



Municipal Library Notes - November 2021

SPOTLIGHT ON NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

Spotlight on: New York City Department of Correction

by Christine Bruzzese, Director, Municipal Library

The New York City Department of Correction was established in 1895 after being separated from the Department of Public Charities.

Department of Correction is responsible for overseeing the city's penal institutions, inmates, functions, and programs. The Municipal Library contains some historical materials on this agency.

Annual reports offer statistical information on the various institutions. Here is a section from the 1908 report on "convicts" at the penitentiary on Blackwell's Island.

30

TABLE D.
Ages of Convicts.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Fifteen to twenty years.....	252	4	256
Twenty to twenty-five years.....	657	64	721
Twenty-five to thirty years.....	466	87	553
Thirty to thirty-five years.....	361	82	443
Thirty-five to forty years.....	260	32	292
Forty to forty-five years.....	212	19	231
Forty-five to fifty years.....	159	9	168
Fifty to fifty-five years.....	77	...	77
Fifty-five to sixty years.....	51	...	51
Sixty to sixty-five years.....	36	1	37
Over sixty-five years.....	23	1	24
Total.....	2,554	279	2,833

TABLE E.
Education of Convicts.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Educated.....	2,077	248	2,325
Uneducated.....	477	31	508
Total.....	2,554	279	2,833

TABLE F.
Religion of Convicts.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Catholic.....	1,506	123	1,629
Protestant.....	868	138	1,006
Hebrew.....	100	18	118
Total.....	2,554	279	2,833

31

TABLE G.
Social Conditions.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Single.....	1,267	162	1,529
Married.....	760	82	842
Widowed.....	27	21	48
Total.....	2,554	279	2,833

TABLE H.
Nationality of Convicts.

Nativity.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Nativity.	Male.	Female.	Total.
America.....	63	..	63	Ireland.....	230	48	278
Australia.....	3	..	3	Italy.....	275	10	285
Africa.....	1	..	1	Japan.....	1	..	1
Armenia.....	2	..	2	Norway.....	14	..	14
Belgium.....	2	..	2	Poland.....	18	..	18
Cuba.....	9	1	10	Roumanians.....	3	..	3
Canada.....	14	1	15	Russia.....	109	11	120
Denmark.....	7	..	7	Spain.....	3	1	4
England.....	60	11	71	Sweden.....	10	2	12
Finland.....	2	..	2	Switzerland.....	5	..	5
France.....	11	1	12	Scotland.....	20	..	20
Germany.....	120	7	127	Turkey.....	2	..	2
Greece.....	10	..	10	West Indies.....	9	..	9
Holland.....	6	..	6	United States.....	1,066	144	1,210
Hungary.....	39	1	40	Total.....	2,554	279	2,833

From the 1967 report, here is a discussion of the Manpower Development Training Program graduation at Riker's Island. This program was utilized to train inmates for productive employment and return to the community.

Graduation Ceremonies At Rikers Island Manpower Development Training Program



Deputy Mayor Timothy W. Costello addressed the M.D.T. graduates and is joined on the speakers platform by Commissioner Samuel Ganz of the Manpower and Career Development Agency (left insert) and Herman A. Kressel, Director of the Manpower Development Training Program, Board of Education (right insert).

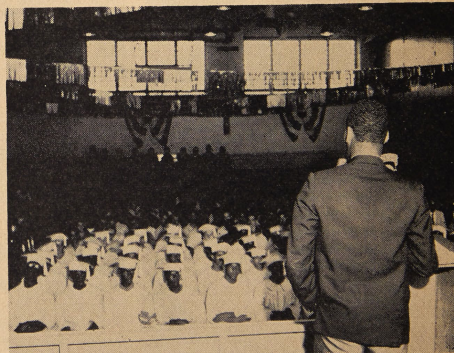
A highlight of the Manpower Development Training Program graduation ceremony on Monday, June 19, 1967 was provided by a former Rikers Island Manpower Development Training graduate in his address to the 115 graduating young men. He stated with great emphasis that what he thought was the end, being sentenced to Rikers Island, was really the beginning for him. The Manpower Development Training Program at Rikers Island gave him the incentive and knowledge that he could do better. Upon his release, he continued his education moving on into college where he was successful in obtaining a college scholarship. He stressed that the initiative had to come from within and that they should all be thankful for the opportunity provided by the Board of Education and the Department of Correction for providing these resources.

