

THE SCHOMBURG CENTER FOR RESEARCH IN BLACK CULTURE

# AFRICANA HERITAGE

The New York Public Library • Volume 10, No. 2, 2010 • Where Every Month Is Black History Month



## EXHIBITION OPENING

# What's Up @ the Schomburg?

BY CHRISTOPHER P. MOORE

2010 marks a variety of important anniversaries for the Schomburg Center. Eighty-five years ago, The New York Public Library acquired the personal collection of Arturo Alfonso Schomburg and deposited it at its 135th Street Library. Set in place was the first home and cornerstone materials for the collection that became world renowned in the 20th century. Mr. Schomburg guided the library in its first years. Later, two curators—Dr. L.D. Reddick (1939-1946) and Jean Blackwell Hutson (1948-1980) built the Schomburg's reputation as a leading repository on black culture at a time when there were few other interested organizations or competitors.

In 1980 the red brick building designed

by architect J. Max Bond opened as the new home of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. In 1985, Howard Dodson took the helm

as Director. Under Dodson's leadership, the institution has developed into the world's most comprehensive public research library devoted exclusively to documenting and interpreting the African Diaspora and African history and culture, doubling its collections and increasing its users more than threefold in the last 25 years.

Our 2010 celebration season begins in May with *What's up @ the Schomburg?*, a 25th anniversary retrospective exhibition of the Center's collections, activities, and programming; followed by an 85th anniversary exposition and gala in October, and a year-long 85th anniversary collection development initiative. *What's Up* traces the evolution of the Schomburg Center over

*Continued on page 4*

## RECENT ACQUISITION

# Vivendi Donates Contemporary African-American Fine Art Collection

In December 2009, Vivendi donated its contemporary African-American fine art collection, originally commissioned by the Joseph E. Seagram and Sons, Inc. company, to the Schomburg Center. The collection, which is now in the Center's Art and Artifacts Division, is made up of two distinct groups of works.

The first consists of 35 watercolors by illustrator and artist Jerry Pinkney for a series of Black History calendars from 1975-1977. Pinkney's watercolors illustrate a wide range of people, as well as major events in African-American history; from colonial times to the Voting Rights Act of 1965. From February to April, 2010, the Center featured Pinkney's pieces in the exhibition *Jerry Pinkney's African-American Journey to Freedom*. "African-American history and culture takes up the most space in my body of work," explains Pinkney.

*Continued on page 11*

## 85th Anniversary Gala

The Schomburg Center 85th Anniversary Gala will be held at the Stephen A. Schwarzman Building of The New York Public Library on October 7, 2010. The Gala includes cocktail receptions at the Schwarzman, a celebratory program at Town Hall, and a VIP dinner for high-end donors in the Bartos Forum at the Stephen A. Schwarzman Building. For more information, visit [www.schomburgcenter.org](http://www.schomburgcenter.org).

It's official! I have formally advised the President of The New York Public Library, Paul LeClerc, that I will retire as Director/Chief of the Schomburg Center on February 1, 2011! I have been contemplating this move for some time and frankly postponed it because of the challenges the Center faced in the wake of the recent economic crisis. Though things are not as stable as I would like them to be, I am confident that my successor will be able to make the adjustments needed to take the Center to its next stage of development. We will all need your strong moral support and encouragement through the transition period.

A committee of the Board of Trustees of The New York Public Library, co-chaired by Board members Henry Louis Gates and Gordon Davis, has been estab-

**“It’s official! I will retire as Director/Chief of the Schomburg Center on February 1, 2011!”**

— *Howard Dodson, Schomburg Chief*



lished to lead the search for my replacement. A search firm has been hired to identify prospective candidates. A Strategic Visioning Committee report that was completed last year will serve as a guide to the committee in projecting the future direction of the Center and defining the kinds of qualities needed to provide proper leadership and guidance. The formal search process is slated to start in May.

In the meantime, the Center is busy planning a series of programs and events that will continue the year-long commemoration of my 25 years of service and the Schomburg’s Center’s 85th Anniversary Year. A retrospective exhibition of the highlights of my 25-year tenure at the Schomburg Center opens in May in the Main Exhibition Hall, the Latimer Edison Gallery, and the American Negro Theater. The exhibition, *What’s Up @ the Schomburg?*, chronicles the programs

and activities that have taken place at the Schomburg Center over the last quarter century while showcasing the extraordinary growth in size and quality of the Center’s collections over that period. The historic events, the spectacular tribute programs and commemorations, the extraordinary path-breaking exhibitions on African and African Diasporan themes are included, so are the wide array of cultural, civic, social, and political personalities from throughout the African world that have preformed or spoken in the Langston Hughes Auditorium, participated in Center-sponsored galas on Broadway, joined in celebrating major historic moments in Africana life and history, and supported the Center’s economic and institutional development initiatives. All are a part of *What’s Up @ the Schomburg?* The exhibition will run through December 31, 2010.

