



LIBRARY BULLETIN February 2009

DICKENS' WORLD

The Library exhibit, *Dickens' London*, arranged by Andra Crawford, continues through the month of February. The exhibit represents a pairing of works from the Library's Charles Dickens collection with a selection of prints from the *Microcosm of London*. The *Microcosm of London* was published in parts between 1808 and 1811 by Rudolph Ackermann.

VAN DER ZEE PHOTOGRAPHS

Through the generosity of a local collector, the Library is pleased to display a signed portfolio of 18 photographs taken by Harlem photographer, James Van Der Zee during Black History month. James Van Der Zee (1886-1983) was an African American photographer best known for his portraits of black New Yorkers. He was one of the leading figures in the Harlem Renaissance. In his studio, he used a number of original techniques like props, architectural elements and costumes in the tradition of the Victorian and Edwardian eras.

Van Der Zee documented many community activities and groups in Harlem during the early part of the twentieth century. In 1924, he was made the official photographer for Marcus Garvey and the Universal Negro Improvement Association and photographed many of their activities over the next few years. The collection includes a couple of images demonstrating Van Der Zee's experimentation and skill in retouching negatives and in double exposures.

The photographs will be displayed until March 12.

LIBRARY SUBJECT OF AN UPCOMING ARTICLE

On Monday, January 12, Dr. Shannon Mattern, Director of the Graduate Program in Media Studies and Film at the New School for General Studies, a progressive university in New York City, visited the Class of 1945 Library to study how the building, designed by Louis I. Kahn, has adapted to and accommodated new technologies and new library uses since it opened in the fall of 1971. She wanted to experience for herself what it feels like to inhabit the space and to see how new media-related renovations have been done.

As Dr. Mattern explained, the proposed article, titled "*Geometrics of Reading, Light of Learning: Louis I. Kahn's Library at Phillips Exeter*," will examine how the visual and tactile and acoustic properties of new technological resources have fit into the principals of silence and light that were so central to Kahn's design.

THE GEOMETRY OF THE LIBRARY

Toward the end of first term, students in Jeff Ibbotson's Math class were asked to make some estimates on the height of the Library. Using plastic protractors, coffee sticks, and their math skills, the students calculated the actual height of the building with a half foot of the true answer. So how tall is the building? From the finished grade to the top of the lower parapet (what you see from the road), the building is 79.97 feet tall. From the finished grade to the actual center of the roof it is 85.45 feet tall.

PUERTO RICAN VISITOR

Also this month, Dr. Victor Vasquez, who teaches English at the Secondary Lab School of the University of Puerto Rico in San Juan where he teaches an entire course of the book *A Separate Peace*, by John Knowles, came to the library to spend some time looking at Knowles' original manuscript. After spending time with Andra Crawford and the manuscript, Dr. Vasquez toured the campus with Ed Desrochers to see for himself some of the places on campus that Knowles featured in his novel.

Variation in February Library Hours

Sunday, February 1 – 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Monday, February 2 – 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Saturday, February 14 – 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Saturday, February 28 – 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

With the exception of the above, the Library will follow our regular school schedule:
Monday thru Friday – 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Saturday – 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Sunday – 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.