

Burke Library Newsletter

Fall 2016



Welcome!

Fellow Members of the UTS Community,

It is my pleasure to serve as the Interim Head of the Burke Library for the 2016-17 academic year. As you'll see in the following articles, we've got some exciting new collections, events, and programs to share with you this year. We look forward to seeing many familiar returning faces and to meeting new ones in the coming months. If you have any questions for me or would just like to chat about the library, feel free to stop by my office on the 3rd floor, call me (212.851.5611), or email me (mjl2209@columbia.edu).

My best wishes for a fulfilling and fruitful year!

Meredith Levin

P.S. Don't forget to read [The Burke Library blog](#) for updates and interesting anecdotes about our collections.

#LoveInAction: Voices in Social Justice

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The outreach project #LoveInAction was developed last year to increase awareness and use among Union students of the library's rich archival collections. A central component of this project is to immerse students in our archival collections in practical, real-life contexts—since the projects aren't tied to a specific course, the research outputs are completely “off the page,” empowering students to take ownership over their scholarship in what (we hope) are truly transcendent learning experiences.

#LoveInAction: Voices in Social Justice will be an oral history project in which three new Union students, over the course of the academic year, will be trained to take the oral histories of alumni/ae, focusing on Union's powerful legacy of social justice. The main event, a spring 2017 reunion of Union's celebrated Student Interracial Ministry (SIM), will serve as the central collection point for the oral histories, and will coincide with events at the Burke to promote historian David Cline's book, *From Reconciliation to Revolution: The Student Interracial Ministry, Liberal Christianity, and the Civil Rights Movement*. SIM was founded by four Union students in 1960—it connected white seminary students with black churches and black seminary students with white churches in the South at the height of the Civil Rights Movement before disbanding in 1968.

We are happy to announce that the three Union students selected to work on this project are:

Tennessee Jones

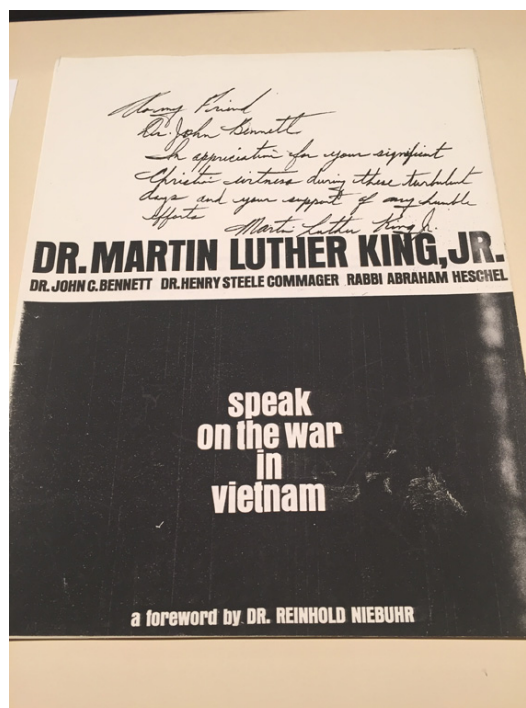
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Scavenger Hunt

The second annual Orientation Scavenger Hunt for incoming UTS students, held on the afternoon of Monday, August 29, was a resounding success! We at the library were thrilled to meet all the new students and to challenge them with a 17-question scavenger hunt that introduced library spaces, services, and collections.

Two lucky groups won the grand prize, a free book of each group member's choice, and all participants received Columbia Libraries Guides, pens and/or highlighters. The Scavenger Hunt is a fun, interactive way to orient new students to the intricacies of the Burke and its amazing collections- we look forward to this event each year and we hope you enjoy it as much as we do!