An 85th Anniversary gala benefit event is being planned to commemorate the Schomburg Center’s 85 years of service to the city of New York, the nation, and the world. The Gala will be held on October 7, 2010 and will include VIP and general receptions at the Stephen A. Schwarzman Building of The New York Public Library, a tribute program at Town Hall, and a VIP dinner for high-end donors in the Bartos Forum at the Schwarzman Building at 42nd Street and 5th Avenues. I hope all of you will save the date and plan to attend.

I should note that the effects of the economic crisis are still with us. On the heels of the \$1.3 million budget reduction that the Schomburg Center suffered last year, continuing declines in the City and State of New York’s economy are promising additional significant cuts in our annual operating budget. If implemented, these cuts will affect our level of staffing, days and hours of service, as well as the full array of our programs and services. Your continuing and increased support is sorely needed. I hope we can continue to count on you as a member, a friend, and someone who shares our belief that the Schomburg Center is vital to the spiritual, political, and cultural health of all people beginning with those of African descent around the world.

# André Elizée: Archivist and Intellectual

BY STEVEN G. FULLWOOD

On Sunday February 28, 2010, the Schomburg Center memorialized André Elizée, archivist and intellectual in what was more than a simple acknowledgment of his extraordinary 26 years of service. It was a ceremony that featured testimonies from his coworkers, colleagues, scholars, and researchers, and readings from his guides to the collections which illuminated for many the indelible footprint he left on the Center itself.

Among the more than 100 people in attendance, André's widow, artist Rejin Leyes, and two of his three children, Vanelle and Georges, sat in the audience as several people came to the podium to share their recollections, their sorrow, and their love for André. Those people had been touched by his brilliance, and in the wake of his sudden passing, were devastated. André's intelligence and dedication to growing the collections, preserving them, and making them available to the public was a testament to a life lived with purpose and far-reaching vision.

André Elizée was born in St. Louis du Nord, Haiti, January 30, 1955. A passionate, engaged thinker, he attended Notre Dame high school. After graduation he taught in Haitian secondary schools, in the areas of Greek, Latin world history, and Haitian literature. He spent two years at the Université Louis Pasteur in Strasbourg, France, where he studied medicine, history, and political economy. After moving to the US in the late 1970s, he enrolled in York College's black studies program and participated in study groups. Around that time, he completed an internship at the Queens Public Library.

In 1982 André joined the New York Public Library as a library technical assistant at the Mid-Manhattan branch; a year later he transferred to the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, where he found his niche. "Almost immediately after André came to work in the division, I recognized his talent as a 'budding' archivist from the questions he asked or didn't ask,



**"He was diasporic in a way that very few people are."**

—Edwina Ashie-Nikoi

and especially after I read a few of his finding aids," said Diana Lachatanere, curator of the Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division. "His grasp of the work and of the content was evident from the start; he totally 'got it.' As the years went by and our friendship deepened, I came to rely on him to help me think through a variety of issues. We didn't always agree, but his advice was always thoughtful and to the point."

André brought to the Center a wealth of knowledge about Haitian history, politics and culture, as well as French-speaking Africa and the Caribbean. He also had a profound grasp of African-American civil rights and labor history, and the fundamentals of Black Nationalism, the black arts movement, Communist history and theory, and related areas. In addition to processing manuscript

collections, André also helped to create interpretative programming for the Center. Between 1988 and 1989, he co-curated (with then Exhibitions Coordinator, Miriam Jiménez Román) two major exhibitions: *The French Revolution in the Americas* and *Dechoukaj! Contemporary Social and Political Developments in Haiti, 1986-1988*. Jiménez Román remembers André's quality of work. "André insisted on a comprehensive treatment of each of the periods we were examining and in the face of his reasoned arguments I could do nothing but acquiesce." She adds: "Once this commitment to excellence was made, however, the looming deadline required that we approach the work with almost maniacal dedication. What André invariably brought to each project was a fascinating and layered intelligence. Even when not directly involved in the development of Center exhibitions, André was an invaluable resource for me. I could always rely on him to help identify specific archival materials that would best illustrate a historical moment," Jiménez Román said.

Still, the largest and most substantive impact André made at the Schomburg Center was through the many collections he processed. Highlights include the papers of Malcolm X, Ralph Bunche, Fredi Washington, Paul Robeson, Ewart Guinier, Alpheus Hunton, John Henrick Clarke, Benjamin J. Davis, Jr., and several Haitian subject collections including the Maurice Dartique Papers, additions to the Kurt Fisher and the Haiti Miscellaneous collections, as well as supervising the processing of the Ira Gollobin Collection by two New York University students, Chantal Johnson and Nathalie Pierre. He also contributed articles to *Africana Heritage* on the manuscript sources on Haitian history, Paul Robeson, and Preston Wilcox, and served on the editorial advisory committee.