The Honorable Timothy W. Costello, Deputy Mayor of the City of New York, felt that anything that he could possibly say would be anti-climatic to what had been said by the young man who had graduated from the program and tested it so encouragingly in the community. Deputy Mayor Costello stated, "He has demonstrated that it takes two to make a bargain. We, the representatives of City government, to provide the resources and you, the inmate population, to put what you have learned here to good use."

Principal Speakers

Also addressing the inmate population at the graduation ceremonies were Commissioner Samuel Ganz of the Manpower and Career Development Agency; Herman A. Kressel, Director of the Manpower Development Training Program, Board of

Education; and Commissioner George F. McGrath of the New York City Department of Correction. The Teacher-in-Charge, Mr. Arthur Jaffe, proudly presented the certificates of graduation. Deputy Warden Milton Roth, Commanding Officer of



the Adolescent Division, served as Master of Ceremonies. Warden James A. Thomas of the Adult Division welcomed the 60 adult inmate trainees who were recently included in the Manpower Development Training Program. Madison Dunn, Assistant to Dr. Francis de Bilio, Director of Rehabilitation,

The men and women of Correction are known as New York's boldest. Every year a Medals Day is held to honor accomplishments of individuals and units within the agency. Here is a description of the various awards.

Description of Awards

Honorable Mention

Awarded for an act of extraordinary personal bravery, intelligently performed in the line of duty under circumstances evincing a disregard to personal consequences.

Exceptional Merit

Awarded for an act of bravery, intelligently performed involving personal risk to life, whether in the line of duty or off-duty.

Unit Citation

Awarded to a unit, division or command for outstanding performance and/or accomplishment, sustained over a period of time.

Commissioner's Award

The Commissioner's Award is presented to individuals and units who have contributed significantly to enhancing the Department's professionalism and image by demonstrating continuous excellence of performance and a commitment to furthering the accomplishments being achieved by the agency.

Arturo Meyers Award/Member of the Year

Awarded by the Correction Officers' Benevolent Association to a Correction Officer for an outstanding act of gallantry at a time of imminent hazard to life.

Correction Captains Association Community Service Medal

Awarded for professionalism, personal achievement and commitment to outstanding community service.

Correction Captains Association Distinguished Service Medal

Awarded for outstanding professionalism and commitment to duty.

William Heidenreich Outstanding Career Achievement Medal

Conferred by the Assistant Deputy Warden / Deputy Warden's Association to an Assistant Deputy Warden whose professionalism, integrity and commitment to duty, supervisors, peers and subordinates has been consistent throughout the member's career.

Dominick Schiano Outstanding Career Achievement Medal

Conferred by the Assistant Deputy Warden / Deputy Warden's Association to a Deputy Warden whose professionalism, integrity and commitment to duty, supervisors, peers and subordinates has been consistent throughout the member's career.

Correction Sidelights was an agency newsletter published quarterly from 1957 to 1968. The publication kept employees informed on current developments and accomplishments as well as news like retirements and promotions. Displayed here is a feature on the Transportation Division from Winter 1968.

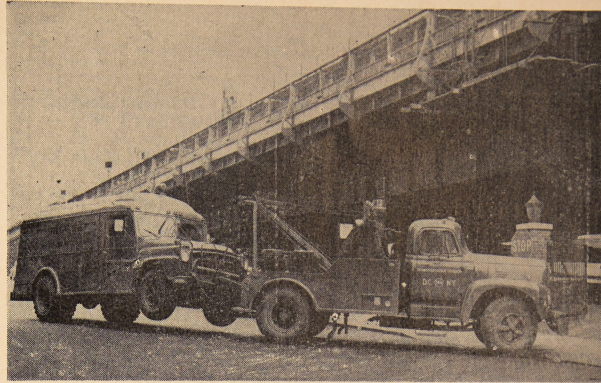
public conveyances. You must make instant decisions when emergencies occur."

