

PAGEDOWN



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE QUEENS COLLEGE LIBRARY VOL. 13, NO. 1, SPRING 2008

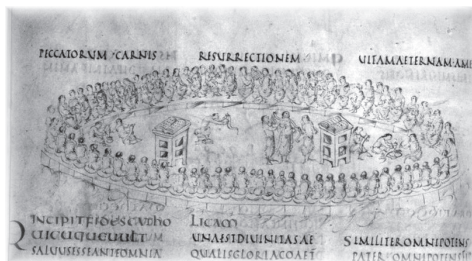
RESEARCH IN THE LIBRARIES—BY THE LIBRARIANS!

The Queens College Libraries hold an impressive array of resources: over 800,000 volumes of books, subscriptions to over 2,700 periodicals, on-line access to over 24,000 journals and periodicals, over 916,000 microforms, the Queens College Archives, and a selective Government Documents collection. Library faculty provide individual reference and research assistance to students and other users, teach classes, select the materials for the print and electronic collections, develop the library's Web site, prepare exhibits, and work with academic department faculty on collection and instructional support.

Librarians are members of the Queens College faculty and, like their colleagues in the teaching departments, are expected to do academic research of their own and place that scholarship in appropriate professional venues (monographs, collected works, and journals) or present their research at professional conferences. The college's standards and expectations for research and scholarship are high, and decisions about tenure and promotion are based in large part on scholarly output.

So, we work energetically with our users to facilitate research, and we ourselves conduct research. In this issue of *PageDown* I would like to present some of the very interesting areas of research and scholarship in which some of our library faculty are currently engaged.

Dr. Suzanna Simor, Associate Professor and Coordinator of Art and Music Library Services and Director of the Queens College Art Center, is completing her book-length manuscript "Imaging the Creed: Visualizations of the Christian Creeds from Charlemagne to Luther" (forthcoming, 2009). Her recent publications have focused on research resources for medieval studies ("Shedding Light on Centuries Past: New Tools for Research in the Western Middle Ages," and Selected Tools for Research in the Western Middle Ages (c. 1000–c. 1500), e-published by Princeton University, 2005) and on visual art resources in the new media (e.g., "Visual Art Resources Online: Issues, Trends, and Challenges"). Her creative and scholarly activities also include researching and curating exhibits in the Art Center and the Barham Rotunda.

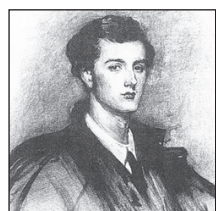


Utrecht Psalter, c. 820-30 (Utrecht, Bibliotheek der Rijksuniversiteit, ms. 32), fol. 90v. Athanasian Creed



Augusta E. Stetson

Dr. Rolf Swensen, Professor and Bibliographer for History, Political Science, and Law, is currently on sabbatical working on his specialty, the history of the Christian Science Church. The *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* will be publishing his study treating Augusta E. Stetson (pictured left), a Christian Scientist who built an impressive 2,200-seat Beaux Arts edifice on Central Park West at 96th Street, New York City, but was excommunicated from the Church in 1909. Dr. Swensen recently completed an essay on the rise of Christian Science in New York City, 1885–1910 and continues on a major research project that will yield an occupational analysis of Christian Scientists in the United States, 1890–1910.



Hamish MacCunn
portrait by J. Pettie, 1889

Dr. Jennifer Oates, Assistant Professor and Head of the Music Library and Assistant Professor of Music at the CUNY Graduate Center, specializes in nineteenth- and twentieth-century British music and women and music. She is completing a biography of the Scottish composer Hamish MacCunn (1868–1916) and has a critical edition of MacCunn's three overtures forthcoming in the series, *Recent Researches in the Music of the Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries*. She and

a colleague from the Aaron Copland School of Music at Queens College have received a grant to record the partsongs of MacCunn. The recording will be completed this summer, and the performance scores, edited by Dr. Oates, will be published. This summer, she will be reading a paper on "Mendelssohn, MacCunn, and the Ossianic Topos" at the Music in the Nineteenth Century biennial conference in Dublin, Ireland.

