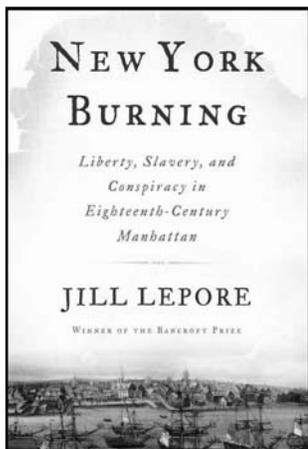


NOTES



VOLUME 13, NUMBER 2, SPRING 2006

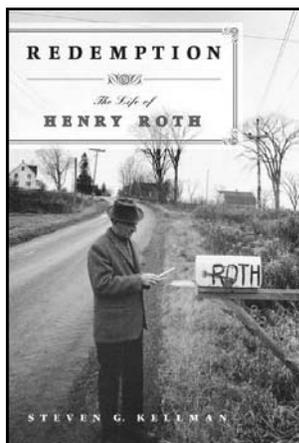
THE NEW YORK CITY BOOK AWARDS



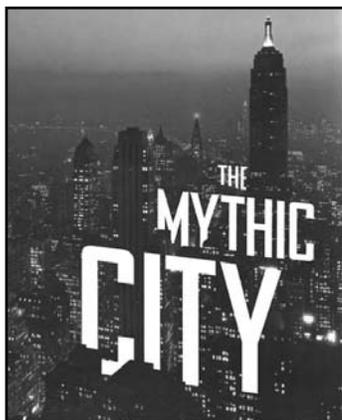
BOOK OF THE YEAR
**NEW YORK BURNING:
 LIBERTY, SLAVERY, AND
 CONSPIRACY IN EIGHTEENTH-
 CENTURY MANHATTAN**
 by **Jill Lepore**
 Knopf Publishing Group

AWARD FOR BIOGRAPHY

**REDEMPTION:
 THE LIFE OF HENRY ROTH**
 by **Steven G. Kellman**
 W.W. Norton & Company



AWARD FOR PHOTOGRAPHY
**THE MYTHIC CITY:
 PHOTOGRAPHS OF NEW YORK BY
 SAMUEL H. GOTTSCHO, 1925-1940**
 by **Donald Albrecht**
 Princeton Architectural Press



**NEW YORK CITY BOOK AWARDS
 CEREMONY**
**WEDNESDAY, MAY 3,
 5:30 P.M., MEMBERS' ROOM**

The New York City Book Awards are given to current authors who have captured the essence of New York City. This year's jury members are Constance Rogers Roosevelt, chair; Lucienne Bloch, Barbara Cohen, Jules Cohn, Joan K. Davidson, Ellen Feldman, Martin Filler, Roger Pasquier, Elizabeth Barlow Rogers, Daniel M. Rossner, Wendy Wasserstein, and Meg Wolitzer.

Ms. Wasserstein served on the jury from the awards' inception, specializing in children's books. She also hosted the 2004-2005 awards ceremony. A further tribute to her is on page 6.

This year's awards will be presented at a ceremony and reception honoring the winning authors and their publishers. Library members are cordially invited to hear the presentations and greet the authors.

Space is limited; contact the Events Office at 212-288-6900 x230 or events@nysoclib.org to place a reservation.

CALENDAR

March 23, 7:00 P.M., Temple Israel ZLATA FILIPOVIC ON <i>ZLATA'S DIARY</i>	April 4, 6:30 P.M., Members' Room BARBARA BURKHARDT ON WILLIAM MAXWELL	May 2, 6:00 P.M., Members' Room MELANIE REHAK ON NANCY DREW	May 10, 7:00 P.M., Temple Israel PETER D. KRAMER ON <i>AGAINST DEPRESSION</i>	May 11, 4:00 P.M., LYNNE BARASCH ON <i>BLENDING WORDS AND PICTURES</i>	May 11, 6:30 P.M., Members' Room PETER PENNOYER AND ANNE WALKER ON WARREN & WETMORE
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- ❖ Registration is required for all events. To register, contact the Events Office at 212-288-6900 x230 or events@nysoclib.org. Listed fees may be paid at the door.
- ❖ As of January 2006, for events at the Library beginning after 5:00 P.M. Wednesdays, the building will close at 5:00 P.M. and reopen thirty minutes prior to the program, for security reasons.

