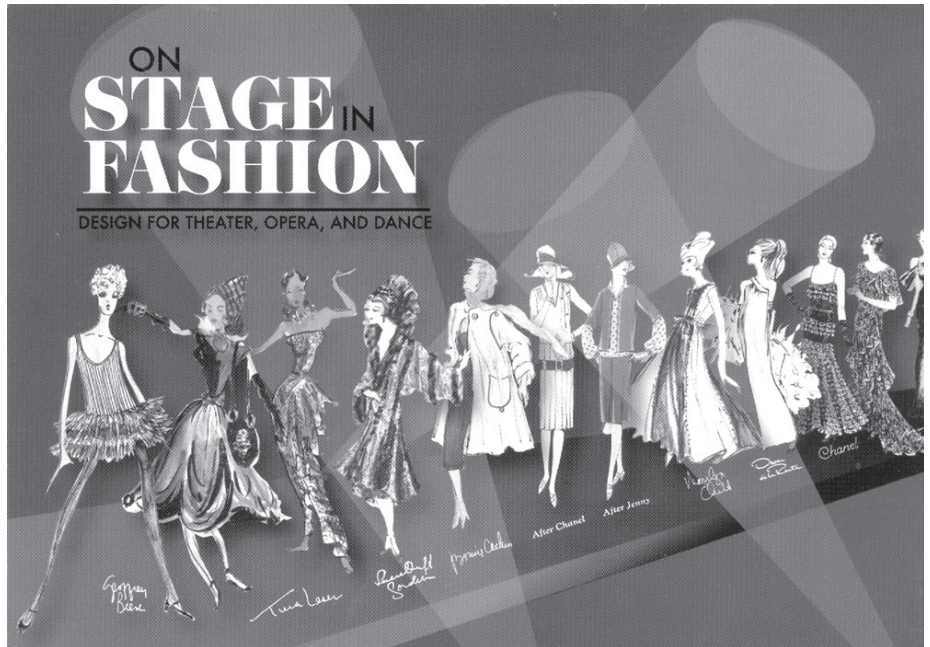


Volunteer

Fashion, Theatre, Dance Mingle at LPA Exhibition

On Stage in Fashion, the Library for the Performing Arts' recently opened exhibition, highlights the connection between performers and fashion designers over the past 100 years and how that connection benefits those on both sides of the footlights. Included are designs by Chanel, Halston, Bill Blass, Christian LaCroix, Willi Smith, and others who, working with performers, brought contemporary clothing styles to theatre, opera, and dance. The results influenced fashion tastes of their audiences and finally of the general public. This unusual and absorbing exhibition can be seen until February 19, 2011.



“In the beginning...”

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”

“The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.”

“In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful.”

THUS BEGIN TEXTS sacred to the three monotheistic religions on view in *Three Faiths*, an extraordinary exhibition currently in Gottesman Hall.

The exhibition, drawn entirely from the Library's collections, features Bibles, Qur'ans, commentaries, prayer books, and works of art of exceptional beauty and significance. Opening the exhibition are three manuscripts: a

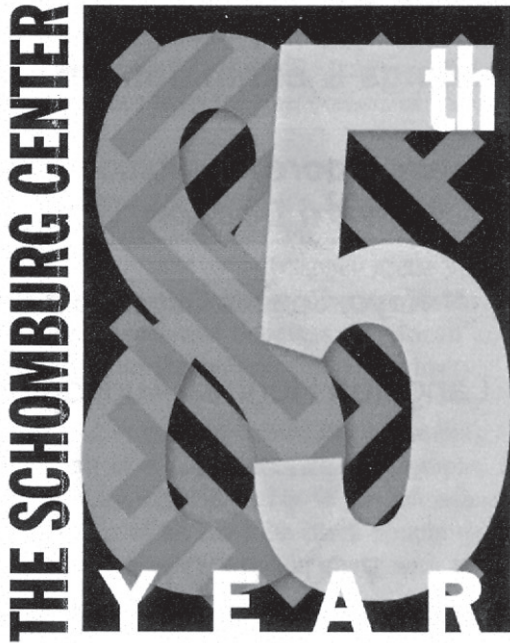
monumental Hebrew Bible of 1294, a late 9th/early 10th century Gospels with an unusual depiction of the four Evangelists, and a handsome Qur'an of 1333.

The curators, advisors, and staff have gathered a roomful of familiar favorites (the Gutenberg Bible and the Bay Psalm Book, for example) plus never-before-displayed items

Nearby, in the Wachenheim Gallery is the Three Faiths Scriptorium, an interactive education center featuring materials and tools used in creating manuscripts and videos, showing the process

A tour for *volunteers only* will be given on November 15 at 9:15 A.M. Sign up with Ayoela in the Volunteer Office, (212) 930-0501.