Michael J. Miller, Assistant Professor and Coordinator of Access Services has two primary research areas: Technology Competencies in Academic Librarianship and Diversity Issues within the Field of Librarianship. Recently, he published an article, "Information Communication Technology Infusion in 21st-Century Librarianship," in the *Journal of Education for Library and Information Science*. This publication is the leading peer-reviewed journal addressing the field of library science education. Prof. Miller is the co-author of "Mentoring in the Millennium: New Views, Climate and Action," which was published earlier this year in *New Library World*, a long-established, international journal that examines current trends in librarianship.

Finally, I would like to mention the useful work of **Inna Shpilko** (Assistant Professor and Bibliographer for Biology, Family Nutrition and Exercise Sciences, Psychology, Linguistics and Communication Disorders) and **Suzanne Li** (Assistant Professor and Bibliographer for Education, Children's Literature, and the Educational Curriculum Center Collections). A recent article by Prof. Shpilko, "Russian-American Health Care: Bridging



The Snow Queen, Hudson Vagabond Puppets

the Communication Gap Between Physicians and Patients," attracted the interest of a filmmaker who is working on the barriers to health-care faced by recent immigrants to the United States. Prof. Li has presented on the role of the library and librarians in

continued on next page

Partnering With Teaching Departments—Everyone Wins

A great library is an integral part of a great educational institution. Queens College Library owes its strength to many factors, not the least to its tradition of close cooperation between teaching faculty and librarians. The library's strong collections in many areas are due to the fact that department liaisons work closely with subject bibliographers in selecting books and electronic resources, and spending available funds judiciously. The two units also partner in instructing students and faculty on how to access, critically evaluate, and use library resources.

There are other areas where faculty and the library can partner with clear advantages to both:

Creating Subject Endowments

With the help of generous donors we have created 15 subject endowments and several funds in recent years. Among them are: history, science, children's literature, art, and general library endowments. Annual interest from these endowments enables us to enrich the specific subject collections with materials we are unable to buy with tax levy funding. In addition to enriching the library collection, endowments are good for departments: they help attract new faculty for whom library support is crucial; endowments impress parents, and might at-

tract students to a department that has a rich collection of books, electronic resources, and media.

We need new endowments in many areas: business with its new BBA program, urban studies, sociology, and others. Ideally, every department should have one or more endowments so that students' needs and faculty research can always be supported.

Faculty members can establish an endowment starting at \$10,000 while they are teaching or when they retire to commemorate an important event in honor or in memory of a family member or friend. They can also add to an existing endowment.

A department can honor a retiring professor with an endowment in his/her name, and help generations of students, now and forever. We can also create a divisional endowment, for the Social Sciences, for example, which will enable the library to acquire materials for various departments in the Social Sciences.

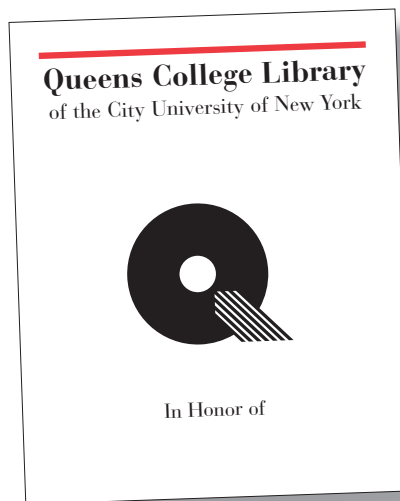
Collections

The library can never purchase all print and electronic materials that students and faculty need. Therefore, we rely heavily on monetary and gifts-in-kind donations from friends on and off campus. Most faculty build up rich collections in their field throughout their career. The library will be happy to receive all or part from retiring faculty and those teaching who need to weed or downsize their libraries on campus and in their homes.

