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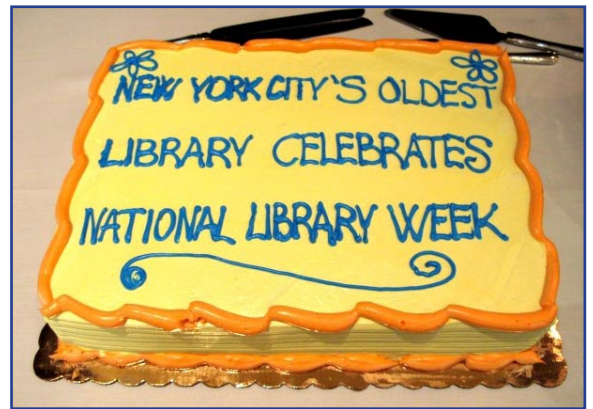
VOLUME 15, NUMBER 3, SUMMER 2008

FROM THE HEAD LIBRARIAN

News on the First Charging Ledger

My March/April 2007 column mentioned the Library's exciting plans to conserve and digitize our 1789-1792 charging ledger. Thanks to the generous support of an anonymous donor and trustee emeritus Christopher Gray, we were able to contract with the Northeast Document Conservation Center to perform this work. The conserved ledger is now back in the Library, and staff members are working on related web pages, biographies of the members listed in it, and transcription of the handwritten entries. We hope to hold a public launch of the ledger later this year.

While reviewing some of our holdings on New York in the eighteenth century, I discovered the 1943 book *This Was New York: The Nation's Capital in 1789* by Frank Monaghan and Marvin Lowenthal (Stack 1, 917.471 M). The authors did much of their research for the chapter "News and Review" here in the Library, including analysis of the first ledger's entries. I like to think that Monaghan and Lowenthal would be proud that we are now circling back to their book and benefiting from their research.



National Library Week 2008

Our National Library Week celebration was a highlight of the season in many ways. It was this Library's first-ever observance of a fifty-year-old nationwide event to celebrate libraries and librarians and promote library use and support. It was also the first time we held three member events and the Annual Meeting of Shareholders in the same week, and it was our trial by fire with a new digital audio- and video-recording system.

Coming Soon: Library Event Recordings

With the speakers' permission, we will now record every event held in the Members' Room. These recordings will soon be available as streaming audio and video on our website and on circulating CD alongside our audiobook collection. We know it is not always possible for all those who want to attend to make the times of our events or to fit into the room. We hope that an archive of event recordings will compensate for this and be of interest both to members and to the general public. Watch this newsletter and the website for the imminent announcement of these recordings' availability. Thanks are due to Sara Elliott Holliday, Ingrid Richter, George Munoz, Keren Fleshler, and Joel Blaha for their work on this new initiative.

More Good Thought About Books and Libraries

Last week a Library member handed me the June 12 issue of the *New York Review of Books*, saying, "Read this Darnton article—it's important." Robert Darnton, an internationally renowned scholar on the history of the book and the literary world of the French Enlightenment, became the Carl H. Pforzheimer University Professor and Director of the Harvard University Library in 2007. His reflections on the past and future of libraries and other themes raised at our April 15 panel "The Book Is Dead! Long Live the Book!" are well worth reading. Ask for a copy at the front desk.

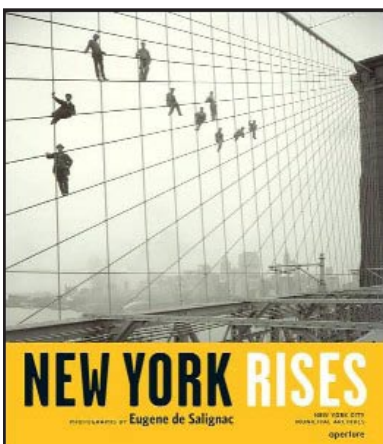
Summer Reading

With summer underway, many of us are finding new time to immerse ourselves in a book, or two, or three. I recently put together a short stack of books for this summer. Among the titles I'm looking forward to: Kiran Desai's *The Inheritance of Loss*, *The New York Stories of Henry James* (a 2006 collection selected and introduced by Colm Tóibín), Joyce Johnson's memoir *Minor Characters*, Don Domanski's book of poems *All Our Wonder Unavenged* (2007 winner of the Canadian Governor-General's Award for Poetry), and Joseph O'Neill's novel *Netherland*. May your reading choices be equally fruitful—and if you could use some suggestions, our June *New Books* list is available at the desk or on the website, and our circulation and reference staff are always happy to offer ideas in person or by phone.

I wish you all a restful and book-abundant summer.

