The Library Faculty began this academic year pleased and encouraged by the presence of two new library faculty, a new faculty program allowing office and home access to research databases, new equipment for users and staff, restored reference hours, and an increased acquisitions budget.

I am pleased to report that during the last academic year we made progress in many service and collection areas despite continuing cost-cutting measures. During Spring 1996, the library was allocated an additional $100,000 by President Sessions, which was used for collections and binding. Tax levy funds expenditures were augmented by approximately $135,000 in gift and grant funds.

Over the summer, the library received 39 microcomputers from the CUNY Office of Library Services and Educational Technology as part of its infrastructure upgrade project. These computers replace outdated equipment and provide additional public workstations for access to CUNY+ and the Internet in the Rosenblum, Az, and Music Libraries; upgrade the networked technical processing configurations in cataloging and interlibrary loan; and will provide workstations for the second library instruction classroom. The installation began this August and will continue through the Fall semester.

**COLLECTIONS**

During 1996 we were able to increase book acquisitions over last year. We added 7,219 titles (+30%) and 13,980 volumes (+20%), bringing the collection size to 698,051. Our journal subscriptions remained stable, the first year in three where we did not reduce the number of subscriptions. Our total acquisitions dollars, $662,946, were up 40% from last year, which was a decade-long low point in acquisitions expenditures. We also continue to acquire paper, CD-ROM, and microform materials in the U.S. Government publications collection which are not included in the figures above.

At the beginning of this year, President Sessions allocated an additional $100,000 in non-tax levy funds to the library to augment collections and services. The 96/97 acquisitions budget, again drawn from a number of funding sources, is approximately $745,000, a 12% increase over last year.

**SERVICES**

Rosenthal reference service has been restored for all hours the building is open. Last year Reference Desk service was reduced by 10 hours per week due to vacancies. Library evening hours for Summer Sessions I and II were increased marginally to accommodate better our evening students’ needs. Library faculty continue to direct individual and collective efforts toward group instruction, last year reaching over 5,900 students in a variety of classes, including English 110, graduate classes, undergraduate major courses, ACE, SEEK, and CEGIS. The library also participated in the CLIQ program, offering tours and CUNY+ workshops bearing one CLIQ credit. Overall, this was a 31% increase in students engaged in “normal” library instruction and a 44% increase in the number of classes scheduled. With teaching adjunct funds we were able to offer LIB 150 (2 credits) in both Fall 95 and Spring 96 sessions. The course will be offered again in Spring 1997.

Reserve and regular borrowing dropped 2.7% from the previous year, and Interlibrary loan activity increased 6%. These figures suggest that the reduction in acquisitions rates for the last few years has affected the currency of collections and required researchers to go elsewhere or use interlibrary loan more.

Continued on page 6
Elton Gift Fund Purchases Architecture Books

Since 1992, the Art Library has been the grateful recipient of the John H. Elton Gift Fund for purchasing books on architecture. The gift fund was established to honor the memory of the late Edith Elton, who received her B.A. (Philosophy, 1981) and MA (Art History, 1986) from Queens College. It was initiated by her husband, John H. Elton, a businessman already well known at the College for his support of and involvement in the Choral Society. He designated the fund as a gift to the Art Library to purchase books in the areas of architecture and urban planning. Without a specialized program at the College in architecture, the Library’s collection in the relevant fields was modest when Edith, supervised by Professor Brian R. Percival, worked on her outstanding Master’s thesis that discussed a special local neighborhood, “Forest Close in Relston to Suburban Planning in England and America in the Early Twentieth Century.” The gap is being filled by recent purchases, totaling by now $13,500, in the areas of social architecture, housing forms, alternative housing, urban planning, and nineteenth- and twentieth-century architecture movements.