Every department has a library liaison (<http://www.qc.cuny.edu/Library/info.support.html>) who will be happy to assist and advise those who are ready to donate books, artwork, etc. to the library.

Partnering results in winning! We want to hear your suggestions and help you help the library.

*Shoshana Kaufmann
Associate Library Director*



Research *continued from first page*

supporting collaborations between teaching artists and education faculty. She has also been presenting to workshops and preparing children's literature bibliographies for the grant-funded "Teaching American History" project, in collaboration with Queens College and the New York City public schools.

Robert A. Shaddy, Chief Librarian

PAGEDOWN Vol. 13, No. 1, Spring 2008

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.

And watch for our next issue.

~~many~~ **ALL WE NEED ARE A FEW GOOD FRIENDS**

At Queens College we are proud of our friends. You can help by becoming a friend of the Library today! If you are already a friend, please share this newsletter with a friend or colleague. We thank you for your donation.

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All contributions are Tax Deductible.

Please make your check payable to Queens College Foundation/Rosenthal Library. Donations of \$50 or more allow borrowing privileges.

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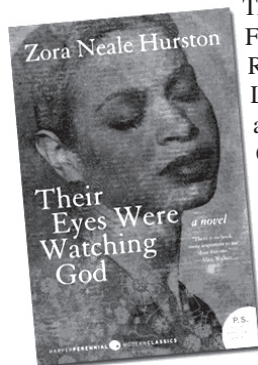
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Eyes on Zora!



This past February, Rosenthal Library hosted a One-Campus, One-Read event of Zora Neale Hurston's landmark novel, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. Ms. Maureen Pierce-Anyan,

Director, Minority Student Affairs and Pre-Professional Advising, and Dr. Shirley Carrie, English Department, facilitated the discussions and brought their enormous wealth of expertise on Hurston to share with our students and the general public. The event coincided with the college's annual observance and celebration of Black History Month.

Set in Florida during the 1930s, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* tells the story of Janie Crawford, a free-spirited and independent woman who experiences life to its fullest without letting the barriers of race or sex get in the way of her self-discovery. Both our facilitators guided us through Janie's journey, including her struggles and triumph. Pointing out that while Hurston received harsh criticism among such Harlem Renaissance luminaries as Richard Wright and Alain Locke for her use of native dialect, Hurston's rich literary style and its truthfulness to the African-American experience is now internationally recognized and honored. Our students and guests participated in a spirited dialogue spurred on by our discussants, expressing their enthusiasm for Hurston's unique voice and personality.

A book exhibit and media exhibit, EYES ON ZORA!, highlighted materials from the collections of the Queens College and CUNY libraries. We were also extremely fortunate to have photographs of Ms. Hurston and facsimile reproductions of her work, courtesy of the University of Florida, George A. Smathers Libraries, Department of Special and Area Studies Collections, African American History in Special Collections. Curated by Michael Miller, Noel Agnew, Lisa Flanzraich, and Evelyn Silverman, our exhibit included highlights of Hurston's oeuvre and biography, her anthropological career with Franz Boas, her place in the Harlem Renaissance along with her contemporaries, and examples of distinguished Afro-American women writers whose work Hurston would have most certainly recommended to others.

Lisa Flanzraich, Editor, PageDown

Staff Profile



Simone Yearwood

Simone Yearwood, Assistant Coordinator for Access Services, has set her sights high ever since she joined the Library in

1997 as a College Office Assistant. She gained both her BA in sociology and MLS from Queens College and is now currently pursuing a second master's in urban studies. In addition, she is now an adjunct instructor, teaching information literacy concepts in our Library 100 course. In this interview, she talks about her role in Access Services, her experiences as an instructor, and her goals.

What do you find fascinating about Circulation/Access Services

Circulation is the heart of a library. I've been working in circulation for close to 11 years now and can't imagine life outside of circ. I enjoy the fact that Access Services now works hand in hand with circulation. We've managed to combine departments, and the workflow has been an easy transition.

