

BURKE LIBRARY

NEWS

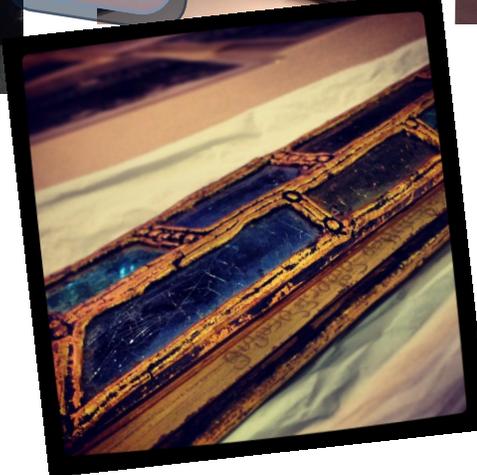
Winter 2014

UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK * COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES



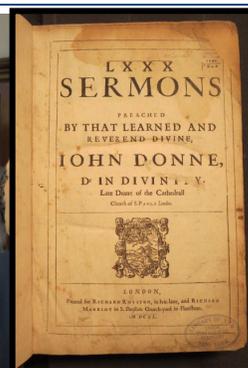
Union Days!

During Union Theological Seminary's Union Days celebration, October 2013, we welcomed alumni to take guided tours of the library and to view a special selection of material up close. After Beth gave the tours, Matthew, Ruth and Brigitte showed items in the Wise Conference Room. There were great questions and discussions and we look forward to welcoming alumni back in the future!



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The Burke Library Welcomes Faculty for NEH Summer Seminar

By: Matthew Baker

On July 2, the Burke Library participated in the Researching Early Modern Manuscripts and Printed Books NEH Summer Seminar. The four-week seminar was sponsored by the CUNY Graduate Center and provided an opportunity for 16 scholars to develop their skills in the area of bibliography (the study of books as material and cultural objects) and book history. In addition to instructional sessions addressing subjects such as codicology, provenance, and analytical bibliography, the seminar included visits to New York City libraries with distinguished special collections relevant to the study of the early modern era. The goal of these visits was to allow participants to learn about the many collections in the city and in particular to gain hands-on experience working with manuscripts and early printed books.



The seminar's visit to the Burke Library focused on the McAlpin Collection of British History and Theology. The McAlpin Collection is among the most significant of its kind, covering the years 1501-1700 and comprised of more than 19,000 items addressing the many theological, political, ecclesiastical, and philosophical controversies of the period. The collection was funded by David H. McAlpin and his family, and was developed early on by Ezra Hall Gillett, Charles Augustus Briggs, and Charles Ripley Gillett.

Initially focusing on late 17th century

Deism, the collection was soon expanded to include books, pamphlets, and broadsides from the English Reformation, Civil Wars, Commonwealth, and Restoration. The collection is remarkable for its depth and breadth, and researchers are able to examine important works in multiple editions, as well as multiple works by a particular author or pertaining to a particular issue or debate. Included in the collection are a number of very rare works, including an almost complete set of publications from the celebrated Marprelate controversy of 1588-89.

At the workshop, insights into the binding structures and conservation histories of items from the McAlpin Collection were offered by Alexis Hagadorn (Head of Conservation, Columbia University Libraries) and Jennifer Jarvis (Mellon Conservator for Special Collections, Columbia University Libraries). Several other volumes — including an incunabular Bible printed by Anton Koberger, a first edition of Foxe's *Actes and Monuments*, and several Luther pamphlets — were on display to allow participants an opportunity to explore the wide of range of bibliographical and historical evidence found in the Burke Library's special collections.

Getting to Know You

Matthew Baker
Collection Services Librarian



1) Why did you decide to become a librarian?

I had been teaching writing, religion, and other humanities courses at the American University in Cairo, Egypt, and came to realize anew how much I appreciate all that libraries do and stand for. I was already spending a lot of time in the library, on my own and with my students teaching them how to use it. I started exploring from a slightly different perspective, behind the scenes if you like, and asked a lot of questions of my librarian friends and colleagues. I like helping people explore their interests and passions, and finding ways to answer questions and solve problems (typical occupational hazards for the library-inclined). Like many people I also like learning, which you inevitably do quite a bit of if you hang around a library all day long.

