

The
New York
Society
Library

Annual Report 2012



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TRUSTEES

William G. Bardel
Byron Bell
Laurence Bergreen
Charles G. Berry
Ralph S. Brown Jr.
Robert A. Caro
Henry S.F. Cooper Jr.
William J. Dean
George L.K. Frelinghuysen
Barbara Goldsmith
Shirley Hazzard
Ellen M. Iseman
Anthony D. Knerr
Carol Collins Malone
Linn Cary Mehta
Ada Peluso
Jean Parker Phifer
Susan L. Robbins
Theodore C. Rogers
Daniel M. Rossner
Jeannette Watson Sanger
Betty Kelly Sargent
Barbara Hadley Stanton

Trustee Emeritus

Lyn Chase
James Q. Griffin

LIBRARY STAFF

Full-Time

Harry Abarca
Mark Bartlett
Matthew Bright
Susan Chan
Andrew Corbin
Leonardo Cortes
Katherine L. Fricas
Endang Hertanto
Sara Holliday
Steven McGuirl
John McKeown
Laura O'Keefe
Patrick Rayner
Ingrid Richter
Diane Srebnick
Brandi Tambasco
Carolyn Waters

Part-Time

Alan Behler
Anastasia Chiu
Erin Corry
Bobbie L. Crow
Caleb Fountain
Justin Friello
Paul Gelot

Andrea Griffith
Jennifer Hanley-Leonard
Marie Honan
Janet Howard
Max Kyburz
Caitlin McCarthy
George Muñoz
Casey O'Rourke
Peri Pignetti
Ashleigh Raczkowski
Linnea Holman Savapoulas
Erin Schreiner
Harriet Shapiro
Carrie Silberman
Paulina Valdez
Ellen Weaver
Stanley Weinman
Brynn White
Lawrence R. Yates
Joan U. Zimmett

Volunteers

Jules Cohn
Edmée Reit

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR (2012) Barbara Hadley Stanton

The year 2012 was one of planning and transition for the Library.

In planning, the Building and Renovation Committee developed final designs for the Third Floor Whitridge Room, providing bookshelves and different furniture to establish the new Chase Poetry Wall and reading area. This transition will be completed over this summer of 2013.

The same committee has also been working on a 40% expansion of the Children's Library, to be gained by using the newly enclosed room above the Peluso Skylight and renovating existing space. If funds become available, this major project is scheduled for the following summer of 2014.

There were transitions concerning the Board of Trustees. Two trustees became emerita: Shirley Hazzard, the eminent author, a trustee since 1974, whose thoughts and sensibility will be much missed; and Lyn Chase, a wise supporter of the Library in so many ways, who this year donated her unique collection of poetry books to the Library along with funds to establish the Chase Poetry Wall in the Whitridge Room.

Sadly, in October our first trustee emeritus, the distinguished scholar and longtime friend of the Library, Jacques Barzun, died. He had served on the Board since 1968.

In 2012, one trustee returned to the Board: Barbara Goldsmith, author and philanthropist. We are delighted to have her ideas and energy back with us. We also gained a new trustee in Bill Bardel, a longtime member with experience in finance and education at many levels. In 2013, two

new trustees are joining the Board: Timothy N. Wallach, a member since 1996, who is a Managing Principal of Halcyon Asset Management; and Adrienne Ingram, a member since 2006, who has a background in publishing and is currently a freelance book editor. Lastly, in December 2012 the pressures of professional work made it necessary for Charles Berry to retire after eight years as Board Chair.

Almost every year of Charles's tenure brought major achievements, including handicapped access in the entrance hall, the Peluso Family Exhibition Gallery, and, particularly, the individual study rooms and Hornblower Room, which have transformed the Fifth Floor. Luckily for the Library, Charles will remain a trustee.

After Charles's resignation, the Board voted to install me in his place. Having served under Charles and under Bill Dean and Henry Cooper as Chairs before him, I will do my best to maintain this wonderful Library and all it offers.

*Respectfully submitted on April 17, 2013,
Barbara Hadley Stanton, Chair*

REPORT FROM THE HEAD LIBRARIAN (2012)

Mark Bartlett

The Library has a lot to be proud of in the past year. I offer sincere thanks to Charles G. Berry, with whom I've had many conversations about the challenges facing the Library and its future. We set out with many ideas—building renovations, invigorating the Board of Trustees, increased fundraising, finding a balance between print and electronic collections, and, most important, constantly improving all we do for Library patrons. Together we accomplished a great deal. I am honored to have worked with Charles and look forward to continuing these discussions with our new Chair, Barbara Hadley Stanton.

