

The New York State Library

A Library For All New Yorkers

The 2010 Anna K. and Mary E. Cunningham Research Residencies in New York State History and Culture

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The Quinn-Library Fellowship

The New York State Library announces the availability of grants for research in New York State history. The Anna K. and Mary E. Cunningham Research Residency Program in New York State History and Culture was established in 1997 to benefit scholars using the unique collections of the New York State Library to study the history of New York.

The Anna K. and Mary E. Cunningham Trust Fund

Funds for the research residencies are provided by a trust fund endowment created by a bequest from the estate of Anna K. Cunningham on behalf of her sister, Mary, and herself. It is a fitting celebration of the sisters' lifelong interest in the study of New York State history. Anna Cunningham (1906-1996) was Supervisor of Historic Sites of New York State, as well as serving on the boards and councils of many state and national historic preservation organizations. Mary Cunningham (1917-1986), whose personal papers are among the collections of the State Library, held various executive positions in the New York State Historical Association, was a founder and the first editor of *American Heritage* magazine, and was a founder of the Yorkers program for teaching and involving young New Yorkers in the State's history.

Quinn-Library Fellowship

For 2010

Through generous support from the Doris Quinn Foundation, the New Netherland Institute (www.nnp.org) and the New York State Library will make a special Cunningham grant of \$2500 in 2010 for specialized research in Dutch-related documents and printed materials at the New York State Library. Researchers interested in the history of New Netherland, and the Dutch Colonial Atlantic world, are encouraged to apply for these funds.

History Collections at the State Library

The New York State Library, established in 1818, is a major repository for New York's cultural, political, legal and social history. The 20-million-item collection is especially strong in the social sciences. The Library is a depository for both New York State and Federal government documents, and has extensive holdings in state and local history and genealogy.

Selected Collections and programs:

Manuscripts and Special Collections

This unit was established within the State Library in 1881. Its responsibilities include acquiring, providing access to, and preserving the Library's collections of archives and manuscripts, rare books, maps and atlases, prints and photographs, broadsides and posters, musical scores and ephemera. These collections document the political, cultural and scientific history of New York State from the 17th century to the present.

Local History and Genealogy

With an extensive, specialized collection of local and family histories, the state Library has developed an international reputation as a source for genealogical and local history studies. Federal and State census records supplement these resources, as do newspapers, church and cemetery records, city directories, and research guides.

Newspapers

The New York State Library is home to a comprehensive collection of historically significant New York State newspapers, including many 18th and 19th century titles in both hard-copy and microform.

New Netherland Institute

This project transcribes, translates, and publishes Dutch manuscripts in New York State repositories relating to New Netherland. It sponsors the annual Rensselaerswyck Seminar and promotes an awareness of Dutch contributions to America.

For additional information, sample collections guides, and “virtual visits” to the library, visit the New York State Library website: www.nysl.nysed.gov

Eligibility

Applicants must conduct original research at the New York State Library. Grants are available to academic and public historians, graduate students, independent researchers and writers and to primary and secondary school teachers. Preference will be given to projects that have a high probability of publication or other public dissemination. Projects involving alternative uses of the collections such as research for multimedia projects, exhibits and documentary films are encouraged.

Previous Research Projects

The Cunningham residencies, first awarded in 2005, are an outgrowth of earlier research residency programs of the New York State Library. The following projects were funded in 2009:

- ❖ To Elevate the mind: female instruction, women artists and the Hudson River School
- ❖ Influence of 19th century Bishop John McCloskey and 20th century Gov. Martin Glynn on the Irish ethnicity and Attitudes of Albany, NY
- ❖ Transformation of the Mercantilist system from 1630 through 1790 in New Netherland and Colonial New York
- ❖ Research for a college text book on the history of New York State
- ❖ The gubernatorial administration of Alfred E. Smith and its importance to U.S. political development in the years preceding the New Deal

Awards

Four Cunningham residencies of \$1,000—and one Quinn fellowship--will be awarded in 2009. In addition to the cash awards, recipients will be given access to photoduplication and other services of the State Library. Residents will be asked to give a brief public presentation, during the course of their research at the Library. Grant recipients are expected to complete their research at the New York State Library by January 31, 2011.

Application Process

Applications must be postmarked by January 29, 2010. A panel of scholars and library staff will review proposals. The panel's decisions will be announced by April 2, 2010.

Applicants must submit: (1) an application form; (2) a résumé including the names, addresses and phone numbers of three references and a list of any relevant publications; and (3) a description of the research project not to exceed two pages, including a statement of the relevance of the New York State Library's Collections to their project.

Additional information can be found at the New York State Library web site: www.nysl.nysed.gov.
Write or call: Research Residency Committee, New York State Library, Cultural Education Center, Albany, NY 12230, (518) 402-5437; email nyslgrants@mail.nysed.gov

New York State Library

2010 Cunningham Research Residencies & The Quinn-Library Fellowship

Application Form

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Phone: Home (_____) _____ Office (_____) _____ Email: _____

Research topic: (*describe in one sentence*): _____

Are you applying for a Quinn-Library Fellowship? _____

Enclosed is my application form. I will submit my resume and project description by January 29, 2010.

Enclosed are my application form, resume and project description.

Mail to: Research Residency Committee
New York State Library
Cultural Education Center
Albany, NY 12230

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