THE 2005-2006 AUTHOR SERIES

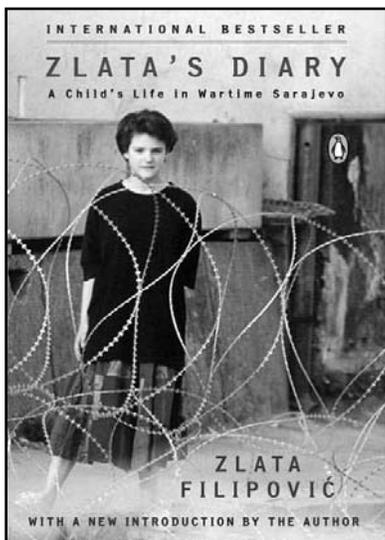
- ❖ Author Series lectures are free for Library members and their guests, but registration is required.
- ❖ To register, call the Events Office at 212-288-6900 x230 or email events@nysoclib.org.

ZLATA FILIPOVIC

ZLATA'S DIARY

THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 7:00 P.M.

TEMPLE ISRAEL, 112 EAST 75TH STREET



Zlata Filipovic began keeping a diary when she was almost eleven, writing about the things then important to her: school, piano lessons, parties, skiing, and favorite television shows. Then bombs began to fall on Sarajevo, her home. Sheltered in a once-beautiful apartment now windowless and sandbagged, she wrote of the destruction of treasured places, the deaths of friends, and the futility of war. After she and her family were evacuated to France, Zlata's diary was published by UNICEF and became an important record of the horror of the Bosnian conflict.

Now 24, Ms. Filipovic is visiting the U.S. in connection with a new Viking Penguin edition of her diary. She is active in human rights and tolerance work with UNICEF and other organizations and has been named an "Unsung Hero of Dialogue" by the United Nations. She continues to be a strong voice in the cause of peace for all peoples.



PETER D. KRAMER

AGAINST DEPRESSION

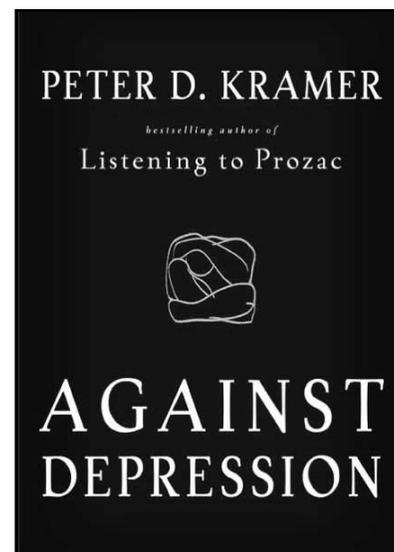
WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 7:00 P.M.

TEMPLE ISRAEL, 112 EAST 75TH STREET



In the wake of his groundbreaking 1993 book *Listening to Prozac*, psychiatrist Peter Kramer began to ask how the prevalence of depression in our society influences our perception of the condition—and whether a "cult of melancholy" that thinks of the depressed as sensitive, deep, even romantic, is hindering proper treatment of a debilitating multi-symptom illness. His response to that question is *Against Depression*, which *Kirkus Reviews* calls "a heartfelt argument that depression is not, as many would have it, a source of heroic melancholy and artistic genius, but rather a pathological condition that should, if possible, be eradicated."

In addition to *Listening to Prozac*, Dr. Kramer is the author of *Should You Leave?*, *Moments of Engagement*, and numerous contributions to publications including the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*. He is Clinical Professor of Psychiatry and Human Behavior at Brown University and the host of the weekly public radio show *The Infinite Mind*, recipient of over 30 broadcasting and journalism awards.



LIBRARY LECTURES

- ❖ Registration is required. To register, call the Events Office at 212-288-6900 x230 or email events@nysoclib.org.
- ❖ Listed fees may be paid at the door.

BARBARA BURKHARDT

WILLIAM MAXWELL: A LITERARY LIFE

TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 6:30 P.M.

MEMBERS' ROOM; \$10 PER PERSON



William Maxwell and Barbara Burkhardt near the end of his life

Well known as a beloved longtime fiction editor at the *New Yorker*, William Maxwell worked closely with such legendary writers as John Updike, Vladimir Nabokov, Mary McCarthy, and John Cheever. His own novels, including *They Came Like Swallows* and the American Book Award-winning *So Long, See You Tomorrow*, made him one of the twentieth century's most acclaimed writers. Drawing on a wide range of previously unavailable materials, Barbara Burkhardt's biography of Maxwell includes letters to him by authors such as Eudora Welty, excerpts from his unpublished manuscripts and correspondence, and her own interviews with key figures from his life. She also presents Maxwell's own views on his life and work, which he shared with her in conversations and correspondence over a number of years. The *Chicago Tribune* calls the book "A rare triumph. Burkhardt describes Maxwell's fiction as 'writing that vividly preserves the past and earns a permanent place in American letters with its powerful embrace of emotional experience and the beauty of its prose style. The same can be said for this brilliant biography.'"