What do you think is the key ingredient in mediating disputes?

The key to mediating disputes is not to go in ready for a battle. I don't mind the debates with patrons when we try to resolve issues such as whether or not they returned the book, or why a book was returned late, or why they did not realize how much the fine would be. You have to take each dispute without following the remedy used in the last dispute. I think the key is how the patron approaches you. We don't mind; we listen, make a judgment, and stand our ground.

You have earned your BA and MLS at Queens College to further your career.

Now you are teaching English 110 to SEEK students. What are the challenges?

What are the rewards?

So far, I have not had any challenges in teaching the Library 100 course. I thought that I would be nervous until I realized that the students knew less than I did. The rewards are that I enjoy the fact that they get it. Our purpose in the course is to make the students lifelong learners, and I think that I've done that. I can tell from their homework assignments and the questions they ask in class. I can look at a student and tell if they are struggling with a concept and can take a step back to make sure that they understand. I must say that I think they get it. Whether it's through my teaching tactics or because they are computer savvy, I can tell that they've learned something from me and can do basic independent research.

What other kinds of assignments would you like to take on?

The one assignment that I would love to take

on, besides becoming Head of Access Services, is to find a way to close the gap on the us vs. them concept in libraries. I would love to find a way for librarians and support staff to work more closely. The library is OUR library and I believe that we should all work together for the betterment of the library community. I feel that I sometimes wear two caps now that I have my MLS. I've begun to think like an administrator and understand issues that might not seem fair but none-the-less must happen while I also get why the support staff may have issues with the changes. Perhaps if there was a way to include all parties it would begin to build a bridge that would allow everyone to work together more closely for the betterment of the Library.

Lisa Flanzraich, Editor, PageDown

PEOPLE NOTES

Nancy Macomber, our one-of-a-kind wearer of many hats, has taken a position as Associate Professor, Head of Technical Services at the CUNY School of Law Library. Prof. Macomber came to Queens College in 1985 and served as Acquisitions and Reference Librarian, and Government Documents Coordinator. Well-known for her expertise in government documents, Nancy taught graduate library school courses on government information sources at Queens College and St. John's University as well as information literacy to our undergraduates. She was also the recipient of the 2001 Mildred Lowe Award given by the New York Library Association/Government Information Roundtable. (See *PageDown*, Spring 2002 issue.) We offer best wishes for her success and are delighted that she is only a stone's throw away from us on Main Street. We look forward to seeing her often.

Kenneth Rosenberg has been appointed Acquisitions Librarian, Substitute Lecturer. He holds a BA in economics and history and an MLS, both from Queens College, and is working on a second master's degree in applied linguistics. Versatile in many capacities (see *PageDown*, Spring 2007), Ken manages our materials budget and looks forward to active participation in collection development.

Noel Agnew was appointed Substitute Lecturer



in Fall 2007. He is the Bibliographer for English and American Literature; Drama, Theatre, and Dance; and Comparative Literature, as well as Reference and Instruction Librarian. He holds

an MA in Irish studies from Queen's University, Belfast and an MLS from Queens College. Noel also served as one of our invaluable information assistants prior to graduating with his MLS in 2007.

FRIENDS OF THE QUEENS COLLEGE LIBRARY SPONSORED EVENTS

Friends of the Queens College Library continue to sponsor ongoing exciting cultural events for the college community and the public-at-large and a semi-annual booksale.

Poetry Fest

On November 29, 2007, Professor William Green, English Department, organized the Friends annual Poetry Fest, featuring eight published poets, among them was Queens Poet Laureate Professor Stephen Stepanchev and Marie Ponsot. A huge success, the event enraptured a large, attentive audience.