The inmate is largely handled and treated with great consideration. However, a Correction Officer cannot lose sight of the fact that he is handling a prisoner who might at any moment present a security risk. Escape is always a paramount thought to guard against. Also many of the prisoners are highly disturbed people and may possibly react violently at any moment. Nevertheless, the Correction Officer cannot allow himself to become emotionally involved with the inmate on the basis of a bad past record. It is one of the prime reasons why Correction takes over the handling of prisoners immediately after arrest. The Police Officer has necessarily become involved with the inmate in making the arrest oftentimes under violent circumstances involving shoot-outs and other forms of resistance. The Correction Officer who has not been so involved with the inmate can handle him with relative objectivity.

A Correction Officer also transports inmates on visits to seriously ill family members, on funeral details and on occasions to marriage ceremonies.

Every Correction Officer assigned to the Transportation Division must have a Class II Chauffeur license which entitles him to drive anything from a passenger car to a tractor trailer. The Transportation Division also provides ambulance service for the department.

The Correction Officer assigned to the Transportation Division must have an intimate knowledge of court procedures, commitment papers and court orders



A newly acquired 20 ton wrecker hauls a broken down van into the Berry Street "open-air" garage beneath the Williamsburg Bridge.

portation Division, Deputy Warden Walter Ball, speaks highly of his men. "The men," he says, "are hard working and do a lot that people don't know about. They are not clock watchers and are often called upon to work far into the night after putting in a hard day. They are quick to respond in emergency situations and are the first to volunteer in helping other City agencies in using our vehicles during public demonstrations and other emergencies affecting the health and welfare of our City."

Deputy Warden Walter Ball is a veteran of 29 years of service with the department after having served two years with the New York State Department of Correction. He was appointed a Captain in 1948; Assistant Deputy Warden in 1956; and Deputy Warden in 1960. He has been in command of the Transportation Division for the past five years. He has a distinguished U.S. Army war record during World War II with the Father Duffy Rainbow Division.



Casser Tour bus leaves Brooklyn House of Detention for Men bound for Elmira Reformatory.

He is a member of the Professional Association of Public Executives; Father Duffy Chapter, Rainbow Division Veterans; Disabled American Veterans, Col. David A. Marcus Post; American Legion Brogan Post; Catholic Guild, Department of Correction; and the St. Joseph's Holy Name Society.



Inmates awaiting transfer to Elmira Reformatory line up for final check of records.

when upon occasion an institution will not readily accept an inmate committed to them under an improperly made out or incomplete document. In such cases the Transportation Division must return such document to the court for proper reissuance of the commitment or court order.

The Commanding Officer of the Trans-



Inmates board Casser Tour bus in yard of Brooklyn House of Detention for Men.



Deputy Warden Walter Ball

Municipal Archives Activities

by Sylvia Kollar, Director, Municipal Archives

October was American Archives month - a time dedicated to the

historical collections of archival organizations, and just as vital, the work of archivists. It is always especially inspiring to take the time to read about and discover the ingenuity of other archivists who work so hard to expand access to collections across institutions, but this year, I was reflecting on the Municipal Archives staff. Since I started at the MA in 2014, I have had the privilege to work alongside some of the most creative, energetic, intuitive, and driven people I've known.

There is no doubt the NYC Department of Records and Information Services' charter mandate to preserve and make records accessible reads simply, but it carries an incredibly dynamic, and sometimes overwhelming, charge. In fact, even if funding had no bounds, to execute the work takes specific skills, a unique curiosity, and a creative streak to juggle priorities when *everything* is a priority.

This column will serve as a sincere thank you to the MA staff who have:

- Built the city government ontology-the skeleton that will support and inform collection organization and description into the future. AND launched our [Collection Guides](#)
- Managed the intellectual control and physical move of over 165,000 cubic ft. of collections to an environmentally controlled, custom designed work-space in [Industry City](#).
- Gracefully rose to the challenge of servicing collections via email (email!) during multiple pandemic related lockdowns and restrictions and continue to work towards improving customer service.
- Creatively outlined multiple initiatives to address acquisition, preservation, presentation, and customer order fulfillment in a digital environment.
- [Digitized](#) and processed millions of pages, photographic materials, film, tape, oversize maps and drawings programmatically and on-demand despite technical hurdles one can only imagine in the

worst technical nightmares! (The DORIS IT and App/dev teams deserve a LOT of praise here too).

- **Treated** millions of pages, maps, and drawings and volumes with only the most careful handling and expert skill.

