

# Books & People

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## The Twenty-First Head Librarian: *Carolyn Waters*

The Library is pleased to announce the appointment of Carolyn Waters as our next Head Librarian. The 21<sup>st</sup> Head Librarian in our 261-year history, she will be the third woman in the position, following Edith Hall Crowell (Head Librarian 1936-1954) and Sylvia Hilton (1954-1978).

Carolyn joined the staff in 2007. Her work in the Circulation, Cataloging, Reference, and Acquisitions Departments has already given her the opportunity to observe and influence many aspects of the Library's operations. In 2008 she founded our Writer Services programming, including the Daytime Talk Series and Live from the Library. She has been Assistant Head Librarian since December 2011.

Before receiving her Master's degree in Library Science from Pratt Institute, Carolyn was a Director of Client Management at Mellon Financial Corporation and a management consultant in the financial services industry.

A New Jersey native, Carolyn enjoys contemporary fiction, narrative nonfiction (especially travel and adventure!), hiking, and professional soccer. She is excited to continue working with our exceptional staff and trustees and engaging with members.

## Looking Back, Looking Ahead

*by Mark Bartlett*



It is with a sense of excitement and sadness that I write my final column to you as Head Librarian. The Board of Trustees has completed a successful search and Carolyn Waters has been appointed to the position. She has many accomplishments since 2007, and her enthusiasm, organizational skill, and decisive style are well suited to the Head Librarian position.

Reflecting on the fall 2006 issue of the newsletter, I see that I stated my commitment to the Library in this way:

## The Byron and Elizabeth Dobell Fund for World Literature in Translation

The Library thanks Byron Dobell and his daughter Elizabeth for creating a new book fund for world literature in translation. The Dobells have been Library members for 15 years.

“The Library has always been open to new translations of the many books that are published in languages other than English each year,” says Mr. Dobell. “We feel this fund will enlarge the search for books, both fiction and nonfiction, both recent and classic, that should be available to our fellow members. Our aim should be to keep an eye out for books of every culture that can be made available more easily in English translations. After all, if we pride ourselves on being citizens of the world, we should be open to the literature of the world.”

Since 2008, 14 new book funds have provided essential support for the purchase of books in subject areas ranging from poetry, ancient civilizations, and performing arts to children’s books, biography, and more.

We are grateful to the Dobells and all of our book fund donors for their generous support.

For more information about creating a book fund please contact Diane Srebnick at 212.288.6900 x214 or [dsrebnick@nysoclib.org](mailto:dsrebnick@nysoclib.org)

Looking Back, Looking Ahead by Mark Bartlett continued

*“I hope to recognize the traditions and practices of the Library while fostering creativity and introducing change appropriately. I believe that the richness and variety of the Library’s collections must be protected and preserved. At the same time, I believe we can find ways to improve and enhance the Library’s collection, services, programs, and facilities by harnessing appropriate technologies.”*

Mark Bartlett

What are some of the changes we have made in the last few years? Our website has been revitalized and is now a place where we engage with readers and writers every day—notices of events, blogs suggesting books to read, Library publications like *Books & People*, the new book list, the annual report, and an online catalog of print and electronic resources. We now host a greater variety of electronic resources, providing access to reference works, dictionaries, magazines and journals, and, more recently, audiobook downloads and e-books. These are carefully selected by the Library staff based on the subject areas and reading interests of our members.

The book stacks are as rich as ever. Each year we add about 4,000 titles to the permanent collection, and fiction (including general fiction, mysteries, and short story collections) is on average about 25% of our new purchases. In 2014, the Library’s five most-cataloged subject areas were history and travel; biography and collective biography; literature, criticism, poetry and drama; social sciences; and arts and recreation.

One of my earliest goals was to improve our sound system for Library events and to start a collection of selected event recordings. Since the first recorded event in 2008, “The Book is Dead! Long Live the Book!” with speakers James G. Neal, Michael Gorman, and host Maggie Jackson, we have made available as many events as possible on our website and YouTube. This collection includes 121 event recordings, including interesting lectures by Stacy Schiff, Simon Winchester, William Jay Smith, Susan Cheever, Anthony Grafton, Hermione Lee, and Gretchen Rubin, among others.

An early project in my time at the Library was the conversion and digitization of the first two charging ledgers. It jump-started our efforts to promote our Library’s early history, which continues to be a rich source for scholarly researchers around the world. The Digital Collections Portal, as discussed in the Summer 2014 issue of *Books & People*, is our latest step in this direction. We hope to unveil it on our website in 2016.