Special Collections Open House

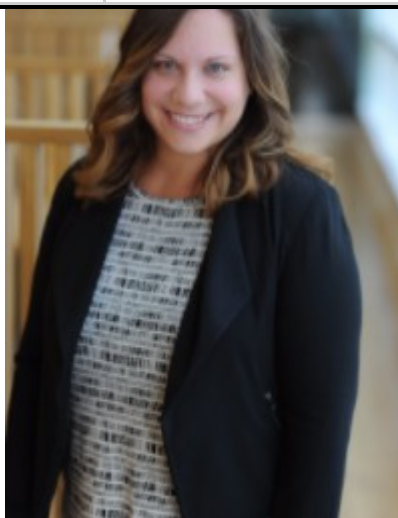


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On Thursday, September 1, the Burke's Project Archivist, Rebecca Nieto, and our Collection Services Librarian, Matthew Baker, displayed a range of treasures from the Burke's archives and special collections for a group of intrepid students who attended our Special Collections Open House. Some of the most exciting items included a 1520 Martin Luther pamphlet, an Egyptian papyrus fragment from the 1st century A.D., a 16th-century European polyglot Bible, and a signed program from a 1960s event held at The Riverside Church, "Speak on the War in Vietnam," addressed to former Union President Dr. John C. Bennett by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

From the ancient world to the present day, the [archival collections](#) and [rare books](#) at the Burke are incredible and offer something to research for everyone!

Meet Meredith Levin

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What brought you to the Burke Library?

I was asked to serve as the Interim Head of the Burke Library following Beth Bidlack's departure last summer (luckily, she's still close by as Union's Associate Academic Dean). In my other role at Columbia, I am the Western European Humanities Librarian based at Butler Library, specializing in French and Italian literature, European history from the Renaissance to the present, history of science, and comparative literature. I have a BA in English Literature from NYU (with a minor in Medieval and Renaissance Studies), an MS in Library and Information Science from LIU, and an MA in Italian Studies also from NYU (I researched Italian archaeological policy in Libya before WWII).

What is your favorite thing about working here so far? This could be a collection, a single item, anything!

I am, perhaps most importantly, a lover of books as objects so I am thrilled to be surrounded by so many incredible incunables (with original bindings!) here at the Burke. I am also quite interested in the history of The Riverside Church and its many connections to Union. I researched the church for a DH project I built with my colleagues at Butler, [mhdh: A Digital History of Morningside Heights](#), and learned a great deal about its first pastor, Rev. Harry Emerson Fosdick, an alumnus and professor at UTS. The Burke has an enormous collection (67 boxes), [The Harry Emerson Fosdick Papers](#), and I am particularly excited to explore the materials related to his travels in Palestine and Asia.

Describe yourself in three words.

Conscientious
Approachable
Witty

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RESTROOMS



Anyone can use this restroom, regardless of your gender identity or expression.

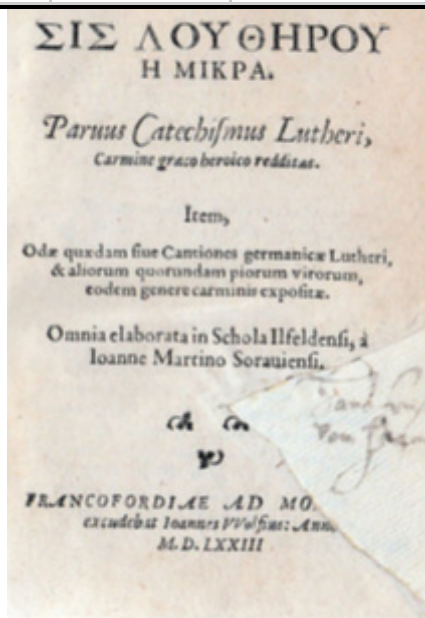
This sign is a prototype. Please direct any feedback to technology@burke.lib.utoronto.ca.

This summer, we were fortunate to have a current Union Theological Seminary student, Carolyn Bratnober (MA'17), undertake a guided reading in the Burke Library. Carolyn, who also holds a Master of Library & Information Science degree, is interested in the intersection of LGBTQ identities and disability/accessibility formations as affected by religious social structures. As part of the applied portion of her guided reading, Carolyn worked on several projects, including one to refresh the library's signage. In addition to updating and making our library map more accessible, she created new inclusive signs for our bathrooms on the 1st floor of the library.

Carolyn is not only an extremely bright intellect, she is very creative. You can experience the fusion of these two qualities on her blog, [Queer Bible Comics](#). Carolyn also created this wonderful [comic](#), tailored specifically to the Burke, for our blog.

New at the Burke Library

Looking ahead to next year's quincentenary of Martin Luther's ninety-five theses (which will include an exhibition featuring some of

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Manuscript Library), the library has recently acquired a very rare Greek edition of Luther's Shorter Catechism, printed in 1573. The work was meant to be used as a household guide for instruction in the Christian faith, highlighting the emphasis on ordinary life and practice characteristic of the Protestant Reformation.