Mark Bartlett
Head Librarian

THE 2007-2008 NEW YORK CITY BOOK AWARDS

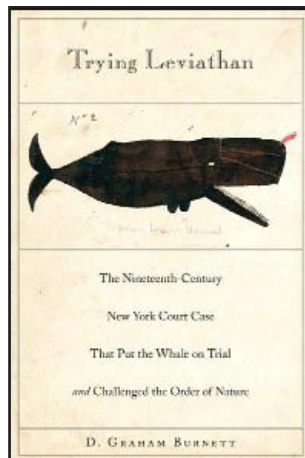


AWARD FOR PHOTOGRAPHY

New York Rises: Photographs by Eugene de Salignac
by Michael Lorenzini and Kevin Moore,
edited by Nancy Grubb
published by cooperation of Aperture Foundation
and The New York City Department of Records/
Municipal Archives

AWARD FOR HISTORY

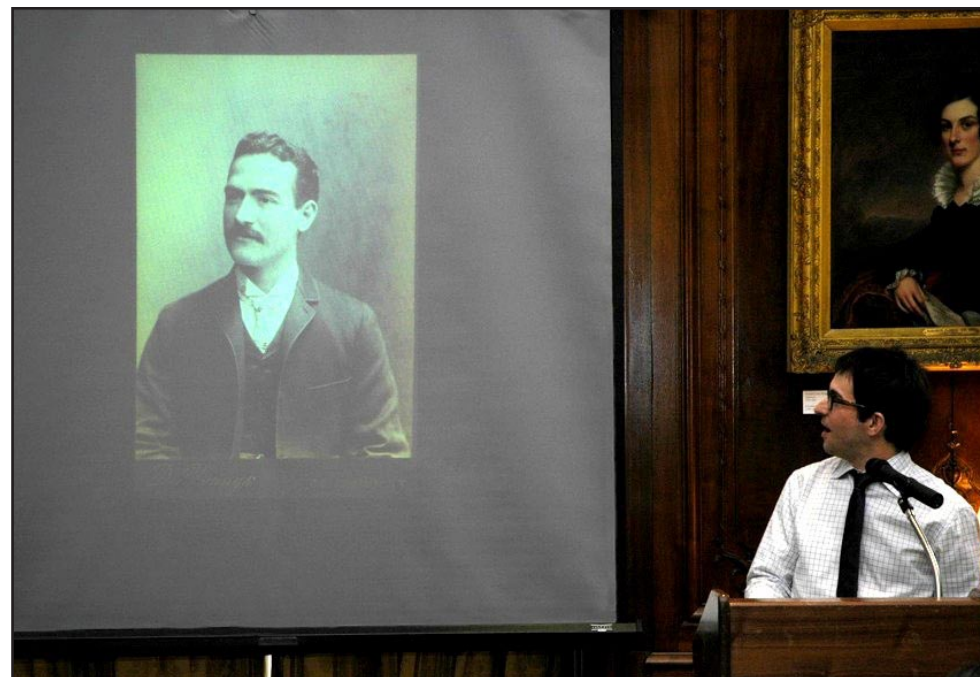
*Trying Leviathan: The Nineteenth-Century New York Court Case
That Put the Whale on Trial and Challenged the Order of Nature*
by D. Graham Burnett
Princeton University Press



The New York City Book Awards were presented at a ceremony and reception on May 14. Jury Chair Constance Rogers Roosevelt welcomed attendees and Library trustee Laurence Bergreen offered remarks and spoke of his own fortunate finds and experiences with archival research, a theme that links this year's two winning books. Jury members Elizabeth Barlow Rogers and Roger Pasquier presented the awards. Michael Lorenzini, winner for *New York Rises* and Curator of Photography at the New York City Municipal Archives, gave a brief presentation on the life and career of Eugene de Salignac, the subject of his book. *Trying Leviathan* author D. Graham Burnett, who is an Associate Professor of History at Princeton University, was unable to attend, but his wife Christina Burnett, a professor of law at Columbia, gracefully accepted for him.



At left: Municipal Archives Assistant Commissioner Ken Cobb with author Michael Lorenzini; Mr. Lorenzini with an image of photographer Eugene de Salignac
At right: Host Laurence Bergreen.



THE SIXTH ANNUAL YOUNG WRITERS AWARDS, 2008

The Young Writers Awards honor good writing in poetry and prose by young members of the Library and community in grades three through twelve. Five winners and five honorable mentions received awards at a ceremony and reception on May 8. Judges Robert Quackenbush, Dave Johnson, and Carol Weston made the presentations and offered remarks about the winning entries and the writing life.