Directors of the Membership Libraries, La Jolla, California: Anne Walker Cleveland, Jean Marie Prociuous, Patricia Larrabee, Elizabeth E. Barker, Albert Pyle, Erika Torri, Mark Bartlett, Sandra L. Tatman, Tom Hardiman, Deborah Hunt

## Membership Libraries Group meeting

I recently returned from the 25<sup>th</sup> meeting of directors from this Library's peer institutions. This year was one of transitions, as three directors, including yours truly are finishing at their institutions. Albert Pyle, Executive Director of the Mercantile Library of Cincinnati and Sandra Tatman, Library Director of the Athenaeum of Philadelphia, are retiring this year. This year's MLG meetings included reports from attending membership libraries and discussions of e-book platforms, board management, member services, and fundraising. The directors also voted to approve the addition of Folio: The Seattle Athenaeum, founded in 2015, to the MLG fold. Folio is opening its doors this fall. It is the first new membership library to be founded in over 100 years.

I have made some great friends at this group's annual meetings, gained a lot of professional knowledge, and truly enjoyed a chance to see a different membership library once a year. The October 2016 meeting in San Francisco will be an exciting one for my successor, Carolyn Waters, and the other directors—the meeting of the library directors will happen alongside the third International Conference of Independent Libraries and Mechanics' Institutes ([www.milibrary.org/reinvention](http://www.milibrary.org/reinvention)). Attendees will come from Australia, England, Scotland, the United States, Canada, and many other countries. It will be a historic exchange of ideas and experiences.

## Best wishes

In closing, let me say what a great pleasure it has been to serve as Head Librarian of this institution. These eleven years in New York City have been a special time both professionally and personally. My wife Sue Hunter and I will be living closer to family and friends in Toronto, Canada, but we will definitely be back to visit New York. This will always be a Library close to my heart. I wish you each a restful and cool summer, happy reading, and good health. Thank you.

## Remembering James Q. Griffin



James Q. Griffin, who died earlier this month, was a devoted friend of the Library for almost three decades.

Mr. Griffin joined the Board of Trustees as its new Treasurer in 1984, and became Trustee Emeritus in 2011. He guided the Library to an unprecedented state of financial health, establishing policies and practices that continue to this day.

His wise stewardship of our finances resulted in the growth of our collection and expansion of our staff and services.

Jim was a person of great wisdom and irresistible charm. We at the Library will miss him deeply.

# Meet Members of The Goodhue Society



The Goodhue Society was established in 2010 to honor those who have made provision for the Library in their estate plans. Their generosity and foresight help to ensure that the Library will continue to thrive for generations to come. There are 75 members in the Society to date. We are pleased to introduce you to three who recently shared their thoughts about the Library.

**C. S. Hanson** is a writer, playwright, and corporate communications specialist. She joined the Library in 1997.

**Q. Why did you join the Library?**

**A.** I like having a few human bodies around while I engage in the very solitary, focused endeavor of writing. The Library provides the perfect balance of people and quiet, plus great resources and a dedicated staff, not to mention that handy pencil sharpener on the fifth floor.

**Q. How do you spend your time here?**

**A.** I have a few rituals. I always walk up the marble steps to the second floor, then take the beloved crotchety elevator to the fifth floor. I find a place for myself and my materials in the large writing room. If I'm not writing a speech for a client or doing freelance writing, then I focus on my creative work. I take breaks by going into the Members' Room to read. I like walking up and down the beautiful marble stairwell. When I go into the stacks in search of a book or periodical, I usually come across something new and that sense of discovery brings me a lot of joy.

**Q. Why did you decide to include the Library in your estate plans?**

**A.** The Library makes a huge difference in my life. It's simply my favorite place for reading and writing, and I find the author readings and events enriching. As for estate planning, well, I realized last year that just earning a living to support myself is rather shallow. I wanted to contribute to an institution that will live on longer after all of us are gone. As a writer, I consider the Library to be something of a 'second home.' I made the NYSL the beneficiary on everything, simply by filling out some forms at the bank. I sleep well knowing that all I have worked for will some day be in the hands of a place that values readers and writers.

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If you wish to join the Goodhue Society, please call 212.288.6900 x207 for more information.

**Rita and Yale Kramer** have been Library members for 41 years and joined the Goodhue Society in 2010. Mrs. Kramer is a writer whose career has combined topical journalism with books on subjects ranging from the crisis in America's schools to the drama of resistance in the Second World War. Dr. Kramer is a retired professor of psychiatry. Mrs. Kramer responded on their behalf.

**Q. Why did you and Dr. Kramer join the Library?**

**A.** Ever since we discovered the NYSL when we moved uptown across the park about 40 years ago, we have come to feel it was like our club.

**Q. How do you spend your time here?**

**A.** We no longer just walk across the park to get here, having downsized and moved further away, but we still make it part of many of our days to catch up on periodicals in a comfy chair in the Members' Room and continue to enjoy many of the evening programs. A special pleasure in recent years has been revisiting works by Henry James and George Eliot in seminars with Professor Kraft and a group of interesting fellow Library members.

