

The
CHRONICLE
of History and Preservation
From the History and Preservation Section of the New Jersey Library Association

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Winter 2008

H/P Section Programs at NJLA Conference

Oral History Programs in Our Public Libraries: Presenting and Preserving Our Local Heritage
Wednesday, April. 30

3:30 - 5:20 p.m. (double session)

Donald A. Ritchie, in his book *Doing oral history: A practical guide* explains that, "Oral history collects memories and personal commentaries of historical significance through recorded interviews." Part one of this session focuses on the successful collaboration between the Plainfield Public Library and StoryCorps, using a new approach to oral history to document the personal histories of the local African-American and Latino communities. Part two focuses on planning tools and technical issues that must be considered by the library to assure a successful oral history interview project. Speakers: Part One: Joe Da Rold, Director, Plainfield Public Library and Michael Brigham, Project Coordinator, Story Corps. Part Two: Cheryl C. Turkington, Assistant Archivist, Morristown and Morris Township Library and Bob Golon, Assistant Director, Plainfield Public Library.

Trash or Treasure? To Fix or Not to Fix? Topics for "Tough Love" in Collection Development
Wednesday, April 30

1:30 - 2:20 p.m.

Collection development involves more than just bringing in the latest releases and weeding out the non-circulating titles. Many libraries have "buried treasures," rare or unique items that remain in storage or on the circulating shelves because we aren't certain how to handle them. What can a library staff do when faced with multiple items, from books to maps to images, in various conditions? How do we prioritize what should be repaired and what should be discarded? How do we identify and handle materials that might have special value due to rarity? This session helps librarians to spot the items that need special care, identify items of special value, prioritize the needs of the items and employ preservation strategies. Speakers: Chad Leinaweaver, Special Collections, Newark Public Library; Tim Corlis, Head of Preservation, Special Collections and University Archives, Rutgers University Libraries

Reference Use of Congressional Papers in New Jersey Local History Research
Thursday, May 1

11:30 - 12:20

Collections of the papers of U.S. Senators and Congressmen/women are commonly recognized for their importance in research of Federal legislative matters. Less appreciated is the value of these collections for local and social history. Drawing principally on the papers of former U.S. Senator Harrison A. Williams, this session explores the ways in which reference librarians can assist local researchers in the use of Congressional collections. Speakers: Larry Weimer, Project Archivist, Special Collections and University Archives, Rutgers University Libraries

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The Eighth Exhibition of Shopping Bags at NPL

The Newark Public Library announces a new exhibition on a topic of wide public interest and enthusiasm: The Eighth Super Cool Exhibition of Shopping Bags: Infinite Commercial Art Designs Adorning a Practical Function. The exhibit runs until March 16, 2008, and is on display in the library's Third Floor Gallery.

The Exhibition features miniature bags, historic Bloomingdale's Department Store bags, bags for celebrated artists, bags from Newark and New Jersey as well as bags from all over including London, Paris, Rome and the Pacific Rim all from the collection in the Special Collections Division of the Newark Public Library. For more information, contact the Special Collections Dept.
<http://www.npl.org/Pages/Collections/specialcollections1.html>

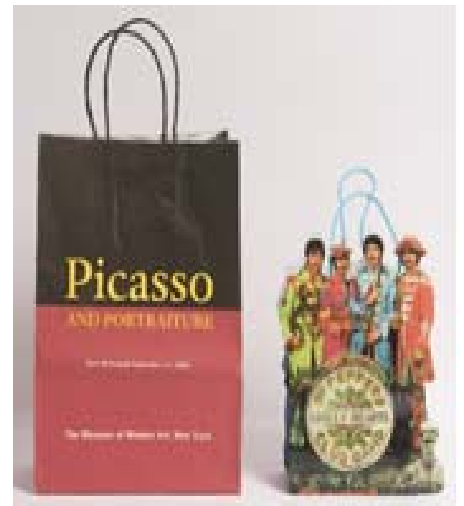


Image from the NPL Shopping Bag Exhibit

A Matter of When, Not If: Preventing and Preparing for Library Disasters Presented by the Northeast Document Conservation Center

Disasters come in all shapes and sizes, from natural disasters such as floods, hurricanes, and earthquakes to emergencies like fire, leaking roofs, and mold.

An emergency can easily spiral into a disaster if you, and your institution, are not prepared to respond.

This full day program will examine two facets of disaster planning—prevention and preparedness.

