NAMING THE LIBRARY ROTUNDA

One of the most striking and beautiful spaces on the Queens College campus, the Rosenthal Library Rotunda now carries the name of two generous donors, Carole and Norman Barham. Thousands of students, faculty, and members of the community pass through this Rotunda everyday to use library computers, check out books, or attend a meeting in the building.

The Barhams, both alums of the College who met here in their freshman year, selected the Rotunda, with its six-story atrium and an oversized American flag suspended from the top, to be named in their honor. The Library has already received a portion of their gift, a welcome addition to funds allocated to it by the College. Norman and Carole have been active with the Queens College Foundation, and have also funded several student scholarships in honor of their fathers.

The dedication ceremony took place on May 2, in celebration of National Library Week. One hundred and forty invited guests, Friends of the Library, family and friends of the Barhams, College administrators, and faculty attended.

Former Interim President Russell Hotzler greeted the guests in the Rotunda. He thanked the Barhams for their tireless efforts on behalf of the College and stressed the importance and centrality of the Library to the College’s mission. Professors Sharon Bonk and Shoshana Kaufmann thanked donors for their contributions, noting that their generosity enabled the Library to provide new services, subscribe to electronic databases, and purchase books they would not have been able to with tax-levy monies.

The Barhams then pulled the gold curtain which revealed their names in brass letters. Carole Barham concluded the program by reminiscing about Norman’s and her years as students at the College, their courtship, and the influence the College has had on their lives. Their recent gift and the scholarships they have funded are ways to show their gratitude and make sure that new generations of students have access to the same superior education they received.

The portion of the Barhams’ gift given to the Library will be the foundation of the Carole and Norman Barham Endowment. Unlike a one-time gift, this endowment will generate annual interest that will benefit the Library and support generations of Queens College students and faculty in their pursuit of education and research.

Shoshana Kaufmann
Associate Librarian

LISTENING TO OUR USERS

In every issue of Page Down we herald new technological wonders or perhaps just new technological capabilities. However, the Library faculty and staff are mindful of the need to maintain the personal in our services and contacts with users. We want to be both High Tech and High Touch!

Ask a librarian! We continue to offer our professional reference services on Level Three and in the Art and Music Libraries. We have modified the Rosenthal Reference Service to include Information Assistants at the main Reference Desk (Level Three) and Periodicals Desk (Level One). They are there to handle the quick directional questions, issues with photocopying and printing, interpreting serials holdings information, and other general building and campus information questions. This makes the reference librarian available for more focused and subject or instructional contacts with users. This has also allowed us to schedule more instructional sessions for specific courses and to offer several sections of Library 100, our one-credit elective, each semester.

Generally, there will be only one librarian at the Reference Desk, along with an Information Assistant. During busy periods, there will be two Reference Librarians and one Information Assistant. At the quietest times, there will be only one person at the desk. At all times there is a backup librarian on call. We also offer an electronic refer-

continued on page 2
The Library has received significant funding from the new student technology fee to expand its electronic resources collection and provide a laptop loan program for students.

The electronic resources are being ordered this semester as consortial purchase prices and contracts are negotiated. Titles purchased with these funds will be so noted in the Library’s database title list. Titles were selected for scope of coverage, balance across academic divisions, and projected usefulness to students. Specific criteria include: QC curriculum match, multidisciplinary coverage, full text, CUNY consortial purchasing priorities, and recommendations and critique of databases by librarians and faculty during the trial periods.

Among the titles selected as this issue goes to print are: Art Bibliographies Modern; JSTOR Arts and Sciences II; JSTOR Language and Literature; JSTOR Business; Linguistics and Language Behavior Abstracts; ERIC’s E-Subcribe backfile; PsycArticles (American Psychological Association journals); Library Literature full text; Nature; Nature review journals; Science; GeoRef; Philosophers Index; Congressional Quarterly Electronic Library; Social Science Citation Index; and the New York Times historical files.

Titles purchased with these funds will be so indicated on the Library homepage as they become available.

Laptops for loan. We have joined the growing number of libraries that circulate more than books. The Library has purchased 25 IBM laptops with wireless network connections for loan to QC students from the Reserve Library. These will circulate with charged batteries for a 4-hour loan period. Students using laptops will be able to access the campus network from wherever the wireless network exists (SU, courtyard of I Building, DH, and Rosenthal Lobby Levels 2 and 3). All students sign a loan liability agreement and are responsible for damage or loss while the laptop is charged to them. We anticipate that this service will be greatly valued and used by students.

