

Graduate Student Poster Presentations at the Annual Society of American Archivists Conference in San Diego



Justin Mancini and Christine Parker present *Digitizing Don Quixote*

This year several students from the Queens College Graduate School of Library and Information Studies attended the 2012 Annual Meeting of the Society of American Archivists in San Diego as graduate student poster presenters. This year's theme, *Beyond Borders*, emphasized projects that cross traditional boundaries and/or foster collaboration.

Matt Smith presented a poster for the Occupy Archive, a group independent study project started in the spring of 2012. Justin Mancini and Christine Parker presented *Digitizing Don Quixote* – a digital Omeka prototype for the department's rare books collection. Shira Bistricher presented a poster on *Accessing Hidden Groups in the Archive*, which explored the cross-sections of social history and archival work.

Aside from sharing their projects, all students who presented at the conference were able to attend sessions on the latest topics in the archival profession and to meet and network with professionals in the field. We encourage all students to consider submitting a student poster for the next SAA conference in 2013 in New Orleans!

Ben Alexander
Head of Special Collections & Archives
(718) 997-3757
Benjamin.Alexander@qc.cuny.edu

New Staff at Queens College Special Collections and Archives

The Department of Special Collections and Archives introduces two new staff members: Alexandra Dolan-Mescal and Christine Parker. Alexandra will be the project lead for the Civil Rights archives, and Christine will manage projects on our rare book collections. Both have worked on projects in the department as graduate students in the Graduate School of Library and Information Studies at Queens College.

Queens Memory Project Honored

The Queens Memory Project received this year's Outstanding Collaboration Citation from the Association for Library Collections & Technical Services (ALCTS). Congratulations to project founder and former QC Special Collections employee Natalie Milbrodt! The project was honored for many achievements, including the strong collaboration with Queens Library, Queens College Libraries' Department of Special Collections and Archives, Queens Historical Society, Whirl-i-Gig, StoryCorps, and the community of Queens at large.

Thank You Fellows

Special thank you to our Archives Fellows and independent study students from the Graduate School of Library and Information Studies Program, Shira Bistricher, Kristin Resurrecion, Sara Howard, Megan Milewski, Susan Sasse, and Jessica Rozler, for their work in the department in 2012!

Alexandra Dolan-Mescal, Christine Parker & Johnathan Thayer
Department of Special Collections and Archives Staff
(718) 997-3650
QC.Archives@qc.cuny.edu

Seamen's Church Institute Archives Featured in *American Archivist*

The Fall/Winter 2012 issue of *The American Archivist*, journal of the Society of American Archivists, features an article authored by SCI Archivist Johnathan Thayer entitled "Mythmaking and the Archival Record: The *Titanic* Disaster as Documented in the Archives of the Seamen's Church Institute of New York and New Jersey." The journal's editors also selected a photograph from SCI's collection to display on its cover, depicting seafarers playing checkers in the game room of SCI's headquarters at 25 South Street during the 1920s.