2) What are a few of your favorite books?

Though constantly shifting, the favorites list always includes: *Don Quixote*, *The Star Thrower* by Loren Eiseley, *The Snow Leopard* by Peter Matthiessen, *Bernard Malamud's Complete Stories*, anything by Marilynne Robinson.

3) What "interesting" thing(s) do you do outside of your job that people might not know about?

Walk. A lot. I wish I could say "lepidopterist" or "birder."

4) Where is a place you'd like to travel to, that you haven't already been? And how come?

I'm with Liz (see Newsletter Spring/Summer 2013): India. It seems impossible that there would be anyone who would not want to visit India. Have come close to getting there in the past, and hope to make it soon...

5) Favorite ... (Reference) Question? Collection at the Burke? Favorite thing you've worked on here?

Favorite reference question: "Is there a God?" (There's quite a literature on the topic...)

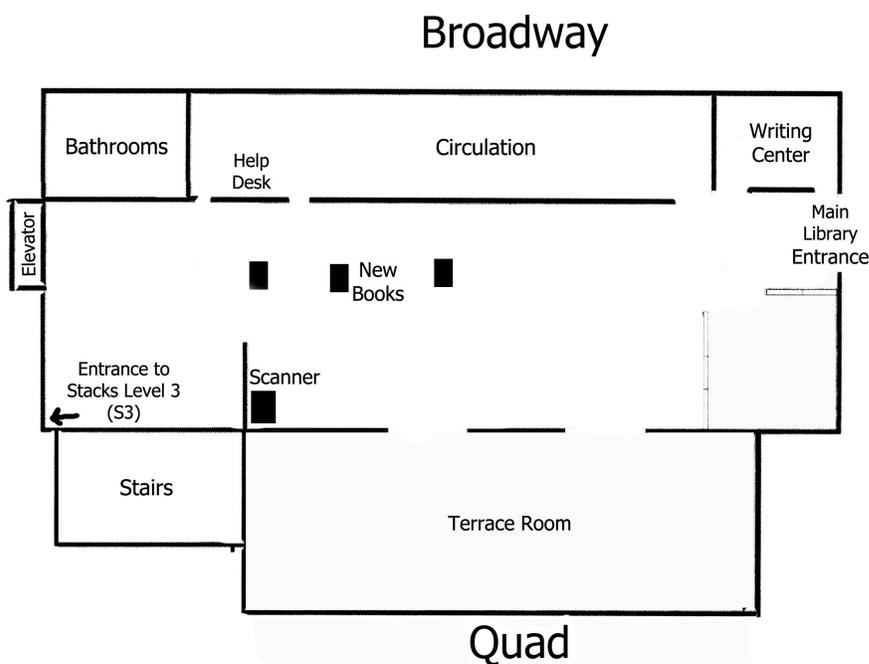
Favorite Burke collection: All of it, equally.

Favorite part of work: the people, both colleagues and patrons.

Finding Your Way Through the Burke Library

Union versus LC... Journals versus periodicals... bound periodicals versus current periodicals... And what's this about a Special Collections Reading Room? Have you ever had trouble making your way through the library? We offer a variety of sources, but they aren't always easy to find.

Beth, Matthew and Brigitte, along with Columbia University Libraries Assessment Coordinator, Nisa Bakkalbasi, organized a "wayfinding study" to measure the effectiveness of our directional and locational signage. The study revealed some interesting, although not too surprising, findings. Currently the data is being organized and analyzed, with a plan to implement changes in the new year.



Community College Students Visit Burke

By: Anthony Elia

The Burke Library has become a destination site for some New York City students recently.

During the last week of June and first weeks of July, nearly eighty students from two NYC Community Colleges visited the Burke Library and Union Seminary as part of their current course of studies. The students were in three separate English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, and came from over half a dozen countries, including China, Ukraine, and the Dominican Republic. One of their main assignments was to read [Flying Over 96th Street](#) by Thomas Webber, which recounts Webber's childhood when he lived at Union Theological Seminary and later in a neighborhood in Harlem in the 1950s and 1960s, while his father worked at Union Theological Seminary and later at the East Harlem Protestant Parish.