When I arrived at the Center in 1998, I quickly discovered that processing manuscripts can be challenging. To get a sense about how to create guides to manuscript

*Continued on page 7*

# HERITAGE WATCH

*Exhibition, Continued from page 1*  
the last 25 years in relation to its first 60 years. Principle categories for exploration include:

## World Class Research Library and Cultural Center

The recently completed major renovation project has transformed the old Schomburg Center into a dynamic 75,000 square-foot three-building complex. Capable of meeting the needs and interests of a diverse information and edutainment seeking public, the new center includes a new state-of-the-art reading room, a stunning new exhibition gallery, and a new scholars' center, added to the Center's 340-seat Langston Hughes Auditorium, and 85-seat American Negro Theater.

## World Class Collections

Over the last 25 years the Schomburg Center collections, which are the lifeblood of any research center, have grown from 5 million to more than 10 million items in all formats. In addition to its comprehensive book collection of more than 250,000 titles, the Schomburg houses special collections of one-of-a-kind items in four special collection divisions, each organized by format: Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books; Photographs and Prints; Art and Artifacts, and Moving Images and Recorded Sound.

Recent acquisitions include a collection of original art on African-American historic themes by artist and illustrator Jerry Pinkney, and a collection of papers, photographs and audiotapes of Father Divine.

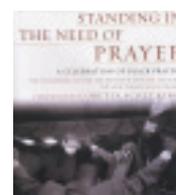
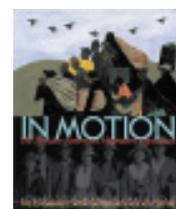
Collection growth over the last 25 years has been deep and

rich, ranging from the papers of Malcolm X, Ralph Bunche, Lorraine Hansberry, John Henrik Clarke, Arthur Ashe, and Panamanian Journalist and Ambassador George Westermann, Negritude founder Léon Damas, to the organizational records of the Center for Constitutional Rights, the New York Jazz Museum, the AME Church Home and Foreign Missionary Society, and the Center's Black Religious Heritage Project.

Collections include the photographs of Austin Hansen, Marvin and Morgan Smith, Moneta Sleet, and the Bob Blackburn Workshop print collection. Film and videotape collections include the Louis Armstrong Jazz Oral History Collection, the Bill Greaves documentary film and video collection, the McNeil Lehrer Report video library, and the "South Africa Now" program archive.

## Discovery @ the Schomburg Center

Research at the Schomburg is an exciting day, week, or semester for students and everyday visitors. Explorers at the Center discover the dynamic civilizations of Kush, Nok, Nubia, Egypt, Aksum, Ghana, Benin, and Timbuktu; and African Diasporan culture and literature including Terence Afer, Juan Latino, Phillis Wheatley, Alexander Pushkin, Langston Hughes, Aimé Césaire, Wole Soyinka, Toni Morrison, Edwidge Danticat, and upcoming literary leaders. The collections manuscripts, artifacts, artworks, photographs and memorabilia span thousands of years of Africa's continental and global contributions including original items from the 4th century and some as *new* as yesterday.



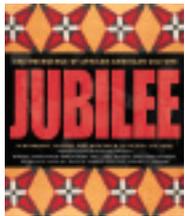
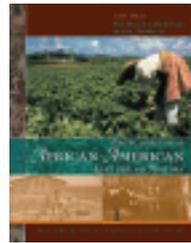
## A Knowledgeable, Committed, Professional Staff

"You may be able to find a staff as good as mine, but you will not find one that is better," says Chief Dodson often, adding: "Managing a complex institution like the Schomburg Center requires people that reflect its passionate concern for documenting and interpreting the global black experience."

The core of the staff is comprised of people of African descent from throughout the black world. In addition to native born African Americans, there are black staffers from Haiti, Senegal, Cuba, Martinique, Guyana, Barbados, Jamaica, and Ghana among others. There are also Hispanics, and native born Americans as well as Jews,

Armenians, and others. All are knowledgeable in at least one field of African-American, African Diasporan or African Studies. The Librarians all hold MLS degrees with an emphasis in an Africana-related field. Specialists working in the Special Collections hold Masters Degrees in an Africana-related discipline. Some hold PhDs and several have completed advanced work toward their PhDs.

In addition to library and archival functions, the Center has experienced professional staffs in education and programming, digitization and publishing, marketing, fundraising, and development. The Center also regularly hires scholars, artists, entertainers, and producers to participate in its diverse programs and service offerings.