Honorees of the 2008 Young Writers Awards. Back row: Jennifer Yeoh-Wang, Theo Naylor, Allie Blankenhorn, Sara Weintrob, David Schwerdt. Front row: Alexis Kushner, Olivia Keane, Babe Howard, Sydney Jennison, Lucia Ryan

Winners

- Third and Fourth Grade Prose:*
Sydney Jennison, "Catch a Memory, Catch a Moon"
- Third and Fourth Grade Poetry:*
Olivia Keane, "Cherry Tree"
- Fifth and Sixth Grade Prose:* Babe Howard, "Lifeless"
- Fifth and Sixth Grade Poetry:*
Lucia Ryan, "Pleading Novels"
- Seventh and Eighth Grade Poetry:*
Theo Naylor, "One String Short"

Honorable Mentions

- Third and Fourth Grade Poetry:*
Alexis Kushner, "Chocolate"
- Fifth and Sixth Grade Prose:*
Allie Blankenhorn, "Madame's Umbrella"
- Fifth and Sixth Grade Poetry:* Sara Weintrob, "The End"
- Seventh and Eighth Grade Poetry:*
David Schwerdt, "Hell on Earth"
- Seventh and Eighth Grade Poetry:*
Jennifer Yeoh-Wang, "Lady on a Vase"

The winning entries can be read on the Library's website at www.nysoclib.org/kids/ywa/index.html and are being cataloged as a booklet for the Children's Library.



Honorable Mention Sara Weintrob with judge Dave Johnson



OTHER EVENTS: Left to right: Washington Irving biographer Brian Jay Jones with Irving descendant Elise Irving Boeger at the National Library Week celebration on April 19; Children's and young adult author Patricia Reilly Giff greets her readers at her event on May 15.

WIRELESS INTERNET ACCESS AVAILABLE ON THE FIFTH FLOOR

The Library is pleased to be able to respond to many member requests and enhance our technological offerings with wireless internet access. We now offer password-protected wireless access to laptop users on the fifth floor. This is an addition to the hard-wired cable connections on the fifth floor and the public computers on the third and fifth floors.

The wireless signal is strong in all the fifth floor front rooms and can be accessed in the Green Alcove in Stack 12. It does not work in the rest of Stack 12 or on any other floor. Please note that this network is still in a preliminary stage, and changes and improvements will be forthcoming. The network is not secure and should not be used to transfer sensitive personal or financial data.

To use the wireless network, you will need to bring your own laptop computer equipped with built-in Wi-Fi capability, or you will need to install a Wi-Fi network card in your laptop. Our network uses industry-standard 802.11 wireless networking equipment.

More technical details and password information can be found in the pamphlet "Connecting to the Wireless Network," available at the front desk and in the Large Study Room.

We hope that this new capability is useful to our researchers, writers, and other users.



NEW ELECTRONIC RESOURCE: PROJECT MUSE

The Library has recently added Project MUSE: Scholarly Journals Online to its growing list of electronic resources. Project MUSE includes more than 380 humanities and social science journals, on subjects such as literature and criticism, history, the visual and performing arts, cultural studies, education, political science, gender studies, and more.

Features of Project MUSE include:

- The full text of articles, including charts, graphs, and images
- Text available in HTML or PDF format
- Ability to print, save, or e-mail search results and articles.

The database is accessible from the main catalog page and from the Resources drop list on the Library's homepage, www.nysoclib.org. Members can log on to Project MUSE directly from within the Library or from home using a barcode. To receive your barcode for home access to most of our electronic resources, send an e-mail to webmaster@nysoclib.org. For questions about electronic resources or a tutorial on Project MUSE, visit the Reference Desk between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. or e-mail reference@nysoclib.org.



MORE OF THE 2007-2008 EVENTS SEASON



Harris Yulin and Kathleen Chalfant perform Chère Maître, November 2007; Jules and Kate Feiffer assist a young artist, April 2008

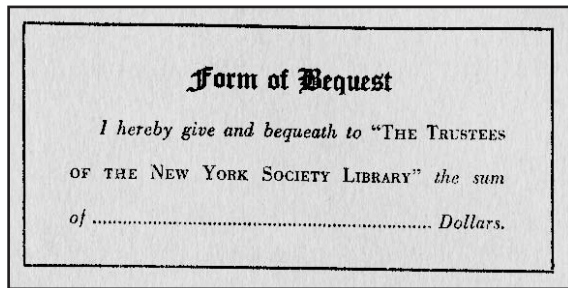
LIBRARY LEGACIES

Irene Schmied, a member for twenty-four years, recently informed the Library that she has designated it as a beneficiary in her will. In explaining why she decided to make this wonderful gesture, she said that finding the Library was a great comfort to her during a significant transitional period in her life. She recounted an early visit in which she discovered an issue of the magazine *Encounter* featuring a poem, "A Night at the Inn," by Ruth Silcock, an old friend from England. She wrote to Ms. Silcock, renewing and strengthening a friendship that continues to this day. Ms. Schmied added, "Finding the Library helped me to find things that always were important to me. It was a good feeling. It became a refuge....It reminds you of things that are very valuable, and reaffirms one's own value."