**Q. Why did you decide to include the Library in your estate plans?**

**A.** My family were bibliophiles and my father was a collector of rare books including incunabula, so a library is a place where we feel at home. Both my husband and I have done research here with the unfailingly considerate help of the staff, he on background for various articles on culture and politics, I on several of my books, three of which were written in one of the private rooms where I could escape from the distractions of a busy household for a couple of hours. Most of all, though, I'm proud to have my books included in the Library's holdings, safely available to a special readership. (They have a way of disappearing from the public libraries, which may be flattering but is also dismaying.) Knowing my books are here is a source of pride and also like a part of my life to be left behind in a very special setting.

# Donors Attend Special Reception

Donors who contributed \$1,000 or more to the Library in 2014 were invited to a special reception in January. Volumes from the Library's Special Collection of books from Lorenzo Da Ponte were displayed, and WQXR radio

host Nimet Habachy spoke about the wild and artistic life of Da Ponte, Mozart's librettist, teacher of Italian in early nineteenth-century New York City, and a Library member.



Above left: Volumes Lorenzo Da Ponte donated to the Library in 1805; Above right: Bill Connington and Susannah Talley; Above: Trustee Laurence Bergreen and Ellen Banash; Right: Members Arthur Yorke Allen and Roger Pasquier with Nimet Habachy

Photos by Karen Smul

# Literary Magazine Salon

*Tweed's Magazine of Literature & Art* starred in April's Literary Magazine Salon. Editor-in-chief Laura Mae Isaacman talked about the new literary magazine's origins and mission, and writers Raymond Strom and Nicole Treska read from their recently published short works.

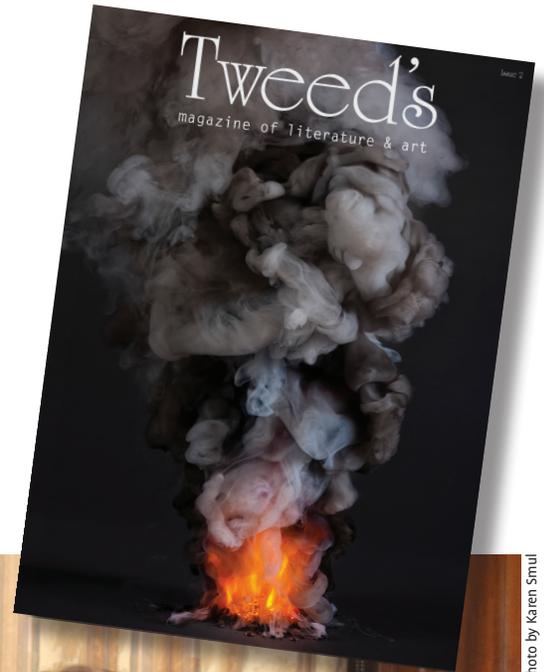


Photo By Karen Smul



Standing left to right: Guests with Nicole Treska, Raymond Strom, and Laura Mae Isaacman, from *Tweed's*.

THE WRITING LIFE EVENTS IN 2015 ARE GENEROUSLY UNDERWRITTEN BY JENNY LAWRENCE.

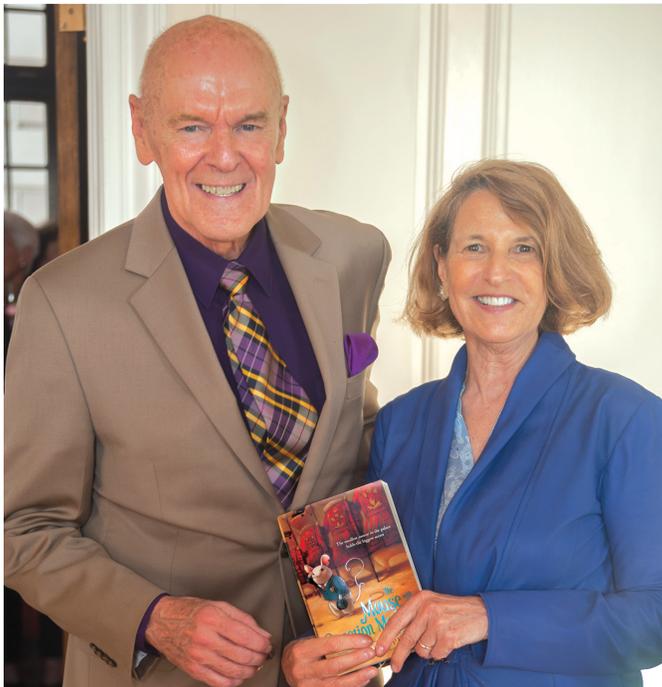
# The Chair's Circle

Members of the Chair's Circle gathered at the home of Nancy Newman and Henry Elghanayan for a very special reception in their honor. Library member Elizabeth Strout, author of *Olive Kitteridge* and *The Burgess Boys*, spoke about her writing process.

