

# Books & People

## IN THIS ISSUE



Sarah Parker Goodhue Exhibition  
PAGE 3

*Alexander Hamilton*  
*New Yorker*

Library Patron Alexander Hamilton  
PAGE 6

## Staff News

PAGE 10

## From the Head Librarian

*Carolyn Waters*

I came to the New York Society Library the same way I know many of you did – by deciding one day to simply walk in the door, possibly after passing under the gray awning numerous times before. I was a library student at the time, in the midst of a major mid-life career change that was by turns exhilarating and terrifying. From the moment I walked in, I understood that this place was special. I was greeted warmly by Susan Chan, who continues to greet members and visitors alike, five days a week, and offered a tour. I then spent an hour chatting with Jane Goldstein, at the time the Head of Circulation. I was enchanted - by the books and by the promise of amazing adventures in the stacks, but mostly by the people.



It's now almost nine years later, and I find myself amazed and overjoyed by my good fortune in stopping in that day. I joined the staff as a part-time Circulation Assistant shortly after that first visit, and I've never left. This literary haven in this chaotic city has charmed me as I'm sure it does you. Taking on this new role, I'm incredibly fortunate to have a supremely talented and creative staff and dedicated, loyal trustees who understand that, together with our remarkable members, we form an incomparable community of readers, writers, and families. To serve our community, we've added programming, enhanced our collections with new remote resources including e-books, and increased our hours – and that's just this year! It has been instructive and energizing listening to members and developing programs and services that enhance the well-being of our community, while maintaining the book stacks, the reading and writing spaces, and all of the other features that make this Library unique.

Not long after it was announced that I was taking over as Head Librarian, and that I was the third woman in the Library's history to do so, I discovered that my own grandfather, Albert G. Waters, was well acquainted with the first one. Edith Hall Crowell was a well-respected librarian at the Perth Amboy (N.J.) Free Public Library,

## Matching Gifts

Many companies and foundations offer matching gift programs to encourage and supplement charitable giving among their employees, including, in some cases, those who are part-time or retired. You may be able to double or even triple your Annual Fund contribution to the Library by taking advantage of your employer's program.

Funds from matching gifts provide vital support and make your initial gift go further. To find out if your company participates in such a program, contact us at 212.288.6900 x214 or [dsrebnick@nysoclib.org](mailto:dsrebnick@nysoclib.org).

Our members and friends participated in matching gift programs provided by the following companies in recent years:

ExxonMobil  
Hudson Savings Bank  
JP Morgan Chase  
Morgan Stanley  
The New York Times Company  
Pfizer Inc.  
Prospect Hill Foundation  
Reuters  
Soros Fund Management  
Time Warner

Thank you for supporting the Annual Fund!

## From the Head Librarian continued



The Members' Room around 1937, when Edith Hall Crowell became Head Librarian

where my grandfather hired her, and where he would reluctantly replace her when she left to become Head Librarian at the Society Library. That year, 1937, was an auspicious one, when the Library made the move to 79th Street and reopened for business in its beautiful new home, made possible by the generous bequest of Sarah Parker Goodhue (coincidentally, the subject of our latest exhibition in the Peluso Family Exhibition Gallery). After a little further research, I also discovered that Ms. Crowell and I both graduated from the same college at Rutgers University – known as the New Jersey College for Women in her time, Douglass College in mine.

The discovery of my own personal connection to a period in the Library's history pleases me. I was already one of the Library's biggest boosters, but now I feel bound to this place in a deeper way, like kismet. I see this same sense of belonging in those of you who have been members for decades, and I see it begin to take root in many of you as soon as you join.

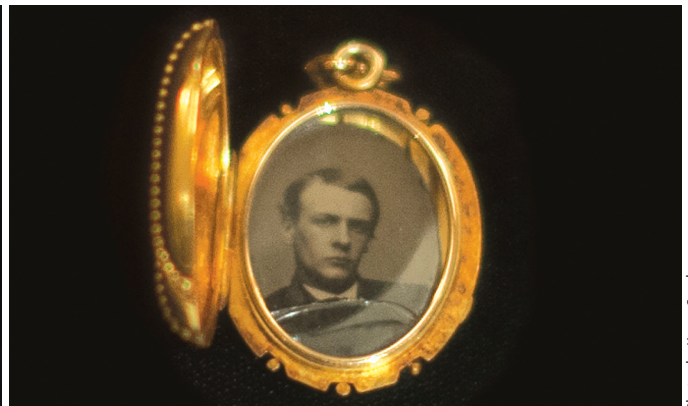
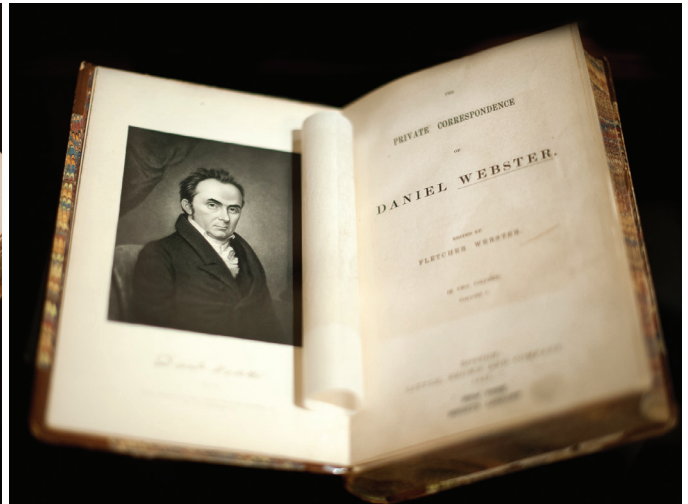
It is my hope that you will all find your own connections here, and that you're as welcomed and inspired by this community as I am. I'd love to hear from you, hear your stories – how did you find the Library, what makes it special to you, what would you like to see and experience from the Library and our community in the future. Send me a note at [cwaters@nysoclib.org](mailto:cwaters@nysoclib.org), call me, or just find me around the Library to chat.