Workstation upgrades. In addition, OIT will use student technology fees to upgrade the public workstations in the Library and its classrooms as part of the general student computing access upgrade process.

Faculty feedback! We have had three new faculty open houses which we hope have opened the door to routine communication between these faculty members and the library faculty and staff.

This year we will schedule faculty forums similar to those of spring 2001. Library faculty participants found them very helpful in planning our services and focusing on specific areas when resources are too thin to do it all. We will report back and request more guidance.

The Academic Senate Library Committee met with the Chief Librarian. The members, faculty and students nominated by the Senate, asked questions and gave feedback and direction on library policies and services. Last year they looked closely at our proposed information literacy models for the undergraduate curriculum. The Academic Senate Library Committee has recently been merged into the new Academic Senate Technology and Library Committee. The membership of this committee has increased to include student and faculty representation from each academic division. Its scope has been broadened to include both library and instructional technology policies and issues.

Student feedback! It is very important for us to hear students’ thoughts about library services and collections. In November we will hold our fall student forums. At these forums students tell us their needs and gripes, learn about what we have to offer, eat some pizza, and receive a CLIQ point.

Suggestions and criticisms! We have had comment and suggestion boxes at service desks throughout the Library for a number of years. With the advent of our web page we added an email address for suggestions, queries, and comments to which we respond promptly (unless the user chooses to remain anonymous).

Library Homepage Users Speak Through Web Survey! Last spring we conducted our first web-user survey about our Library computers, web page, databases, remote access, etc. The data gathered indicated that users were spread among all levels of students, that 50% used the homepage at least twice a week, that the OPAC link was most heavily used, and that about 44% of those needing assistance used a librarian (in person or via the phone) or a library-provided tutorial or handout; another 47% did not ask for assistance because they did not need it.

Interestingly, these results for overlapping questions were very similar to the national study of college student web behavior conducted by OCLC during early spring 2002. Most students think they are proficient searchers of the Internet and do not ask for assistance from librarians or teaching faculty. The results of these surveys indicate that we must put even more library faculty time into instruction and partnership with faculty in assignment design, referral, and awareness of the richness of the Library’s offerings, especially those that are electronic and as easy to access as the web but with, we hope, much more academic content. We ask for your aid in this process.

This year we will conduct a survey focused on user expectations and perceptions of our services. We will also repeat the spring 2002 web survey on use of databases and computers. The Library’s Web Committee will track the use of our web pages and use this information to improve what has become the alternate front door of the Library.

Sharon Bonk
Chief Librarian
An ambassador of Queens College will be on the road during this academic year and well into 2003/2004. It is a painting by the great American realist Fairfield Porter (1907-1975), normally on display on the Library’s third floor. Landscape with Two Parked Cars was included in the exhibition Fairfield Porter: A Life in Art presented in 2000 by the Equitable Gallery in New York, and was seen there by thousands of visitors. Because of the great critical and public response, the Library is now lending the painting to a tour of the exhibition. From October 5 to January 5, it will be shown at the Frye Art Museum in Seattle, Washington, and from there it will travel to the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts in Montgomery, Alabama, the Portland Museum of Art in Portland, Maine, and the McNay Art Museum in San Antonio, Texas, where it will close in December 2003. The exhibition’s catalog, by Justin Spring, is available in the Art Library: N6537.P63 S66 2000.

The painting was acquired through the Percent of Art program that is administered for the City University by the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York, and is part of the Queens College Libraries’ collection of well over a hundred works of art on permanent display. For information, please contact Suzanna Simor, Art Library/Art Center, Rosenthal Library 603; 997-3770.

"Hell Week, 1939"
Announcing the New CUNY+ Catalog

A new Web version of CUNY+, the union catalog of CUNY libraries’ holdings, debuted in November. The online public access catalog and the integrated library management system for circulation, acquisitions, cataloging, serials check-in, and binding control is a product of ExLibris-USA. The ExLibris software, Aleph 500, has been the system of choice of over 600 academic and research libraries worldwide. The University of Iowa, Notre Dame, McGill, Harvard, SUNY, Boston College, and Brandeis are among the libraries that use this system. Aleph 500 is well known for its ability to support systems serving large groups of libraries like CUNY and SUNY.

This is a significant event for CUNY libraries and their users. We have chosen to keep the old name of CUNY+, but the whole system underlying the name has changed. The most obvious change is the interface and the functionality of the catalog. It has the look and feel of a web search engine, but has the power and sophistication of the online catalogs for refining searches.

