Schomburg-Mellon Humanities Summer Institute Completes Second Year

This summer the Schomburg Center held its second Schomburg-Mellon Humanities Summer Institute from June 19 to July 28. The Institute’s goal is to encourage minority students and others with an interest in African-American and African Diasporan Studies to pursue graduate study in the humanities. It is a joint effort by the Center and the Mellon Foundation, which share the deep concern of universities and learned societies regarding the low number of African-American graduate degrees in the humanities. Of particular concern for the Center is the paucity of graduate students in African-American and African Diasporan studies. In order to help improve this situation, the Schomburg-Mellon Humanities Summer Institute, a three-year program, identifies carefully selected prospective scholars, develops and nurtures their interest, and provides them with the requisite basic intellectual challenges and orientations needed to encourage them to pursue humanities careers and to reach their full potential.

The fellows in attendance were rising seniors from New York City universities and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). From New York were Eric Jackson (College of Staten Island), Melody Ledwon (Hunter College), Latisha Morrell (New York University), and Rita Harvey (Columbia University). Seven students joined the program from HBCUs in various states: Casarae Gibson and Essence Caleb (Johnson C. Smith University, North Carolina), Daylan Dufelmeier (Florida A&M University), Terryn Hall (Hampton University, Virginia), Nafeesa Muhammad (Spelman...
was beginning to think they would never finish. The contractors I mean. After almost a year of banging and drilling, of dust and dirt, of broken elevators and a dismantled air conditioning system, we’ve started to see some light at the end of the tunnel! The new air conditioning system came back on line at the end of July, in time to rescue us from the most recent heat wave. The staff in the General Research and Reference Division moved into its new quarters in August and work on the last phase of the project, the Scholars Center, is slated to begin in September. By January 2007, everything should be finished. We will have our Grand Opening of all the new facilities toward the end of January or the beginning of February.

Recently completed annual reports for the last fiscal year indicate that the construction disruptions didn’t impact our programs and services as much as we had anticipated. Over 27,000 researchers visited the Center and used its collections, a slight decline from the previous year. Another 27,000 visitors took scheduled tours of the Center’s exhibitions during the year. In addition to the 67 educational and cultural programs presented by the Center, we also hosted private programs and events for local, national, and international organizations. Meanwhile, Center staff members acquired literally thousands of new items for the collections, processed and catalogued the new holdings, and continued to add digitized resources to our Web site—all in the midst of the yearlong disruptions occasioned by the construction and renovation project. The staff is to be commended for its outstanding work under these difficult conditions!

In the meantime, we are busy rounding out our yearlong 80th Anniversary commemorations. The 8th annual Harlem Book Fair was another stunning success. Look for reruns of the exceptional panel discussions on C-SPAN. The 80th Anniversary Concert Series was also a big hit. Now, we are working on the 80th Anniversary Gala, which is scheduled to take place on Friday, October 6 at Frederick P. Rose Hall, Home of Jazz at Lincoln Center. You won’t want to miss this unique opportunity to honor some of the leading figures of the 20th Century African Diasporan and African life—outstanding individuals of arts and letters, the performing arts, business, politics, and civic life from Africa and the Caribbean as well as the United States. Individual tickets and tables are on sale and going fast. Call The Shop at (212) 491-2206 to get yours today. And bring your friends.

You’ll also want to come out for the annual African Burial Ground celebration, *Africans in the Americas: Celebrating the Ancestral Heritage*, on Friday, September 29. Details of the plans for this event are included in the back of the newsletter. Finally, plan to be with us in late January when we officially open the new facilities.

The staff is to be commended for its outstanding work under these difficult conditions!

— Howard Dodson, Schomburg Chief
Honoring our Volunteers

On Thursday, June 29, The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture honored many of its volunteers at the Annual Volunteer Recognition Day. Collectively the Center’s volunteers served countless hours throughout the year, despite hardships posed by the current construction and renovation projects. Elsie Gibbs, Volunteer Coordinator of the Schomburg Center for 20 years, was especially proud of the volunteers. In her opening remarks, Gibbs praised each department: Support Services, Friendship Circle, Shop, Hospitality, Administration, Docent Program, Membership, and Ushers for putting up with a challenging year—filled with countless programs and activities for the community.