So, here is to:

The Collections Management team: Patricia Glowinski, Alexandra Hilton, and Amy Stecher

The Appraisals and Accessions team (of 1!): Todd Gilbert

The Reference and Research team: Boris Aphanou, Sarah Capano, Katie Ehrlich, Dwight Johnson, Kayros Lippwe, Rossy Mendez, Melissa Peralta, Eleanor Prince, Amrit Singh and Donald Tang. In addition, Gabriel Gervais, Asha Kapadia and Alla Kerzhnerman, who have retired in the last year.

Digital Programs: Amalca Alexander, Quinn Bolewicki, Alexandra Dolan-Mescal, Barbara Hibbert, Matthew Minor, Chris Nicols, Kelli O'Toole, Justin Tramonti, and Urmi Udeshi

Conservation and Preservation: Cynthia Brenwall, Vin Buchan, Lindsey Hobbs, and Nora Ligorano.

The Library's Vertical Files Collection: Zoological Parks

by Pauline Toole, Commissioner

Last month's newsletter on the Vertical Files in the Municipal Library started with the first folder in the collection. This month the focus is on the last file-or files because there are two on the same topic: Zoological Parks.

Within the files there are folders demarking decades: prior to 1970,

1970s, 1980s, 1990s, 2000. Almost all of the content are news clips; although there is one media release from 1998 when then-Governor George Pataki announced grants to zoos, aquariums and botanic gardens. The other distinctive content are brochures for the various zoos of the City ranging from “THE BIGGEST LITTLE ZOO ON EARTH” (Staten Island Zoo) and the Flushing Meadow Zoo. An interesting find is the program from the September 1961 opening of the New Children’s Zoo in Central Park which was rebuilt thanks to a gift from former Governor and Mrs. Herbert H. Lehman to celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

The 1970s was a bleak decade for the City’s Zoos. There was a theft of snakes from the Bronx Zoo and macaws from the Central Park Zoo. Overbreeding of various animals led to the sale of 90 animals from a chicken to a lion. And the zoos were condemned as hell holes and sites of animal torture. The New York Zoological Society made a deal with the City in 1980 to take over management of the Flushing, Prospect Park and Central Park Zoos.