# Sarah Parker Goodhue:

## *A Hidden Collection Comes to Light*

The Library celebrated the opening of its new exhibition on October 5. *Sarah Parker Goodhue: A Hidden Collection Comes to Light* displays treasures from the Library's Goodhue Collection, many of them unseen for nearly a century. Sarah Parker Goodhue (1828-1917) was a grande dame of Gilded Age New York City. She and her husband, Charles Clarkson Goodhue, were passionate travelers who gathered art around Europe and the United States. Mrs. Goodhue's historic bequest to the Library included china, art, books, furniture, and historic autographed letters related to the distinguished roles of the Clarkson and Goodhue families in American history. *Sarah Parker Goodhue: A Hidden Collection Comes to Light* is open to the public in the Assunta, Ignazio, Ada and Romano Peluso Exhibition Gallery through August 15, 2016.

THIS EXHIBITION IS FUNDED IN PART BY THE BODMAN FOUNDATION, THE FELICIA FUND, AND THE JUDY & WARREN TENNEY FOUNDATION, AND BY A GIFT IN MEMORY OF SUSAN GOODSTEIN LERNER.



Top: Goodhue descendant Sarah B. Tomaino beside her ancestor's portrait, wearing a locket that once belonged to Mrs. Goodhue. Middle: The Goodhue bequest included art, sculpture, furnishings, and books like Elisha Kent Kane's *Arctic Explorations* (1856) and *The Private Correspondence of Daniel Webster* (1857). Bottom left: Mrs. Goodhue also left us elegant personal items such as these sparkling shoe buckles. Bottom right: A long-unseen portrait of Charles Clarkson Goodhue, to whom our building is dedicated.

Photos by Karen Simul

# Spending Time with the Goodhue Collection's Letter Archive

Cathy McGowan

How one will be remembered can often be partly determined by what we have left written or by what others have written about us. Today, even those who are not authors or book subjects express themselves through social media that can outlive them. In addition to the funds, china, silver, and art, part of the bequest left to the Library by Sarah Parker Goodhue is the family's letter archive. Through it, a window to the past is opened, and much is learned and remembered about the writers of the letters, their recipients, and the events unfolding as they were written.

As a reader of the letters in preparation for our Goodhue Collection exhibition, I was excited by the connection across time experienced when opening folders of correspondence whose writers were born in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, and while reading firsthand accounts of what was happening in the first years of our country. While the contrast between what was being read on the page with the sounds from the street outside the Marshall Room window was marked, it was also a reminder of the way that things change both greatly and very little. As lifelong students of history, we were hearing directly from those in whose hands our history was made, and many times what was written rang true today.

"I never knew the Senate more divided on any question whatever...Patience is one necessary qualification for a Statesman and a ruler," wrote Stephen Choate to Massachusetts House Representative Benjamin Goodhue in 1790, regarding state debts amassed during the Revolutionary War. We can all recognize this as being applicable to many debates that plague our House and Senate still.

Several 1822 letters from House Representative Churchill Cambreling to Jonathan Goodhue refer to proposed changes to the collection law of 1818, saying, "there is no subject about which Congress and the government seems to be so utterly ignorant," and, "the house is however a chaos of parties and the members seem more anxious to discuss party questions than to attend to the more necessary business of the nation." Again, both of these statements could be imagined to relate to any number of issues we currently face. Cambreling wrote again to Goodhue in 1824 regarding a tariff vote, saying, "If every member in

our House would vote according to his judgment and conscience we should have a majority."

In addition to much political correspondence, there are letters regarding invitations and meetings, character references, and those discussing the shipping business of the Goodhue family, including purchases, payment for sailors and a ship's destination change. However ordinary the topic, seen through the window of time each letter is imbued with the bridge it provides to the past.

A friendly request for vine clippings from soon-to-be President James Monroe to former President Thomas Jefferson is included in a letter discussing a candidate for a consulate position, just as we would use social engagements or correspondence as an entrée to a business-related topic.

Concern about what exactly was said or left unspoken in the time between Aaron Burr's dueling challenge to Alexander Hamilton and Hamilton's untimely death as a result, is the topic of discussion in letters from New York Senator Rufus King to General Matthew Clarkson in August of 1804. Senator King states he has no recollection that "you had given an opinion that a Duel between our lamented friend & Col. Burr was unavoidable." There are echoes in what is written that bring to mind the extraordinary care taken in what is and is not relayed to today's press.

A thank-you comes from Henry Cabot to Jonathan Goodhue in the 1850s for the return of his father's letters, which he says are "strongly characteristic of the writer's habits of life and modes of thinking." This leads one to wonder if the same will be able to be said of our electronic correspondence, and, if so, how it will reflect us.