### Provocative Exhibitions on the Global Black Experience

The recently opened Latimer/Edison Gallery at the entrance to the Schomburg Building has joined the 19-year-old Main Exhibition Hall in the Landmark Building to provide state-of-the-art spaces for presenting history, culture and art exhibitions on the global black experience. Most are based on the collections of the Schom-

burg Center and provide an opportunity for the Center to showcase its holdings. Themes explored over the last 25 years have ranged from slavery, religion, and politics to African and African-American art, migration and immigration, censorship and black America, the African Burial Ground, and black New York history and education. The content of these exhibits has been used to organize teacher training programs, online exhibitions, and instructional programs for students and tour groups alike.

### Research, Scholarship and Knowledge Production

Over the last two and a half decades, researchers at the Schomburg have used the

collections to create books, essays, documentary and feature films and videos, radio and television programs, websites and online databases on a wide variety of aspects of the global black experience. The Schomburg supports four to six Fellows annually to spend six months to a year researching projects based on the Center's collections. The new Scholar's Center now houses this Scholar-in-Residence Program that has supported numerous new works of scholarship in African, African-American, and African Diasporan Studies.

### Model for Libraries and Museums throughout the African Diaspora

Nationally and internationally, the Schomburg Center has emerged as an essential collaborating institution for national governments, consular agencies and embassies based in the United States as well as UNESCO, CARICOM, the African Union, and the United Nations. Whether we are talking about national celebrations organized for country nationals in New York City or United Nations programs that span the Atlantic world, the Schomburg Center has developed into a critical, authoritative resource and trusted venue for peoples of African descent seeking connections and relationships with the African-American community. The Schomburg Center has also collaborated with the City and State of New York, the U.S. State Department, the Congressional Black Caucus, national black organizations, and the media to tell and inform the Afri-

can-American community about contemporary issues, interpret its past, and discover and celebrate its history and culture.

Through its traveling exhibition program, professional conferences, and consultations of all kinds, the Schomburg Center provides support for promoting knowledge of the global black experience. Libraries and museums have benefited from path breaking conferences sponsored or co-sponsored by the Schomburg Center. Museums across the nation and throughout the Atlantic world have used exhibitions curated by the Schomburg Center to organize their own history, art, and cultural programming.

### Everyone is Invited to the Schomburg Center

There's something for everyone UP @ TODAY'S Schomburg Center, especially people of African descent worldwide. Whether one is from Senegal, Ethiopia, Nigeria, South Africa or anywhere else in the African world, something has happened or will happen @ the Schomburg Center that will be of interest to you. Asians, Hispanics, Native Americans and Europeans as well as Christians, Muslims, Jews, and Yoruba practitioners will also find things that peak their curiosity. The roots of the Schomburg Center run deep and widely through global literature, art, history and music.

*What's Up @ The Schomburg?* opens to the public on May 7 and runs until December 31, 2010.

AROUND THE  
**SCHOMBURG CENTER**



Bob Gore

Performers at the City Opera and Schomburg Center-produced *Opera at the Schomburg* on February 1, 2010. This special presentation and performance delved into the substantial role of opera in African-American culture, as documented by the Schomburg's prized collections of rare scores, librettos, images, recordings, films, and documents.



CREDIT: Bob Gore

Howard Dodson with Mr. Frederick Hammond, AARP Ambassador at the exhibition preview for *President Barack Obama: The First Year*, featuring photographs by Pete Souza, the Chief Official White House Photographer, on February 4, 2010.



Bob Gore

Artist and children's book illustrator Jerry Pinkney at the exhibition preview of *Jerry Pinkney's African-American Journey to Freedom* on February 4, 2010.



James Carter, Jazz saxophonist, performed with his band at the Schomburg Center on February 8, 2010.



Bob Gore



Bob Gore

Sloan Robinson in the one-woman cabaret based on the life of Josephine Baker, *Banana*, at the Schomburg Center the weekend of February 12, 2010.



*André Elizée, Continued from page 3*

collections, I read André's. "Finding aids are the most boring things to create," he once told me. "You have to stick to the facts." However, the guides he wrote were clear, concise and interesting narratives that helped researchers understand not only the scope and content of a collection, but also provided rich contextual insights into the individual, organization or subject. The Julian Mayfield Papers guide is especially interesting to read due to André's rendering of Mayfield as a man of his time, a creative thinker amid social upheaval in the U.S. in the 1960s, and as one of the proponents of the burgeoning black arts movement.

Co-workers recall André not only as a gifted thinker, but as someone with strong, informed opinions on politics and culture. Berge Turabian, a cataloger with the Center, worked with André for a number of years, and enjoyed having a "French-speaking erudite person" with whom he could converse. "The short meetings and conversations we had once a week would leave me with a warm and dear feeling of happiness."

