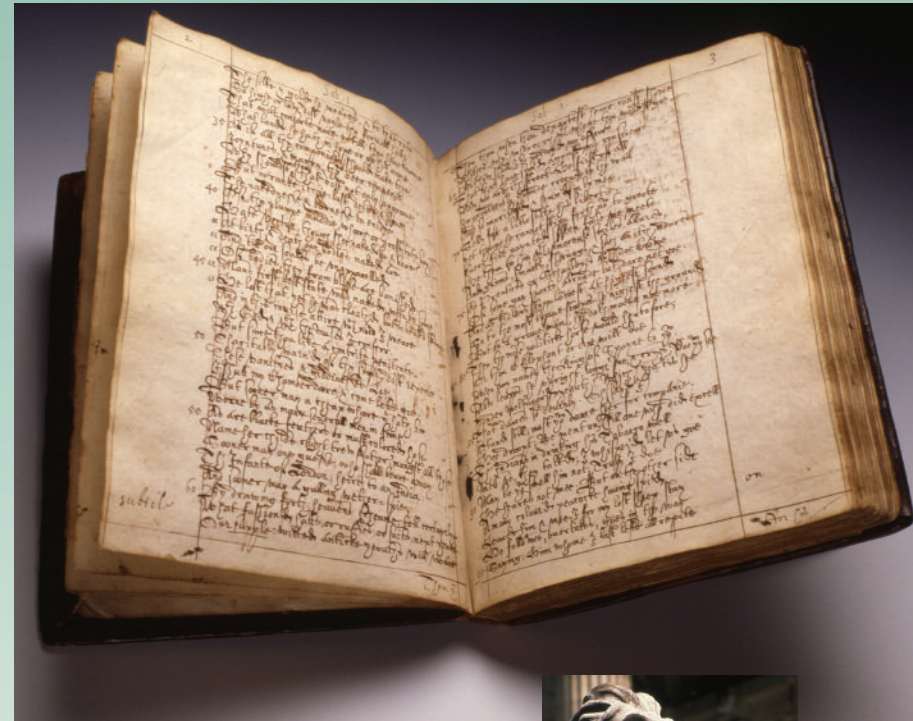


Recognizing
and
Supporting
Excellence

THE DOROTHY &
LEWIS B. CULLMAN
CENTER *for* SCHOLARS
and WRITERS
at
The New York Public Library

Design: Joel Katz Design Associates



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An aerial view of Bryant Park with The
New York Public Library at left. Photo:
© Elliott Kaufman, courtesy of Hardy
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THE DOROTHY & LEWIS B. CULLMAN
CENTER *for* SCHOLARS *and* WRITERS



The New York Public Library

“You walk the corridors of the Library with the acute sensation that what has been bestowed upon you, amongst all these books, is a sense of what matters. You enter a silence that requires humility, grace, and the deepest thanks.”

Colum McCann (Fellow 2004–2005), novelist and short-story writer, worked at the Center on his novel *Zoli*.



Cover: *John Donne, Poems. Manuscript (the “Westmoreland Manuscript”), ca. 1620. Transcription attributed to Rowland Woodward, a close friend of Donne’s. The Henry W. and Albert A. Berg Collection of English and American Literature. Photo: © Jonathan Wallen. Lion photo: Don Pollard.*

Top: Astor Hall, the main entrance to the Library. Photo © Peter Aaron/Esto.

Cross-sectional view of the stacks [detail], from the cover of *Scientific American*, May 27, 1911. *Science, Industry and Business Library.*

Recognizing and Supporting Excellence

HISTORY

GOALS

The Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers opened in 1999, supported primarily by the generosity of Dorothy and Lewis Cullman, imaginative philanthropists with a magnificent commitment to The New York Public Library. The concept of creating a center for research and writing that draws on the extraordinary resources of the Humanities and Social Sciences Library at Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street grew out of conversations between Paul LeClerc, the Library’s President, and the historian Robert Darnton, a Library Trustee. For the planning and early support of the Center, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation provided an invaluable series of grants.