New features include:
- Web based. No special software will be required for remote access.
- Search Queens College holdings first! All library public access computers will default to the Queens College holdings. The user chooses to modify searching to include all CUNY libraries or selected CUNY libraries.
- Remote access via the central CUNY site will default to the union catalog, and the user will need to select the library or libraries if he/she wishes to limit the search.
- Advanced searching features make limiting searches by format, date, or publication date easy. The selection of Aleph 500 was made after two years of rigorous vendor evaluation, which involved all campus libraries and the CUNY Office of Computing and Information Services (CIS). The migration of data and implementation of the new system have been an enormous team effort. Systems and operations staff at CIS are responsible for managing the large Sun server, which houses the new software and CUNY+ database. Librarians and programmers in the Office of Library Services run the application. Librarians and staff at all 19 campus libraries have worked on conversion of book records, user records, and serial records, and are becoming proficient in using the system for ordering books, cataloging, circulation, and reference.

We hope you will be as excited about the new system and its capabilities as we are.

We have set up a number of workshops, tutorials, and classes to assist users in making the transition. Join us or contact your library bibliographer directly for information and details.

Sharon Bonk
**Worldwide Will: Library Acquires Shakespeare Database**

Worldwide Shakespeare Bibliography Online (WSBO) has recently been added to the Library’s growing collection of online resources.

The Bibliography is the electronic equivalent, with significant enhancement, of the annual Shakespeare Bibliography issues compiled for the print journal *Shakespeare Quarterly*. Updated at regular intervals, the database provides over 78,000 annotated entries for all important books, articles, dissertations, productions, book reviews, reviews of productions in various media, audiovisual materials, electronic media, and other materials related to Shakespeare and published or produced between 1971 and 2002. Plans are for coverage eventually to extend back to 1900. The range is international with citations representing documents in more than 92 languages.

The publisher, Johns Hopkins University Press, claims significantly greater coverage of Shakespeare than that offered by the MLA International Bibliography and provides the following statistics for comparison (for the years 1974-2000): WSBO cites 600,000 reviews, while the MLA International Bibliography does not include citations to reviews of any kind. WSBO cites 27,886 articles; MLA cites 20,162. WSBO cites 11,739 books; MLA cites 2,222. WSBO cites 1,785 dissertations; MLA cites 1,147.

The World Shakespeare Bibliography Online is searchable by author, title, subject, keyword, date, language, publisher, and periodical title. It should be of use to researchers in a number of disciplines related to literature, history, and the arts.

*Richard Wall, Chair
Library Collection Development Committee*

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**Tutorial continued from page 4**

with printable pages that students can take away and teachers can check, and quiz sections. Stay tuned!

Currently the tutorial is composed of four “mini-tutorials” or modules, taking students from ‘determining their information need,’ to ‘defining their research topic,’ to ‘locating and retrieving relevant information,’ to finally, ‘using technological tools for accessing information.’ In turn, each of these modules is divided into several subtopics, varying in length from a few screen pages to many. Plans call for the number of modules to expand. However, each module is independent from the next and can be taught and assigned on its own.

The tutorial is ready to use in the classroom and in the preparation of assignments. Instructors of the Library’s one-credit course, *Library 100, Information Literacy*, have already begun to use parts of it as assigned readings. In the future, and with the collaboration of the English Department, students taking the required English 110 class will have readings from the tutorial as part of their preparation before coming to the Library for bibliographic instruction classes.

On the local front, Queens College librarians and Library Systems staff provided a link from the tutorial to several practice quizzes for students. This provides a means of assigning readings and exercises to our own student body while we await the further development of the tutorial. All faculty are encouraged to take a look and see how useful the tutorial can be, both for themselves and their students, in understanding, teaching, and mastering the complexities and challenges of college-level research.

*Alexandra de Luise, Coordinator
Instructional Services, 997-3748*

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**POTPOURRI continued from p. 4**

brarians. To give more direction to the researcher, Brief Guides for specific subjects (e.g., Chemistry) and more extensive Research Guides for broad disciplines are also available.

Our new Media Center website explains services, equipment, borrowing policies, collections, and lists Media Center personnel, and also provides links to other relevant websites. We have included a listing of the New Immigrants Video Collection with numerous photographs from distributor catalogs. “If you groove on videos,” explains Lisa Flanzraich, former flower child, who constructed the new page, “this is the place for you.” The Center can be accessed through the Library’s homepage by clicking on Information and Services/Media Center.

Suzanne Li, who designed our new Education Curriculum Center (ECC) page, recently exclaimed, “Don’t be a talking head.” The ECC is the place to cure the habit of the talking head and improve your student teacher classes by consulting our extensive collection of teaching materials. The new ECC contains information on curriculum bulletins, lesson plans, juvenile books, etc.