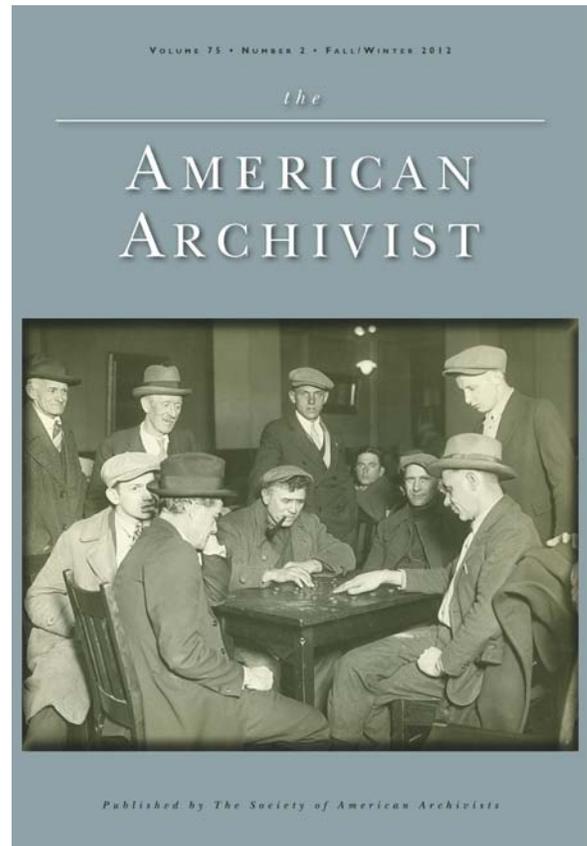
The article looks back at the sinking of *Titanic* as experienced along the waterfront of Lower Manhattan. SCI laid the cornerstone for its headquarters at 25 South Street on April 16, 1912, one day after the sinking of *Titanic*, holding a ceremony that would be recorded as possibly the first public memorial held in remembrance of the ship's tragic demise. The article analyzes SCI as a usable example—both in terms of the history of the Institute's "hidden" archival collection and of the history of the Institute itself—of the role that archives and archivists play in the process of cultural mythmaking and in reclaiming historical experience.

Read the article at www.seamenschurch.org/archives.

New SCI Digital Archives Website Launched

SCI's Digital Archives have a new home with Omeka, open-source digital archives software that encourages customization and user interactivity. Users can access more than 12,000 photographs and manuscript pages within the six "series" of the site: Annual Reports, Chaplains' Journals, Minutes, Photo Scrapbooks, Photographs and issues of *The Lookout* dating back to 1910. Digital Exhibits display items from the collection alongside stories from the history of SCI and the New York City waterfront.

The migration of the Digital Archives was funded in part by a grant from The Bay and Paul Foundations. Access the collection at www.archives.qc.cuny.edu/sci.



Cover of the Fall/Winter 2012 issue of *American Archivist* featuring a photograph from the SCI archives.

AMMV Oral History Project Launched

The American Merchant Marine Veterans Oral History Project, a new initiative launched by SCI's Archives department, seeks to document the history and experiences of the merchant marine by conducting interviews with retired or veteran mariners. Starting with New York City's Edwin J. O'Hara chapter of the American Merchant Marine Veterans Association (AMMV), the project has recorded interviews with ten mariners and port workers, including five veterans of World War II.

Visit the project at <http://archives.qc.cuny.edu/sci/exhibits/show/ammv>.

Civil Rights Archive

Jean Konzal Collection Open For Research

As a Queens College student, Jean Leanore Konzal, née Stein, became a volunteer with the *Student Help Project*, an initiative that provided free tutoring services to under-served children in South Jamaica, Queens (circa 1962-1968). During the summer of 1963, sixteen members of the project, including Konzal, travelled to Farmville, Virginia, to provide instruction to the African-American children of the county. The children had otherwise been denied formal public education since 1959, when the county defunded and closed its schools rather than comply with federally ordered racial integration.

The collection, processed by Fellow Kristin Resurreccion in 2012, includes personal and printed materials, newspaper articles, photographs and letters documenting Jean L. Konzal's experiences. A majority of the materials relate the project in 1963, with some material on other civil rights-related activism through 1965. This includes materials related to the March on Washington in 1963 and several organizations integral to the American civil rights movement.

To research the collection, please contact the Special Collections and Archives department. A finding aid is available on our website.

New Acquisitions

The Civil Rights Archive is pleased to announce the acquisition of the Michael Wreszin collection. Wreszin, a former Queens College Professor of History, was an anti-war activist and prominent leftist thinker. He is perhaps best known for his biography of Dwight MacDonal, titled "A Rebel in the Defense of Tradition". Wreszin wrote illuminating biographies of several famous activists, and his collection, which will be processed in 2013 by the staff in Special Collections, holds documents, tape recordings, drafts and letters related to the leftist intellectual movement.

The archive has also acquired additions to the Hubert and George Albertz collections and has received the Chester Johnson collection. Thank you to our donors, who continue to support and expand our department's offerings. These collections will be processed in 2013.