André was a living archive. "It didn't take long after joining the division for me to realize that there were certain research queries that could only be called 'André' questions," remembers Edwina Ashie-Nikoi, an archivist in the Manuscripts Division. "He was diasporic in a way that very few people are. This is a true loss," said Ashie-Nikoi.

"He was my friend for 12 years, but I did not easily approach André. It seemed to me that he was always working, always thinking deeply. His smile gave me a sense of his approval, that he would give me as much time as I needed," said Christopher Moore, Schomburg Research Coordinator. "Whether he was guiding me through the collections; or sharing an opinion on virtually every topic imaginable, André was both an historian and great philosopher," Moore continued.

Researchers from all over the globe sought his perspective on a variety of subjects, and were enriched by his expertise and wisdom. "I am so grateful that I had the opportunity to work with André," said Chantalle F. Verna, Assistant Professor at Florida State University. "Each time I remember him, my charge to continue researching and writing about Haiti at the



Sule Greg Wilson.



Aisha Al-Adawiya

(Clockwise from left): Andre with new acquisition of Édouard Maunick's *Soweto : le cap de désespérance: poeme*, 1986; Opening a trunk of another acquisition, 1988; and Andre at an employees' tree caring workshop, July 9, 2009.

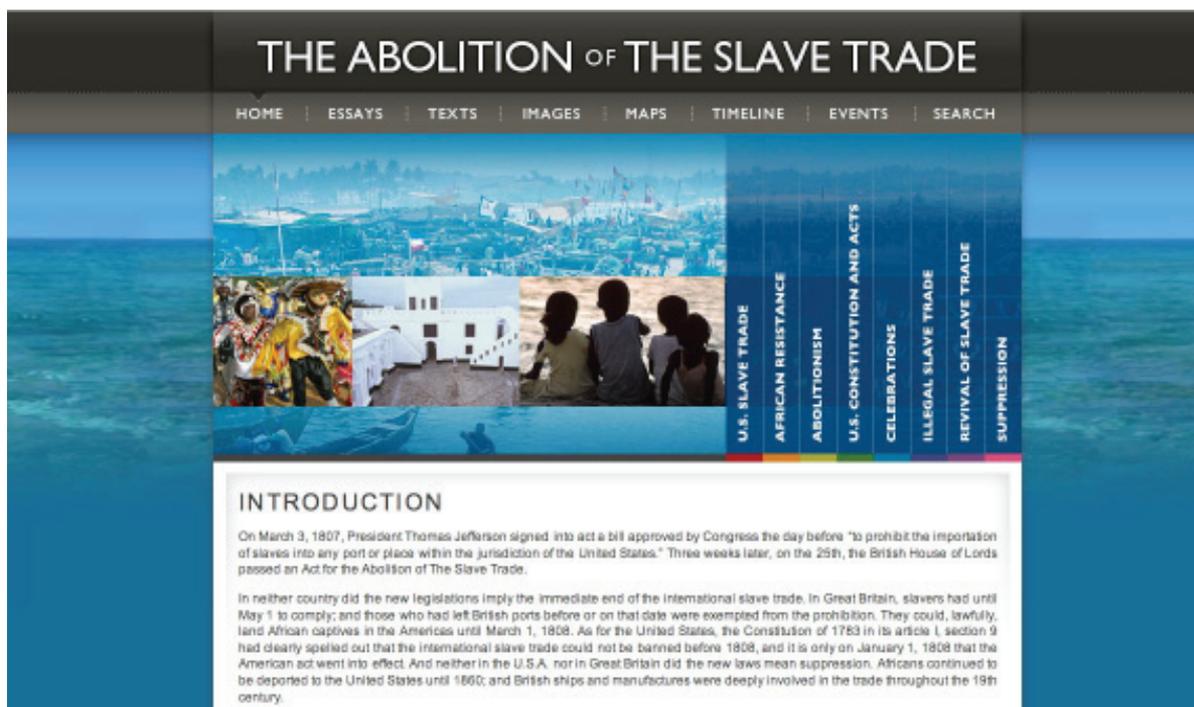
highest level is renewed."

Pearl T. Robinson, associate professor at Tufts University and currently working on an intellectual biography of Ralph Bunche, said "he contributed to making the Schomburg a place of cultural joy for me." With all of the accolades acknowledging André's intellect and vision, he was also the best kind of co-worker to have. "I loved the summers in the early years when we would eat lunch on the roof outside the third floor landing and dubbed it 'Schomburg Beach,'" said Christine McKay, an archivist who had known André for years. "What I think I will

miss most was his laugh."

