



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF LIBRARIAN

In this issue of *PageDown*, you will read about several exciting initiatives underway in the Queens College Libraries. The acquisition of the Civil Rights Collection of Mark Levy marks a noteworthy relationship being developed between the Libraries and the College's Graduate School of Library and Information Studies. We have acquired a remarkable set of materials that will help us to better understand the role of Queens College and CUNY students who were active in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. Furthermore, the materials provide the opportunity for Library Science students to have a wonderful experience in processing and preserving the Library's Special Collections. Here in *PageDown*, we present GSLIS's Dr. Benjamin Alexander's article about his work with donor Mark Levy in amassing and preserving these priceless documents! A number of changes in our Public Services areas—Media Center renovations and Informational Service points—developed by Prof. Michael Miller (newly appointed Assistant Librarian for Public Services) have been introduced and are making an impact with respect to improved services for our users.

If the Libraries are successful, it is because of our outstanding and innovative personnel. *PageDown* is pleased to feature the work of Dr. Rolf Swensen (History Librarian) who currently teaches an important course for graduate students in history that introduces them to techniques and strategies in historical research. The course is considered to be of such importance that it is now required of all MA students in the program. You will also meet a very special donor and supporter of the Libraries, Ms. Elayne Bernstein Schwartz. Finally, to cap off the issue, we will consider the special exhibitions being presented in the Art Center, as well as the Barham Rotunda. The Art Center is a vibrant component of the Queens College Libraries, and we are fortunate to have College Assistant Tara Mathison serving on Level Six.

I would also like to report on the progress of the many renovations being considered for the Rosenthal Library. Funded by the Borough of Queens President, we anticipate construction to begin during the Fall 2009 semester on Levels Three and Two. Design work continues for a new entrance and Access Services Suite, Research Services Office and Mini-Lab, and new carpeting and furniture for Level Three. Level Two will feature a new computer lab, copy center, and instruction classroom. These updates will make the Rosenthal Library more functional and more comfortable for our many users. We are also anticipating building a privately funded Special Collections Seminar Room and Exhibit Space, also for Level Three.

Great things are happening in the Queens College Libraries. We are moving ahead on a number of fronts—making progress with new collections, electronic resources, and services. We remain focused on ensuring that the information needs of our users are met on-site and at a distance. We welcome you to stop in to find out more and to get involved.

Professor Robert A. Shaddy, Chief Librarian

Multimedia Commons



The Multimedia Commons in Rosenthal Library offers Queens College students and faculty expanded media support services. The Tech Fee program on campus provided funding allocations during two consecutive years and allowed for the upgrade of the old library microform center.

The Multimedia Commons still manages the media collections of the Queens College Libraries, including an extensive classic to contemporary VHS and DVD film collection along with CD-ROM versions of government publications, and compact disks that come with many of the books purchased by the Library. There are also microform versions of journals from our collections. The Tech Fee-funded laptop loan program also operates from this area.

The final pieces being installed this spring semester are the viewing stations that will allow small class groups to review video materials related to class assignments. Eight multi-format individual viewing stations, three multimedia development workstations loaded with audio and video editing software, and web development and scanning software and peripherals have been installed. The project also features an updated, accessible service desk, four powered small group work areas, two new microform reader-printers, and a large media-reformatting bay.

Use of the small group viewing areas and the multimedia and reformatting areas are by appointment. Call 718-997-3761 to reserve any of them for work on teaching materials or class projects.

*Professor Michael Miller
Assistant Librarian for Public Services*

Informational Assistance



Rosenthal Library has shifted the support for informational and directional assistance across the lobby rotunda to the Borrowing and Informational Services Desk. The student assistants who are staffing Informational Services help users with the basics of the online catalog (CUNY+), pointing people entering the building in the right direction and also to relevant destinations around campus. They refer patrons with research needs to the Research Office and the faculty librarian subject specialists. They also

rove about the Library helping users find materials in the collections and find their way around this large building, in addition to helping maintain a good level of TLC in the interests of keeping Rosenthal orderly and user friendly. Next time you need informational assistance in the library, look for the team members wearing the bright red QC vests. You're sure to get what you need at Rosenthal!

