



Brooklyn Historical Society's Othmer Library Re-opens to the Public, Launching NYU Partnership with Newly Completed Electronic Catalog

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – January 2006, Brooklyn, NY – The Brooklyn Historical Society's Othmer Library, closed for seven years while undergoing renovations followed by a major digital cataloging project, is now reopen to the public. "At a moment when Brooklyn's history and future is so much a focus of public debate and discussion it is with great pride that I announce the reopening of the Othmer Library to the public," said BHS President Deborah Schwartz. "This library and archive contains some of the most significant historical resources in New York City. The Staff and Trustees of the Brooklyn Historical Society are thrilled to welcome our members and the public to make use of the collections after such a long period of time." The library has had its card catalog converted to a state-of-the-art electronic database, which will be permanently housed within NYU's BobCat online catalog. This conversion allows potential users across the Nation and around the world to know what is available in our collections and to determine whether or not they want to come to use the BHS collections.

On February 22nd, BHS will celebrate this important moment with a cocktail party, in which key supporters will be acknowledged for their generosity. First and foremost on this list will be Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez, who secured a major capital gift for BHS, as well as other public and private funders (a full list of supporters is available). On hand will be many members of BHS' Scholar's Council, as well.

The Brooklyn Historical Society is open Wednesday through Sunday, 12 noon to 5:00 p.m. The Othmer Library, beginning January 10, will be open to the Public on Wednesdays and Fridays from 12 noon to 4:30 pm, and the third Saturday of the month from 12 noon to 4:30 pm. The Library will be open to Members **only** on Thursdays from 5:00 - 7:30 pm. The Othmer Library catalog can be accessed through NYU's BobCat online catalog at <http://www.bobcat.nyu.edu>.

Admission to BHS, including the Othmer Library, is \$6 for adults, \$4 for seniors and children (over 12). Admission for members and children 12 and under is free.

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Founded in 1863, the Brooklyn Historical Society (BHS) is a museum, library, and educational center dedicated to preserving and encouraging the study of Brooklyn's rich 400-year past while recording and reflecting upon the future of our culturally rich borough. BHS houses a treasure trove of materials relating to the founding of our country and the history of Brooklyn and its people. We draw from all of these holdings to create interpretive exhibitions illuminating the past and informing the future. BHS hosts over 9,000 members of the general public at its exhibitions each year. In addition to our general programming, BHS serves over 70,000 public school students and teachers

annually by providing exhibit tours, educational programs and curricula, and making its professional staff available for instruction and consultation. The exhibits at BHS are dynamic learning experiences for audiences of all ages.

Library and archival collections today include over 100,000 bound volumes, 60,000 historic photographs and graphic images, 1,000 manuscript collections, and over 2,000 maps and atlases. The library also holds family histories and genealogies, rare books, periodicals, serials, journals, personal papers, institutional records, and oral histories that document Brooklyn's many different ethnic groups and neighborhoods.

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