Over the years, the Library has played a meaningful role in the lives of countless others, as evidenced by the longevity of their memberships. Over 700 currently active members joined at least twenty years ago, like Ms. Schmied; ninety members joined at least forty years ago, and, astonishingly, twenty-five loyal individuals have been members for more than fifty years. As it has done for hundreds of years, the Library can have a profound impact on its members, readers and writers alike, for decades.

For more than 150 years, many have chosen to honor this connection by making a provision for the Library in their wills. Our first legacy, of \$5,000, came from Miss Elizabeth DeMilt in 1849. The 1917 bequest of the residuary estate of Mrs. Charles C. Goodhue (Sarah Parker Goodhue) was intended for a building to house the Library along with art objects—notably portraits, statues, and china—that were included in the legacy. Wise investments resulted in the fund more than doubling by 1936, when it enabled us to purchase our current building on 79th Street. A charcoal portrait of Mrs. Goodhue, whose generosity formed the basis of all the Library's activities for the past 70 years, hangs opposite the east elevator on the first floor. The portraits and statues she gave adorn our main staircase, and her china is displayed in the Members' Room. Since Mrs. Goodhue, many other individuals have joined her in strengthening the Library's legacy through their own bequests, large and small.

We wish to thank and honor those who are including the Library in their estate plans. If you have provided for the Library's future with a bequest, or if you intend to, please contact Director of Development Joan Zimmett. This will allow us to answer any questions you may have and to update our records. The Development Department can be reached at 212-288-6900 x207 or jzimmnett@nysoclib.org.



The simple bequest form printed in Annual Reports between 1882 and 1936

PELUSO FAMILY EXHIBITION GALLERY NEWS

The Library is proud to open the Assunta, Ignazio, Ada and Romano Peluso Exhibition Gallery to the public from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays (or Tuesday-Friday during the summer). The gallery will be listed in New York City tourist guides, and a sign outside the front door invites in passersby. Nonmember visitors are required to sign in at the front desk and to wear a Visitor badge while on the second floor.

The Library is looking for members who would like to work as volunteer docents in the Peluso Family Exhibition Gallery and/or as assistants at selected special events. If you are interested, please leave your name at the Reference Desk or e-mail Assistant Head Librarian Jane Goldstein at jgoldstein@nysoclib.org.



Ada and Romano Peluso with Edmée Reit and Mark Bartlett at the dedication of the Peluso Family Exhibition Gallery in March

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS NEWSLETTER INCLUDED Mark Bartlett, Sara Elliott Holliday, George Muñoz (photos), Dave Ortiz (photos), Ingrid Richter, Carolyn Waters, and Joan Zimmett.

PRIMARY PREVIEWS: A DRAMA SEMINAR

PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PRIMARY STAGES

LED BY TESSA LENEVE

\$40 PER PERSON for all four sessions, nonrefundable

Back by popular demand, this seminar gives an advance look at Primary Stages' 24th season of exciting new plays by some of today's most prominent playwrights.

Participants will become part of the artistic process by reading the plays, then discussing the motivations of the playwrights and their characters, and the dramatic structure. These perspectives will inform the productions of these plays in the 2008-2009 season. Participants will also have the opportunity to attend the plays as a group.

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| Wednesday, July 9, 6:00-8:00 p.m.: | <i>Buffalo Gal</i> by A. R. Gurney |
| Wednesday, July 16, 6:00-8:00 p.m.: | <i>A Body of Water</i> by Lee Blessing |
| Wednesday, July 23, 6:00-8:00 p.m.: | <i>Shipwrecked! An Entertainment</i> by Donald Margulies |
| Wednesday, July 30, 5:00-7:00 p.m.: | <i>Chasing Manet</i> by Tina Howe (followed by a group viewing of <i>Buffalo Gal</i>) |

Primary Stages was founded in 1984 as a not-for-profit theater company with the mission of producing new plays and fostering the artistic development of emerging and established playwrights. The company has given life to more than 90 new plays, many of them world premiers, helping to create a library of new works for the American theater. More information on Primary Stages and the upcoming plays is available at www.primarystages.com.

Tessa LaNeve, Primary Stages Literary Manager, is a professional dramaturge and freelance director.

The stated fee covers the cost of copies of the plays for participants and refreshments at the last session.

Registration is required, and space is limited. To reserve spaces, contact the Events Office at 212-288-6900 x230 or events@nysoclib.org.

The New York Society Library thrives and prospers through the generosity of its donors. Contributions are fully tax-deductible and can be made by check, credit card, or in appreciated securities at any time throughout the year. For more information on supporting the Library, please visit our website at www.nysoclib.org/donations.html or call the Development Office at 212-288-6900 x214.

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