*Professor Michael Miller
Assistant Librarian for Public Services*

UNIQUE CIVIL RIGHTS COLLECTION PUTS QC LIBRARIES ON SPECIAL COLLECTIONS MAP

On February 4, 2009, the Department of Special Collections at Queens College took possession of the Mark Levy 1964 Freedom Summer and Civil Rights Movement Collection. The acquisition of this collection marks a decisive moment in the development of Special Collections at Queens College. The Levy Collection comprises manuscripts, printed materials, original photographs taken by the donor with their negatives and contact sheets, gifted and other photographs, posters, letters to and from him and his wife Betty Bolinger Levy (deceased), as well as news articles, handwritten notes, school notebooks, and student essays formerly in the possession of his wife. Related “ephemera” (including campaign buttons, LP records, T-shirts, and publicity materials) documenting the civil rights and related Queens College activities of Mark Levy and his contemporaries are also included.

Since taking possession of Levy’s materials, several additional and related collections have been donated to the college. These donations have attracted considerable press attention and served as the basis for an exhibition in Rosenthal Library’s Barham Rotunda that was coordinated with Commencement. As represented by its planned Commencement activities for 2009, Queens College is deeply committed to documenting, preserving, and making accessible to students and scholars from around the world information about the college’s rich history and contributions to one of the most

defining social movements in American History. More generally, and of equal importance, the acquisition of Levy’s collection serves as an important precedent for the development of the college’s Special Collections.

Beginning with the Fall 2009 semester, Ben Alexander has accepted the position as Head of Special Collections and Archives. This appointment is in addition to his position as Assistant Professor in GSLIS specializing in Archives and the History of Books and Printing. Under Alexander’s direction, and with the continued support of the Library, archival students are being recruited to process newly acquired materials. In addition, students are gaining valuable “field” experience as they assist and accompany Alexander as he works to acquire new collections and seek funding for their preservation and access.

Concurrent with these efforts, Alexander is working to integrate Special Collections into the intellectual life of the college as well as to make fully accessible its current holdings. Archival students are revisiting and assessing the current organization of the college’s archive. At the same time, and with support for the Library, Alexander is working to reach out across the campus community to collect and preserve its dynamic history.

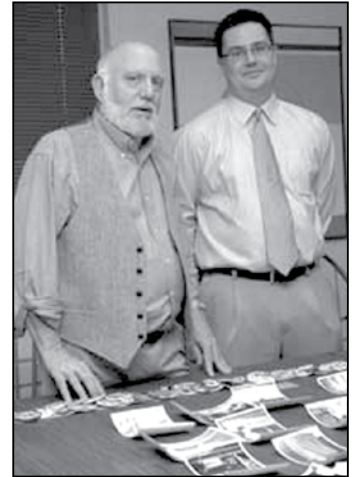
It is fully intended that the college’s Special Collections will function as an important learning environment for archival students and the college’s more general intellectual community.

Ben Alexander

*Assistant Professor, The Graduate School of Library and Information Studies,
Head of Special Collections and Archives, Queens College Libraries*



Library school students (left to right) Heather Ball, Killi Petrowki and Matthew Michaels, who are working on the Civil Rights archive project, hold posters, a T-shirt, and other memorabilia from the recently donated collection.



Civil rights activist and QC grad Mark Levy (left) shows Library professor Ben Alexander (right) samples from his private collection of materials from that era, now part of a new Civil Rights archive. The library will preserve, catalog, and make these materials available.

Mother Lode: History 791, Introduction to Historical Research

“What miners call a ‘mother lode’ is often like a tree in its upward development: below is the main trunk, above the branches diverge,” J.H. Beadle, *Western Wilds* (1882) xxxiv, 561.

For historians, the mother lode is the rich array of primary sources upon which all true historical studies are based.

On November 5, 2008, the Academic Senate voted to approve History 791: Introduction to Historical Research as a new and required course for all graduate students in history. Frank A. Warren III, Chair of the History Department,

encouraged this writer to develop the course and was instrumental in securing its recent approval by the college, so that all graduate history students may become familiar and more comfortable with primary sources.

“The History Department,” remarked Prof. Warren, “felt its students needed more exposure to research and research techniques and search engines. This course will be followed [in spring each academic year] by a research seminar where they’ll start their theses.” Thus the course syllabus proclaims, “Since primary sources—including letters, diaries, documents, contemporary newspapers, etc.—are the bread and butter of history, we will work together on a twenty-page paper, mainly utilizing primary sources.”

During the semester, students discuss historiography (or the study of history), practice reading and

evaluating printed primary sources, plan their research topics, outline the paper, and produce several progressively more final versions of their papers to be critiqued by their peers in the class. At various points in the semester there are briefings on CUNY+, databases, search engines, and the College Archives, as well as a visit to the Manuscript Division of the “Peoples’ Palace,” the stately New York Public Library.