A professor at the University of Illinois at Springfield, Dr. Burkhardt has also written for the *San Francisco Chronicle* and many literary publications.

- ❖ This event is for adults and older children. Events just for children are listed on page seven.

MELANIE REHAK

GIRL SLEUTH: NANCY DREW AND THE WOMEN WHO CREATED HER

TUESDAY, MAY 2, 6:00 P.M., MEMBERS' ROOM

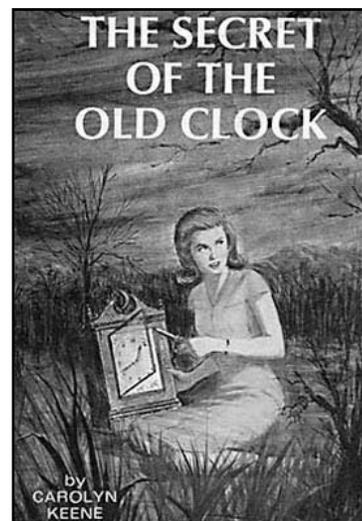
FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN FIFTH GRADE AND OLDER

\$5 PER PERSON



Plucky titian-haired detective Nancy Drew solved her first mystery (*The Secret of the Old Clock*) in 1930, and since then she has sold more than eighty million books, entertaining and inspiring girls around the world. Melanie Rehak's book *Girl Sleuth* solves the mysteries behind the hugely popular series, exploring the careers of Mildred Wirt Benson and Harriet Stratemeyer Adams, who created Nancy Drew under the pen-name Carolyn Keene, and charting Nancy's progress from pulp heroine to American icon. Nancy Drew is central

both to the history of children's literature and to the history of American women in the twentieth century. Ms. Rehak has written for the *New York Times Magazine*, the *New York Times Book Review*, and many other publications.



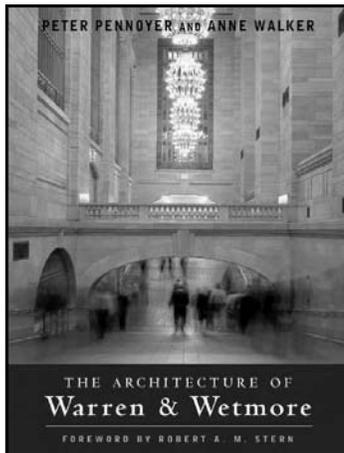
LIBRARY LECTURES *continued*

PETER PENNOYER AND ANNE WALKER

THE ARCHITECTURE OF WARREN & WETMORE

THURSDAY, MAY 11, 6:30 P.M., MEMBERS' ROOM

\$10 PER PERSON



From the turn of the century into the 1930s, Whitney Warren and Charles D. Wetmore formed one of the most successful and prolific architectural practices in the United States. Their more than three hundred major projects include Grand Central Terminal and the New York Yacht Club. The firm's bold and creative interpretation of classical and French styles, as translated into American practice, reflected the cultural, social, and business aspirations of the country's ruling class. *The Architecture of Warren & Wetmore* is the first book to thoroughly examine their rich and varied body of work and its social context. In this lecture, Mr. Pennoyer and Ms. Walker will use slides to highlight some of Warren & Wetmore's most striking achievements, including Grand Central Terminal.

Peter Pennoyer and Anne Walker are also the co-authors of *The Architecture of Delano and Aldrich*.

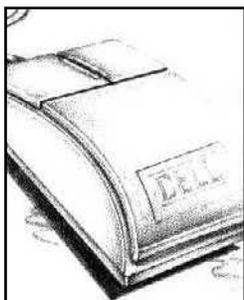
Mr. Pennoyer is the principal of his eponymous architectural firm, whose substantial work in classical and traditional architecture has been widely published and exhibited. A historic preservationist, Ms. Walker also co-authored *The Ford Plantation Architectural Pattern Book*. Both work extensively with the Institute of Classical Architecture and Classical America.