Of course, we would not be here without our members, many of whom expressed their love for the Library in our suggestions book. An event attendee wrote that “the programs you are having are really excellent—the Library has really taken them up a notch.” One member writer called the Library “the best-kept secret in the city—please don't advertise it!” Author Victoria Redel, who participated in our 2013 National Poetry Month celebration, shared that “the New York Society Library Members' Room is one of the all-time great rooms to read in. Anywhere.” Perhaps the best comment we received was about the Acquisitions Department: “I find every new book I want to read in your collection. How do your librarians do it?!”

Speaking of the collection, 2012 was a busy year. With our Project MUSE subscription, we added over 2,600 e-books to our catalog. Our digital ProQuest service has also been enhanced with full-text access to the *New York Tribune/Herald Tribune* from 1841 to 1962. Our electronic service for the *Times Literary Supplement* now gives us every issue of

that distinguished publication through 2008. Overall, the Cataloging Department added almost 8,000 titles last year and we circulated 89,752 titles, a 3.5% increase from the previous year's total and noticeably above the average of the last decade. Sixteen percent of that high circulation number consisted of books from the Children's Library, which welcomed 105 new families.

Laura O'Keefe, Head of Cataloging and Special Collections, deserves applause for completing her cataloging of the Hammond Collection—1,152 titles of mostly Gothic fiction from the early nineteenth century, about which we have already had several scholarly inquiries. These and other books old and new pass through the hands of conservator George Muñoz for care ranging from rebinding to housing in archival enclosures.

On March 4, the Library launched a newly redesigned and reorganized website. A Communications Task Force chaired by Assistant Head Librarian Carolyn Waters and including Matthew Bright, Jennifer Hanley-Leonard, Sara Holliday, Steve McGuirl, Brandi Tambasco, and Joan Zimmitt worked hard throughout 2012 on both the website and a visual overhaul of our print communications. The Library now has a more distinctive and unified graphic identity.

Writer Services continues to thrive at the Library. We now have nine writing groups spanning poetry, fiction, children's/young adult, general non-fiction, memoir, and mixed genres. We offered two new writing workshops this year. Katherine Davis's Prompt! sessions helped jumpstart writers' creativity, and Barbara Ascher's Learning/Relearning the Craft of



Writing re-energized our writers. The Writing Life Daytime Talk Series, inaugurated in 2009 and supported each year by a generous gift from Jenny Lawrence, continues to be a popular monthly event.

We had some wonderful lectures, seminars, and performances in 2012. Among them were a distinguished panel discussing the work of Shirley Hazzard; a jazz evening with Nancy Harrow and Jack Wilkins; and lectures by Joseph Kanon on *Istanbul Passage*, Janet Groth and Mark Singer on her *The Receptionist: An Education at The New Yorker*, Francine du Plessix Gray on *The Queen's Lover*; and, co-sponsored by WNET/Thirteen, Robert A. Caro on *The Years of Lyndon Johnson: The Passage of Power*. For those who could not attend in person, we added over twenty audio and video event recordings to our website and YouTube channel. More than 150 children participated in programs, including special events with authors such as the New York City Ballet's Allegra Kent.

The Library was excited to present *Edith Wharton's New York City: A Backward Glance*, which had more visitors than any previous exhibition. It inspired a lecture by distinguished biographer Hermione Lee, a bus tour to Wharton's Massachusetts home, a performance of a one-woman play based on Wharton's letters and memoirs, and a lecture by Irene Goldman-Price on the recently discovered correspondence between Wharton and her governess.

Systems staff offered both technology workshops and one-on-one tech assistance. The former included topics such as Cloud Storage, WordPress, and the iPad. A typical bit of feedback: "I have been using

computers for 10 years, but I learned a lot from this session."

Behind the scenes in the Circulation Department, Brandi Tambasco helped 120 members borrow 363 items from 137 libraries in 28 states via our Interlibrary Loan service. We also lent more of our books to other libraries than ever before. Marie Honan organized another successful book sale on December 1. Susan Chan sent housebound and long-distance patrons 185 packages of books.