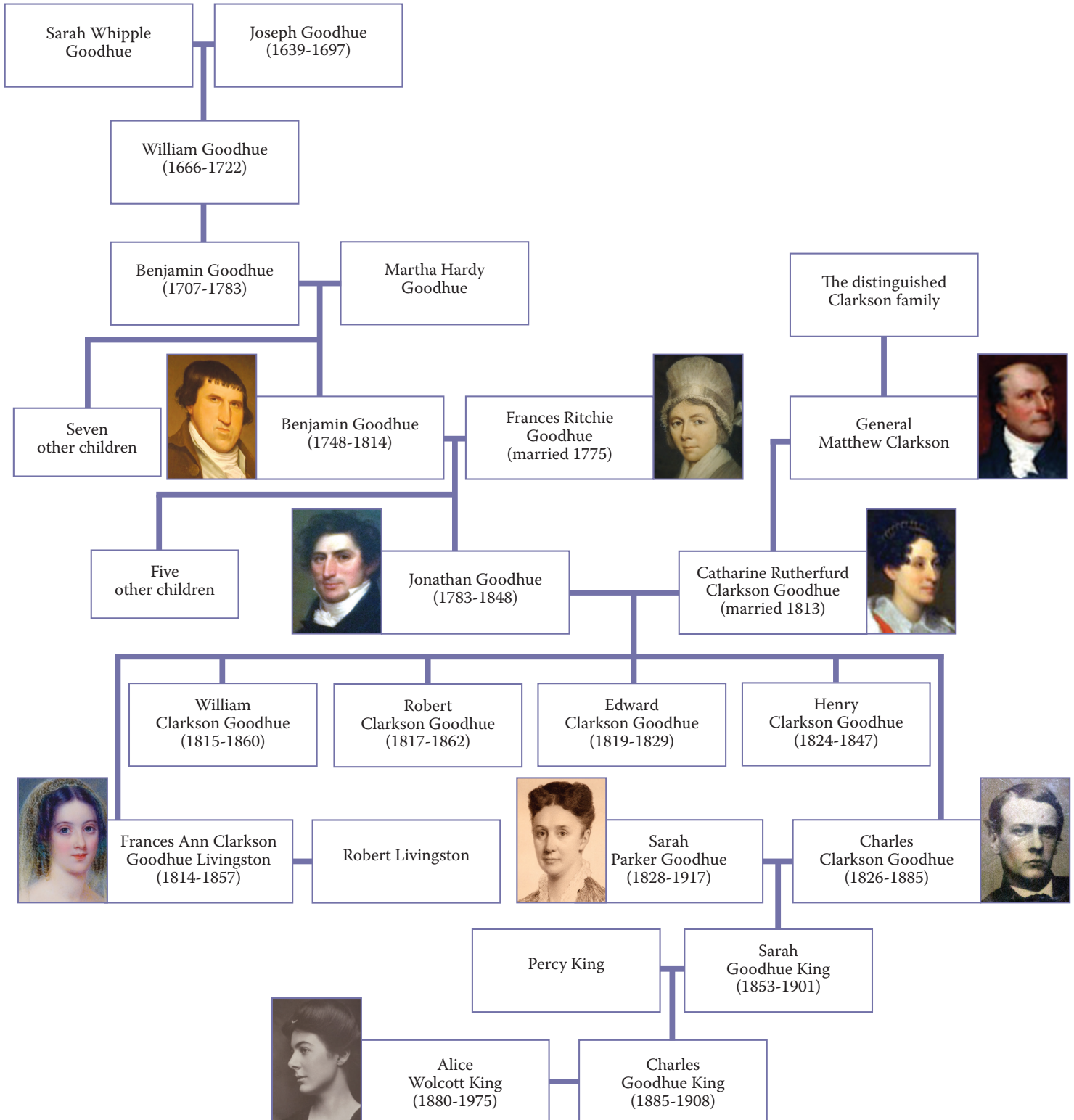
After the wonderfully tactile experience of spending time with the physical letter archive of the Goodhue Collection, those of us who had done so felt grateful to be the stewards of the precious paper embellished with the thoughts of the time of the Goodhue and Parker ancestors.



“The Good and Distinguished Men of His Name and Ancestry”

# The Goodhue Family Tree

Kathleen Fox, Interlibrary Loan Coordinator/Circulation Assistant



The images on this page are displayed in the exhibition or in the main stairwell and Members' Room.

# Alexander Hamilton, Founding Father and Library Patron

Due to the current revival of interest in Alexander Hamilton, the Library surveyed some of its rare and notable items related to the original Secretary of the Treasury.

Alexander Hamilton		Philip Ebert — 14 Oct. 1791	
Dec. 30	Edward Mortimer	Nov. 29	Hist Indian Nations
April 3	Eleonora - McConaughy	Dec. 12	Novel Plot
		19	Matrimonial Preceptor
		29	Shakespeare. 3
		13	Country Mould
		91	
		20	Gronville
		28	Greville
		19	Harri Dow
		22	Boyle's Voyages
		36	Hume 1
		May	Fair Lyric
			2
			Evilina

March 7  
 My Dear Sir  
 This will be delivered to you by Mr. Coracchi, whom I recommend to you by Dear Sir  
 He goes to New York in pursuit of subscriptions towards a monument of the American Revolution have doubtless heard of the project. He will explain to you more particularly. I have prepared to him to inform you that the Office of Commissioners of Loans is at your service, if you incline to accept it. Please inform immediately, for in a new appointment, please - In either case you will of course say nothing of the affair.  
 I am  
 A Hamilton  
 Philadelphia: Jan 15 1795  
 While I warmly wish success to the plan, I would not embarrass my friends by urging it to the prejudice of public interests.  
 Matthew Clarkson Esq  
 N.Y.