Tribute to Rex Harrison (Professor Henry Higgins)

In celebration of the famous theater and film actor Rex Harrison's (Professor Henry Higgins) centennial and to commemorate National Library Week, Prof. Green organized a great event, "Not An Ordinary Man," in tribute to the legendary actor on April 6, 2008. Among the performers was Carey Harrison, Rex's son, who teaches at Brooklyn College. A large and enthusiastic audience filled the Choral Room in the Aaron Copland School of Music and was treated to refreshments after the performance.

Booksale

The semi-annual book sale, where readers can find books and media on any imaginable topic that suits their fancy, took place in April, and included a raffle with every purchase; the prize drawing was held on April 17. The book sale is the ultimate bargain-hunter's delight, featuring finds for well under one dollar. Proceeds are used for new acquisitions. For further information about the Friends of the Queens College Library go to <http://www.qc.cuny.edu/Library/info/support.html>, or call 718-997-3732.



Back row: Pierre Gazarian, Ryan Black, Wayne Moreland, Joseph Caruso (1978 graduate). Front Row: Carolyn Raphael, Marie Ponsot, Stephen Stepanchev, Mary Lindberg.



Bill Green, Jim Muyskens, and Carey Harrison

Rosenthal Exhibit Cases Available to Faculty & Staff

Have you got plans for an exhibit and are you looking for a suitable space to display it?

The Library's Barham Rotunda has five large display cases that have featured a variety of exhibitions with one thing in common: they have been created or sponsored by individuals, departments, or organizations within the campus community. From exhibitions of faculty and students' creative work to shows based on educational or social issues, the Library has provided this splendid setting a few steps from its main entrance. (Two additional cases are available in the lower lobby on Level 2.)

The Library also displays recent books, articles, and other media (videos, CDs, music scores, etc.) by faculty in a freestanding display case in the Rotunda opposite the Circulation Desk. The case was purchased with funds provided by the Friends of the Queens College Library. If you are interested in discussing your exhibit and available options for using these display cases, contact Lisa Flanzraich, lisa.flanzraich@qc.cuny.edu, leave a voicemail at 718-997-3673, or send a note by campus mail to Rosenthal 344.

QUEENS COLLEGE ART CENTER

The season's finale brings *Anna Matoušková: Places: Abstract Paintings, Drawings and Glass Sculpture; Homage to Leo Kraft* (April 9–July 10, 2008).

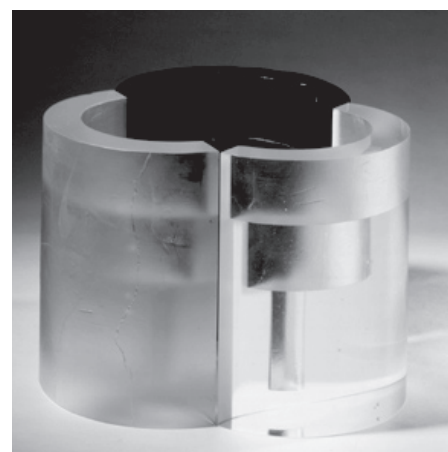
Five years ago, Matoušková, a Czech artist, and Leo Kraft, an American composer and professor at Queens College, met in Prague. The two spent hours talking about art and music, and through a continuing dialogue, discovered that while their media and backgrounds differ, their artistic concerns and creative processes are aligned. Reflecting on Prof. Kraft's compositions, Matoušková created most of the pieces in this show, which she dedicates to his 85th birthday. Lectures and concerts will address the possibilities of inspiration crossing between art and music. The exhibition is co-sponsored

by the Aaron Copland School of Music, Czech Center New York, Chappell Gallery, New York City, and Amálie Maurer, Prague, and is part of the Crossing the BLVD project.

For further information, please see the Calendar, visit the Art Center Web site at http://www.qc.cuny.edu/Art_Library/calendar.html, or call 718-997-3770.

The Art Center is grateful to its friends and sponsors for their support.

*Suzanna Simor, Coordinator of Art and Music Library Services
Director, Art Center (part of the Queens College Kupferberg Center for the Arts)*



"III b," mould-melted glass, 2001.