Junior Scholars Program Enters its Sixth Year!

This fall, 150 scholars will begin the New York Life/Schomburg Center Junior Scholars Program joining the 800 students who have already participated over the years. Junior Scholars are attending Syracuse University, Adelphi University, Hofstra University, the High School for Mathematics, Science and Engineering at City College, and Stuyvesant High School.

In this sixth year of the Junior Scholars Program, students will study history and culture while using insights gained to devise solutions to improve their lives today. Topics to be explored this year include: Harlem development, diversity, past and current spirituality in the African Diaspora, freedom seekers, and trends for the

Continued on page 9

SCHOMBURG CENTER NAMES

2006-2007 FELLOWS

Six scholars have been awarded fellowships to work at the Schomburg Center during the 2006-2007-residency period. Funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and endowments established by the Ford Foundation and Mr. and Mrs. Donald E. Newhouse, the scholars will serve six-month residencies.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES FELLOWS:

Krauthamer, Barbara. Assistant Professor, Department of History, New York University. Study: Runaway Slave Women: Race, Gender and Freedom in the American Southeast, 1730-1840.


Page, Kezia Ann. Assistant Professor, Department of English, Colgate University. Study: Kingston 21: Diaspora, Migrancy, and Caribbean Literature.

Williams, Chad Louis. Assistant Professor, Department of History, Hamilton College. Study: Torchbearers of Democracy: African American Soldiers and the Era of the First World War.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES/SAMUEL I. NEWHOUSE FELLOW:

Green, Venus. Associate Professor, Department of History, The City College, CUNY. Study: Black Fraternal Orders and Labor Activism, 1900-1980.
The bones of our ancestors are telling a new story about world history,” said Dr. Michael Blakey, the former director of Howard University’s African Burial Ground Project, addressing an enthralled audience at the African Burial Ground Symposium at the Center on Saturday, June 20, 2006. Dr. Blakey said continued study of the 419 ancestral remains reveal conditions in American slavery that “simply do not appear in history books or the written record.”

According to Dr. Blakey, physical remnants of muscle attachments to children’s bones and “excessive strains found in the necks of women and the lower spine of men” indicated a high level of physical abuse of enslaved Africans. Slavery in New York City “more closely resembled Cuba, Barbados, and Brazil, than the American South” said Blakey, who now serves as director of the Institute for Historical Biology at the College of William and Mary.

Materials found in individual graves are also providing valuable information about the lives of the city’s early African population. Dr. Jean Howson, the project’s senior laboratory director, said few items found in graves were more revealing than Burial # 22, a child—between the ages of two and a half and four and a half years old—who was found with a shell located above the left collarbone. “Perhaps the shell was placed in the coffin by mourners for its association with water,” said Dr. Howson, “to mark the ritual transformation of the child’s status from life and death.” She added that use of shells in this burial manner is known from examples in Africa and throughout the African Diaspora.

Christopher Moore, Schomburg research coordinator and a co-author of Slavery In New York, gave a visual presentation of documents and images to demonstrate how African Burial Ground research is informing historians about the substantial but largely unheralded contributions of enslaved Africans. “Africans were ‘the colony builders,’” said Moore. In early New York, enslaved Africans did most of the work, clearing the land and shoreline for New Amsterdam, building its first roads, and constructing a wall across the island that gained later fame as Wall Street. But, he added, the research goes further. Apart from the well-known work and contributions of enslaved workers in the plantation economies, still some of the work by enslaved Africans goes unacknowledged. “From Albany [NY] to Argentina,” he emphasized, “throughout the Americas and Caribbean, enslaved Africans were building the infrastructure for the later arrival of Europeans.” Slavery was not a sideshow in American colonial history, concluded the three presenters. It was the main event.
This past June, two panel discussions about the state of black lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) life were presented at the Schomburg Center to celebrate LGBT History Month. The programs: “State of Politics and Activism in the Black LGBT/SGL Community” and “Black LGBT/SGL Publishers Speak Out,” were part of Art and Activism: Contemporary LGBT Arts and Protest, a New York Public Library (NYPL) system-wide series presented by the NYPL and the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center.