In collaboration with Columbia's Librarian for Jewish Studies, the library now provides access to [Flavius Josephus Online](#). From the publisher: "Flavius Josephus, the first-century Jewish historian, is unquestionably among the most important writers from classical antiquity. The significance of the works of Josephus as sources for our understanding of biblical history and of the political history of Palestine under Roman rule, can scarcely be overestimated. This is the first comprehensive literary-historical online commentary on the works of Flavius Josephus in English including the Greek text by Niese from the late 19th century."

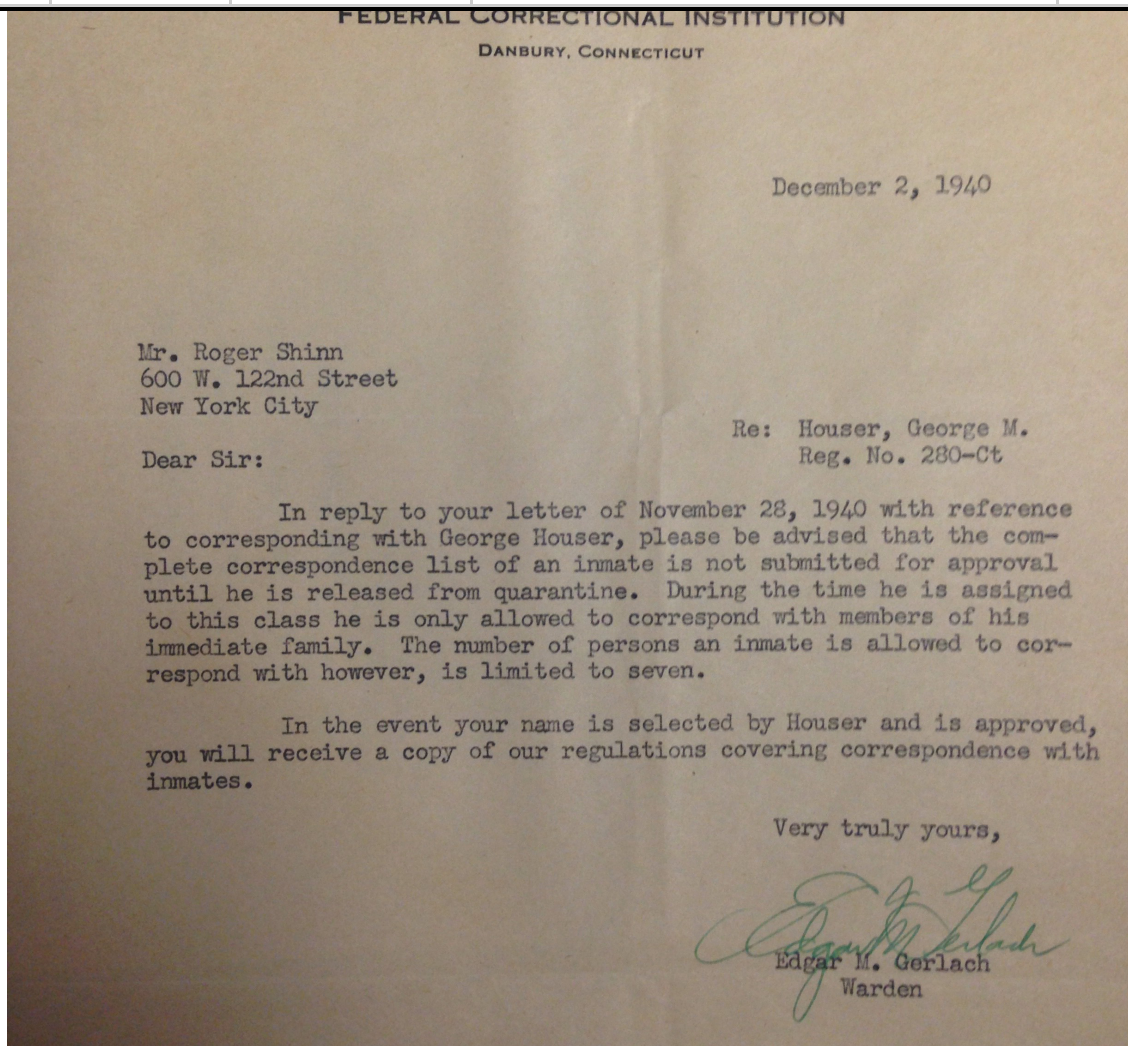
Newly Processed Archival Collections

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As the Burke's Project Archivist, these first seasons have been marked by significant accomplishments and the beginnings of new endeavors to address archival backlogs. This fall, visitors to the library lobby can examine highlights from the hefty 106.25 feet of the Roger L. Shinn Collection. Shinn was an ethicist, scholar, and UTS alumnus who held a number of administrative positions in the seminary, including a stint as acting President in 1974. Shinn's career within and beyond Union was framed largely by World War II and the Vietnam War. Our exhibit, curated jointly by Public Services Librarian Liz Call and UTS Ph.D. candidate Carolyn Klaasen, reveals the ways Shinn's work and spiritual life were positioned within a religious community touched by the Second World and Vietnam Wars. The Burke holds a compelling collection of WWII-era correspondence between Roger Shinn and George Houser, two Union classmates and friends who saw themselves on opposing ends of a wartime discourse, with Shinn waiving his exemption from the draft and enlisting in the U.S. Army while Houser actively opposed the draft and was later imprisoned for his anti-war activism. Also in our exhibit are a number of textual

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leader in the Union community. Come check it out beginning in October, and to learn more about the Shinn Papers at the Burke, please read the finding aid here:

http://library.columbia.edu/content/dam/libraryweb/locations/burke/fa/uts/ldpd_11447037.pdf

Also this October, the library will be participating in Archives Week, a week of programming and outreach sponsored by the Archivists Round Table of Metropolitan New York. The Burke's archives will open its doors on Wednesday, October 26th from 6-8pm to the Union community and the greater NYC archives community to showcase some distinctive treasures and historical materials relating to Union's notable faculty and alumni, a legacy and community of which YOU are an active part!

Meet Rebecca Nieto