—Margaret Kable



What's Up @The Schomburg?

The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture commemorates its 85th anniversary with the exhibition *What's Up @ The Schomburg?* A 25-year retrospective, this powerful exhibition focuses on the evolution of a multifaceted cultural center during the 25-year tenure of Chief Howard Dodson. Over these 25 years the collections have grown from 5 to 10 million items. Visitors have increased from 40,000 to over 125,000 annually. Under Dodson's leadership, a Scholars-in-Residence program was established, which has provided six-month and one-year fellowships for more than 80 scholars over the last 14 years.

The exhibition presents books, manuscripts, artworks, photographs, films, videos, diaries, and personal papers. There are records of religious, political, social, and cultural organizations. It is an overview of a complex cultural institution that serves its community and the world

Themes represented include:

- *African Diaspora*: a section which illustrates the boundless diversity of the Diaspora. You will see a bill of sale for an enslaved Yoruba woman in Brazil as well as a document signed by Toussaint Louverture in Haiti.

- *Religion*: An intimate look at the deep and diverse spirituality of Africa and the African Diaspora. On view are documents from the AME Church, the Nation of Islam, the Hebrew Israelites, the Ethiopian Church, and many others.
- *Art and Entertainment*: Experience the exuberant creativity of people who have ignited the cultural world. One exhibition piece is a collage by the remarkable artist Romare Bearden.
- *The Lorraine Hansberry Collection*: An inspiring collection of personal papers and photographs of a young, gifted, black woman who became an award-winning playwright.
- *The Malcolm X Collection*: Spotlighted are photographs at various stages of his life as well as family photographs, his Qur'an, and briefcase.
- *Helen Amstead Johnson Collection*: The story of black performers on the stage. Included are historical photos, posters, sheet music, theatre memorabilia. Among the latter are "father of the rhythm tap" John Bubbles' tap shoes.

What's Up @ The Schomburg? Everything anyone wants to know about Africa and its Diaspora—through December 31.

—Marie Lunn

VOLUNTEERS!

Special tour of
"Three Faiths"

Monday, November 15

9:15 A.M

Know Your Library

Visit Four Continents in the Trustees' Room

One of the most unusual treasures at NYPL is seldom seen—the Four Continents Tapestries of the late 17th century, which grace the Trustees' Room at SASB. Next time you attend a volunteers' reception there, make a point of examining these renowned gold-and-silk-thread Flemish tapestries. Produced in Belgium between 1665 and 1707, they were a gift to the Library in 1968 from Oliver B. Jennings in memory of his parents

Each tapestry represents one of the four areas of the world that was important in the 17th century. Each continent is personified by a woman richly dressed in jewels and raiment, evoking the character of that continent—an elephant headdress in Africa, for example; an enthroned and crowned “Queen of the World” for Europe; opulent fabrics, Oriental pearls, and a bouquet of aromatic spices evoke the fabulous silk trade of Araby. America, having been only recently discovered, features a sort of Indian Diana wearing an extravagant feather bonnet. Its design was based on hearsay reports about Peruvian featherwork.

Based on the perceptions of the people of Europe, Asia, Africa, and America that were prevalent at that time, the tapestries inevitably contain some inaccuracies. This is especially true of the Africa tapestry. It depicts Indian corn and a boy smoking a pipe. However, maize and tobacco did not exist in Africa then. They were found in the new world, America.

Although produced in Brussels by G. Peemans, the subject matter was based on the *Iconologia* by Cesare Ripa, first published in Rome in 1593. The actual designs were worked from cartoons by David Teniers III, the last important member of a family of Brussels painters and designers, so famous that “Teniers tapestries” denotes a class in itself. This complete set of four is one of only a few of its type extant in the world.

—Trudi Coakley



Seventeenth Century Flemish tapestry representing Asia adorns the Trustees' Room at SASB.

Let's Read Books

The NYPL book group, dedicated to reading and discussing serious literature, meets the first Tuesday of the month at 11 A.M. in the SASB third floor staff lounge. All NYPL volunteers are welcome.

For the next several months we will be reading:

- November 2: George Meredith (1828–1909)—*The Egotist*
- December 7: Wallace Stegner (1909–1960)—*Angle of Repose*
- January 4: Ford Madox Ford (1873–1939)—*The Good Soldier*
- February 1: John Dos Passos (1896–1970)—*Manhattan Transfer*
- March 1: Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa (1896–1957)—*The Leopard*

Come join us.

—Peter Boysen

Volunteers Learn To Teach Adults Reading and Writing

Nine of 35 new volunteers trained last September to become tutors in NYPL's Reading and Writing program were photographed in the Harlem Library. It is demanding work. The program runs in four 10-week cycles throughout the year, with about 20 two-hour sessions per cycle.