Chair's Circle members are those individuals and foundations who provide leadership support for the Library and

thereby play a critical role in sustaining and nurturing its programs and services.

If you are interested in learning more about the Chair's Circle, please contact Director of Development Joan Zimmert at 212.288.6900 x207 or [jzimmert@nysoclib.org](mailto:jzimmert@nysoclib.org).



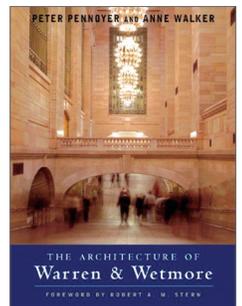
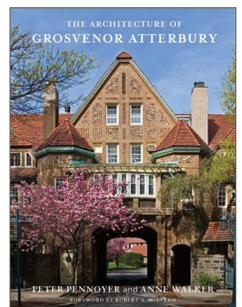
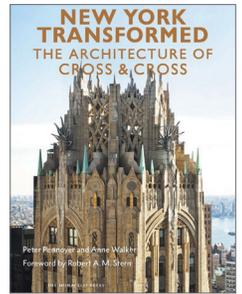
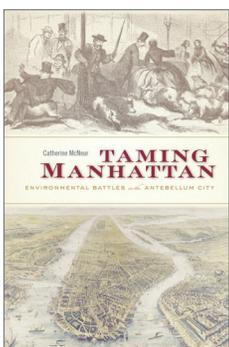
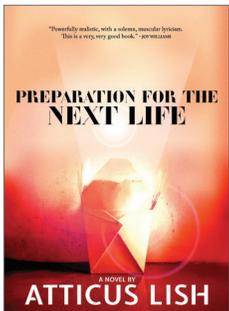
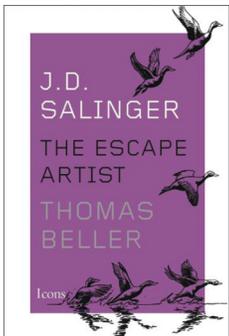
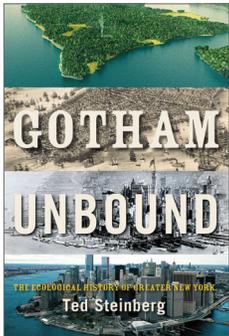
Upper left: Barbara Snow; Middle: Chair of the Board Barbara Hadley Stanton, Head Librarian Mark Bartlett, and Harold Zeitlin; Right: Trustee Charles G. Berry; Below left: Richard Peck and Ms. Newman; Right: Trustee George L.K. Frelinghuysen, and author Elizabeth Strout

Photos by Karen Smul

# The New York City Book Awards

Founded in 1996, the New York City Book Awards honor excellent writing about New York City. The authors and publishers of the winning books from 2014 were celebrated at a ceremony and reception on May 4. Head Librarian Mark Bartlett, Chair of the Book Awards Jury Lucienne Bloch, and Library trustee Ellen M. Iseman welcomed guests and spoke

about the importance of the awards. Awards were presented by jurors Peter Salwen, Warren Wechsler, Bobbie Leigh, Meg Wolitzer, Jean Parker Phifer, and Andrew Scott Dolkart. Winners Ted Steinberg, Thomas Beller, Atticus Lish, Peter Pennoyer, and Anne Walker accepted awards and talked about the genesis of their winning books.



Above: The winning authors: Atticus Lish, Thomas Beller, Anne Walker, Peter Pennoyer, and Ted Steinberg. Below: Atticus Lish with his family; Trustee Ellen M. Iseman

Photos by Karen Smul

THE 2014-2015 NEW YORK CITY BOOK AWARDS ARE GENEROUSLY UNDERWRITTEN BY ELLEN M. ISEMAN.

# The New Members Party

Members who joined within the last year enjoyed a reception and building tours on June 1. Welcoming remarks were given by Head Librarian Mark Bartlett; Alexandra

Horowitz, author most recently of *On Looking: Eleven Walks with Expert Eyes*; and Ammon Shea, author most recently of *Bad English: A History of Linguistic Aggravation*.



Above: New members Emma Otheguy and Timothy Roeper; Ammon Shea (member since 2008), Head Librarian Mark Bartlett, Jan Lichtenberg (member since 1997) and Alexandra Horowitz (member since 2008); Trustee Adrienne Ingram; Below: George Muñoz, Head of Conservation, with new members; new members Joanna and David Friedman.

Photos by Karen Smul

# Winter Children's Events

In February, the Children's Library was pleased to host two events for young members. Early in the month, the Young Writers' Workshop charted new territory into the visual storytelling sphere with a visit from graphic novelist Dave Roman, author-illustrator of *Astronaut Academy*.