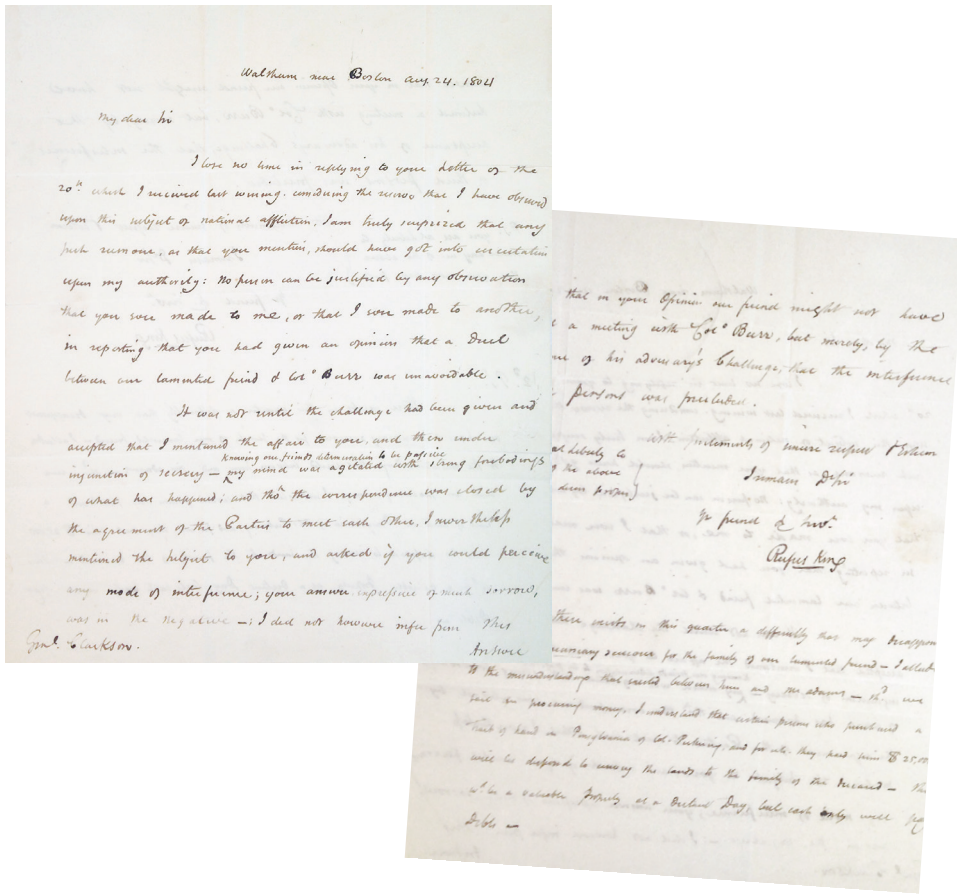
The New York Society Library Charging Ledger 1789-1792, Hamilton Page

From 1789 to 1792 the Library shared New York's City Hall with the new federal government. Alexander Hamilton was among the many members of the Washington administration who used our collection. In his case, only two checkouts are recorded, including Goethe's *Eleonora*.

Letter from Alexander Hamilton, dated March 7, 1792, about a potential monument commemorating the American revolution.

Letter from Alexander Hamilton, dated January 15, 1795, offering a government office to General Matthew Clarkson.

Clarkson was a Revolutionary War hero and a Library trustee.

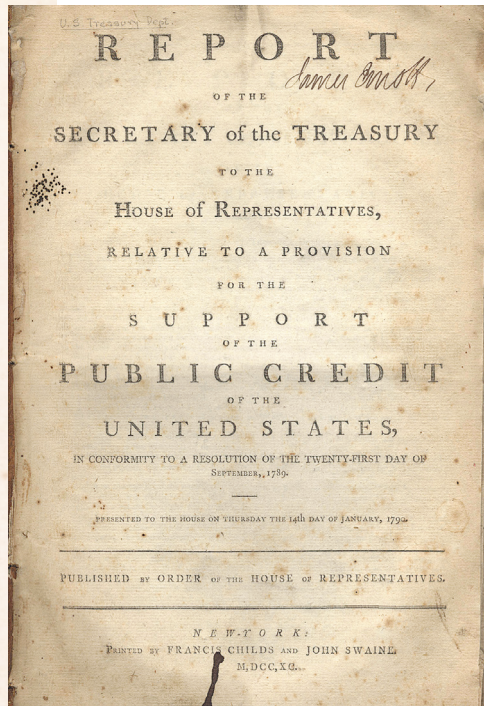
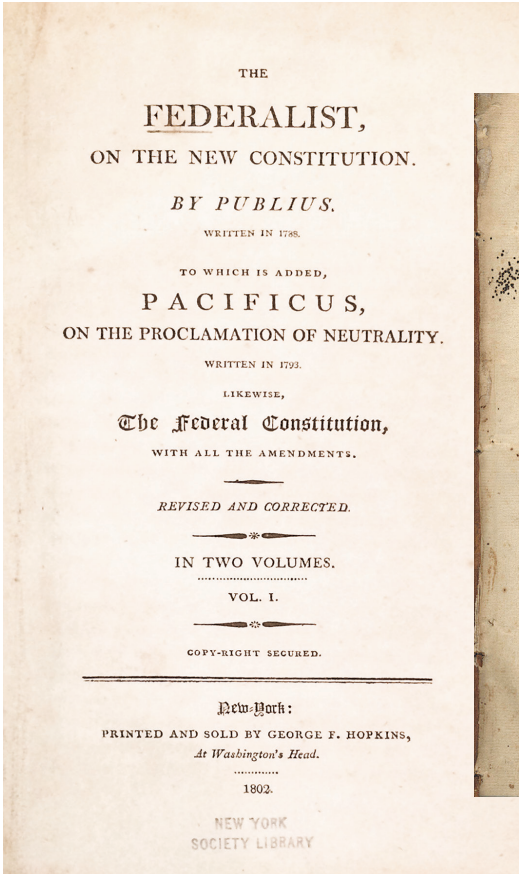