As the police dispatcher concluded in *King Kong*, “That is all!”

*Rolf Swensen
Chair, Library Web Page Committee*
**MEDIA COLLECTION UPDATE**

We have recently added these titles to our New Immigrants Video Collection.  

*La Ciudad*. 1999. 88 mins. Shot on location entirely in Queens, this film follows the difficult lives of four Latino immigrants in New York City.  

*Home Is Struggle*. 1991. 37 mins. Explores the lives of women who have immigrated to the United States from different Latin American countries for economic and political reasons. In sharing their stories, they present an absorbing picture of the construction of Latina identity and the immigrant experience.  

*Postville: When Cultures Collide*. 2001. 56 mins. Postville, Iowa, is where more than 300 Hasidic Jews, plus hundreds of Mexicans, Guatemalans, Ukrainians, and Russians have taken up residence in the last decade. This program explores the struggles and rewards of the social and economic changes.  

*Taxi Dreams*. 2001. 109 mins. Features five immigrants who are trying to make a living driving taxis in New York City.  

*They Came from Russia*. 1998. 48 mins. Part of the Nassau Community College cultural series. Professor Dmitri Urnov, speaking from the 1998 NCC library exhibit, gives many case histories of immigrants from the former Soviet empire, and recounts the inventions and accomplishments of Russians in America.  

In addition, the Media Center owns a collection of Chinese-language feature films, acquired in recent years by Asian Language Bibliographer Belinda Chiang. We are pleased to present a listing of them and hope you will use and enjoy them:  

*At Middle Age (Jen Tao Chung Nien)*. 1983. 110 mins. Story of a middle-aged female ophthalmologist who suffers a heart attack and reassesses her past failures and victories.  

*The Big Parade (Da Yue Bin)*. 1986. 105 mins. With the 1984 military parade on Tian Anmen Square as its setting, this film portrays the heroic spirit and the strong will of the Chinese People’s Liberation Army soldiers by focussing on the lives of six soldiers in an airborne division.  

*Chu Tou Ju Dou*. 1990. 98 mins. The abused wife of a sadistic Chinese mill owner and his overworked nephew fall in love. Only murder can free the lovers from the mill owner’s tyranny – or can it?  

*Emperor and the Assassin*. 1999. 161 mins. Ying Zheng, the King of Qin, has one driving ambition: to unify China’s seven kingdoms into one empire.  

*King of Masks (Bian Lian)*. 2000. 101 mins. Desperate for his art to survive, the King of Masks finds an apprentice in a destitute child purchased on the black market. When the child reveals an unexpected secret, their relationship is suddenly tested by both the old man’s stubborn sense of tradition and the established customs of China.  

*Not One Less*. 2000. 106 mins. A young woman is ordered to a remote, rural Chinese village to be a substitute teacher and is told that she must keep the class intact for one month or she won’t be paid. When one of her students disappears into the city to find work, she goes after him.  

*Raise the Red Lantern (Ta Hung Teng Lung Kao Kao Kua)*. 1991. 125 mins. In 1920s China, 19-year-old Songlian has become the fourth wife to the wealthy Chen. Yet she must share her husband with three existing wives. Each must wait until dusk for the arrival of a red lantern, which signifies with whom the master will sleep that night. When Songlian discovers that the other wives cheat to win the red lantern, she decides to join the fight for Chen’s attraction.  

*Rouge (Yen Chih K’O)*. 1988. 99 mins. Having committed suicide some fifty years ago, the ghost of a famous courtesan returns to the world to seek her septuagenarian lover.  

*Shanghai Triad (Yao A Yao Dao Waipo Qiao)*. 1996. 109 mins. A beautiful prostitute is used as bait between rival ganglords in 1930s Shanghai.  

*A Small Town Called Hibiscus (Fu-Jung Chen)*. 1989. 126 mins. Story of a couple who sells rice beancurd for a living. During the “four clean ups” movement of 1964, they are classified as new rich peasants: their house is confiscated and the husband is driven to suicide. After the Cultural Revolution, the wife falls in love with a rightist and almost dies giving birth to their baby.  

*Story of Qiu Ju (Qiuju Da Guan Si)*. 1993. 100 mins. A stoic peasant woman demands an apology when her husband is kicked in the groin by the Village Chief. But the Chief is a proud man who refuses to apologize, sending her on a futile trek through the complicated Chinese court system.  