I began this report with thanks to Board members, and I close with thanks to every staff member for his or her hard work and flexibility. Let me add special thanks to Harry Abarca and his assistant Leonardo Cortes for keeping the building in good shape.

Most of all, our gratitude to Ingrid Richter, who departed the Library in April 2013. Ingrid came to us as a systems assistant in 1998. Soon after, she became Head of Systems, created our first website, saw us through the migration from our first computer system to our current one, managed the digitization of our first charging ledger, developed our popular technology workshops, and became the go-to person for staff and members. Thank you, Ingrid, for your good humor, sociability, and so much more over the years.

Congratulations to all, and thank you for your love of the New York Society Library.

*Respectfully submitted on April 17, 2013,
Mark Bartlett, Head Librarian*

REPORT FROM THE TREASURER (2012)

George L.K. Frelinghuysen

For the year ending December 31, 2012, the New York Society Library recorded an operating surplus of \$34,439 prior to non-cash charges. Membership subscriptions declined slightly year over year due, in part, to a lower level of renewals with membership at year-end standing at 3,054 against 3,085 the year before. Nonetheless, overall revenues from membership subscriptions exceeded our budget forecast. New memberships in all categories were 386 in 2012 compared to 396 in 2011.

The Library raised \$533,179 through its annual appeal which represents an increase of 2.2% over 2011 and came within a percentage point of budgeted goal. A total of 795 donors gave unrestricted gifts in 2012 against 928 in 2011. The decline in donors year over year is largely attributable to the reclassification of gifts received for Project Cicero and a lower number of tribute gifts. The top three categories represented 69% of all unrestricted funds raised compared to 67% in the previous year. Equally important, the Library received \$235,858 in restricted funds compared to \$140,915 in 2011. This is a 67% increase. On behalf of the Board, I would like to express our appreciation to all the membership for your continued generous support of the Library.

Operating expenses rose by 4.4% in 2012 over 2011. Staff expenses were modestly higher but still came in slightly under budget. Spending for library materials increased over the prior year due to greater outlays for electronic resources. The library services expense line registered a decline over the prior year due to lower expenditures for the online computer catalog and realized savings in printing and stationery. Building outlays rose in 2012 as a result of higher maintenance costs. In addition,

the establishment of several book funds in recent years has provided welcome budget relief and has helped to contain our book purchasing costs. In 2012, 28% of the titles added were supported by book funds. The Library continues to pay close attention to expense control.

Endowment income provides the largest source of support for the Library's operations. It covers about 52% of our operating expenses. In 2012, the Library's endowment continued to grow. The value of our endowment increased approximately 9.0 percent over the course of the year with the strongest portfolio performance turned in by our international manager. Our endowment, which reached a low point of \$25 million at the end of 2008, has steadily recovered in value and at the end of 2012 was \$30.9 million. Going forward, our endowment draw, which is 4.75% of the average fair value of the fund assets calculated on the prior twelve quarters, is expected to increase as it will no longer be penalized by the years of lower endowment value.

Respectfully submitted on April 17, 2013,
George L.K. Frelinghuysen, *Treasurer*

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES, UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS

December 31, 2012, with comparative for 2011

Revenue	2012	2011	Expenses	2012	2011
Membership subscriptions	\$632,827	\$637,205	Staff expenses	\$1,499,101	\$1,431,005
Donations and bequests	533,179	521,530	Library materials	131,792	110,805
Lectures and events	39,571	20,782	Library services	129,823	151,032
Books sales	13,386	13,934	Development	198,166	201,325
Lost books and fines	10,631	12,421	Building <i>(excluding depreciation)</i>	292,704	274,762
Postage reimbursements	1,789	1,420	Professional fees	40,812	35,902
Photocopy fees	1,046	881	Miscellaneous	211,121	181,077
Miscellaneous income	7,583	26,206			
Total Revenue	\$1,240,012	\$1,234,379	Total Expenses	\$2,503,519	\$2,385,908
Increase (decrease) in net assets					
Before allocation of four and three quarter percent (4 ¾%) from endowment				(1,263,507)	(1,151,529)
Allocation of four and three quarter percent (4 ¾%) from endowment				1,297,946	1,342,198
Increase In Net Assets				\$34,439	\$190,669

Notes: This statement includes unrestricted revenue and expenses only,
All other funds are accounted for separately. Full audited financial statements are available at the Library.
The approximate market value of investments on December 31, 2012, was \$30,909,000.



The New York Society Library

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