My name is Rebecca Nieto, and I'm so glad to be a part of the Burke community as Project Archivist. Here's a little about me and my time in the library so far -- feel free to reach out if you ever want to talk about archives or historical research.

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I graduated from library school in 2015, and moved almost immediately from Montreal to New York. My first months in the city I worked as an Archives Assistant at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and Reference Librarian at Bank Street College of Education. Both of these positions helped frame my tied interests in archival processing and academic reference, roles that I get to practice every day at the Burke.

What is your favorite thing about working here so far?

Perhaps what excites me most about archival science and librarianship is how individuals and communities codify and share information and memories. At the Burke I have every opportunity to deepen my knowledge about religious studies and divinity school history, and this daily education itself has been one of the most novel parts of my work so far. I feel excited to work in the same institution that saw #LoveInAction emerge and that will see Michelle Alexander joining its faculty. I guess in a way archival science is in itself a kind of ecumenism, our efforts to deepen and share our understandings and relationships to one another through history. Getting to know Union and the state of activism and how history-making is being enacted here now are the most immediate privileges of working here as an archivist.

Describe yourself in three words.

Usually pretty hungry

What are you currently reading/listening to?

The Rings of Saturn by W.G. Sebald and *Tristes Tropiques*, a global southern mixtape I get online. I recommend both.

Upcoming Columbia University Events

Don't forget- UTS is closely affiliated with our academic neighbor, Columbia University, and their 21 libraries offer many interesting events each semester. Below are just a few you may want to attend!

[Kuo Ping Wen: Scholar. Reformer. Statesman](#)

Panel Discussion and Reception on **October 4th, 4-7:30pm**, Reading Room at Columbia's C.V. Starr East Asian Library

[What is a Draft? The Case of the King James Bible from its Earliest Known](#)

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Library (sponsored by the Rare Book and Manuscript Library)

[“Rock Solid: America’s Relationship to the Ten Commandments.” The Annual Normal E. Alexander Lecture in Jewish Studies](#)

Lecture and Reception, **November 1st, 6-9pm**, World Room at Columbia’s Pulitzer Hall (Journalism Building)

[See here](#) for a more complete list of events at all the Columbia libraries and check out some of the programs offered by Columbia’s Institute for Religion, Culture, and Public Life (IRCPL), listed **[here](#)**.



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