had to conclude that I still favor my approach. As I learned from the encounter, we became closer for it.

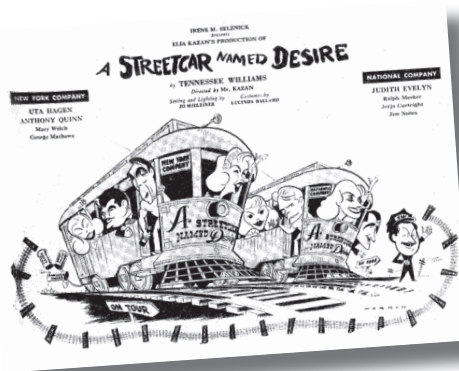
What mostly stays with me is the memory of Dick's keen intelligence and wit, his gentle kindness, and generous, giving spirit. We were lucky to have Dick in our lives.

Suzanna Simor



When we were looking for pictures of Dick, we found one from around 1975, which had Dick a little bit to the left side of the frame. (See image on cover page.) Someone said: "Oh no, that's too bad, we have to crop out everything that's on the other (right) side" (like posters from Hitchcock movies and Broadway plays like *West Side Story*. And I said, "No, just the opposite." To me, the posters really represented Dick's life because his entire life was devoted to the theatre, to movies, to television, to Shakespeare, Bernstein and Sondheim, anything that had to do with the arts. By taking that out, we'd be taking out part of Dick's life. So, this picture of Dick should be one of the centerpieces of our tribute to him.

Manuel Sanudo  
Library



One evening I was scheduled for reference duty, and I muttered that I had forgotten to set my VCR to tape the new Muppets show, "Muppets Tonight!" The next day Dick walked up to me with a recording of the show that featured Garth Brooks as the guest. Not only had he taped it, but he delightedly *discussed* it with me! We both agreed it was the most imaginative use of a guest we'd ever seen. (Where else but on a Muppets show could you have a famous country singer come on singing, "If I Were a Rich Man" in complete Tevye the milkman garb? Or race around in Kabuki costume ready to do a *Pacific Overtures* number?)

Dick gave me the tape. I have never erased it. It *still* makes me laugh out loud and now it also makes me remember Dick with great fondness and gratitude.

Suzanne Li  
Library

Dick Wall was a quiet, gracious, kind, always knowledgeable campus treasure. He defined the term "gentleman and scholar." We will miss him.

Hélène B. Guidice  
Office of Communications

The faculty members of the English Department are deeply saddened by Dick Wall's untimely death and extend their profound sympathy to his family, friends, and Library colleagues.

Throughout most of his long career at Queens, Dick was Library liaison with the English Department, and came to our department meetings, always with bundles of handouts to explain developments in the Library's literature holdings, fluctuating book budgets, and, in recent years, the "electronic library." He mentored individual faculty, including me, in the use of library research tools, and, of course, regularly gave instructional demonstrations to our classes, especially English 110 and 701.

We will miss his expertise, flexibility, patience, and conscientiousness. I personally will miss his occasional phone messages late in the Fall semester, particularly during those years of uncertain budgets in the 1990s, excitedly asking me (as the department's Library committee person) to have my colleagues send him wish-lists because precious funding for buying books had suddenly surfaced and needed to be spent. I already miss the

all-too-rare occasions when I managed to drop by his wonderfully cluttered office and he would patiently initiate me into the latest version of one or another of the online literature databases, or just take time to chat for a few minutes about budget issues, or my own work, or his theatre research.

The full shock of Dick's passing came home to me early this semester when I found his office in Rosenthal emptied of all his work materials and bulging file cabinets, and transformed into a memorial exhibit. I know that many of my department colleagues, both active and retired, share my sense of loss and have similarly fond memories of working with Dick and benefiting not only from his expertise as a bibliographer and teacher, but also from his quiet sense of humor and modestly understated style, animated by his genuine love for the whole world of books, education, and scholarship.