The young writers and artists designed characters and storylines for their own graphic novels. At the end of the month, musical storyteller Bob "Bobaloo" Basey entertained a variety of ages with stories, songs, and the chance to make music with him.



Left : Young Writers' Workshop with Dave Roman, on Friday, February 6;  
Above: Children's Storytelling: Bob "Bobaloo" Basey formed a new band with younger members on February 28.

THESE PROGRAMS WERE GENEROUSLY FUNDED BY RICHARD PECK

# The Young Writers Awards

The annual Young Writers Awards honor excellent writing by students in the Library community. The winners, honorable mentions, and all who participated were honored at a ceremony and reception on May 20. Author judges

Dave Johnson, Robert Quackenbush, Carol Weston, and Edra Ziesk presented the awards and offered encouraging words about the writing life. Visit the For Children page at [www.nysoclib.org](http://www.nysoclib.org) to read the winning entries.

## Winners:

- Ciara Balanzà, "This World"  
(3rd-4th Grade Poetry)
- Oonagh Mockler, "The Light in Her Mouth"  
(5th-6th Grade Poetry)
- Elizabeth Newman-Corré, "Human Books"  
(7th-8th Grade Poetry)
- Leo Yu, "Le Petit Moineau"  
(3rd-4th Grade Prose)
- Rami Sigal, "Lifecycle of My Clothes"  
(5th-6th Grade Prose)
- Nisha Sahgal, "Colors of the World"  
(7th-8th Grade Prose)
- Aidan Weider, "Red Hawk"  
(9th-12th Grade Prose)

## Honorable Mention:

- Langley Beaudoin, "At the Circus"  
(3rd-4th Grade Poetry)
- Bianca Thompson, "Maybe..."  
(3rd-4th Grade Poetry)
- Ilana Propp, "Oma"  
(5th-6th Grade Poetry)
- Claire Schweitzer, "Crinkled"  
(7th-8th Grade Poetry)
- Benjamin Punzalan, "Touchdown!"  
(3rd-4th Grade Prose)
- Allegra Noelle Wong,  
"In Bloomingdale's Labyrinth"  
(5th-6th Grade Prose)



Photo by Karen Smul

Jeanette Sarkisian Wagner and Paul A. Wagner (center) with the Young Writers Awards honorees.

THE YOUNG WRITERS AWARDS ARE GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY JEANETTE SARKISIAN WAGNER AND PAUL A. WAGNER.

# A Love Letter to the Stacks

by Carolyn Waters

This year's Spring Appeal focused on our book collection, and for good reason. What began in 1754 as a roomful of 600 books now numbers over 300,000, and that number grows impressively by more than 4,000 titles every year. Because of our acquisition staff's wise selection and care of the collection over the centuries, today's members can discover remarkable treasures in our book stacks.



Staff members have long been suggesting our favorites in Book Recommendations articles on the web and to any person who engages us at the Circulation Desk (or gets stuck with us in the elevators). I have personally trumpeted the excellent and amusing 1933 illustrated classic *Wining and Dining with Rhyme and Reason* (641.22 C) to anyone who will listen. But we would love to hear from you! Is the book you're reading a gem from our stacks? Tell us about it. Email us at [circulation@nysoclib.org](mailto:circulation@nysoclib.org), Tweet us @nysoclib using the hashtag #Stackslove, find us on Facebook—or just corner us in the elevator.

We periodically display staff and member favorites in the lobby. And though Head of Acquisitions Steven McGuirl reminds us that the lobby table is not a competitive playing field, we do feel passionate about our choices, and it makes us feel good when these wonderful books get checked out.

## *The Dwarf* | Per Lagerkvist **F L**

A quick, creepy read—perfect for a rainy night.

—Katie Fricas,  
Events Assistant/Circulation Assistant

## *Sutter's Gold* | Blaise Cendrars **F C**

Fictionalized biography of Swiss pioneer John Augustus Sutter, who was ruined and broken by the Gold Rush. This novel is something like a fable crossed with a film montage.

—Steven McGuirl, Head of Acquisitions

## *The Mysterious Cavalier* | Paul Feval **F F**

## and *Cyrano* | H. Bedford-Jones **F B**

For those who Hope for Sabatini, not one but two 1930s swashbucklers starring classic characters. En garde!

—Sara Holliday,  
Events Coordinator/Head Librarian's Assistant

## *The Work of Jean Dubuffet* | Peter Selz **759.4 D**

If you missed MoMA's excellent show of Dubuffet lithos, catch up with him here.

—Erin Schreiner,  
Special Collections Librarian

## *The Incredible Adventures of Professor Branestawm* |

## Norman Hunter **Juv-F H**

Because...sometimes you need to laugh out loud.