After the memorial a friend recently shared that not everyone is so remembered. Indeed, the memorial was a moment to recall not only André's tireless efforts to preserve black culture, which are revealed in the exceptional work he leaves in the stacks for generations to come, but also his kindness and warmth. André was a voracious reader and fecund thinker, who, through a life of learning and practice, had distinguished himself as an archivist and intellectual.

How grateful we are to have had him for the time we did.



## Digital Schomburg Expands Centers Reach

### Latest Schomburg Center Audio/Video Content

Howard Dodson speaks at Brigham Young University on January 10, 2010.

Saxophonist James Carter performs at the Schomburg Center on February 8, 2010.

Visit [www.schomburgcenter.org](http://www.schomburgcenter.org) and click on the Digital Schomburg tab on the left to get to the Audio/Video Resources section of the Center's Web site.

As the Center expands its national and international reach, Digital Schomburg is the main conduit through which users take advantage of its resources. Relying on the expertise of distinguished curators and scholars, Digital Schomburg provides trusted information, interpretation, and scholarship on the global black experience. This virtual Schomburg Center offers access to online exhibitions that include books, articles, maps, photographs, and prints. Over the past five years, three large websites, *In Motion: The African-American Migration Experience*, *The Abolition of the Slave Trade: The Hidden Story*, and *African Americans and American Politics* have brought to users the latest research on and interpretation of African and African Diasporan history.

An upcoming exhibition, *Africana Age*, is in preparation. Focusing on the 20th century and based on essays by renowned scholars, it will explore dominant political, economic, and cultural events in Africa, the Caribbean, and the United States. Students from the Schomburg-Mellon Humanities Summer Institute searching the Center's collections have brought forth the illustrations, maps, and other primary sources that will illustrate the site.

A new feature of Digital Schomburg is a list of selected sites that offer access



### Digital Schomburg

to free, high-quality, and large databases of books, articles, oral histories, images, maps, interviews, and television programs of interest to users who want to research the history and cultures of the black world. Also accessible through Digital Schomburg are more than 11,000 items ranging from historical documents to rare visual materials relating to African and African Diasporan history and cultures from the 17th to the 20th centuries.

The audiovisual section of Digital Schomburg enables users to watch or listen to recordings from past public programs as well as oral histories, from video clips from the Louis Armstrong Jazz Oral History Project to the audio stream of the forum *Understanding Black Theology: A 40-Year Retrospective*.

The Schomburg's Public Education Program presents

# Spring Education Events @ the Schomburg

A diverse line-up of events for educators, parents, and school groups for the Spring of 2010. For more information and to join our education e-mail list, contact [schomburged@nypl.org](mailto:schomburged@nypl.org).

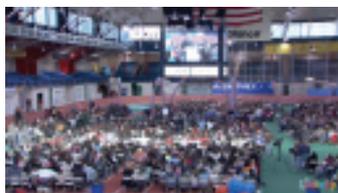
## APRIL

Saturday, April 10, 2010

1 p.m.

Film Screening

*The Lottery*



The Schomburg Center invites parents and educators to this exclusive community screening of the film *The Lottery*, a feature-length documentary that delves into the ferocious debate surrounding the education reform movement. Directed by Madeleine Sackler and shot by award-winning cinematographer Wolfgang Held, *The Lottery* explores the struggles and dreams of four families from Harlem and the Bronx in the months leading up to the lottery for Harlem Success Academy, one of the most successful schools in New York. This screening will be followed by a

Q & A with the filmmaker and special guests. Free admission. Registration required for groups of 10 or more persons. Email [schomburged@nypl.org](mailto:schomburged@nypl.org) for a registration form.

Monday, April 12, 2010

4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Teacher Workshop

*The Art of Jerry Pinkney*

Jerry Pinkney, an award-winning illustrator and fine artist, will give a visual presentation about his craft and his career, followed by a book signing of *The Lion and the Mouse*, recipient of the prestigious Randolph Caldecott Award on January 18, 2010. This event is presented in conjunction with the exhibition *Jerry Pinkney's African-American Journey to Freedom*



— *The Seagram Collection of African-American Art* now on view at the Schomburg Center's Latimer/Edison Gallery through April 18, 2010. To R.S.V.P. please email [schomburged@nypl.org](mailto:schomburged@nypl.org). Free teaching materials available with school, district, or youth organization I.D.

## MAY

Monday, May 10, 2010

4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Educator Open House

*What's Up @ the Schomburg Center*

School teachers and college faculty are invited to come in for exclusive tours of the Schomburg's 25-year retrospective exhibition. To R.S.V.P.



please email [schomburged@nypl.org](mailto:schomburged@nypl.org). Free teaching materials available with school, district, or youth organization I.D.

Saturday, May 15

1 p.m.