WORKSHOPS

- ❖ *Registration is required. Contact the Events Office at 212-288-6900 x230 or events@nysoclib.org.*
- ❖ *These free workshops take place in the Whitridge Room and last about 90 minutes.*
- ❖ *More information on all classes being offered is available at www.nysoclib.org/tech/index.html.*

TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOPS



INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTERS *(for beginners)*

Taught by Ingrid Richter; Tuesday, April 4, 10:00 A.M.

INTRODUCTION TO THE INTERNET *(for internet beginners)*

Taught by Ingrid Richter; Tuesday, April 4, 2:00 P.M.

NEW* ONLINE NEWSPAPERS *(for Internet users)

Taught by Thomas Meaney; Thursday, April 13, 10:00 A.M.

MICROSOFT WORD I *(for Word beginners)*

Taught by Thomas Meaney; Thursday, April 13, 2:00 P.M.

PC CLEANUP *(for experienced users)*

Taught by Ingrid Richter; Wednesday, April 19, 2:00 P.M.



BOOK WORKSHOPS

UNCOMMON BOOKS IN THE NYSL COLLECTION *(for all)*

Taught by Arevig Caprielian, Rare Books Librarian; Thursday, May 4, 5:45 P.M.

PRINT AND ONLINE REFERENCE SOURCES *(for all)*

Taught by Mark Bartlett; Tuesday, May 23, 5:45 P.M.

READING GROUPS

❖ *Reading groups are free of charge, but space is very limited. Register with the Events Office at 212-288-6900 x230 .*

WRITINGS FROM JAPANESE AND CHINESE AMERICANS WITH CAROL RIAL

WEDNESDAYS, MARCH 29, APRIL 26, AND MAY 24, 11:00 A.M., WHITRIDGE ROOM



from *The Four Immigrants Manga*

Educator and writer Carol Rial returns with a new reading group looking at the lives of Chinese and Japanese Americans in three different times and places. Due to the varying availability of the titles under discussion, participants will be able to purchase books through the Events Office; please ask upon registering.

Material for Discussion

In general: *Strangers From a Different Shore* by Ronald Takaki, Chapters 4, 12, and 13

March 29	April 26	May 24
<i>The Four Immigrants Manga</i> by Henry Kiyama	<i>FOB</i> by David Henry Hwang	<i>No-No Boy</i> by John Okada
<i>Strangers From a Different Shore</i> Preface, Introduction, pages 42-53	<i>Strangers From a Different Shore</i> pages 31-42, Chapters 3 and 6	<i>Strangers From a Different Shore</i> Chapter 5

FICTION OF CONSCIENCE WITH ROXANA ROBINSON

THURSDAYS, MARCH 30, APRIL 20, AND MAY 18, 6:30 P.M., WHITRIDGE ROOM



courtesy of the author

Roxana Robinson is the author most recently of *A Perfect Stranger* and *Sweetwater*, which the *Washington Post* called “ambitious, intelligent, and gracefully written, none of which will surprise admirers of her work. She is one of our best writers, albeit not one of the best known.” In this discussion group, Ms. Robinson will look at *Sweetwater* in the company of two other works in which characters’ lives are intertwined with issues of ethical and social concern.

Books for Discussion

March 30

The Reader by Bernhard Schlink
(Knopf Publishing Group, 1998;
ISBN 0-375-70797-2)

This award-winning novel describes the relationship of a law student and a woman accused of a terrible crime in post-World-War-II Germany.

April 20

Disgrace by J.M. Coetzee

(Random House, 2000; Penguin softcover ISBN 0-14-303637-8)

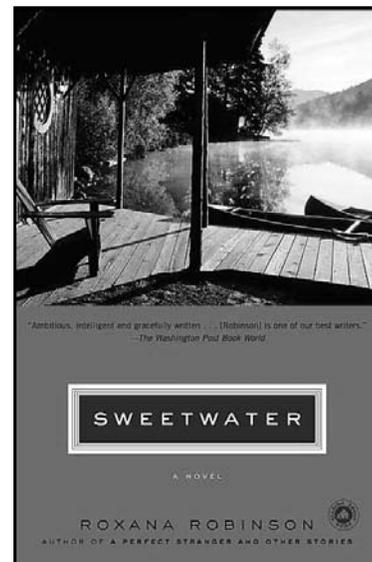
A winner of the Booker Prize, Coetzee’s book follows a middle-aged professor adrift in postapartheid South Africa.

May 18

Sweetwater by Roxana Robinson

(Random House, 2003; ISBN 0-8129-6734-8)

An environmental advocate struggles with the complexities of her new husband’s family amid the beauty and tension of the Adirondacks.