Some of the more noteworthy titles that the Art Library has been able to acquire from this fund include: Buckminster Fuller’s four-volume Synergetics Dictionary (New York, 1986), a collection of the architect’s own unique terminology, Russian Housing in the Modern Age: Design and Social History (Washington, 1993), already the definitive study for this area; and the International Dictionary of Architects and Architecture (Detroit, 1993), in two volumes, bringing the four-volume Macmillan Biographical Dictionary of Architects, published in 1982, up to date. Most recently, the Elton Fund contributed toward the purchase of the new Dictionary of Art, a massive thirty-volume set which is the most comprehensive art reference encyclopedias of the last three decades. Titles are selected in consultation with Art History Department faculty, particularly Professors William Clark and Brian Percival who teach in this area. The donor’s son, Peter Nicholas Elton, architect and graduate of MIT, has also contributed money and suggestions. Handsome and appropriate bookplates, designed by a friend of the donor, identify each book purchased with the fund. The much appreciated generosity of John H. Elton has motivated other donors to contribute valuable publications from their collections. Thanks to this support, the Library is building a strong and well used collection in architecture for the use of students in many departments at our College and throughout CUNY.
First Donor Reception Held in April

The Rosenthal Library held its first donor reception for 130 donors and friends on Thursday, April 18, 1996 in the Rotunda on the main floor of the Library. Queens College President Allen Lee Sessions, Chief Librarian Sharon Bonk, teaching faculty, administrators, authors, and library faculty and staff were among the guests, and had an opportunity to meet friends and donors whom they had previously known only as names on donor lists.

Dr. Sessions offered greetings to the guests, followed by an address by Dr. Paul Avrich, Distinguished Professor of History at the College and a world-renowned scholar on anarchism, who recounted the important role which the collections and services of the Queens College Library played in his research and writing. The program also included the presentation of a $2,000 gift to the library by the Queens College Women’s Club, a group that has supported the library for years.

Since many of the donors present had never seen the Rosenthal Building, they were offered guided tours of the library, print and electronic collections, the Louis Armstrong Archives, and the Art Center with its gallery and spectacular view of Manhattan.

The reception ended with refreshments, animated conversations, and many new friendships between donors and the Queens College Library.

We plan to turn this successful and memorable reception into an annual event and hope to have many more contributors and friends attend our next reception.

Shoshana Kaufmann
Associate Librarian

Shoshana Kaufmann welcomes guests to the donor reception

Sharon Bonk (left), Chief Librarian, accepts $2,000 check presented by Hélène B. Guidice, President of the Queens College Women’s Club.

Electronic Gov Information

Continued from page 2

been the Census Bureau and the U.S. Geological Survey. A list of our depository CD-ROM holdings can be seen on the Library’s homepage (http://www.qc.edu/Library/index.html). Census data for New York State is available on the Reference CD-ROM Network. Other titles can be found on the Government Documents CD-ROM Workstation adjacent to the Reference Desk or borrowed by faculty for office use.

Beginning in October 1996, all depositories are required to make government information on the Internet available to the library’s patrons. We beat this deadline by a few months: In June, the first two of many planned Internet workstations made their debut next to the Reference Desk.

The main Internet center for the depository program is GPO Access (http://www.access.gpo.gov) which provides several full-text databases including the Congressional Record, the Federal Register, the text of bills and laws, House and Senate report documents, and the Budget of the U.S. Government. In addition to its ever-growing list of databases, GPO Access provides GOV (Government Information Locator Service) records leading to websites and publications of government agencies and the Monthly Catalog of U.S. Government Publications listing government information resources cataloged since January 1994.

When the electronic depository program is fully developed, it is expected that depositories will be receiving only a handful of titles in paper format. A core group of 24 publications which must remain in paper format has been identified. This group includes the Economic Report of the President, the Code of Federal Regulations, Statistical Abstract of the United States, the U. S. Government Manual, and the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance. It is unknown at this time how many other titles will actually remain available in paper.