Steven G. Fullwood, project director for the Black, Gay and Lesbian Archives (BGLA), created the two programs, specifically designing each to address looming silences in black LGBT/SGL history. “The histories of black LGBT people in this country are vastly understudied and virtually unknown,” Fullwood said. “By focusing on two major issues, politics and activism and cultural production, we hoped to bring to the table a range of largely unknown historical events to the public, as well as connect the audience to activists and publishers currently doing this important work.”

The first panel on June 13, “State of Politics and Activism in the Black LGBT/SGL Community,” featured Cheryl Clarke, activist and author of The Days of Good Looks; Samiya Bashir, communications director at Freedom to Marry and author of Where the Apple Falls; Larry D. Lyons II, co-founder of the Rashawn Brazell Memorial Fund and PhD Candidate at Princeton University; and moderator Kevin McGruder, of the Revival Initiative and former executive director of Gay Men of African Descent.

Lyons submitted that organizing around a set of politics and principles rather than an identity category offers a more effective way to build coalitions across race, class, gender, and sexuality. Clarke, a longtime activist in the community, views her writing as political, and shared the need for more intergenerational conversations among activists which could offer new vantage points in rethinking effective organizing in the black gay community. Bashir argued for a more sustained economic support for black LGBT political organizations by the members of the black LGBT community. Lyons insisted, and Bashir concurred that the onus was on community organizations to demonstrate the significance of their work to the black LGBT community, and why financial support is vital to organizational growth and relevance.

The second program, “Black LGBT/SGL Publishers Speak Out,” was held on June 27, and featured Lisa C. Moore, founder and editor of RedBone Press; Charlene Cothran, publisher of Venus Magazine; and Colin Robinson, writer and activist from Other Countries. Fullwood, who moderated the panel, opened with brief remarks about the history of black LGBT publications, noting that the majority of black LGBT/SGL books and periodicals have been produced by small presses or self-published. Moore shared experiences as a publisher of books by black LGBT people, and the challenges small presses face getting their books into bookstores, while Robinson talked about his involvement with collaborative community-based collective publishing efforts on behalf of Other Countries, a black gay writing collective, and the New York State Black Gay Network. Cothran’s work in the lesbian community as a party planner served as the springboard for her magazine, Venus, as well as other successful publishing ventures throughout the past decade.

The two programs highlighted the frequent silences about black LGBT/SGL history in general and throughout the larger black, white, and other LGBT communities.

Panelists from the first of two programs on LGBT issues at the Schomburg Center: (l to r) Cheryl Clarke, Kevin McGruder, Samiya Bashir, Larry D. Lyons, II, and Steven G. Fullwood.
Around the Schomburg Center

Africana Heritage Concert Series to Celebrate the Schomburg’s 80th Anniversary sponsored by

First row: Mighty Sparrow proved he was still the ‘King’ when he opened the concert series on Thursday, July 13. Schomburg Chief Howard Dodson (right) and JPMorgan Chase representative Annette V. Clarke (center) with Sparrow during intermission. Johnny Pacheco brought Salsa to Harlem during the second night of the series. Second row: For a special family event Hamalali Wayunagu/Garifuna and Abada Capoeira showcased their respective dance moves. Third row: Later on that evening, Haitian singer Emeline Michel wooed the audience with her energetic performance. Tony-nominated Tsidi Le Loka performed with a little bit of Broadway flair. Last row: On Thursday, July 20, Christian Scott, Kersten Stevens and Angela Johnson displayed their respective talent on the last evening of the concert series.
From the top: Book vendors and shoppers fill 135th Street despite the rain. WBLS syndicated Radio Personality Wendy Williams (right) promoting her new book, Drama is her Middle Name at the annual Harlem Book Fair on Saturday, July 23. Harlem Book Fair Founder Max Rodriguez (far left) with QBR’s Phylis Wheatley Award Recipients (l to r): Chester Higgins Jr., Omar Tyree, Victoria Christopher Murray, Walter Dean Myers, Jan Carew, and Program Director of African-American Read-in, Carla Ranger on Friday, July 22. After the first panel “Black Media Dispelling Persistent Perceptions,” panelists (l to r) Roland S. Martin, Executive Editor, Chicago Defender; Dick Gregory, Comedian and Activist; and Juan Williams, Writer and Commentator, gathered in the lobby of the Schomburg Center. Panels held at the Center were broadcast live on C-SPAN.