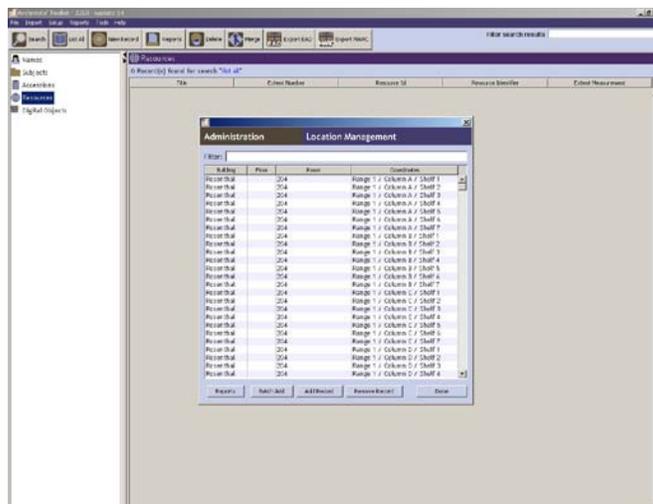
The Queens College Occupy Archive is a student-led digital project. It can be found at:
<http://archives.qc.cuny.edu/qcoccupy>

Occupy Wall Street Digital Archive

The Occupy Wall Street narrative has many authors, stances, and perspectives, and so the Queens College Occupy Archive was established as an experiment to explore the question: How do we archivally approach such a multifaceted movement? The archive comprises flyers, images, news, documents, publications, oral histories, sounds and ephemera that reflect the ongoing development of the Occupy movement. The collection is presented in the same dynamic way Occupy has presented itself - through map interfaces, timelines, and themed access points.

The project was started in 2012 by Queens College students Matt Smith, Dan Reynolds, Upma Sharma, and Phil Brunetti under the supervision of Professor Ben Alexander. Christine Astras, a graduate of the Graduate School of Library and Information Studies, has been volunteering transcribing the oral histories for easier access. Student involvement is integral to the success of the archive, and we thank all of the students who have come together to work on the project. We look forward to its continued engagement with the complex issues of preserving digital traces and adhering to the ethical concerns of a social movement.

Archivists' Toolkit Implementation to Begin this Spring



This coming spring semester the Department of Special Collections and Archives will be implementing Archivists' Toolkit 2.0 to manage the physical and intellectual control of its holdings. This will be a long-term project the first phase of which will be implementation planning. The Archivists' Toolkit is an internal database for use by archivists who need to streamline basic procedures such as inventory, description, and reporting. Use of the Archivists' Toolkit will also enable quick production of EAD finding aids and collection MARC records for wider access. Students interested in learning Archivists' Toolkit through hands-on experience are encouraged to contact the department regarding fellowship and independent study opportunities.

Our digital projects have moved!
Now at: <http://archives.qc.cuny.edu>

John E. Parsons Collection

A new rare book collection of 148 volumes was processed this fall by GSLIS student Megan Milewski. Megan also completed a full finding aid for the collection using Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACS) to provide a detailed description for each title.

The John E. Parsons collection contains volumes in English, French, German, Latin, and Italian covering the period from 1650-1903. It includes poetry, drama, political and philosophical discourse, and prose. Notable editions include *The Works of Johnathan Swift*, *The Plays of William Shakespeare* with notes from commentator George Steevens, and works by von Ranke, Diderot, and Rousseau.

***Digitizing Don Quixote* to Become Larger Print History Portal**

The Omeka site for rare books begun as a student project in the fall of 2011 will be undergoing major renovation this spring to become a more inclusive gateway to the department's print history collection as a whole. This will include use of the interactive tools currently represented on the site such as interactive title pages, SpicyNodes, and VisualEyes.

SpicyNodes in particular will be used to create a visual-style catalog for the overall collection. This fall student Jessica Rozler developed a node map for the Early Rare Books Collection towards this goal. She also presented a poster on her work at the ACRL/NY Annual Symposium held at Baruch College on December 7th.