Hancy Macomber
Government Documents Coordinator
Reading Rosenthal's Architecture

While the cyberspace library has become a fixture in homes, offices, schools, and cafes all across the nation, we here at Benjamin S. Rosenthal Library still celebrate our building's architecture. Named for the late Queens Congresswoman who championed progressive causes, our library's exterior and interior design and details echo historical forms. Moreover, recurring circular motifs accentuate a creative and provocative learning environment.

Our tour starts on the plaza by the raised terrace and fountain, where the sightlines command dramatic views of the Empire State Building. The plaza itself is an apt symbol for what is in store: a forum, congress, or meeting place of intellect. Arranged in arcs, it has its roots in the ancient Greek theatre and agora. An imaginary audience seated in the semi-circular forecourt below us waits for Euripides's Medea to unfold.

As we look up, the Chaney-Goodman-Schwermer Clock Tower emulates the campanile, or bell tower. Invented in Italy between the fifth and sixth centuries A.D., campaniles were part of early basilicas, or churches. Just as the plaza signifies the meeting of minds, so too, our Clock Tower, with its melodic chimes, calls for spiritual congregation.

Dedicated to the three murdered civil rights workers who fought for justice in the 1960s, the Clock Tower and its spiral staircase leading up to the sky represent transcendent aspirations.

Historically, libraries have been called temples of knowledge and they have often been compared with houses of worship. As we enter the curved glass lobby and pass through the turnstiles, we arrive at the intersection of our secular and sacred pasts. We are in the Pantheon, an ancient Roman temple dedicated to all the gods, built by Agrippa (ca. 27 B.C.) and restored under the Emperor Hadrian (ca. 120 A.D.).

Our Rosenda pays homage to the Pantheon. An oculus, or eye, at the top of the temple's dome allows light to penetrate into all parts of its sanctuary. Similarly, the millioned-glass cupola caps our atrium refracts sunlight down into Rosenthal's core. Looking up, we see an open eye. The poetics of light, vision, and learning are in our very midst.

As we branch out further into the library, we notice how circular imagery repeats itself. Indeed, we see a fan's circumference at the reference and circulation counters, spherical light fixtures, and ocean-like round windows. The main reading room has convex windows—just like the eye's lens—where panoramic views correspond with the pleasures of introspection. The circle crops up repeatedly throughout civilization as the archetypal symbol of regeneration, perfection, and wholeness. Mandalas, Stonehenge, Egyptian hieroglyphics, zodiacs, Parisian arrangements, Matisse's The Dance, Dante's Divine Comedy, Yin and Yang, and Kubrick's 2001: A Space Odyssey are but a few examples of the radiant power of this form to charm us into its palm. Here at Rosenthal, the circle has embraced us once again.

Lisa Flanzraich
Reference Department
Richard Strauss Letters Donated to QC Library

Professor Emerita Marjorie Navidi of the Chemistry Department has donated the Leopold Sacher collection of autograph memorabilia to the Music Library. Born in Germany, where he was active as an opera singer and producer, Leopold Sacher was forced by the Nazis to leave his homeland. He settled in the U.S. and became producer and stage director at the Metropolitan Opera, a position he filled from 1935-1955, and at the New York City Opera as well, from 1945.

The collection consists of autograph letters and signed typed letters of composers who were active in the operatic world during the first half of the 20th century, the most important of whom is Richard Strauss. Included in the collection are 25 letters in Strauss' handwriting and seven typed letters signed by him. Even more important is his penciled sketchbook for one act of his opera Die aegyptische Helena, which was presented by the composer to Sacher. Included also is a complete handwritten libretto of the comic opera Una cosa rara, by Vicenza Martin y Soler, dated 1787, in addition to seven handwritten libretto parts for each character of the opera, a popular and influential one in its day, quoted by Mozart in the Don Gio-

 regarded as one of the great vocal phenomena of the century; Siegfried Wagner, son of the composer Richard Wagner; and Beverly Hills, the renowned soprano and former director of the New York City Opera.

The collection is housed in the Archives in the Benjamin Rosenthal Library.

