



Hamilton College Library News

April 2009

Don't Lose Your Work!

It happens every semester. A student is working on his thesis, saves the file to the desktop, and leaves for a quick break outside. While he's gone, the library PC logs off. When the student logs back in, he discovers the thesis is no longer on the desktop.

Help us help you by saving your work. Please remember to log in to the library PCs using your **HAMILTON-S** or **HAMILTON-D** account and save all work to your network share or to an external device. Do not save your work to the desktop! Library computers automatically log you out after 20 minutes of inactivity to protect your privacy. If you open a document from my.hamilton in a browser window, it is especially important to save it to your network share. Please come to the Information Commons desk in Burke Library for help with your SSS or ESS account.



Late night hours will start
in Burke Library on
Sunday, May 3rd.

**No Camping
in
the Library!**



**Personal items will be
removed from
computer desks after
20 minutes if you
leave.**

Access to Rare Books and Special Collections Enhanced with New Curator

The Library is pleased to welcome [Christian Goodwillie](#) as our new Curator of Rare Books and Special Collections, the first full-time curator in the college's history. Christian's enthusiasm and breadth of knowledge impressed everyone during his interview. With his presence in the Library we will be able to serve the needs of the students and faculty much more effectively. We urge you to drop by and see Christian in the Rare Book Room (the glassed in room) on the third floor of Burke Library.

Christian's responsibilities at Hamilton will cover the entire rare book collection including the separate collections on the Lesser Antilles, Ezra Pound, and Communal Societies. The collection encompasses some 45,000 items and includes printed works, manuscripts, maps, prints, photographs, and ephemera, while the archives add another 21,000 items.

Library Study Room Reservation Policy

Rooms 209, 211, 213, and 215 may be reserved for study and meeting purposes during the following times:

- Monday through Friday from 4:00 p.m. until closing
- Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 a.m. until closing

Requests must be received by 6:00 p.m. for same day booking. Requests received after 6:00 p.m. for the same day will not be booked.

Rooms may only be reserved by an individual or group for two hours a day. Requests for multiple bookings by individuals or informal groups are subject to review and cannot be guaranteed. Student organizations and athletic teams may make repeating reservations for the semester, but are limited to one, two-hour reservation per week.

Reservations will not be accepted during the 24-hour period at the end of each semester. Unless a room is being used for a class or final exam, it will remain open to use at any time.

Please contact a circulation staff member at 859-4479, or email askcirc@hamilton.edu for any questions.

[Reserve a Room](#)

RefMobile is a version of [RefWorks](#) for mobile and smart phones, as well as PDAs, which allows you to access and view your references, manage folders and even add information to the Notes field of your references. In addition to being able to access and manage your references, RefMobile has a feature – **SmartAdd** – that will search the web for references based on a digital object identifier (DOI), PubMed ID (PMID), PubMed Central ID (PMCID), ISSN/ISBN number or by author and publication year or even search using part of a title. References located by **SmartAdd** can even be imported into your RefWorks account via RefMobile. Any user can access RefMobile at www.refworks.com/mobile.

Please note: you must have a group code to access RefMobile. Contact the [Reference Desk](#) if you need Hamilton's group code.

Spotlight on....

The Chicago Manual of Style Online

[The Chicago Manual of Style Online](#) is known as the authoritative reference book for authors, editors, proofreaders, and publishers. Includes the 15th edition of the Manual, a Q & A section, and various tools for manuscript preparation, sample forms and letters, and a Chicago-Style Citation Quick Guide.

News from the Archives—Hamilton's Role in Reporting on the Flood Rock Explosion of 1885

An October 1885 article in the [New York Times](#) noted that the United States Army Corps of Engineers planned to detonate 300,000 lbs (136,000 kgs) of explosives on Flood Rock, removing a treacherous impediment to shipping in the Long Island Sound. It was to be the most forceful explosion in New York City's history at the time. According to the Hamilton Literary Monthly, "the observations made here [by Professor C.H.F. Peters] as to the earth's wave, resulting from this explosion, far surpassed all others in interest, owing to the distance of the station."

Dr. Peters and his assistant, Charles Borst, Class of 1881, set up an elaborate observation apparatus, involving telescopes and time clocks, but their basic method was to observe "the trembling produced on the surface of quicksilver." Peters and Borst each watched one vessel of mercury set on the Litchfield Observatory's telescope piers.

[Harvard's](#) observation was slightly further away, but the passage of a heavy ice wagon at the time disrupted the observation there, and other stations gave up before the 15-minute-delayed explosion took place. The Hamilton Literary Monthly notes, however, "...not so with Dr. Peters. The eye that for a quarter of a century had been mapping the heavens, intent, every available night, upon its exacting work, would not now leave its instrument until fully satisfied that the event had taken place." Dr. Peters' report, above others, was noted by Lieutenant Colonel Walter McFarland, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in his [report](#) to the Secretary of War.

For more information, see the *Hamilton Literary Monthly*, v. 20, February 1886.

Don't forget to check the Library's blog, [From the Lion's Mouth](#), for updated library news and information!

Questions or comments? Email us at askref@hamilton.edu or call 315-859-4735.