The Center awards fifteen fellowships a year to outstanding academics, creative writers, and independent scholars whose work requires a period of sustained, intense immersion in the collections of one of the world’s great research libraries, as well as time away from their normal duties. It provides Fellows with resources to pursue the solitary work of study and writing, while at the same time creating a vibrant intellectual community rich in cross-disciplinary exchange. Moreover, crucial collaboration takes place between Center Fellows and the Library’s staff. Individual curators and research librarians help guide Fellows to materials they might not otherwise find, and the questions Fellows pursue often lead to new discoveries by Library staff members as well as to enhanced collection development.

Behind the founding of the Center lies the conviction that first-rate scholarly and literary work will enrich the lives of individuals across a wide social and cultural spectrum. Through the impressive and growing list of books published by Fellows based on their time at the Library, and through diverse public programs, the Center actively promotes The New York Public Library’s larger mission of advancing knowledge, curiosity, and access to its superb collections.

Above: *Joannes de Ketham, Fasciculus de medicina. Venice: Johannes et Gregorius de Gregoris de Forlivio, 1495. Spencer Collection. Photo © Jonathan Wallen.*

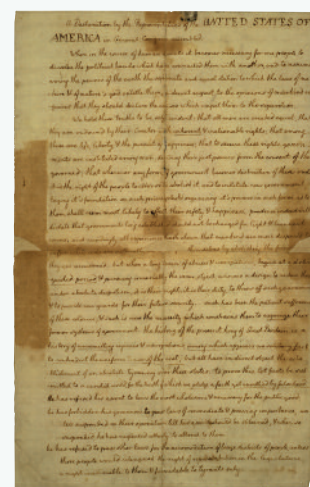
THE CULLMAN CENTER IN PRACTICE

The Center occupies a handsome space designed specifically for its use on the second floor of the Library. Each Fellow receives a generous stipend and an office with a computer, bookshelves, and filing cabinets. The offices surround a lounge area furnished with sofas, current periodicals, and tables for informal lunches and conversations. Weekly lunch presentations and some evening

programs take place in the Margaret Liebman Berger Forum, a hall adjacent to the Center. Informal interactions among the Fellows continue throughout the year, over lunch, during coffee breaks, after hours—and often after the end of the fellowship term.

At the weekly lunches, Fellows present their work-in-progress to the

entire class, an extensive range of invited guests, and members of the Library's staff. Fellows also participate in an ongoing series of dynamic public programs hosted by the Center. Past events have included a panel on "The Changing Face of Harlem," three forums on "Science & the Literary Arts," a conversation between Fellows Colm Tóibín and Francisco Goldman on their forthcoming novels, and another between Fellow Wendy Lesser and the British writer Geoff Dyer on photography. With W.W. Norton & Co., the Center sponsors an annual three-lecture series, which Norton publishes in book form. Norton Lecturers have included the editor Jason Epstein (*The Book Business*), the Nobel Laureate Dr. Harold Varmus (*The Art and Politics of Science*), and the Center's first Director, Professor Peter Gay (*Savage Reprisals*).



Top: Robert Jenkins (Fellow 2005–2006) at work in the Center on his book *Mid-20th-century Movements for World Government in India and the United States*. Photo © Joel Katz.

Above: Thomas Jefferson, The Declaration of Independence. Manuscript, July 6–10, 1776. Manuscripts and Archives Division. Photo © Jonathan Wallen.

The Center places high value on quality and clarity of writing, for academics as well as for independent scholars and creative writers, in order not only to stimulate the interchange of ideas within each class but also to extend public intellectual discussion to a broad, educated audience, giving the Center a significant voice in New York City's cultural conversation.

The Summer Seminars

In 2004, the Center created a program of Summer Seminars for High School English teachers. Each July, former Fellows lead seminars for teachers chosen through a competitive application process. The program aims to give the teachers, most of them from New York-area public high schools, the opportunity to work closely with a practicing writer or scholar: reading, writing, doing research, and learning about the exceptional collections and electronic resources of The New York Public Library. During the school year, many of the teachers bring classes of students in for a day of similar immersion in the Library. One teacher described the Summer Seminar as "a luxurious exercise in learning with the finest people and research materials. I had forgotten the passion and the joy that learning gives."