Joseph Ponte, Head, Music Library
FirstSearch Database Collection Unveiled

The Library is now offering OCLC FirstSearch, an Internet-based collection of more than 30 databases, for use by faculty and at the reference desk. Many college and university libraries, including the University of Rochester and the University of Chicago, have found that FirstSearch enhances the offerings of their online catalogs and other databases.

The FirstSearch databases include:

- WorldCat (a worldwide database of books, manuscripts, musical scores, videotapes, etc.) - covers 2150 BCE to present.
- Proceedings First (British Library Document Supply Center) - provides tables of contents of papers presented at conferences worldwide, 1993-date.
- Papers First (British Library Document Supply Center) - provides citations of papers presented at conferences worldwide since 1993.
- EconLit (Journal of Economic Literature) - covers 1969-date.
- Arts & Humanities Citation Index (Arts & Humanities Citation Index) - covers 1980-present.
- Books in Print (R. R. Bowker) - varying coverage.
- GEORef (Bibliography and Index of Geology) - covers 1785-present.
- GPO (Documents Cataloged by the Government Printing Office) - covers 1790-present.
- Pro CD Home (Business telephone listings for United States) - covers current listings.
- Pro CD Home (Telephone listing for United States) - covers current listings.
- WorldScope (Financial reports on companies worldwide) - covers current data.

FirstSearch is accessed through the World Wide Web or Telnet. Most FirstSearch databases offer citations and abstracts, with full texts of many items available for a fee through e-mail or interlibrary loan. A few databases offer full text directly. We have blocked some FirstSearch databases because they are available on CUNY+'s or on our CD-ROM Local Area Network.

We encourage faculty to contact us, pick up copies of our brochure, arrange for demonstrations, and use FirstSearch. We will give you a divisional account number and password. For further information, please contact Professor Rolf Swensen (Reference Librarian/Social Sciences Bibliographer) at 997-3675; e-mail at rlw@cunyvm.cuny.edu.

Rolf Swensen
Reference Department
Recent Acquisitions

The following is a representative list of reference and circulating books added to the Queens College Library in 1996.


Calendar of Events 1996-97

Through December 30
Juan Alcator: Oaxacan Magic Realism.
Spanish and Latin American Art.
Art Center, 6th floor.

Through December 30
Krysyna Sanderson: Masks, Landscapes, Places of Light.
Library Rotunda, 3rd floor and 2nd floor.
Display Cases.
Slide Presentation: Thursday, December 5, 5-6 pm; President’s Conference Room #1. Reception: 6-8 pm, Library Rotunda, 3rd floor.

January 10-23
Juried exhibition of art on anthropological themes. Marge Kyrkostas, Curator.
Art Center, 6th floor.

January 29-March 6
Cynthia Hawkins: Selected Works 1990-96. (paintings)
Art Center, 6th floor.
Gallery Talk: Wednesday, January 29, 4-5 pm. Reception: 5-8 pm.

March 1-31
Enrico Scapulla: Recent Publications by Members of the Department of European Languages and Literatures. Professor

Peter Carravetta, Curator.
Library Rotunda, 3rd floor.

March 12 – April 16
Lisa DeLoria Weinblatt:
In the Eye of Lisa DeLoria Weinblatt:
Figurative Paintings and Drawings.
Art Center, 6th floor.
Gallery Talk: Wednesday, March 12, 4-5 pm. Reception: 5-7 pm.

Exhibits in the Art Center at Queens College, located on the 6th floor of the Rosenthal Library, can be visited Monday through Thursday, 9 am-7 pm and Friday, 9 am-5 pm. Closed Saturday and Sunday.

Exhibits in the 3rd and 2nd floor display cases can be visited during scheduled library hours, usually 9 am-10 pm on Monday through Thursday, 9 am-5 pm on Friday, 12 noon-5 pm on Saturday and Sunday.

Queens College, CUNY
Benjamin S. Rosenthal Library
Flushing, New York 11367-1597