Youth Film Screening & Panel Discussion

*Beyond the Bricks*

The Schomburg Center invites youth, parents and educators to a community screening of the film *Beyond the Bricks*, a documentary created with the goal of promoting solutions for one of America's critical problems in education: the education of



African-American boys. The film follows students, Shaquiel and Erick, as they struggle to stay on track in the Newark, NJ public school system. Weaved into the boys' stories is commentary from distinguished scholars and experts including Newark Mayor Cory Booker, the Reverend Al Sharpton, and Schott Foundation President Dr. John Jackson. Free admission. Registration required for groups of 10 or more persons. Email [schomburged@nypl.org](mailto:schomburged@nypl.org) for a registration form.

## JUNE

Friday, June 18

10:30 a.m.

Presentation for School Groups  
*Juneteenth Celebration*

Bring your school groups to the Schomburg to celebrate Juneteenth — the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. This event will feature cultural presentations to educate and inspire students. Registration required. Email [schomburged@nypl.org](mailto:schomburged@nypl.org) for a registration form.



## AWARDS

On February 6, 2010, The Association of Social Studies and the United Federation of Teachers presented the Schomburg Center's Sylviane A. Diouf, Curator of Digital Collection, with *The Rosa Parks Award for Social Justice* at the Greater Metropolitan New York Social Studies Conference. Dr. Diouf, a historian, received the award for her lifetime mission to further social justice and equity through her interpretation and presentation of the history and cultures of Africa

and the African Diaspora by bringing primary historical resources and the latest scholarship directly to the public in online exhibitions.

The Congressional Black Caucus Foundation gave the Schomburg Center an award at its *Avoice Heritage Celebration* in Washington, DC on February 24, 2010, along with Dr. John Hope Franklin (Posthumously), McDonald's Corporation, Former Representative William L. Clay, Sr., and Former Representative Louis Stokes.

**NEW FROM THE SCHOMBURG CENTER**

**EXHIBITION**



***What's Up @ the Schomburg?***

*May 7 -- December 31, 2010  
Latimer/Edison Gallery  
American Negro Theater*

*What's up @ the Schomburg?*, a 25th anniversary retrospective exhibition of the Schomburg Center's collections, activities, and programming. *What's Up* traces the evolution of the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture over the last 25 years in relation to its first 60 years.

**SAVE THE DATE**



***After the Dance: Conversations on Michael Jackson's Black America***

*June 4-5, 2010*

Michael Jackson died on June 25, 2009. After a year of media-sanctioned mourning through concert tributes, film specials, video marathons, and an extravagance of merchandising, who will bear the questions of music industry exploitation, self-hate, sexuality, addiction, environmental justice, and philanthropy that Michael's life and death urge us to ask? Michael's story echoes the ongoing crises of experience and identity faced not only by Black America, but the Black Diaspora as a whole.

Demanding space beyond the video tribute, *After the Dance* is a two-day forum for artists, academics, educators, youth, and Michael fans to engage in shared dialogue, debate and deconstruction about the many faces and facets of Michael Jackson, and the mirror his four-decade public presence holds to the Black experience.

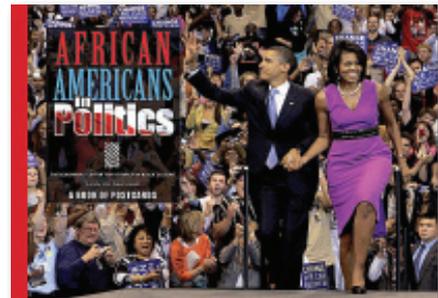
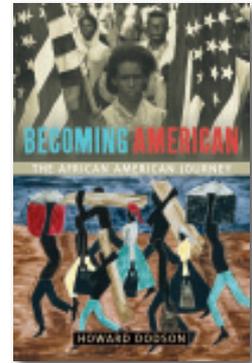
*Co-Presented by the Schomburg Center, DJ lynnee denise, and WildSeed Music NYC as a celebration of Black Music Month.*

**Get a Piece of Black History at The Schomburg Shop**

***Becoming American: The African-American Journey*** (Sterling Publishing)  
**By Howard Dodson**

*Becoming American: The African-American Journey* offers a unique chronological approach that affords readers an opportunity to begin discovering the active, generative role blacks have played in the making of America as we know it today. It also reveals the ways in which blacks' attempts to make America live up to its founding creed have kept them on the path to "Becoming American."

**Price \$13.95**



***African Americans in Politics Postcard Book***

A special commemorative postcard book, produced by the Schomburg Center and Pomegranate Communications, features 30 cards highlighting individuals and events of the black experience in American politics. This postcard book also serves as a companion piece to the Schomburg Center exhibition, *African Americans and American Politics*.