Letter from Rufus King to Matthew Clarkson, dated August 24, 1804.

Rufus King was a U.S. Senator and ambassador, Clarkson a Revolutionary War hero and Library trustee. Hamilton, a mutual friend of theirs, died following a duel with Aaron Burr on July 11, 1804.

King writes, "...knowing our friend's determination to be pacific my mind was agitated with strong forebodings of what has happened; and tho' the correspondence was closed by the agreement of the Parties to meet each other, I nevertheless mentioned the subject to you, and asked if you could perceive any mode of interference; your answer, expressive of much sorrow, was in the negative..."

In a postscript he adds, "There exists in this quarter a difficulty that may disappoint our hopes of pecuniary succour for the family of our lamented friend—I allude to the misunderstanding that existed[?] between him and Mr. Adams—tho' we fail in procuring money, I understand that certain persons who purchased a Tract of Land in Pennsylvania of Col. [name illegible], and for wh. they paid him \$25,000 will be disposed to convey the lands to the family of the deceased—This wd be a valuable Property of a distant Day, but cash only will pay debts—"

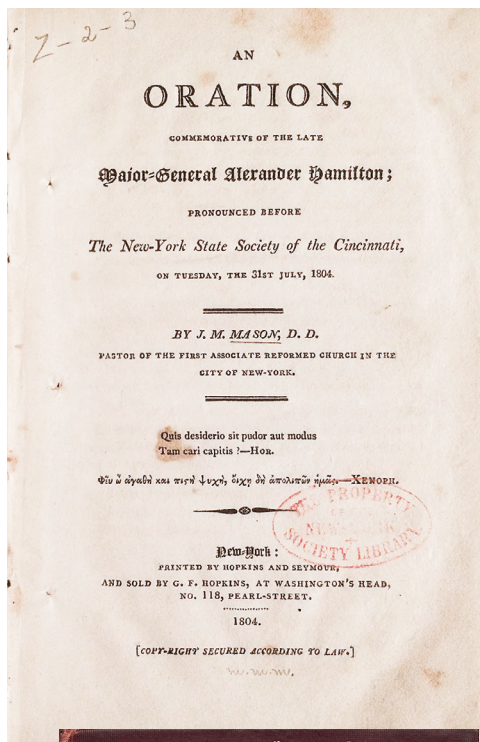
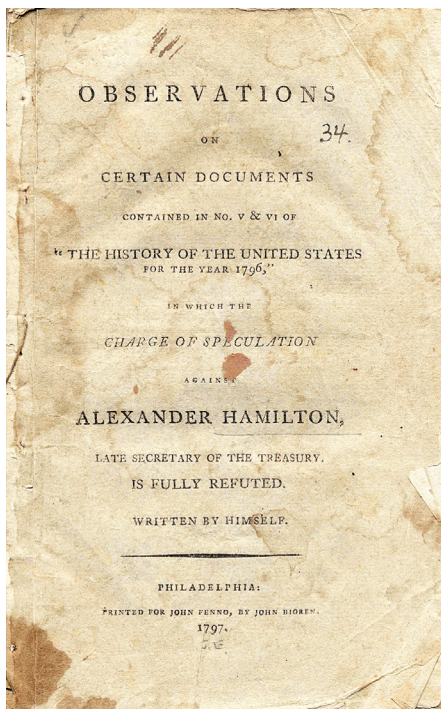


Left: *The Federalist, On the New Constitution*, by Publius, written in 1788; to which is added, *Pacifcus, on the proclamation of neutrality*: written in 1793; Likewise, *The Federal Constitution, with all the amendments*. New-York: Printed and sold by George F. Hopkins, at Washington's Head, 1802.

This famous set of 85 essays arguing in support of the U.S. Constitution were Hamilton's brainchild and were written by him, James Madison, and (Library member) John Jay under the collective name 'Publius.'

Right: Alexander Hamilton, *Report of the Secretary of the Treasury to the House of Representatives, relative to a provision for the support of the public credit of the United States: in conformity to a resolution of the twenty-first day of September, 1789: presented to the House on Thursday, the 14th day of January, 1790 / published by order of the House of Representatives*. New-York: Printed by Francis Childs and John Swaine, 1790.