—Randi Levy, Head of the Children's Library

## *Inwood House* | Annette Kar Baxter **362 B**

A fascinating brief history of the first 150 years of Inwood House, still serving NYC's women today.

—Meredith Rossi, Head of Circulation

## A few staff picks to get you exploring:

### *Your Carriage, Madam!* *A Guide to Good Posture* | Janet Lane **613.7 L**

Some advice from 1935 is still good for today, although we cover more of it in yoga classes now.

—Cathy McGowan,  
Circulation Librarian



# Summer Reads

## Staff Recommendations

**All the Names** | José Saramago  
(translated from the Portuguese by  
Margaret Jull Costa) **F S**

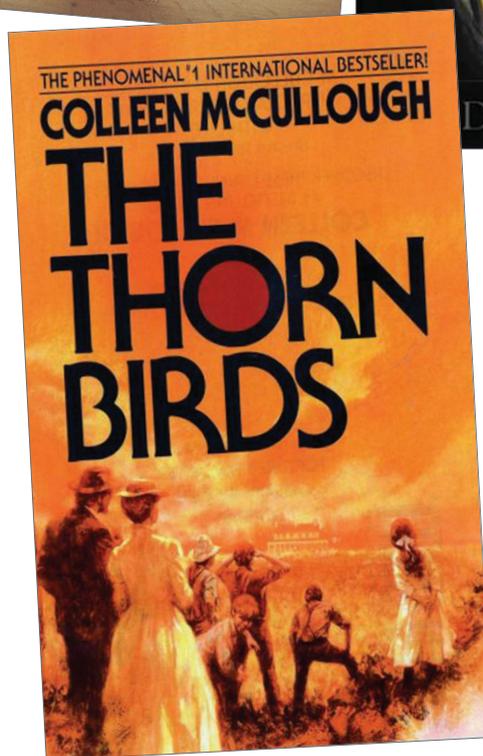
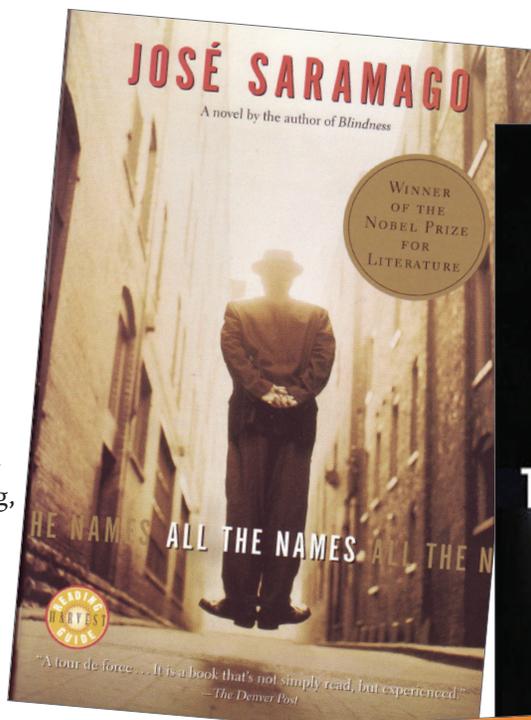
Civil servant Senhor José works in the Central Registry of Births, Marriages, and Deaths in a nameless city. A solitary, cagey character, Senhor Jose's hobby outside of work is collecting information about the lives of famous people. One evening, it occurs to him that he might use the records at his job to find out more about his subjects. He sneaks after-hours into the Central Registry and begins a clandestine search. By sheer accident, he stumbles upon the record of an unknown woman. Much to his surprise, Senhor José finds himself drawn to the woman, who isn't famous, and he undertakes an obsessive, at times absurd and ridiculous, quest to find her in real life. Written in simple prose with little dialogue, José Saramago's *All the Names* is a big book in a small package that's light enough to fit in your backpack and will stick with you long after summer's over.

—Katie Fricas,  
Events Assistant/Circulation Assistant

**The Art of Forgery** | Noah Charney **708 C**

Why are we so fascinated by art forgery? Noah Charney illuminates many of the reasons in his readable and well-illustrated book *The Art of Forgery*. Unlike art theft, usually committed by mercenary criminals, forgery requires expert skills and a nuanced understanding of the targets. Often the forger looks to exact revenge and extract money from the collectors and connoisseurs by exploiting the deficiencies of their expertise. You'll be surprised by some of the names you'll find among the forgers and those complicit in their crimes (like Michelangelo, who sold one of his sculptures as an ancient Greek artifact before he was well-known), and you'll be astounded by the forgers and their skills. This is a great jumping-off point to unearth the vein of books about art forgers at the Library (Hebborn, Myatt, and van Meegeren are three of my favorites, all well represented in other books in our collection.) Or maybe this will lead you to some great art forgery in fiction, like Robertson Davies's *What's Bred in the Bone*.

