METRO Announces Collaborative Digitization Grantees for 2010/2011

November 2010

Eight institutions in New York City and Westchester have been awarded grant funding to support a range of digitization projects designed to expand access to important collections of historical and rare materials. Recipients of the 2010 Digital Metro New York (DMNY) grants, totalling almost $70,000, were announced last week by METRO.

"Collaboration between institutions is often difficult, and the organizations selected to receive METRO grants this year show an acute understanding of the components needed for successful collaboration toward shared digital collection building goals," said Dottie Hiebing, Metro's executive director.

The projects selected for the 2010/2011 grant cycle reflect the breadth and depth of special collections in the metropolitan New York region. Following are the libraries and projects selected for 2010 METRO collaborative digitization grants:

**André Studios: 1930s Fashion Drawings and Sketches**

Project Partners: New York Public Library and Fashion Institute of Technology Library

Brief Description: This project will digitize and make available to the public a broad collection of unique sketches that, as currently held in two distinct archives, cannot be surveyed at the same time. These images, a diverse and beautiful collection of fashion sketches from André Studios (active ca. 1930-1974), are held in NYPL's Picture Collection and the Special Collections & FIT Archives Division of FIT's Library, are home to partial collections of these materials and as such, are uniquely situated to partner in this digitization project. The aim of the project is to first virtually bring together a single collection that is physically divided among the institutions, and second, to produce an open-source, open-access digital fashion collection prototype of a fashion information and image portal that would provide access to costume and fashion-related resources held by various New York City educational and cultural heritage institutions.

**Queens Contemporary History Pilot Project**

Project Partners: Queens College Library and Queens Borough Public Library

Brief Description: Creating a working consortium b/w QC and QBPL with a pilot project to document Queens neighborhoods, this project will digitize photos, postcards, maps, brochures, news stories, and ephemera to complement oral histories of the Waldheim neighborhood in Queens.

**Documenting the Gilded Age: New York City Exhibitions at the Turn of the 20th Century**

Project Partners: The Frick Collection Library and Brooklyn Museum Library

Brief Description: This project focuses on the digitization of ephemeral exhibition checklists, pamphlets, and catalogs from 11 historically significant galleries, society clubs, and arts associations operating in the late 19th to early 20th century. This collection illuminates the role these institutions played in cultivating artistic movements; tracks the emergence of notable European and American artists; and details the rich cultural history of New York City and the nation. These materials have significance to scholars from a number of disciplines and their digitization will greatly enhance both access to, and preservation of, these items.
Hadassah Newsletters and Audio Reels

Project Partners: Center for Jewish History & Hadassah at American Jewish Historical Society
Brief Description: The purpose of this grant is to provide a pilot phase for a larger project that will involve collaboration between multiple institutions throughout the New York area and in Europe to reunite a once complete collection of texts relating to Wissenschaft des Judentums (Science of Judaism, or "Wissenschaft"), a movement wielding tremendous influence for Jewish communities in New York and around the U.S. In the pilot phase, the Center for Jewish History will digitize 150 books from 4 of its partner organizations - American Jewish Historical Society (AJHS), American Sephardi Federation (AS F), Leo Baeck Institute (LBI), and YIVO Institute for Jewish Research (YIVO) - and make them accessible via the Center's Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC).

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