The students' visit contextualized the book, and provided an opportunity for them to experience a prestigious, large, and important library collection and space. As the tour groups departed, they were very happy to have had the chance to visit the Burke Library, and many asked when they could return!

Farewell to Anthony

Anthony Elia, Public Services Librarian at the Burke Library, resigned his position to become the Director of the Library and Educational Technology at the Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, IN. His last day at the Burke was October 9, 2013. We held a warm reception in the Terrace Room where we gathered to wish him well. We will miss his innovative thinking and his enthusiastic work with library users. Good luck to Anthony in his future endeavors!



EAD

We at the Burke Library continually work to make our collections more accessible. One new way in which we are doing this is by implementing Encoded Archival Description, or EAD, with our finding aids.

Using EAD will allow our finding aids to be searched in ways they currently cannot, and could even allow a computer to use a text-to-talk program so that visually impaired patrons would still be able to know what is in the collection.

This not only brings Burke in line with the Rare Book and Manuscript Library, but also the archives profession as a whole.

Archives

Academic Commons

Academic Commons is a freely accessible digital collection of research done at Columbia University or one of its affiliate institutions, including Barnard College, Teachers College, Union Theological Seminary, and Jewish Theological Seminary. It is a place where Columbia-affiliated students, faculty, staff and anyone



participating in Columbia events or groups can archive the digital results of their research or scholarly works and share them with the *world at large*.

We have begun to upload our finding aids into AC and it has been delightful to see how often they are downloaded. Stay tuned as the staff at Burke continue adding material to AC!

Recent Acquisitions



Barbara Brown Zikmund

The Burke Library has had a number of new collections and additions donated recently. AWTS continues to grow with recent donations from Allison Cheek, Beverly Wildung Harrison and Barbara Brown Zikmund, among others. A number of UTS faculty have donated their papers including Christopher Morse and Paul Knitter. We are grateful to those who donated their material and look forward to making these available for researchers!

Newly-Processed Collections

The Luce Project continues to make more new collections available to researchers worldwide. Over 100 collections and 500 LF have been organized during the life of the grant. Recently processed collections include but are not limited to MRL12: Robert Speer Papers, WAB: Vatican II Scrapbooks, MRL7: Kagawa Toyohiko Papers, and MRL 8: Byung Hun Choi Papers. More information can be found on our website!



Kagawa Toyohiko

Exhibition at Butler

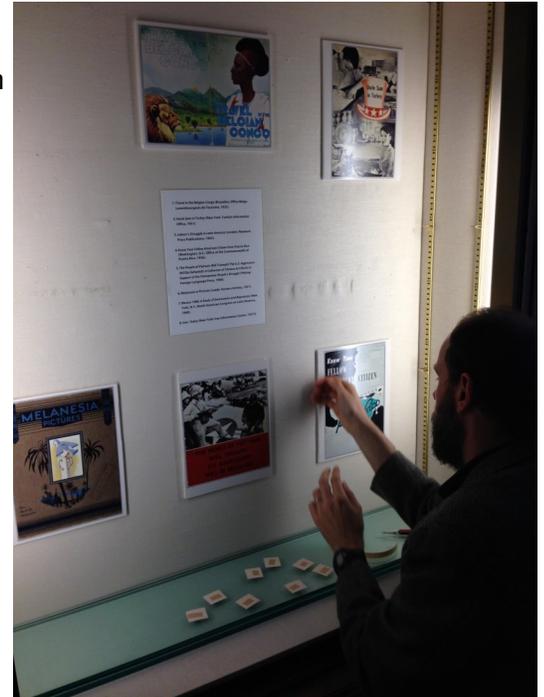


The Burke Library staff put together an exhibition featuring some surprising things from our collections. This exhibit, to run through the Fall 2013 semester, was installed in the exhibit cases to the left of the circulation desk on the third

floor of Butler Library. After the materials were scanned and surrogates printed, Burke staff affixed the photographs to foam core mounts. After ample drying time, the images were cut down to size and then



installed in the cases. Great teamwork was shown by all and we hope you take the time to visit the exhibit while it is still up! After the exhibit comes down, we plan to use the images throughout the library.



Comments/Questions

Have a comment/question/concern on this or future newsletters?

Would you like to receive this digitally (and in **full color!**)?

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Burke Library News

Winter 2014

Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary

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