Save the date for one of these upcoming workshops:

May 6: Old Bridge Public Library
 May 7: Atlantic County Library, Hammonton
 May 20: Plainfield Public Library
 May 21: New Milford Public Library

Time: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.. Lunch will be provided.

Contact Michele Stricker at mstricker@njstatelib.org.

This program is funded by the New Jersey State Library and the State Library of Maine.

Upcoming H/P meetings

Friday, June 6, 2008 @ Morristown & Morris Township Public Library

10 am - Presentation & exhibit on the "Little Dublin" oral history project, with ½ hour walking tour

11:30 am - Executive Board meeting

For more information, please contact Section Secretary Deborah Mercer at dmercer@njstatelib.org

The Chronicle of History and Preservation is published quarterly

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Winslow Homer painting travels from Plainfield Library to Chicago Museum

The finest and most noteworthy painting in the Plainfield Public Library's collection is now on loan to the Art Institute of Chicago. *Looking Over the Cliff*, a watercolor by American painter Winslow Homer in 1882 will be part of a new exhibit: *Watercolors by Winslow Homer: The Color of Light*, which will run from February 16th to May 10th, 2008.

Library Director Joe Da Rold and the Library Board have been working with the exhibit curator at the Art Institute since October of 2006. The library's painting will be one of 130 watercolors, drawings and oil paintings in the exhibit. Under tight security, the painting left Plainfield earlier this week and arrived in Chicago on Wednesday in the middle of a winter storm that delivered 15 inches of snow. Joe and two Board members will be traveling at their own expense to represent the Plainfield Public Library at the Lender Luncheon & Preview next week.

Homer's imagery of two women standing together is repeated in many of the works from his Cullercoats (England) series. This particular painting has found great popularity in art circles and has been exhibited widely, including the **National Gallery of Art** in Washington D.C., **the Whitney Museum** in New York City, **the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts** in Richmond, and **the Center for the Fine Arts** in Miami. Joe reports that he and his Board are especially proud to be participating in this exhibit because the **Art Institute of Chicago** is recognized as one of the great museums of the world.

A color reproduction of *Looking Over the Cliff* appears in the 2001 book, *The Watercolors of Winslow Homer* by Miles Unger. An image of the same work will soon be appearing in a catalog being prepared by Harvard University Art Museum, entitled *American Paintings at Harvard: Artists Born from 1826 to 1856*, in juxtaposition with a wash drawing by Homer in their own collection.

The Plainfield Public Library owns three original artworks by Winslow Homer. They were donated to the library in 1931 by Benjamin F. Day, who had spent his boyhood in North Plainfield before moving to New York City. The library also owns more than 50 original engravings that were published in Harpers Weekly magazine in the mid-1800's.

Joe, who is also Chairman of the Plainfield Cultural & Heritage Commission, says he is always delighted when the quality of the library's art collection is recognized. In 2002, the U.S. Department of State borrowed one of the library's paintings by John F. Carlson to hang in the American Embassy in Stockholm.

In his 14 years as Library Director in Plainfield, Joe has developed the collection with works of local artists. Many are on public view in the conference rooms on the lower level of the library. The images of many of the library's paintings can be seen on its website at www.plfdpl.info.

BIO: Homer was born in Boston in 1836 and died in Maine in 1910. He began his career as a free-lance magazine illustrator in 1857 and won praise for many of his paintings, his watercolors in particular. His first mature oil paintings, dating from 1862, were of Civil War subjects. In these, he was concerned with the effect of light and shade, much like the early French Impressionists of the same period. Homer's work took him to many locales which appear frequently in his paintings. In addition to the coasts of New England and Cullercoats, he also painted in the West Indies, and Long Branch, New Jersey.

Attachment photo shows Anne E. Robinson, President of the Plainfield Public Library Board of Trustees and Joe Da Rold, Library Director.

For details about the exhibit:

Link to exhibit page at Art Institute of Chicago: <http://www.artic.edu/aic/exhibitions/exhibition/homer>

H/P President's Message

You and Local History – Perfect Together!

My library has recently had two important collections donated to our Local History Room. As a result I've been asked to speak about what types of items a library will accept and how does a person go about choosing the right repository. In the process of preparing my presentation, I've put together a brochure, and – in lieu of a "President's Message" for this issue of *The Chronicle* – I'm happy to share my thoughts on this subject.

What Issues Should the Donor Consider?

Do my items have historical & research value?

Do I own the item outright or have I made a prior commitment to family members?

If my treasures have monetary value, should I sell them?