INSIDE THE LIBRARY

FROM THE INTERIM HEAD LIBRARIAN

MARK BARTLETT



*The reference desk
in the 1930s*

While sitting at the reference desk each day, I have been fortunate to meet many Library members, both new and of long standing. It is interesting and enlightening to see the varied use of the Library: writers and researchers who frequent the quiet fifth-floor study rooms; members who do each day's reading in the beautiful Members' Room; members who pop in for armfuls of new books from the lobby; or members who ask at the reference desk for books on Anna Akhmatova, England after the Seven Years' War, or setting up a foundation. What I hear most often is how much members love this Library. They refer to it as an oasis, a place like no other in the city, or a step back to libraries of another time.

Although our Library may be an oasis, it is unfortunately not removed from the presence of the cell phone. We continue to hear cell phones ringing in the building and to find members talking on them in the stairwells and other places. A reminder to everyone: cell phone use is forbidden in the building. If you carry a cell phone, please turn it off when you enter the Library.

The Library thanks its members for their patience and understanding during our recent 'scaffold days.' We hope you like the building's fresh-looking facade and the new awning. Please drop in and let us know your comments on the building exterior or anything else. I'll see you at the reference desk!

RENOVATION UPDATE

The Library has entered the next phase of the renovation. The exterior facade cleaning has been completed aside from a few minor touch-ups. Windows throughout the building have been restored to operating condition, and the new awning has been erected and lights installed underneath it. At this writing, the bronze doors and the Library's plaque are scheduled to be cleaned very soon.

Bids for the construction on the east elevator shaft have been reviewed and a contractor selected who will provide thorough onsite supervision of the work. Renovation of the main elevator shaft will begin in March, and we expect delivery of the elevator cab in late summer. Although this work will create some disruption, all precautions are being taken to make the elevator work as safe and quiet for patrons as possible. The stack elevator will be available as usual.

Interior design improvements are also proceeding apace. In the Reference Room, a new built-in desk will be constructed for the computer terminals, providing a less visible place for computer and printer cords. Carpet samples for the Members' Room and the Children's Library are being considered, along with some reupholstering of furniture. Work should begin shortly on renovation of member bathrooms. The interior designer and lighting designer are also working together to improve lighting in some public and staff areas. Much of this work will be done during closed hours, so room closings should be minimal; we still ask patrons to be alert to work areas around the building.

For renovation news updates, look for signs in the front entry hall or visit www.nysoclib.org/renovation_update.html.



Ingrid Richter

REMEMBERING WENDY WASSERSTEIN



Tony-award-winning playwright Wendy Wasserstein, who died on January 30, was a Library member for almost twenty years. She lectured on her book *Shiksa Goddess* in the 2001-2002 Author Series and often spoke of writing her now-classic play *The Heidi Chronicles* in the individual study rooms on the Library's fifth floor. The Library is honored to have been a haven for this extraordinary writer, and we will sorely miss her.

CHILDREN'S NEWS AND EVENTS

- ❖ Registration is required for all events. Listed fees may be paid at the door. To register for programs, contact the Children's Library at 212-288-6900 x234 or children@nysoclib.org.
- ❖ To receive the monthly preschool program calendar, call the Events Office at 212-288-6900 x230.

LYNNE BARASCH: BLENDING WORDS AND PICTURES

THURSDAY, MAY 11, 4:00 P.M.

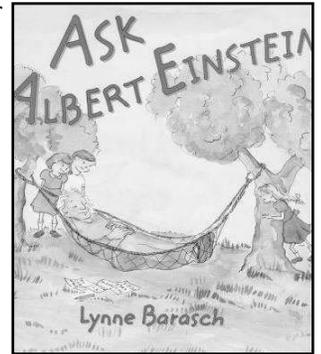
FOR KINDERGARTEN THROUGH THIRD GRADE

\$5 PER PERSON



courtesy of the author

Although Lynne Barasch could draw anything by the age of four, she did not discover her vocation as a children's book writer and illustrator until an anecdote about her daughter's school bus sparked a story. She is now the author and illustrator of eight picture books. These include *Knockin' on Wood*, the story of tap dancer Clayton "Peg Leg" Bates, which won the 2005 Patterson Prize for Books for Young People; *Radio Rescue*, about a boy who comes to the rescue using Morse code; and *Ask Albert Einstein*, a story of a little girl who writes to Einstein for help with her sister's math problem.



In this event Ms. Barasch will read selections from her books and talk about the process of creation and publication. "The blend of words and pictures forms a third element that is greater than its parts," she says "That is what keeps picture-book making a unique joy for me."