Bobby Hutcherson, the premier vibraphonist, performing at the JVC Father’s Day concert here at the Schomburg on Sunday, June 18, 2006.
A SPECIAL INVITATION TO MEMBERS
Explore the Rich History of the African Diaspora at The Schomburg Shop

AVAILABLE NOW!

A Journey Into 365 Days of Black History 2007 Wall Calendar by the Schomburg Center, IOKTS Productions, Pomegranate Communications

A Journey Into 365 Days of Black History uses photographs, paintings, and important anniversaries in black history to create a remarkable wall calendar. Using 12 African Americans to represent the respective months, A Journey Into 365 Days of Black History covers a wide range of remarkable individuals and accomplishments.

Price: $13.99

By the Sea: Paintings by Haitian Artists

A box of note cards by the Schomburg Center and Pomegranate Communications

By the Sea: Paintings by Haitian Artists uses photographs, paintings, and important anniversaries in black history to create a remarkable wall calendar. Using 12 African Americans to represent the respective months, A Journey Into 365 Days of Black History covers a wide range of remarkable individuals and accomplishments.

Price: $13.99

365 Days of Black History 2007 Engagement Calendar by the Schomburg Center, IOKTS Productions, Pomegranate Communications

This remarkable engagement calendar makes the perfect desk companion or gift. Filled with important people, facts, and events from black history and the African Diaspora. Using the Schomburg Center’s various collections as a source of information, photographs, and artifacts, the 2007 Engagement Calendar is something you will truly need to have by your side.

Price: $14.99

The African Presence in the Americas (Traveling Exhibition version)

October 6 - December 31, 2006
Main Exhibition Hall

The African Presence in the Americas originally made its debut at the Center in April 1991. Fifteen years later, the traveling exhibition version will be on display beginning Friday, October 6. This exhibition was designed to introduce viewers to the dynamics and dimensions of African peoples’ 500-year history in the Americas. African Presence explores four broad themes—migration, work, culture, and resistance—that cut across time and geography, illuminating the commonalities and differences in background, culture, gender, and social status of these African Americans. Please join us as we welcome back, for a limited time, this wonderful exhibition.

Price: $ 9.95
COMING EVENTS!

Africans in the Americas: Celebrating the Ancestral Heritage
Friday September 29, 2006
290 Broadway
Lower Manhattan, NY

Join us as we celebrate the third anniversary of the reinterment of the ancestors at the African Burial Ground. For more information on Africans in the Americas, visit www.schomburgcenter.org or call the African Burial Ground information line at (212) 637-2019.

RING SHOUT CEREMONY
10:00 a.m. to Noon
Children’s Assembly & Ring Shout Ceremony
(Begins on Chambers Street at City Hall Park, then moves along Broadway and Centre Street to Duane Street, encircling the entire ABG landmark area.)

OPEI OPEN HOUSE
1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Visitors invited to visit the OPEI Open House featuring poetry, readings on slavery, and storytelling. Plus view the African Burial Ground historical documentaries, art, and exhibits inside 290 Broadway. Don’t miss a special performance by Guy Davis.

JAZZ PERFORMANCE
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
The Bill Saxton Quartet performs in the lobby of 290 Broadway.

80th Anniversary Gala
Friday, October 6, 2006 (Tribute Program begins at 7 p.m.)
Frederick P. Rose Hall
Home of Jazz at Lincoln Center
Broadway at 60th Street
New York City

Corporate & Major Donor Tables:
For more information about Major Donor tickets at the Legacy Benefactors ($50,000), Patrons ($25,000), and Supporters ($15,000) levels please call Clarisse Rosaz Shariyf at (212) 491-2229.