We have lost a dear friend and true humanist. Our only consolation is that many of Dick's personal qualities of cheerful, dedicated service, as well as his professional skills, are shared by and perpetuated in his faculty colleagues at the Library whose mission and culture he helped define and nurture over the past 32 years.

*Gordon Whatley  
English Department*



An early illustration for *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

In the time I have taught at Queens, since 1999, I have always been so grateful for the strong relationship Dick Wall had with the English Department. Each semester, Dick conducted a library session for my students; whatever I taught, I signed up for a library session with Dick. His incisive intelligence, wit, and attention to detail were amazing. In fact, I often would sit in the back of the room taking notes on both the content and style of his presentations because I learned so much from him. Dick was also a great help when the creative writing faculty began to formulate our new MFA program over the past few years. And, finally, I was always grateful for Dick's friendship, for our discussions of our work, and for his generosity and his kindness.

*Nicole Cooley  
English Department*

## Robert Shaddy Message

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college's Tech Fee Committee.

In addition, Prof. Wall represented Queens College very effectively on the CUNY Libraries Electronic Resources Advisory Committee. The Library's collections have been increasingly moving to online formats, particularly with regard to journals and periodicals. The fact that we now have an outstanding array of e-journals and periodicals is due in large part to Prof. Wall's considerable efforts.

Professor Wall was an esteemed colleague, a gifted and dedicated librarian. He was someone with whom we could consult when we needed a humane and professional perspective, grounded upon years of inspired and inspiring accomplishments.

In February 2007, he received the singular honor of having the Library's Film Studies collection named in his honor. The Richard Wall Film Studies Collection has achieved prominence under Prof. Wall's dedicated guidance and influence over the years. To continue the development of the collection, we have established the Richard Wall Film Studies Fund.

Those interested in contributing to the fund should write their check to the Queens College Foundation, indicate on the memo line "For the Richard Wall Film Studies Fund," and send it to Prof. Shoshana Kaufmann, Associate Librarian, Benjamin Rosenthal Library, Queens College, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., Flushing, NY 11367 (718-997-3741; email: Shoshana.Kaufmann@qc.cuny.edu).

## Treasures In Facsimile: From the Collections of the Queens College Library

Barham Rotunda Gallery,  
October 15–December 3, 2007

Dedicated to the memory of the late  
Professor Richard Wall, who for many  
years coordinated the Barham Rotun-  
da Gallery exhibition program.

This exhibition offers a sample of the facsimile editions held in the collections of the Queens College Library. Facsimile editions make more widely available important and rare—sometimes unique—manuscripts, sketchbooks, and printed texts. The visual accuracy of the reproduction enhances the facsimile's usefulness to the scholar. The same quality also often endows the facsimile with immense aesthetic appeal. The Library includes facsimiles in nearly all of its varied collections, across many disciplines and subject areas, covering centuries of intellectual and artistic communication. Our selection has been chosen to suggest the variety of the testimony that a facsimile can provide in presenting an accurate recreation of an original whose value may be that of a historical document or an influential work of art. Unfortunately some especially spectacular full- or near-scale specimens had to be omitted because of their size. Other reproductive technologies, in microform media and digital images, fulfill many but not all functions of facsimile.

For more information, please see the Library Calendar of Events and Exhibitions <http://qc.cuny.edu/Library/events/index.html> or call 718-997-3770.

*Suzanna Simor and Paul Remeczki  
Exhibition Curators*

### PAGEDOWN Vol. 12, No. 2, Fall 2007

Lisa Flanzraich, Editor, with the Library Publications Committee: Robert Shaddy, Rolf Swensen (on leave):

Photos: Nancy Bareis

### PAGEUP

We'd like to hear from our readers. Please address your suggestions or comments about **PAGEDOWN** to Chief Librarian Robert Shaddy at [robert.shaddy@qc.cuny.edu](mailto:robert.shaddy@qc.cuny.edu).

And watch for our next issue.