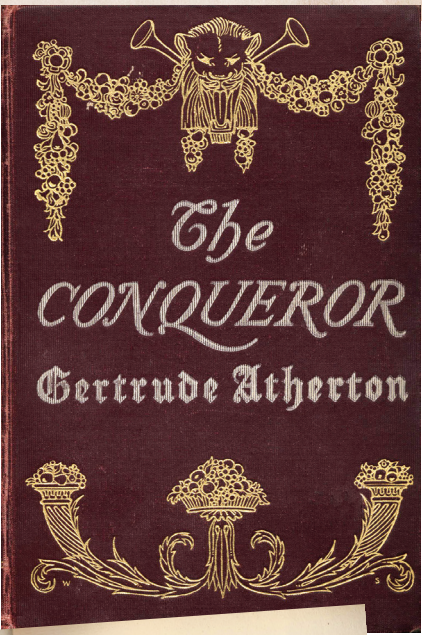
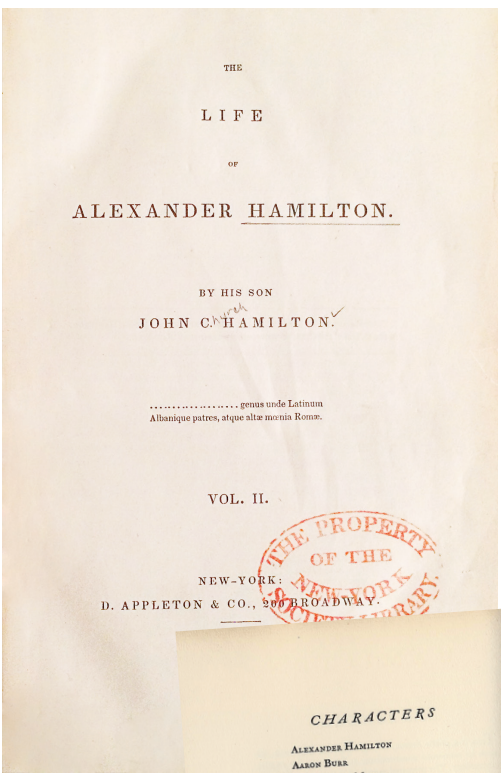
Hamilton served as Secretary of the Treasury from 1789 to 1795.



Top Left: Alexander Hamilton, *Observations on certain documents contained in no. V & VI of The History of the United States for the Year 1796.*; in which the charge of speculation against Alexander Hamilton, late Secretary of the Treasury, is fully refuted / written by himself. Philadelphia: Printed for John Fenno, by John Bioren, 1797.

Hamilton resorts to a pamphlet to dispute the allegations against him in James Thomson Callender's muckraking *History of the United States for 1796.*

Top Right: John Mitchell Mason, *An oration, commemorative of the late Major-General Alexander Hamilton: pronounced before the New-York State Society of the Cincinnati, on Tuesday, the 31st July, 1804.* New-York: Printed by Hopkins and Seymour, and sold by G.F. Hopkins, at Washington's Head, No. 118, Pearl-Street, 1804.



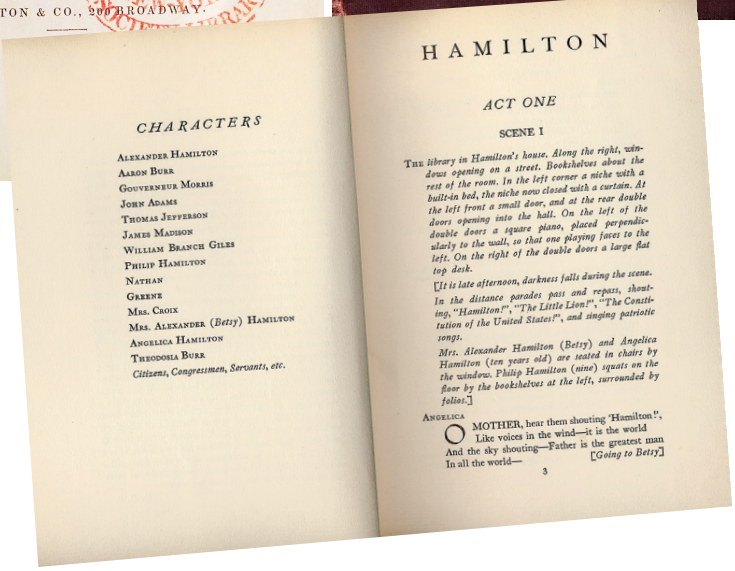
Hamilton died on July 12, 1804. J.M. Mason D.D. (1770-1829) was the pastor of New York City's First Associate Reformed Church. The Society of the Cincinnati is an association of Revolutionary War veterans and their descendants.

Left: John C. Hamilton, *The Life of Alexander Hamilton, Vol II.* New-York: D. Appleton & Co., 1840.

John Church Hamilton (1792-1882) was the fourth son of Alexander Hamilton and Elizabeth Schuyler Hamilton. Eleven years old when his father died, he later served in the War of 1812 and became a lawyer of note as well as a biographer.

Right: Gertrude Franklin Atherton, *The Conqueror: Being the True and Romantic Story of Alexander Hamilton.* New York: Macmillan, 1902.