Individual Major Donor Tickets: Legacy Contributors: $2,500, includes one ticket for the award recipient VIP reception, one premium seat for the tribute program, and one ticket for the post-tribute dinner; Legacy Friends: $1,500, includes one ticket for the award recipient VIP reception, one seat for the tribute program, and one ticket for the post-tribute dinner; Legacy Associates: $1,000, includes one ticket for pre-tribute cocktail reception, one for the tribute program, and one for the post-tribute dinner.

Tribute Tickets: Tickets at $150 include the pre-tribute cocktail reception and tribute program; tickets at $100 and $80 are for tribute program only. To order tickets, call The Schomburg Shop at (212) 491-2206. For more information, visit www.schomburgcenter.org/gala

SCHOLARS, continued from page 3

future. Visits by Living Legends, authors, scholars, artists, and business people will help shape and guide scholars in determining what they want to do in the future. This exposure coupled with the lessons by the Junior Scholars’ staff, will enable students to compete at an elevated level academically in their respective learning institutions.

Look for past and present ideas of the Junior Scholars On-Line at www.thejuniorscholars.org. The Junior Scholars are seeking to be a part of the documented history of the Schomburg Center and are working diligently to have their work inspire positive change in our community.

If you have any questions or wish additional information about the Junior Scholars Program, please contact either Carlyle G. Leach, Director of the Junior Scholars Program, at cleach@nypl.org or Deirdre L. Hollman, Associate Director, at (212) 491-2234 or dhollman@nypl.org.
College, Georgia), Nathalie Pierre (Howard University, Washington D.C.), and Crystal Watts (Tougaloo College, Mississippi.) Sean Greene, a doctoral student in history at the University of Pennsylvania, and Cassi Pitman, who is pursuing a Ph.D. in sociology at Harvard, served as their mentors throughout the program. The theme of the Institute was *Africana Age*. Focusing on the 20th century, it explored the dominant political, economic, and cultural events of the period; black achievements in social, artistic, and cultural realms that challenged the myth of white supremacy; efforts to forge political and cultural relationships among African peoples across boundaries; and commonalities and differences across time and geography.

Twenty-five distinguished scholars including Albert J. Raboteau, Saje Mathieu, and Simon Gikandi (Princeton), Robert Hill (UCLA), Troy Duster, Michael Dinwiddie and Kyra Gaunt (NYU), William Strickland (University of Massachusetts), Ange-Marie Hancock (Yale), James Stewart (Penn State) and Maryemma Graham (University of Kansas) conducted three-hour seminars every morning. The afternoons were devoted to film critique, tours of significant African-American landmarks, and research in the Schomburg Center divisions. The scholars also attended the Schomburg *Africana Heritage Concert Series* featuring renowned artists Mighty Sparrow from Trinidad; Johnny Pacheco from the Bronx and Puerto Rico; Tsidii Le Loka from Lesotho; Emeline Michel from Haiti; Hamalali Wayunagu from Honduras; Abada Capoeira from Brazil; and Kersten Stevens, Christian Scott, and Angela Johnson from the Black Power Movement," to “Economic Development Program of the Nation of Islam 1950-1974,” to “Psychological Trauma and Black Children in America’s Public Schools: From the Little Rock Nine to the Present. As a collective project, the students identified, selected, and interpreted photographs, prints, maps, scholarly articles, books, and manuscripts for the development of a Web site illustrating the Africana Age. As they sifted through documents, they learned firsthand the pitfalls and rewards of the research process. “I’ve learned to look at sources more critically; to confront them in order to get a better balance,” said one student. Another stressed that researching a subject he did not know anything about had been gratifying, forcing him to get out of his box and expand his horizon. Doing research collectively and individually, they stated, enabled them to see the advantages and drawbacks of both. The diversity of topics and points of view presented by scholars with various backgrounds provided the students with a unique experience, which they agreed will immensely enrich their academic and personal future.

The next Schomburg-Mellon Humanities Summer Institute will take place from June 18 to July 27, 2007. Registration forms will be available in the fall at www.schomburgcenter.org.
At Right, Author Tonya Bolden, left, accepting her prize from Lynne Cheney after winning the James Madison Book Award for *Maritcha: A Nineteenth-Century American Girl* at the Schomburg Center on Tuesday, July 25, 2006.