One student in last fall’s class wrote that the course “allows students to get a jump on their thesis.” This student and others also felt that some of the readings were somewhat repetitive and that the class should proceed at a faster clip, despite the fact that some students were not as “prepared” and thus needed to learn more basic skills. This situation presents a perennial challenge for the instructor!

In a class such as this, there are frequent discussions, which may be consultative, argumentative, competitive, or even boisterous. If students care enough about research to become excited about each other’s work, this



Illustrations of the Draft Riots in New York City, 1863



PROCLAMATION OF EMANCIPATION

Hal Gross, donor of the Hal and Ida Gross Lincoln Collection of more than 600 volumes, has given the Queens College Libraries a valuable early biography of Abraham Lincoln. Written by Henry J. Raymond, proprietor of the *New York Times*, the 800-page volume is entitled *The Life and Public Services of Abraham Lincoln ... Together with His State Papers, Including His Speeches, Addresses, Messages, Letters, and Proclamations, and the Closing Scenes Connected with His Life and Death* (New York: Derby and Miller, 1865).

According to Raymond, Lincoln was blessed with “wisdom and unspotted integrity” and would “fill a place hitherto unoccupied in the annals of the world.” As one of the premier journalists of the country, Raymond had provided critically important unwavering support of the embattled Lincoln during the recently concluded Civil War. The last few dozen pages of the book contain Frank B. Carpenter, “Anecdotes and Reminiscences of President Lincoln.” A noted artist, Carpenter had the opportunity to spend many months in the White House painting a portrait of the Chief Executive. During the lengthy sessions, Carpenter witnessed the “effects of sorrow and care as I have never seen!”

Students and faculty will profit from this hefty book, in its original leather binding. Because of its fragile and relatively scarce nature, the book, generously peppered with period wood engravings, will be housed in Special Collections.

Rolf Swensen, PhD, Social Sciences Bibliographer

is an ideal learning environment. This is reflected in some of the final paper topics: “The Blue Collar Experience: A History of American Labor, 1865–1973,” “The Smear Campaign of the Fatal Fifth [the 1770 Boston Massacre],” “Pontiac’s Rebellion,” “Riot Week: The New York City Draft Riots, 1863,” “The Effects of Nativism on 1920s American Culture,” and “Cyprus’ Subjugation by Richard the Lion Heart in 1191 and its Subsequent

Role in the Levant until 1197.”

History is about real people who once lived, who are most effectively portrayed in their own words and those of their contemporaries.

*Rolf Swensen, PhD,
Social Sciences Bibliographer*

PAGEDOWN Vol. 14, No. 2, Spring 2009

Lisa Flanzraich, Editor with the Publications Committee: Dr. Robert Shaddy, Dr. Rolf Swensen

Contributors: Dr. Ben Alexander, Lisa Flanzraich, Shoshana Kaufmann, Tara Tye Mathison, Michael Miller, Dr. Robert Shaddy, Dr. Rolf Swensen

Photos: Nancy Bareis

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.

ASK-A-LIBRARIAN

Our Librarians are happy to answer your research and reference inquiries via email. Go to <http://www.qc.cuny.edu/library/research/emaillibrarian.php> where you will find a form to submit your questions. An expert bibliographer in the relevant discipline will be assigned to your inquiry. Except for holidays and weekends, we will aim to send replies within 48 hours.

Donor Profile



Elayne Bernstein Schwartz

In December 2007 I received a call from Florida: Elayne Bernstein Schwartz, a Queens College alumna, member of the board of the Friends of the Queens College Library, and a longtime presence on the Queens College campus called to make a generous donation to the library. During our conversation, I asked if she wanted to

earmark her gift to a specific area in the library. Elayne responded: “use it for anything the library needs.”

This unsolicited gift and response characterize Elayne’s generosity and love of learning. Her earliest years were spent in Tianjin, China. The family returned to the U.S. when her mother became critically ill. She died just as Elayne entered high school. As a result of that trauma, Elayne remembers “wanting to stop the world and wanting to get off,” and she did, metaphorically. She did poorly in school, blocking out everything, except music and singing (the precious gift she inherited from her mother), which she loved. She had a professional singing career before acknowledging that she did not have a great talent. Upon her father’s insistence that she learn something useful, she attended secretarial school. A college education was not in the cards and never in the realm of possibilities. It was, though, much later in life, after marriage and five children. She started with a course in the outreach program that Queens College offered in Great Neck, in a non-threatening environment. When she was told that she had passed the entrance test for the ACE (Adult Collegiate Education) program, she told her advisor: “I do not need to attend college for my livelihood. If my attendance deprives another student from attending, I would rather not enter the program.” She also remembers thinking that if Queens College took students like her, it could not be a very good school.