*To Live*. 1995. 132 mins. In a smoky gambling den in 1940s China, a drunken young man runs through his family’s fortune, losing their ancestral home and all their possessions. This staggering loss proves to be their salvation, and the first step in an odyssey of survival that will take them through war and revolution, love and loss, tragedy and triumph.  

*Woman Sesame Oil Maker (Xiang Hun Wai).* 1996. 109 mins. A beautiful bride and plan the nuptials.  

*Wedding Banquet*. 1994. 108 mins. Comedy about the age-old conflict between parents and children. In New York, the Taiwanese half of a gay couple hopes to end his parents’ matchmaking by announcing that he’s engaged. What he doesn’t count on is that they’ll fly in to meet the bride and plan the nuptials.  

Videocassettes can be borrowed for one week and renewed for an additional week. Please visit the Media Center on Level One to check out materials. If you have any questions about our media collection or Media Services Unit, call 997-3673 or e-mail Lisa Flanzraich at lflanzra@qc1.qc.edu.  

Lisa Flanzraich  
Reference/Media Services
RECENT ACQUISITIONS


**Ecosystems of Disturbed Ground**. Elsevier, 1999. QH45.1E2824 1999


**What's a Pocketful of Dreams?**, features speaker Gary Giddins of the Village Voice and author of Bing Crosby, The Early Years, 1903-1940. A concert directed by Jonathan Irving, Assistant to the Director of the Aaron Copland School of Music, is scheduled.

**We Love Our FRIENDS**

Our ever-energetic Friends have given the Library a generous gift to purchase Leisure Reading Area enhancements and to preserve and purchase books in General Literature. The Friends donate their semi-annual book sale funds to the Library to buttress our collections, furniture, and equipment.

In addition, they have a diverse program of activities scheduled this year:

On Wednesday, October 23, QC Professor Leo Hershkowitz of the Department of History will speak on “Archival Research and the Jews in New York City.”

On November 13, Professor Louis Menand, Graduate Center English Department, and Pulitzer Prize author of The Metaphysical Club: A Story of Ideas in America, is set to speak on “What new ideas, intellectual and otherwise since the end of the Civil War came from John Dewey, Oliver Wendell Holmes, William James, and Charles S. Pierce.”

The Fall Book Sale is being held November 18-21 in the foyer of Rosenthal.

The Second Poetry Festival on the Queens College Campus, featuring Hal Sirowitz, Poet Laureate of Queens, Stephen Stepanchek, former poet laureate of Queens, and many other poets, is scheduled for November 20.

The new year features the Centennial Celebration for Lewis Allan, Composer of “Strange Fruit.” Dr. Nancy Baker, Musicologist at Boston University, will speak. There will be music by Leonard Lehrman in collaboration with Music Professor Jonathan Irving.

The Centennial Celebration for Bing Crosby, the popular singer with “a pocketful of dreams,” features speaker Gary Giddins of the Village Voice and author of Bing Crosby, The Early Years, 1903-1940. A concert directed by Jonathan Irving, Assistant to the Director of the Aaron Copland School of Music, is scheduled.

The Spring Book Sale will be held April 7-10, 2003 in the foyer of Rosenthal Library.

For more information contact David Cohen, Director, Friends of the Library, at 718-997-3626 or fax at 718-997-3753.

Please refer to our back page calendar for times, dates, and locations.

Lisa Flanraich
Centennial Celebration for Bing Crosby, eminent popular singer with “a pocketful of dreams.”

Sunday, April 6, 2003, 3 pm, in the Choral Room. Speaker, Gary Giddins of The Village Voice and author of Bing Crosby: The Early Years, 1903-1940. Concert directed by Professor Jonathan Irving, Aaron Copland School of Music.

Spring Book Sale

Queens College: The Formative Years, 1937-1950
October 5–mid-January 2003 in Library Rotunda. Looks at a period in which the College gained local and national recognition.

Exhibits in the Queens College Art Center, located on the sixth floor of the Benjamin S. Rosenthal Library, can be viewed during scheduled Library hours, usually 9 am to 10 pm, Monday through Thursday; 9 am to 5 pm, Friday; and 12 noon to 6 pm on Saturday and Sunday.

For the Art Center: Suzanna Simor, Director; Alexandra DeLuise, Curator; Jerald R. Green, Coordinator, Spanish and Latin American Art.

Centennial Celebration for Lewis Allan, Composer of “Strange Fruit”
Sunday, February 23, 2003, 2 pm. Speaker, Dr. Nancy Baker, Musicologist (Boston University). Music by Leonard Lehrman in collaboration with Prof. Jonathan Irving, Aaron Copland School of Music, Choral Room, School of Music, 2 pm.