Below, (l to r) Mary Yearwood, Schomburg Center Curator, Photographs and Prints Division with Author Tonya Bolden, Schomburg Chief Howard Dodson, and Diana Lachatanere, Schomburg Assistant Director for Collections and Services, and Curator, Manuscripts, Archives, and Rare Books Division. Lachatanere gave Bolden the unpublished memoir of Maritcha and Yearwood was instrumental in finding images for the author to use in her prize-winning book.

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**Rental Service Available**

In addition to our collections, the Schomburg Center has an active rental service. The beautiful facilities are professionally equipped and can accommodate a wide range of special events from concerts, music, theater, and receptions to educational seminars and conferences at competitive market-based rental rates. Call (212) 491-2257 for rates and information.

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**E-mail Announcements**

The Schomburg Center would like to send our members e-mail announcements about upcoming program events. To join our e-mailing list, please fill out this coupon and return it to Membership, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, 515 Malcolm X Boulevard, New York, NY 10037.

Name______________________________________________________________
E-mail address______________________________________________________
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**SCHOMBURG SOCIETY CONSERVATORS**

The Schomburg Center is pleased to acknowledge the following donors of gifts of $1,000 or more from August 30, 2005 - October 26, 2005.

Lesley Nan Haberman
Mr. Clarence E. Jones, Jr.
Dr. and Mrs. Franklin L. Robinson
Mr. Dean W. Schomburg

Schomburg Center programs and exhibitions are supported in part by the City of New York, the State of New York, the Office of the Borough President of Manhattan, the New York State Black, Puerto Rican and Hispanic Legislative Caucus, the Rockefeller Foundation Endowment for the Performing Arts, The Coca-Cola Foundation, New York Life Foundation, Annie E. and Sarah L. Delaney Charitable Trusts, J.P. Morgan Chase & Co., and the Edler Hawkins Foundation.

The Schomburg Center is a member of the Harlem Strategic Cultural Collaborative (HSCC).

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**AFRICANA HERITAGE**

2006 Volume 6, Number 4

*AfriCana Heritage* is a quarterly publication of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture for members who contribute $35 or more annually. The Schomburg Center is one of the Research Libraries of The New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations.
A Message from the National Membership Chair

Knowing our legacy—undistorted by others and documented by those who lived it—correctly aligns you and me and our children in the continuing struggle to fully claim our dignity in all areas of life.

Please join with me and thousands of others who are making certain that the Schomburg has the funds not only to continue its unique mission, but to expand its outreach into every home, school, and library.

Please join me as a Schomburg Society Member now!

Dr. Maya Angelou

Schomburg Society Benefits

ASSOCIATE - $35 ($35 tax deductible)
• A year’s subscription to the Schomburg Center newsletter
• A 20% discount in the Schomburg Shop
• A quarterly program calendar
• A personalized membership card
• Up to 20% discount on tickets to select Center-sponsored programs

SUPPORter - $100 ($70 tax deductible)
All Friend benefits, plus:
• An annual subscription to the Quarterly Black Review of Books
• Invitations to VIP events

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PATRON - $250 ($195 tax deductible)
All Supporter benefits, plus:
• A complimentary copy of a major Center publication

SUSTAINER - $500 ($410 tax deductible)
All Patron benefits, plus:
• Two tickets to a select Schomburg Center concert or performance

CONSERVATOR - $1,000 ($910 tax deductible)
All Sustainer benefits, plus:
• Acknowledgment in the Schomburg Center newsletter and the Library’s Annual Report

HERITAGE CIRCLE - $2,500 ($2,410 tax deductible)
All Conservator benefits, plus:
• A private behind the scenes tour led by the Center’s Chief

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HERITAGE CIRCLE - $2,500 ($2,410 tax deductible)
All Conservator benefits, plus:
• A private behind the scenes tour led by the Center’s Chief

CHIEF’S CIRCLE - $5,000 ($4,810 tax deductible)
All Heritage Circle benefits, plus:
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Please make check or money order payable to the Schomburg Center/NYPL. Mail to:
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