LIBRARY AUTHOR HONORED



The 2006 Caldecott Medal was awarded to Chris Raschka, illustrator of *The Hello, Goodbye Window* by Norton Juster. Raschka has been a Library member since 2003 and has spoken to children at the Library several times. The Caldecott is given annually by a division of the American Library Association to the artist of the most distinguished American picture book for children, and it is considered the highest honor in that field.

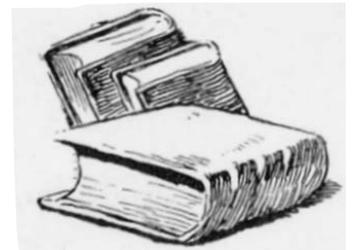
As a Caldecott winner, *The Hello, Goodbye Window* joins such classics as Ezra Jack Keats' *The Snowy Day*, Maurice Sendak's *Where the Wild Things Are*, and Chris Van Allsburg's *The Polar Express*.



Hyperion Books

A REMINDER: THE FOURTH ANNUAL YOUNG WRITERS AWARDS

Children and grandchildren of members in grades 3 through 12 are invited to submit a short story or essay, fiction or nonfiction, or a poem, on a New York City theme. Entries will be considered in three age divisions in both prose and poetry by authors Dave Johnson, Robert Quackenbush, Carol Weston, and Edra Ziesk. An awards ceremony will honor the winning writers. All entries are subject to the competition rules, which are available at the circulation desk or on the web at www.nysoclib.org, or by mail by calling 212-288-6900 x230. Entries must be postmarked no later than April 7 or hand-delivered to the Library by April 10.



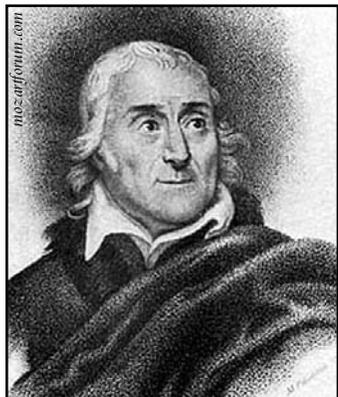
MELANIE REHAK, *GIRL SLEUTH: NANCY DREW AND THE WOMEN WHO CREATED HER*

Tuesday, May 2, 6:00 p.m., Members' Room, for adults and children fifth grade and older

See page 3 for more details on this event.

RARE BOOK NEWS

THE LIBRARY’S CONTRIBUTION TO THE “MOZART YEAR”



In 1827, professor Lorenzo Da Ponte, an Italian poet and musician and the librettist for Mozart’s *Le Nozze di Figaro*, *Così Fan Tutte*, and *Don Giovanni*, placed an impressive collection of his Italian-language books at the Library as a resource for his students and members of the Italian Library Society, founded in the previous year. In 1829 there were 280 volumes and over 70 subscribers.

The Jewish Museum of Vienna will display six items from this special collection at the exhibition *The City of Tolerance: The Aryanized Da Ponte and the Jewish Mozart*, which will run from March 22 to September 17, 2006. According to the museum, “the exhibition deals with Da Ponte’s Jewish background and follows his traces through Europe, and then further on to New York, where he arrived in 1805 and died in 1838. It describes how Da Ponte and Mozart met in the “city of tolerance” of Emperor Joseph II and gives an insight into the significance of Mozart for the people of Vienna and the Austrian Jews.

The exhibition also examines the attitude of the Nazis, their Aryanization of the works of Da Ponte and Mozart, and the (in some ways surprising) effect on our contemporary attitude to Mozart.”

The exhibition’s curator, Werner Hanak, visited the Library last fall and has worked closely with our Rare Book Librarian to select items for the display. Among the items being lent are Ariosto’s *Orlando Furioso* and a first edition of Da Ponte’s memoirs, given to the Library by Clement Clark Moore in May 1807. The sixth item is a unique record of our Italian Library, listing the shareholders and members as well as circulation and payments. It includes handwritten notes by then-Librarian Philip J. Forbes and Da Ponte himself. This ledger is priceless as an early document of our Library’s rich history and of the intersection of Italian and American culture in the early nineteenth century.

More information on the exhibition is available on the museum’s website, www.jmu.at. We are honored to take part in this historic exhibition and to share the Library’s treasures with readers around the world.

❖ *Please write or telephone the Library with any comments or suggestions. Visit our website at www.nysoclib.org.*

THE NEW YORK SOCIETY LIBRARY

53 East 79th Street
New York, NY 10021