Elayne graduated magna cum laude with 150 credits, went on to get a Master’s degree and later returned to Queens College as coordinator of Liberal Arts for Continuing Education. She will be remembered on campus as the originator of “Backstage in the Berkshires,” an intensive weeklong program focusing on Shakespeare with trips to Tanglewood, Jacob’s Pillow, and museums. Her great love for Shakespeare and the theater was kindled when she took a summer course with Professor William Green in the English Department. A theater in the Berkshires is named after her. She also served on the board of the Great Neck Public Library and as its president for 10 years.

Elayne now resides in Sarasota, Florida. She raised her wonderful family in New York, and insists that Queens College opened the world for her and was one of the richest parts of her life. She considers the endowment she established in the library a small token of her gratitude for everything Queens College has done for her. We in the library are, indeed, grateful that her generous gift will benefit generations of present and future students of Queens College.

*Shoshana Kaufmann
Associate Librarian*



Voyage of Despair, Acrylic, 38" x 52"

BARHAM ROTUNDA EXHIBIT Lucy Janjigian's Paintings: "Uprooted"

The Queens College Libraries were proud and honored to present the work and PowerPoint presentation of distinguished artist Lucy Janjigian this spring.

Ms. Janjigian's series of paintings, "Uprooted: Genocide" depict the horrors of genocide and ethnic cleansing. The artist portrays scenes from stories she heard her father, uncles, and their friends tell from their childhood experiences when they escaped their 8 villages in Cilicia and took refuge on Musa Dagh (Mountain of Moses) that overlooked the Mediterranean Sea. The series conveys the deep paths and suffering of those who are forced to flee their native lands, bear witness to mass exterminations and tortures of both families and compatriots, and endure both the

trauma and legacy of a holocaust.

Janjigian uses a rich, vibrant palette of colors to counterpoint the tragedy of the Armenian genocide and diaspora of 1915. Her paintings tell stories of catastrophe and annihilation as well as the Armenian people's unyielding instinct to survive and triumph as a culture and nation. In "Mirage,"

where the exiled trek through harsh mountain terrain to reach safe haven, bold greens, blues, pinks, and oranges draw the viewer in to experience the elderly's arduous journey. In "Voyage of Despair," deep and vibrant blues and purples depict refugees huddled together in a rowboat during a turbulent storm, reinforcing a crossing over troubled waters.

A widely traveled painter, muralist, and sculptor, Lucy Boyadjian Janjigian, was born of Armenian descent in Jerusalem where she attended English Mission schools. She received her BA in Biology from Heidelberg College, Tiffin, Ohio, and her MS in Plant Ecology from Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia. Painting became her passion, and she developed into an award-winning artist after many years of study at the Art Students League and the Stacy Studio Workshop in New York City. She is listed in "Who's Who in American Art."

Lisa Flanzraich, PageDown Editor

For many artists today, a library serves as an extension of their studio—a place to research art practices and histories. Focusing on a more research-based approach, the Queens College Art Center created an experimental micro-season around the concept of "Artistic Space," offering exhibition opportunities for several artists and collaboratives during the Spring 2009 semester.



Strange Games: ALM.2//the RJA
by Jonas Angelet and Drew Malcolm

For example, we welcomed "Strange Games: ALM.2 vs. the RJA," featuring the work of Drew Malcolm and Jonas Angelet. Using collage, digital media, and painting, both artists' work remediates images from mass media, graffiti, and popular culture in April.

As we look towards the return of Dr. Suzanna Simor from her sabbatical and a very full 2009–2010 season, we are extremely excited to showcase our upcoming artists' talents and work. With exhibitions ranging from drawings to video to Jello™, our 2009–2010 season will have something for even the most contemporary viewer. For more information, please visit: http://qcpages.qc.cuny.edu/Art_Library/artcenter.html.

*Tara Tye Mathison, Assistant Curator
Queens College Art Center*

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.

Donors \$1–\$99 Sponsors \$100–\$499 Patrons \$500–\$999 Benefactors Over \$1,000 Sustaining Benefactors \$5,000+

All contributions are tax deductible.

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

Yes, I wish to become a Donor/Friend of the Library!

Amount \$ _____ Check enclosed

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

Street

City

State

Zip