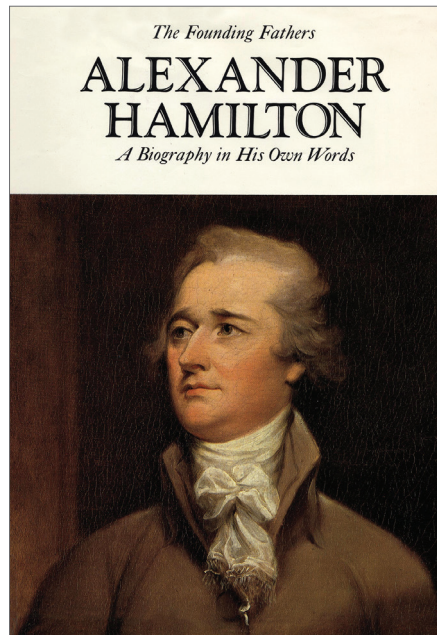
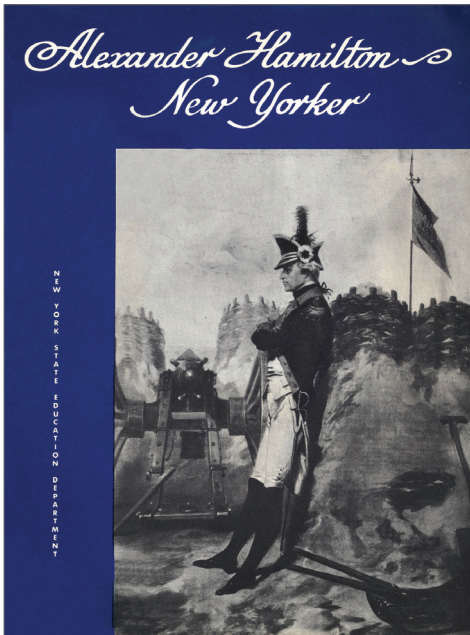
Society-flouting San Franciscan Gertrude Atherton (1857-1948) had her first best-seller with this romanticized but well-researched historical novel.



Bottom: Chard Powers Smith, *Hamilton: A Poetic Drama in Three Acts.* New York: Coward-McCann, 1930.

The Library holds twelve books by Chard Powers Smith (1894-1977), a writer and critic best known as the biographer of Edwin Arlington Robinson.

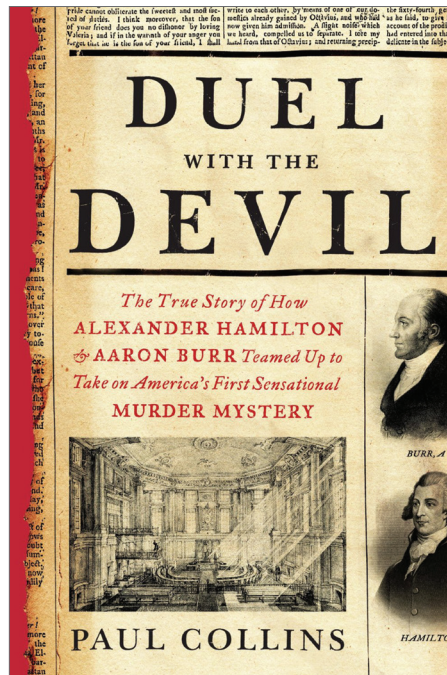
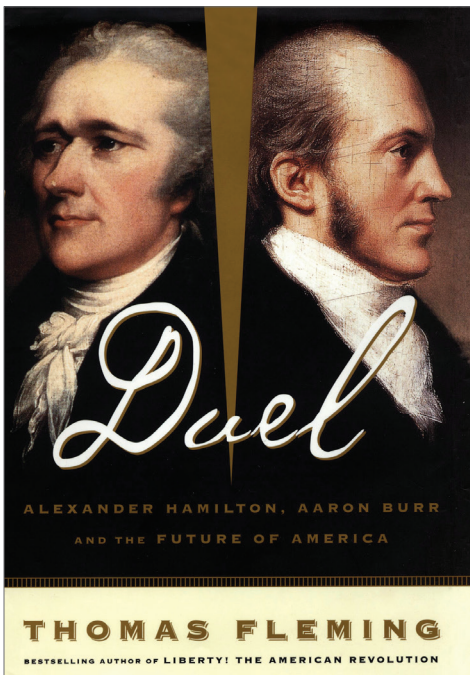




**Top Left:** Dorothy Horton McGee, *Alexander Hamilton, New Yorker, 1755-1804*. Albany: Bureau of Secondary Curriculum Development, 1957.

Dorothy Horton McGee (d. 2003) served as a trustee, researcher, writer, or presenter for almost a dozen New York State and Long Island historical museums, associations, and landmarks commissions. Her books included introductory works about the Revolutionary era as well as children's mysteries and adventure stories.

**Top Right:** Alexander Hamilton, *Alexander Hamilton: A Biography in His Own Words*. Edited by Mary-Jo Kline with an introduction by Harold C. Syrett; picture editor Joan Paterson Kerr. New York: Newsweek, 1973.



Part of a series created by *Newsweek* and distributed by Harper & Row, based on the collected papers and correspondence of several founding fathers. The Library also has the volumes about Washington, Franklin, Madison, Adams, and Jefferson.

**Bottom Left:** Thomas J. Fleming, *Duel: Alexander Hamilton, Aaron Burr, and the Future of America*. New York: Basic Books, 1999.

