

Archives Publishes Rare New York City Public Housing Photos

By Staff

A vast collection of New York City Housing Authority photographs documenting the pre- and post-World War II housing projects and tenements that were eventually demolished to make way for the city's ambitious urban renewal plan can now be viewed on the LaGuardia and Wagner Archives' website.

The gallery comprises 2,500 vintage black and white photographs that were selected among an estimated 35,000 4x5 negatives taken by NYCHA photographers between 1939 and 1967. The Housing Authority placed the collection in the archives two years ago and during that time the repository has been involved in the process of preserving and indexing the photos.

Describing the collection as a "treasure trove," Dr. Richard K. Lieberman, director of the archives, explained its historical significance. "What makes this collection so valuable is that you have images of these neighborhoods before they changed. The photos capture 19th century New York before the bulldozers came in to create the modern New York."

The collection takes the viewer back in time to a New York City that has been long forgotten. One goes to a South Jamaica neighborhood where blocks of rickety old wood frame houses would be the site of the South Jamaica Houses. To the bustling streets of the Lower East Side that would give way to the more tranquil life in the Governor Alfred E. Smith Houses. And to the countless dilapidated and overcrowded slums that were razed to make way for the construction of such public housing projects as Kingsborough, Thomas Jefferson, and Frederick Douglass.

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The 1940 photograph shows the Nerola family in their Corona apartment on 52nd Avenue. The family planned to be re-housed in a newly built project.

LaGuardia Prepares for the EPA Audit

By Tony N. Lugo, Assistant to the Vice President, Administration

It has come to the attention of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that a number of colleges and universities across the country have been failing to comply with federal environmental regulations. The EPA has vowed to remedy the problem by initiating a robust auditing campaign subject to severe penalties. LaGuardia is presently taking steps to comply with an EPA audit scheduled for the latter part of this year.

In an agreement brokered with the EPA, all CUNY campuses, including its graduate, medical and law schools, have submitted themselves to self-audits, providing campuses with the opportunity to independently measure where they stand when it comes to environmental standards without facing immediate fines or public domain write-ups for noncompliance. Once the self-audit is completed, the findings will then be presented to the EPA for final review.

"The good thing about doing a self-audit is that it allows us to identify areas of non-compliance before the EPA gets involved."

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Book Review...

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World: How Shakespeare became Shakespeare, Mr. Shapiro relies on the specific environment of Elizabethan England itself and the current events of the day as a source of information and insight into Shakespeare's character and artistic process. Instead of attempting an overview of his whole life, he focuses specifically on one of his most creative and productive years, the year the Globe was reconstructed on the bank of the Thames: 1599, the year William Shakespeare creates *Julius Caesar*, *Henry the Fifth*, *As you Like it*, and of course *Hamlet*.

To anyone who knows the plays at all, this practical approach is rewarding. For example, to understand the uneasy political climate of *Hamlet* and *Julius Caesar*, Shapiro has carefully delineated the political context of the time, colored by Essex's unsuccessful Irish campaign, the fears and rumors suggesting an imminent invasion from Spain, and the various political plots surrounding the court, some of them directly against the queen herself. This investigation surely enriches our understanding of both plays.

But this book proves to be even more insightful because of Shapiro's understanding of Shakespeare as a theatre practitioner. Just one case in point serves to give a sense of this biographer's approach. Shapiro asserts, for example, that because of a falling out with the great clown Will Kemp, Shakespeare then began to write the roles for his comedians very differently. Robert Armin, who took over the main comedian's role that Kemp occupied, was a more verbal and "riddling" actor, and thus many of the comic roles written thereafter, including the Gravedigger Scene in *Hamlet*, were tailored for his gifts. Shapiro convincingly proves in this case and others that the plays would have been written quite differently had Kemp still been in the company.

A similar sort of analysis leads Shapiro to the best conception of the way that Shakespeare revised *Hamlet* that this reader has ever seen. Shapiro's detailing of how Shakespeare must have specifically cut and shaped the unwieldy first draft of the play to be produced for the stage

Chinese Club Celebrates New Year

By Kenneth Yin, Lecturer, Department of Education and Language Acquisition

On February 1, the college's Chinese Club held a celebration in the Poolside Cafeteria to mark the Lunar New Year 4704, the Year of the Dog.

The Lunar New Year began on January 29 this year, and it represents the most important holiday for Chinese families as a time of reunion and thanksgiving. The participants in the club's festivities enjoyed some traditional Chinese dishes, music and entertainment, and a raffle. The varied entertainment included a tai chi demonstration by martial arts master Victor Ying, a dance-off and potato-chip-eating contest, and an informative slideshow presentation about the Chinese zodiac. Among the Chinese Club officers who hosted the event are Renshen Jiang, club president, and Huan Sherman, club vice-president. As the faculty mentor for the Chinese Club, I invite all students interested in learning more about the club to attend one of the club's weekly meetings held during the club hour on Wednesdays in spring 2006.

makes fascinating reading. He makes a convincing argument, for example, that Shakespeare's treatment of Fortinbras was very different in performance than in the accepted Second Quarto version of the play, and this treatment changes the overall meaning of the play significantly. As we read Shapiro, we feel we are in Shakespeare's head, as he rewrites and produces the play for his specific audience in a specific time and place.