Have I sorted through my collections for extraneous photographs, letters, etc.?

Have I allowed myself enough time to review my collections and decide what to keep and what to donate?

Will I be able to bring the items to the library for review or will I need a librarian to visit my home?

Am I able to make a monetary donation to help cover the expense of archival supplies and processing?

How Can I Decide on the Right Repository?

Should I donate my items to

My local library?

The local historical society?

A museum?

A statewide agency?

Do my items pertain to this town or to another locale?

Will I get a statement of value for my taxes. Will I need to get a private appraisal.

How will the agency store, display and make my donated items accessible?

May I alter the donor agreement and place restrictions on my gift?

It is important that donor and library consider these questions carefully. Individual policies will vary. Only you at your local library can determine what types of items you are willing and able to accept.

Final Thoughts: Although we are only midway in the NJLA year, by February of each year the planning for meetings, activities, conference programs, and nominations is over. I'm proud of what we've accomplished and extend my sincere thanks to everyone who has pitched in. I wish next year's officers the greatest success.

Joe Da Rold, President, NJLA History & Preservation Section

First Annual Book Arts Series at The Morristown & Morris Twp. Library

March 29th

From Manuscript to Printed Book—Dr. Frank Felsenstein

9:30 AM to 12 noon

Cost: free as part of our mission

April 12th & 26th

Fine Press Printing—Leonard Seastone

10 AM to 1 PM

Cost: \$30

May 10th

Decorative Paper Marbling—Iris Nevins

10 AM to 1 PM

Cost: \$25

May 31st

Book Structures for New Binders—Don Rash

10 AM to 1 PM

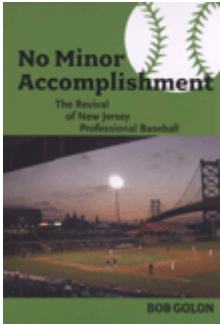
Cost: \$25

RSVP to Susan H. Gulick, Library Director

Susan.gulick@mainlib.org

H/P Section Vice-President has book published by Rutgers University Press

No Minor Accomplishment: The Revival of New Jersey Professional Baseball, by H/P Section Vice-President/President Elect Bob Golon, is being published this month by Rutgers University Press.



From the RUP website: "America's pastime has roots in New Jersey dating back to 1846 when the first baseball game using modern rules was played on Elysian Fields in Hoboken. The sport thrived throughout the state until the 1950s when fans began to turn away from local competition, preferring to watch games broadcast on television, to take a trip to see a major league team in New York, or to frequent newly air-conditioned movie theaters or bowling alleys. By the early 1990s, however, a growing disenchantment with the high ticket prices and corporate atmosphere of Major League Baseball led to the revival of a purer form of the sport in the Garden State.

In *No Minor Accomplishment*, sports historian and New Jersey native Bob Golon tells the story of the state's baseball scene since the Trenton Thunder arrived in 1994. Drawing on interviews with team owners and employees, industry executives and fans, Golon goes behind the scenes to show how maintaining a minor league ball club can be a risky business venture. Stadiums cost millions to build, and a team full of talented players does not immediately guarantee success. Instead, each of the eight minor league and independent professional teams in the state must tailor themselves to the communities in which they are situated. Shrewd marketing is necessary to attract fans, but Golon also explains how, unlike Major League Baseball, the business aspect of the minor and independent leagues is not something the average spectator notices. For the fans, baseball in New Jersey is wholesome, exciting family entertainment"

Bob will be giving talks at various libraries around the state in the upcoming months. To schedule a program at your library, please contact Bob Golon at bob.golon@plfdpl.info

H/P Section candidates for office presented by the Section's Nominating Committee

Vice-President/ President Elect

John Beekman, Assistant Manager, New Jersey Room, Jersey City Free Public Library. H/P Section Member at Large, 2007-2008.

Secretary

Deborah Mercer, New Jersey Collections Librarian, New Jersey State Library H/P Section Secretary, 2007-2008.

Members at Large

Susan H. Gulick, Director, Morristown and Morris Township Public Library. H/P Section President 1993-1994, Member at Large 2007-2008.

Members at Large

Chad Leinaweaver, Special Collections Senior Librarian, Newark Public Library. H/P Section Member at Large 2007-2008.

Nancy Madasci, Director, Taylor Library, Centenary College. NJLA Second Vice-President 2007-2008. NJLA Academic Representative 2006-2008.

Wendy Sandford, Head of Reference, Mount Olive Public Library. H/P Section Member at Large 2007-2008.