



Hamilton College Library News

May 2009

A Reminder: All library materials due Sunday, May 17, 2009

If you would like to keep materials over Summer Break, please renew them by logging in to your account in [ALEX](#) using the 10-digit number located on the back of your ID card. The number starts with 20000. All renewed books will be due Monday, August 31, 2009.

Renewals do not apply to Interlibrary Loan materials. ILLs must be renewed separately using the [ILL Book Renewal Form](#), available through the library's homepage.

If you have any questions or need assistance logging in to your account in [ALEX](#), please contact Circulation at 859-4479 or ask-circ@hamilton.edu.

LIBRARY HOURS

Mon, May 18 - Sun, May 24

Monday - Friday
8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Saturday
10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Sunday 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Summer Hours begin Tuesday, May 26.

Monday & Wednesday
8:00 am - 8:00pm
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
8:00am - 5:00pm
Saturday & Sunday Closed

Upgrade to ALEX, the library catalog planned

Beginning Tuesday, May 26th thru Wednesday, May 27th, ALEX, the Hamilton College library catalog, will be unavailable while we do some upgrading to the system. You may notice changes in our customizations for a bit after that. The new look to the catalog will incorporate many of the features you currently enjoy, and will include new features, such as easier limiting, and a link to book jacket images and google book previews.



Summer Research

On campus this summer? You can [Ask a Librarian](#) for help with your research. Reference Librarians can demonstrate the use of specific research tools such as subject specific databases, Web of Science for citation searching, and RefWorks for managing citations and generating bibliographies. Reference Librarians can also help you find specialized materials such as primary sources and statistics, and explain library services and procedures. Contact us at [Ask a Librarian](#) for more information, or stop by Monday through Friday from 9am -5pm.

The Memorial Portraits of Alexander Hamilton and Samuel Kirkland



Please stop by this summer and see the beautiful stained glass windows of Alexander Hamilton and Samuel Kirkland in their new home on the second floor of Burke Library. This present display of the windows was created in 2009 by designer Ted Anderson from Exhibition Alliance in Hamilton, NY, with the support of the Clarence E. '45 and Ruth F. Aldridge Chapel Fund. The windows have a long history at Hamilton College. In 1898, by way of special recognition of the two key leaders in launching what became Hamilton College, it was decided to honor them with stained glass memorial portraits, to be installed in the College Chapel. By that time the Chapel had been

“Victorianized,” its interior décor featuring dark oak pews and paneling. The portraits, Hamilton in Continental Army uniform and Kirkland in clerical garb, were placed in the round window spaces to the left and right of the pulpit at the gallery level on the west end of the Chapel. Other, smaller stained glass memorial windows honoring various College worthies were later added on the sides.

The Hamilton and Kirkland portrait windows were installed in 1899, and they would remain in place for a half-century until the Chapel’s interior was extensively renovated to honor Hamilton alumni who had sacrificed their lives for their country during World War II. In 1949, the Chapel was stripped of its dark wood and took on the now whitewashed look of a traditional New England chapel. It was intended to return the building to its original simplicity, and the stained glass windows were deemed to be out of place with the new décor. Consequently, they were removed and put in storage. Only the Hamilton and Kirkland windows were much later placed on display, in the sunken lounge of the Beinecke Student Activities Village after its construction in 1993. The windows will now be enjoyed by all visiting Burke Library, and provide a beautiful focal point on the second floor.

Thank you to Betty House and Susannah White for the above information.



Spotlight on...
"Twilight of the Idols"
Art Exhibit in Burke
Library



The Burke Library Browsing area is hosting an independent art exhibit by Xin Wang, double major in art history and math. Supervised by Professor of Art Bill Salzillo, and funded by the Casstevens Family Scholarship, “Nine canvases, One installation,” will be on exhibit in the Burke Library Browsing Room until early June.

News from the Archives—Time Capsule from Class of 1884

In the late 19th century, many classes at Hamilton College created time capsules, collecting items meaningful to the class and placing them in a lead box, which they often buried under the stone by their class tree.

The time capsule buried by the class of 1884 (0000.178.2) contained a “Moldering book, coffin handles, metal rose, and other coffin hardware,” explained in a letter of 1934 by Reuben Leslie Maynard 1884.

The odd assortment was the result of a raid by the class of 1884 on the class of 1885, who had been attempting to carry out the traditional “Burning the Algebra” where copies of the algebra book were to be cremated in a coffin on a funeral pyre.

The silver handles and other ornaments of the coffin and also a copy of the Algebra text (slightly singed) were preserved in the time capsule buried by the class of 1884 and opened by the surviving members of the class in 1934—to be returned to the class of 1885 at its 50th reunion the following year.

Don’t forget to check the Library’s blog, [From the Lion’s Mouth](#), for updated library news and information! We’re also on Facebook as [Burke Library@Hamilton College](#).

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