At its best, frankly, this is thrilling stuff. It is easy to read, a book not written expressly for scholars (although they will enjoy it), but for anyone interested in Shakespeare and his theatre. It's specificity of approach creates a moving and intimate portrait of the author, while still allowing the reader his or her own interpretation of Shakespeare's working processes and intentions. It is a valuable contribution to the field as well as a great read, and I recommend it highly.

The Paper Bag Players Perform March 25

By Staff

Dancing and singing dinosaurs, runaway laundry, and a painting so life-like its subject becomes real take over the stage at the LaGuardia Performing Arts Center on March 25 when the internationally acclaimed Paper Bag Players present *Pineapple Soup*.

The troupe's newest production is a collection of ten zany short plays that are colorful, musical, funny, and interactive. And, of course, there are the fantastic costumes and scenery made from paper bags and cardboard boxes.

The performance for theatergoers who are young at heart will be held in the center's Mainstage Theatre. The show begins at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$ 12. Those who wish to purchase tickets may call the box office at extension 5151. For information on the center's other scheduled events, please visit www.lagcc.cuny.edu/lpac.

For 47 years, the leading American children's theater company has been setting the standards for young people's theater. Their original shows combine short plays, dances, audience participation, mime, painting and drawing on stage, and ragtime music.

They have performed in 37 states and toured internationally to Canada, England, Scotland, Wales, Israel, Iran, Egypt, the Philippines, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Japan, and have entertained over five million children.

The Paper Bag Players have garnered numerous awards including an OBIE, three awards from the American Association for Theater and Education, two American Theater Wing Awards, a New York State Artists Award, and The Children's Theater Foundation Medallion. In addition, they were the first children's theater to perform at Lincoln Center and to receive a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

People magazine declared them, "unquestionably the leading U.S. theater company for kids."

Archives...

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and to working at the archives.

Faculty and their students have worked or are working on a variety of topics:

English faculty: Nancy Berke (Origins of Public Housing), Raven Blackstone (Parking Violations Bureau Scandal), Victoria Brown (Crown Heights Riot), Linda Chandler (Amusement Parks), Ximena Gallardo (Prostitution), Stafford Gregoire (Life in Public Housing), Heidi Johnsen (Memorials and Monuments), Vanessa Katz (Graffiti: Art or Vandalism?), Marisa Klages (Urban Space in N.Y.C.), Karlyn Koh (Water Fluoridation), Kevin Lerner (1939 World's Fair), Lee Nelson (Neighborhood Development), Victor Rosa (Harlem Riots of 1935), Sigmund Shen (N.Y.C. Correctional Facilities), C. Jason Smith (Hate Crimes in NYC), Renee Somers (Organized Crime), David Styler (Problems of Garbage), Gordon Tapper (Sexuality and Censorship) and Ting Man Tsao (Open Admissions at CUNY)

Social science faculty: Steven Lang (Zoning and Land Use), Janet Michello (Discrimination in Public Housing), Karen Miller (N.Y.C. Public Health Issues) and John H

ean (Separation of Church and State in N.Y.C.)

From critical thinking: Annie Hewitt (Mayor Wagner and Juvenile Delinquency), Judit Torok (Sweatshops in N.Y.C.) and Maria Toy (Monuments and Memorials).



Vice President Peter Jordan presented i-pods to eight students who qualified for prizes for registering early during the Fall II campaign. The winners are, left, Alejandra Fernandez, Liana Yoshevayev, Shawnette Bennett, Catiana Trellis, Marsil Mendoza, Shawntee Davis, and Farhana Akther.

LaGuardians Attend Flushing Chinese Business Fund-raiser

By Kenneth Yin, Lecturer, Department of Education and Language Acquisition

Last January, President Gail O. Mellow and several other members of the college community were in attendance at the Twenty-Fourth Annual Fund-raising Dinner Dance of the Flushing Chinese Business Association (FCBA).

This year's gala, held at Terrace on the Park, celebrated the Lunar New Year 4704, the Year of the Dog. The evening's keynote address was delivered by the Christine C. Quinn, speaker of the New York City Council.

Ms. Tai Nin Wang, co-founder and vice president of Finance of WAC Lighting Company as well as a LaGuardia Foundation trustee, was the proud recipient of an FCBA Community Service Award.

The student leaders in attendance were Mr. Renshen Jiang and Ms. Huan Sherman, president and vice president, respectively, of the LaGuardia Chinese Club, for which I serve as the faculty mentor. Mr. Peter Koo, president of the FCBA, is LaGuardia Foundation director and trustee.

LAGUARDIA **Live** WIRE

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Attending the Flushing Chinese Business Association fund-raiser, were left to right, Renshen Jiang, Gail O. Mellow, Christine Quinn, Peter Koo, Huan Sherman, and Kenneth Yin.