Above: Blaise Cendrars and Sonia Delaunay, *La Prose du Transsibérien et de la petite Jehanne de France*. Paris: Editions des Hommes Nouveaux, 1913. Spencer Collection.

Below: Fellows (Brent Edwards and Lucy McDiarmid, 2005–2006) gather informally in the communal space at the Center. Photo © Joel Katz.



“Though my expectations of this Fellowship were extremely high, they have been immeasurably out-done by the pleasure and privilege of being here.... The Center provides a blessed and matchless haven for intellectual and creative work.”



Hermione Lee (Mel and Lois Tukman Fellow 2004–2005), professor of literature, biographer, and essayist, spent her year at the Center working on a life of Edith Wharton. Photo © Jane Brown.

Recognizing and Supporting Excellence

A SELECTION OF FELLOWS WORKING WITH THE LIBRARY'S COLLECTIONS

The following sample of Fellows, their projects, and work from the collections they used gives an idea of the range and diversity of the program.

“I had a wonderful year that was both creative and stimulating. I was able to get my work done, make new friends, and think about fresh ideas beyond the project that I was completing. What more could I ask for?”



Caryl Phillips (Mel and Lois Tukman Fellow 2002–2003), novelist and essayist, was completing his novel *Dancing in the Dark* (2005) while at the Center. Photo © Michael Eastman.



“In a long career, I have never had the opportunity to think about and work on a subject of any proportions or continuity in an uninterrupted and concentrated time frame, and with such superb facilities—this is the rarest of luxuries and the greatest of gifts.”

Ada Louise Huxtable (Fellow 1999–2000), architectural historian, worked on a project called *Extreme Architecture: Living in the Digital Age*. Photo © Harry Heleotis.



Kitagawa Utamaro, *Woman Holding a Pipe*. Color woodcut from the series “Five Physiognomies of Beauties,” ca. 1803–4. The Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Division of Art, Prints and Photographs, Print Collection. Studied by art historian **Roger Keyes** (Mel and Lois Tukman Fellow 2002–2003) in his work as curator of a New York Public Library exhibition on Japanese illustrated books.



Charles A. Zimmerman, *Wakan-o-zhan-zhan (Medicine Bottle)*, a Dakota Indian who was executed at Fort Snelling, November 11, 1865, for participating in the massacre of 1862. Stereoscopic view. The Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Division of Art, Prints and Photographs, Photography Collection. Found by poet **Jill McDonough** (Fellow 2005–2006) as she worked on a book of sonnets about executions.



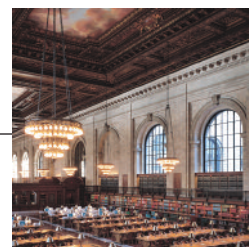
Anna Atkins, *Alaria esculenta*. From *Photographs of British Algae: Cyanotype Impressions*, Part XII. Privately published between November 1849 and June 1850. Spencer Collection. Examined by art historian **Carol Armstrong** (Fellow 2003–2004) in her research as co-curator of an exhibition on cyanotypes and for a series of essays on color and art criticism.



Photograph of the Ministers of the Republic of Cuba during the War of Independence, from the magazine *Cuba y America*, April 2, 1898. General Research Division. Used by **Lisandro Perez** (Mel and Lois Tukman Fellow 2004–2005), sociologist, for his book on Cubans in nineteenth-century New York. The second man from the left is Perez’s great-grandfather.



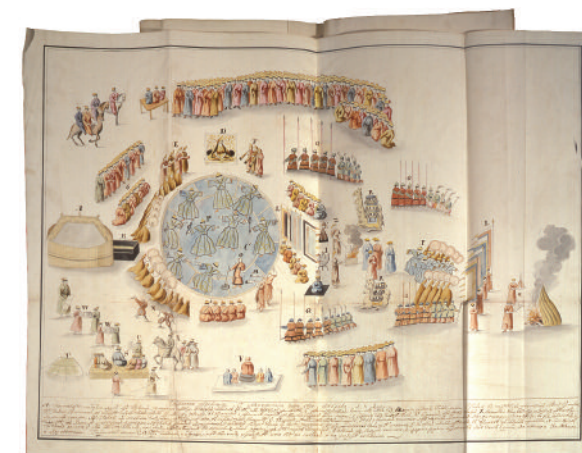
Theodor de Bry after John White, *The Town of Secota*. From *America*, Part 1. Colored engraving, Frankfurt, 1590. Rare Book Division. Consulted by **John Jeremiah Sullivan** (Fellow 2003–2004), writer and editor, as he worked on his novel *The Key of the Fields*, about a historian obsessed with finding the lost papers of an eighteenth-century radical utopian.