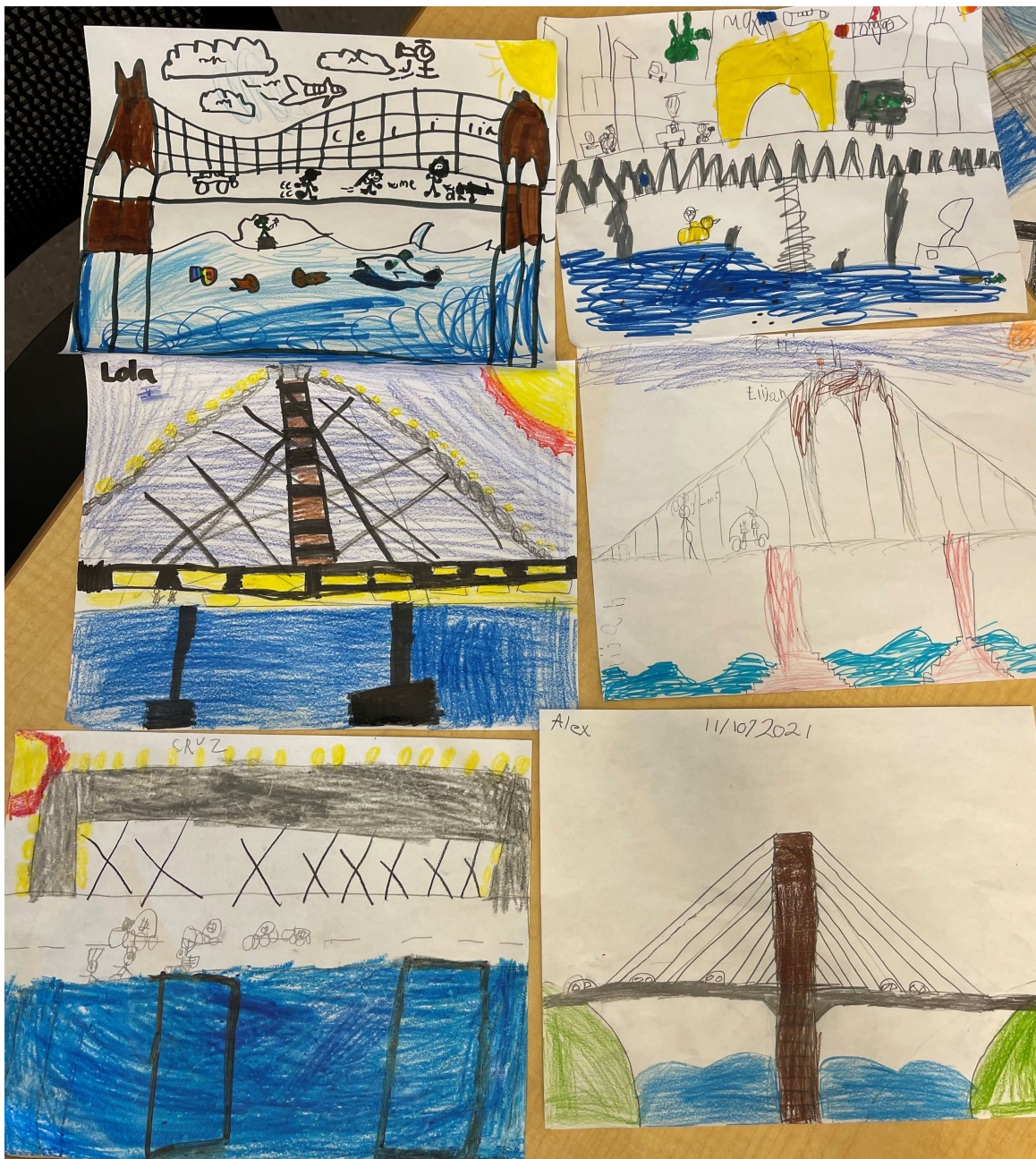
By the mid 1980s conditions had improved. The Central Park Zoo re-opened after an extensive renovation and became a zoo without bars. The Bronx Zoo was lauded for its new approach to remove animals from cages and house them in more natural settings and in 1989 it was the best zoo in the country, The Prospect Park Zoo, originally built in 1934, by contrast was among the nation’s worst zoos. By 1993 it had reopened, without the large animals that once resided in dingy cages, but with plenty of smaller animals such as baboons and sea lions.

Early in the 21st Century, budget cuts again threatened the zoos but were rejected by the City Council after public outcry. New exhibits were opened and all of the City’s zoos bragged about new babies ranging from porcupines to seals to zebras. The last clips in the series date to 2004.

Brooklyn Bridge Program

by Julia Newcity, Educational Outreach Coordinator

In 2020, the Municipal Archives at the New York City Department of Records and Information Services (DORIS) began offering a virtual version of our popular Brooklyn Bridge program to elementary school classes. The program explores the Municipal Archives' large collection of Brooklyn Bridge material related to the bridge's design, construction, and modes of transportation. Through the online presentation, classes learn about these unique and rare archival materials. The experience provides students with an opportunity to interact with primary sources and gain a better understanding of the Brooklyn Bridge and its relationship to infrastructure and transportation within New York City. To learn more about the program and how to sign up your child's class, please visit: <https://on.nyc.gov/2YAcGWF>.



Pictures from Ms.Pineda's class.

Giving Tuesday

by **Kenneth R. Cobb, Assistant Commissioner**

The collections of the Municipal Archives and Municipal Library are world-renowned for their scope (almost 400 years!), breadth (records of all three branches of municipal government-executive, legislative, and judicial) and size (more than 185,000 cubic feet and 100 terabytes).

November 30, 2021 is "Giving Tuesday" and we are asking that you consider making a donation to the [New York Archival Society](#), our affiliated 501 (c) 3 organization.

Collection treasures include original architectural drawings of the Brooklyn Bridge and Central Park, Dutch and English colonial-era manuscripts, two million photographs, audio and video recordings, and millions of documents, reports and publications relating to every conceivable topic in American and City history. The archivists and librarians continue to preserve this fabulous legacy, but it is a big job. Please make a donation. Your generosity will help us meet the challenges ahead.

This is the NYC.gov news you requested for:
Municipal Library Notes

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Preferences](#) | [Comments](#)

PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS MESSAGE!

Stay Connected