The volunteers learn a variety of strategies that have proved successful in helping new adult readers accomplish their literacy goals.



PHOTO: STEVEN MAHONEY

New volunteers trained as tutors for NYPL's Reading and Writing Program. From left: Tina Lee, Peggy Tartt, Leslie Chen, Matthew Murphy, Phyllis Howe, Nkechi Mbano, Tessa Bouche, Shannon Lydick, Brandon Leonard



PHOTO: JOAN MCCANN

Maura enjoys a brief quiet moment in her office.

Maura Celebrates Her Tenth "From Four to Ninety-one!"

We're talking to Maura Muller about her activities in the ten years she's been at NYPL. Her duties as Volunteer Manager have greatly increased as she is now in charge of volunteer services for our 87 branches, as well as the four Research Libraries.

"I've gone from four to ninety-one," she says proudly, "and it's fun to get out to all the locations."

The need for volunteers varies from branch to branch, so Maura has been visiting them, encouraging staff to solicit and train volunteers for various duties.

One of her new opportunities is being able to edit the volunteer page on NYPL's website. She can highlight a particular area of need and answer questions from library staff, responding quickly—a process that normally could take a week or two.

We marvel at her expertise, congratulate her on this milestone, and wish her well for the new era at the Library.

—Joan McCann

Items of Interest Behind Our Façade

- Did you know there are varieties of animals, insects, and fish scattered around the building? Among them are bees on the underside of the cornices high over Astor Hall, catfish above the defunct drinking fountains on three floors, a camel, a horse, a parrot woven into the Trustees' Room tapestries, and there are many, many lions.
- In the Arents Collection, there is the rarest of baseball cards—a Honus Wagner. In 1910 Wagner made the tobacco company remove his

card from its packaging so that kids wouldn't be forced to buy tobacco to get his picture.

- And why is John P. Marquand's book *Thirty Years* in the Rare Books Collection? Well, Ernest Hemingway was reading it when he learned he had been awarded the Nobel Prize in literature. Hemingway wrote the first draft of his acceptance speech on the fly leaf of that book.
- If you peek through the glass doors of the Berg Reading Room, you'll see Charles Dickens' desk and chair in the rear left corner.

—Joan McCann

—Regina Ford, Research



PHOTO: PAT GRANT

NYPL's Patience and Fortitude urge patience—our restoration is almost complete.

SASB Still Restoring

As any information desk volunteer knows only too well, the world is waiting for the Library's restoration to be over. Our lions keep their cool on the front terrace but Patience has been heard sighing as impatient visitors cluster on the steps frowning and gesturing at the scaffolds and wrappings that hide the Fifth Avenue façade.

Inside they quiz volunteers. How much longer? When, exactly? We came from Australia, Japan, Germany. See my guide book pictures! Where is this beautiful place?

The "beautiful place" is right here on Fifth Avenue where it has been since May 1911. Soon the construction clutter will disappear and our breathtaking Beaux Arts landmark will emerge from three years of burnishing and restoration ... just in time to celebrate its 100th birthday.

—Adele Paroni

Volunteers Honored

On September 30th, eight Special Ed students from the Hungerford School on Staten Island were honored by NYPL for their dedicated volunteer service to the Huguenot Park branch. Michael Charnes, Kristina Delikat, Lauren Dirago, Stefan Felton, Nicholas Manfredonia, Manuel Martinez, Scott Nilsen, and Stefan Williams received lion pins and certificates "In Recognition of Volunteer Service." These intrepid students donate two hours, twice each week, all year long, to their jobs at

Huguenot: making and collating flyers and announcements, putting magazines away, straightening and reshelving books, and assisting with mailings. Their awards are well deserved and their dedication greatly appreciated by the Library.

—Maura Muller



PHOTO: CHRIS MCKEON

A delighted Lauren Dirago shows her Certificate of Volunteer Service. Steven Horbath and Diane Campione of the Library staff celebrate with her.

Fifth Graders Volunteer at Epiphany Library

Last spring fifth graders Adrian and Christopher helped librarian Rebecca Dash check in books at the Epiphany Library.

For two mornings during their school's annual Book Week the boys also shelved many carts of books and unloaded the book drop bin. After a particularly rainy overnight, they had to dry off all the items before returning them to the shelves.

—Maura Muller



PHOTO: MAURA MULLER

Adrian helps librarian Rebecca Dash.

VOLUNTEERS OF THE NEW YORK PUBLIC
LIBRARY, THE RESEARCH LIBRARIES

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Robin Newmyer, Vice Chairman-Secretary

Helene Kline, Vice Chairman-Treasurer

Trudy Reitz, Vice Chairman-at-Large

Sherrel Bader, Chairman-at-Large

Library Staff:

Maura Muller, Volunteer Manager

Ayoela Charles, Volunteer Assistant



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