Library member author Thomas Fleming is well known for his books about the early national era. Aaron Burr was also a Library member who checked out more than 50 of our volumes between 1789 and 1792.

**Bottom Right:** Paul Collins, *Duel with the Devil: The True Story of How Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr Teamed Up to Take On America's First Sensational Murder Mystery*. New York: Crown Publishers, 2013.

This surprising and compelling narrative was a winner of the Library's New York City Book Award in 2013-2014.

# Staff News



Left to right: Mia, Diane, Kathleen, Morgan, and Alexanne

**Above: Mia D'Avanza** is our new Head of Circulation. Mia comes to us from the New York Botanical Garden Library. She previously worked at the University of South Florida Contemporary Art Museum and was a fellow in art librarianship at Yale University. She first visited the Library on a tour a few years ago and is delighted to be a part of it.

**Diane Dias De Fazio**, Circulation Librarian, previously worked in the libraries at Brooklyn College and the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

**Kathleen Fox**, previously a page, is now Interlibrary Loan Coordinator/Circulation Assistant.

**Morgan Aronson**, who began as a page, is now a Bibliographic Assistant in the Cataloging Department.

**Alexanne Brown** joined us in July as Project Archivist, working with Library historical materials.

**Right: Randi Levy** is now Head of the Children's Library. Randi originally joined the Library staff in the Cataloging Department in 1999, became a Children's Librarian in 2003, and returned in that role in 2013 after time as a school librarian.

**Danielle Gregori** is a new Children's Librarian.

**Susan Vincent Molinaro** has moved from the Circulation Department to be a full-time Children's Librarian.



Randi, Danielle, and Susan Vincent

# In Memoriam

*Meredith Rossi*



The New York Society Library lost a great librarian and a great friend when Head of Circulation Meredith Rossi passed away on June 27.

Meredith joined us in January 2014, having been a Circulation/Reference Librarian at New York University School of Law Library. Her gifts in reader's advisory and organization immediately benefited both staff and members. Her kindness, patience, sense of humor, and dedication to the Library will be remembered and missed by all.

*Jane Goldstein*



Jane playfully sports a Colonial-style tricorne at the Library's 250th anniversary celebration, 2004

The Trustees and Staff of the New York Society Library were very saddened to learn that Jane Goldstein passed away on July 2, 2015. Jane was born in Pittsburgh, PA, and was a longtime resident of Larchmont, NY. She worked at the Library for forty years.

Jane came to the Society Library as a circulation assistant in 1972, working under Head Librarian Sylvia Hilton, then with Mark Piel during his tenure (1978-2004). She retired from the Library after an impressive career, including service as Head of Circulation (1998-2006) and Assistant Head Librarian (2007-2011).

Jane played a role in all the Library's major developments in those decades, including the transition to the electronic catalog, the start of our events programming, and the 250th anniversary celebration. Above all, she brought a staggering number of books together with an uncountable number of readers, and her love and knowledge of the collection, combined with her skills at reader's advisory, made her truly indispensable.

Jane was known for her intelligence, friendliness, diligence and practicality. She had a boundless dedication to the Library and its members. She was remarkable. She will be remembered.

*John K. Howat*

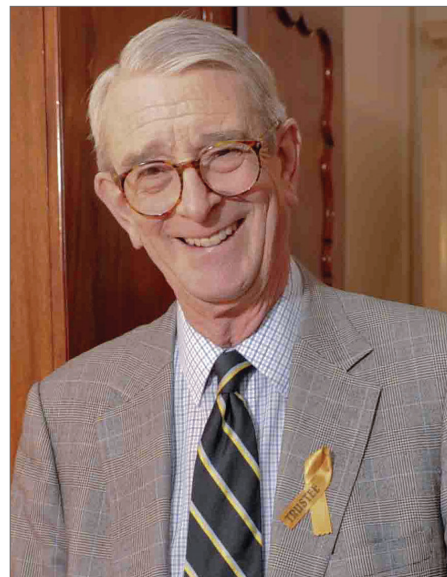


Photo by Hannah Thompson

John K. "Jock" Howat, who died in June, served on the Library's Board of Trustees from 2002 to 2011.

Mr. Howat was the Lawrence A. Fleischman Chairman of the Department of American Art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art from 1982 until his retirement in 2001. He served in curatorial positions at the Met for more than 33 years, with his primary focus on the construction and installation of the much-expanded American Wing, completed in 1980, followed by the opening of the Henry R. Luce Center for the Study of American Art in 1988. In 1982 he established the William Cullen Bryant Fellows, the American Wing support group that continues to underwrite museum scholarship.

Mr. Howat was a prolific writer and witty raconteur, a renowned scholar of the work of Frederic Edwin Church, and a lover of New York history and institutions. He brought invaluable knowledge, experience, and wisdom to the Library Board.



53 East 79th Street  
New York, NY 10075  
[www.nysoclib.org](http://www.nysoclib.org)

T. 212.288.6900  
F. 212.744.5832

[facebook.com/nysoclib](https://www.facebook.com/nysoclib)  
[@nysoclib](https://twitter.com/nysoclib)

This newsletter is available  
in electronic form at  
[www.nysoclib.org  
/about/newsletter-archive](http://www.nysoclib.org/about/newsletter-archive)

## One More Picture



Library writers read from new or recent work at Live from the Library on October 21.