—Patrick Rayner,  
Acquisitions Assistant/Circulation Assistant



**The Thorn Birds** | Colleen McCullough **F M** and  
**Out in the Middy Sun: The British in Malaya, 1880-1960** |  
Margaret Shennan **959 S**  
*The Thorn Birds* was my deep reading experience one emotional and thunderstormy July. If you didn't pick it up when it was a bestseller back in 1977, now's the time. Much

better than its soapy 1983 miniseries, the saga of the Irish-Australian Cleary family covers sheep farming, the world wars, childrearing, theatre, and everything else you can think of, with characters nuanced enough to be awful and lovable at the same time. It is also a deft portrayal of Catholic politics and mores from common folk to cardinals.

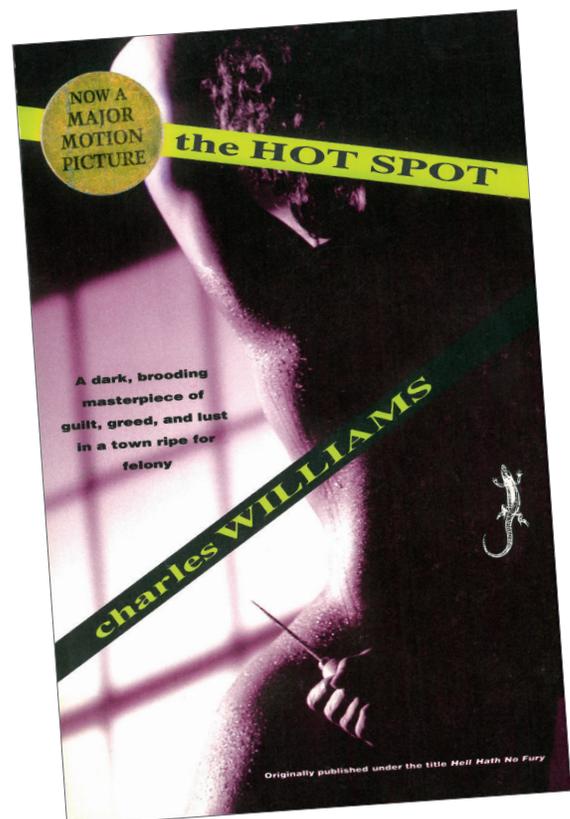
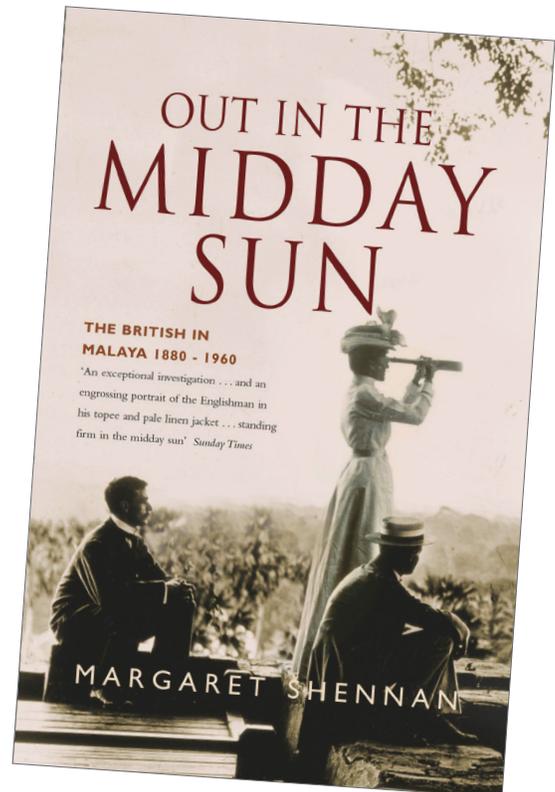
From another corner of the old British Empire, *Out in the Midday Sun* recently held me spellbound. Historian Shennan, herself a child of British Malaya, weaves first-person views from letters, diaries, and interviews through the unique and often bizarre history of what's now independent Malaysia and Singapore. A wonderful complement if you've enjoyed Somerset Maugham's exotic tales or anything related to the British in India.