**Price: \$9.99**

*Recent Acquisition, Continued from page 1*  
to create works for a variety of subjects. Each project, at its best, enhances and enlarges how I perceive the world. Yet it is those projects which speak to the African-American narrative that give me a sense of purpose and the most satisfaction.”

The second group is made up of art works by various African-American artists. Over the course of a few years, Seagram commissioned one artist annually to create a piece. Prints were made of the

original art work and given to the National Urban League to sell for its benefit. Some of the artists whose works are a part of this unique collection are: Elizabeth Catlett, Jonathan Green, Gordon Parks, and Geoffrey Holder. The Schomburg is grateful to have this amazing collection.

For more information about this collection, please contact the Art and Artifacts Division: call (212) 491-2241 or e-mail scartref@nypl.org.



Bob Gore

**Jerry Pinkney and Schomburg Chief Howard Dodson at the exhibition preview for *Jerry Pinkney's African-American Journey to Freedom* on February 4, 2010.**



***With Honors*, 1989 by Synthia Saint James.**



***The Reception*, 1988 by Jonathan Green.**

## SCHOMBURG SOCIETY CONSERVATORS

The Schomburg Center is pleased to acknowledge the following donors of gifts of \$1,000 or more from  
**November 3, 2009 to  
February 26, 2010**

Estate of Peggy Lampl	Ira S. Holder
Estate of Lavinia Reese	Greater New York Chapter The Links, Inc.
Estate of Gertrude Berryman	Jane Tillman Irving
Anonymous	Ann Johnson, Georgia J. Smith and Kathleen J. Pressley
Anonymous	
Anna R. Austin	
Wayne Benjamin	Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.
Robert L. Bolling	
Robert L. Carter	Daisy W. Martin
Dr. Johnnetta B. Cole	Junius Mills
Charlotte L. Cooke	Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Monroe
Dr. and Mrs. Frank L. Douglas	Maryanne Mott
Deborah Matthews Evans	Betty Odabashian
Reverend Floyd H. Flake	Dr. Margaret P. Olson
The Arts and Letters Foundation	Dr. Benjamin F. Payton
Joan and Jonathon Gillette	Dr. William F. Pickard
Ego and Cassianna Hayes	Dr. Raymond W. Ransom
	Phyllis G. Roe

## AFRICANA HERITAGE

2010 Volume 10, Number 2

*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.

**Howard Dodson** Executive Editor  
**Sylviane A. Diouf** Managing Editor  
**Ann-Marie Nicholson** Editor  
**Steven G. Fullwood, Christopher P. Moore** Contributors  
**Kenneth McFarlin** Graphic Designer  
**Bob Gore, Terrence Jenning** Photography

*Africana Heritage*, 515 Malcolm X Boulevard, New York, NY 10037  
Copyright © 2010 The New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations

## AFRICANA HERITAGE

The Schomburg Center for  
Research in Black Culture  
The New York Public Library  
515 Malcolm X Boulevard  
New York, NY 10037-1801

Non Profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
WAYNE, N.J.  
PERMIT NO. 1104

Visit the Schomburg Center On-Line at [www.schomburgcenter.org](http://www.schomburgcenter.org)

The Schomburg Center is available for space rental.  
For further information contact: (212) 491-2257.

## A Message from the National Membership Chair

**K**nowing 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.



**Dr. Maya Angelou**

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!

## Schomburg Society Benefits

### **\$35 ASSOCIATE** (\$30 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

### **\$50 FRIEND** (\$35 tax deductible)

- All Associate benefits, plus:
- Invitations to members-only exhibition previews, lectures and seminars

### **\$100 SUPPORTER** (\$70 tax deductible)

- All Friend benefits, plus:
- A complimentary gift from the Schomburg Center
  - Invitations to VIP events

### **\$250 PATRON** (\$195 tax deductible)

- All Supporter benefits, plus:
- A complimentary copy of a publication

### **\$500 SUSTAINER** (\$410 tax deductible)

- All Patron benefits, plus:
- Two tickets to a select Schomburg Center performance

### **\$1,000 CONSERVATOR** (\$910 tax deductible)

- All Sustainer benefits, plus:
- Acknowledgment in the Schomburg Center newsletter and the Library's Annual Report

### **\$2,500 HERITAGE CIRCLE** (\$2,410 tax deductible)

- All Conservator benefits, plus:
- A private behind-the-scenes tour led by the Center's Chief

### **\$5,000 CHIEF'S CIRCLE** (\$4,810 tax deductible)

- All Heritage Circle benefits, plus:
- An invitation to an annual luncheon with the Chief

Please make check or money order payable to the Schomburg Center/NYPL. Mail to:  
The Schomburg Society • 515 Malcolm X Boulevard • New York, NY 10037-1801. To charge  
call The Shop: (212) 491-2206, Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.