The renovated Deborah, Jonathan F. P., Samuel Priest, and Adam R. Rose Main Reading Room. Photo: © Peter Aaron/Esto.



Dorothea Lange, *Pea Pickers*, Santa Clara County, 1939. Silver gelatin print. The Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Division of Art, Prints and Photographs, Photography Collection. Used by historian **Linda Gordon** (Fellow 2004–2005) in her research for a biography of Lange.



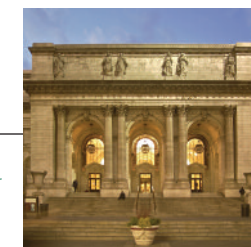
Georg Wilhelm de Hennin, *An Encampment and Ceremony of Native Siberian Peoples*. Manuscript, 1735. Slavic and Baltic Division. Consulted by Russian historian **Stephen Kotkin** (New York Public Library/American Council of Learned Societies Fellow 2004–2005) while doing research for his book *Lost in Siberia: Labyrinths of Eurasia*, a history of the Ob River Valley.



Sir John Mandeville, *Travels*. Manuscript, Germany, 1459. Spencer Collection. Used by medieval historian **Paul Freedman** (New York Public Library/American Council of Learned Societies Fellow 2002–2003) in his research for a book about spices in the Middle Ages.



Front steps of The New York Public Library. Photo: © Rob Slade.



The New York Public Library at dusk. Photo © Peter Aaron/Esto.

APPLYING FOR A FELLOWSHIP

Each year's Fellows are chosen from a large field of applicants by a careful process of review and selection. Fellows from all over the United States and abroad work at the Center for a term that runs from September through May. The Selection Committee looks for diversity in gender, race, and age, seeking talented young writers and scholars as well as those with established reputations. The principal criteria for acceptance are the excellence of the applicant's previous work and the significance of the new project's need for sustained access to The New York Public Library's Humanities and Social Sciences research collections.

To learn more online about The Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers, or about the Summer Seminars program, please visit www.nypl.org/csw. Applications may be downloaded from that site. For additional information regarding applications, send e-mail inquiries to csw@nypl.org, or write to The Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers, The New York Public Library, Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street, Room 225, New York, NY 10018-2788.

The Center may grant up to five fellowships a year in conjunction with the American Council of Learned Societies. For information regarding the separate ACLS eligibility requirements and an ACLS application, write to the American Council of Learned Societies, 633 Third Avenue, 8th Floor, New York, NY 10017-6795, or send e-mail to grants@acsls.org.



Above: William Blake, Milton: A Poem. London, 1804. Rare Book Division.

Opposite: Claudius Ptolemaeus, Geographia. Illuminated manuscript on vellum, Florence, ca. 1460. Manuscripts and Archives Division. Photo: © Jonathan Wallen.

“This year’s fellows counted ourselves fortunate indeed, because an almost magical spirit of camaraderie and generosity animated our life together.”



George Chauncey (Fellow 2004–2005), historian, worked on his new book, *The Strange Career of the Closet: Gay Culture and Politics from the Second World War to the Gay Liberation Era*. Photo © Lyal Lauth.



The Cullman Center is made possible by a generous endowment from Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman in honor of Brooke Russell Astor, with major support provided by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, The Estate of Charles J. Liebman, Sue Ann and John Weinberg, The Samuel I. Newhouse Foundation, Mel and Lois Tukman, William W. Karatz, and additional gifts from The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, Margaret and Herman Sokol, Helen and Roger Alcay, and The Mrs. Giles Whiting Foundation.