—Sara Holliday,  
Events Coordinator/Head Librarian's Assistant

*The Hot Spot* | Charles Williams **F W** and  
*Black Wings Has My Angel* | Elliott Chaze **F C**

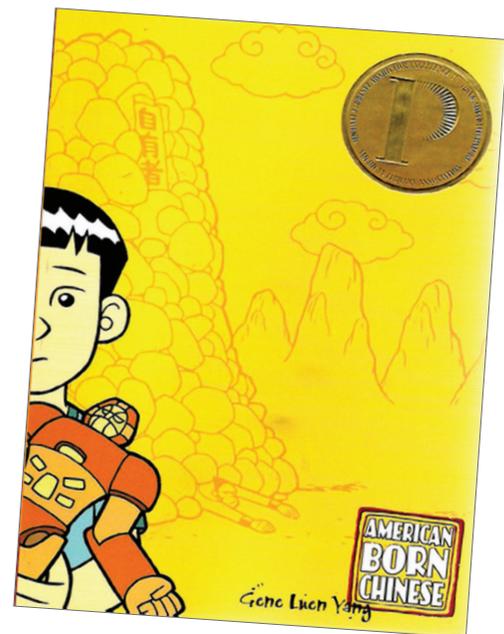
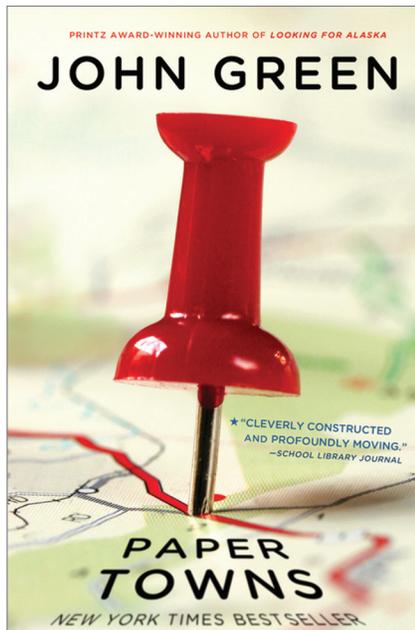
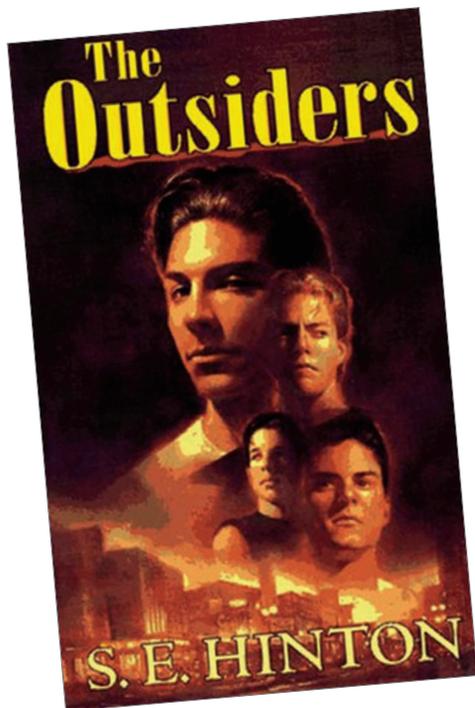
Lazy summer weekends are ideal for catching up on vintage crime fiction found in the stacks, and last summer's highlights were these titles by Williams and Chaze. Both were published as pulp paperbacks in 1953 with appropriately lurid covers, disposable books bought for cheap thrills in drugstores. (Thanks to publishers Stark House and Black Lizard for rescuing these and so many others from oblivion.) *The Hot Spot* and *Black Wings* are about as dark and doom-laden and well-crafted as 50s noir gets. If you enjoy the kicks provided by "second wave" hardboiled American noir—Jim Thompson, Charles Willeford, etc.—check out these two exceptional examples of the genre. If you don't, my colleagues have surely recommended more redeeming summer fare. A few months ago, the Library posted a book recommendations piece on Hollywood novels on the website, and this summer I look forward to reading a few books that were praised by my colleagues: Darcy O'Brien's *A Way of Life Like Any Other* (F O); Brock Brower's *The Late Great Creature* (F B); and Horace McCoy's *I Should Have Stayed Home* (F M).

—Steven McGuirl, Head of Acquisitions



# New Young Adult-High School Collection

by Susan Vincent Molinaro



We are excited to announce our new Young Adult-High School collection, generously funded by member author Richard Peck. Visit Stack 9, a flight up from the Children's Library, to browse and borrow acclaimed books for older teens and beyond.

Tucked away in the back right corner of the stack, you will find everything from classics like S.E. Hinton's *The Outsiders* to the next great YA novel soon to become a movie, John Green's *Paper Towns*. Our graphic novel collection is growing with award winners including Gene Luen Yang's *American Born Chinese*, Lucy Knisley's *Relish*, and this year's dual Printz/Caldecott medalist, *This One Summer*, by Mariko Tamaki and Jillian Tamaki. Rainbow Rowell navigates the choppy waters of high school in *Eleanor & Park* and the first year of college in *Fangirl*. Start with these and when you're hooked, you can keep coming back for more.

Please let us know if you have any questions about, or recommendations for, our new High School collection. Thanks to Mr. Peck's support, the YA collection will continue to grow over the years.





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## One More Picture



New York City teachers select books for their classrooms at Project Cicero, the annual book drive co-sponsored by the Library.