

FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

One of the great pleasures of serving as Chairman of the Society Library's Board is to hear from our members many expressions of appreciation for what our unique institution offers. This past year, I have been heartened to receive so many positive comments on our newly refurbished rooms and clean facade, the excellent events we continue to offer, and our remarkably deep and well-selected collection of books. But above all I am pleased to hear the consistently warm words our members have for the Library's staff. Our new Head Librarian, Mark Bartlett, has been greeted with enthusiasm, and he has already done a great deal to ensure that the Library continues to provide the level of service and intellectual stimulation that has been our hallmark for so long. It is not just Mark, however, but our entire staff for whom our members have expressed appreciation. As we start a new year, it is timely to extend our thanks to the staff for their dedication and good cheer. We are fortunate to have exceptional professionals who love their work and the Library. It is the key to our continued success.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to thank our members for their generous support. One of our priorities for the coming year is the establishment of a professional development function. This will be important to enable us to achieve the plans we outlined some years ago for expanded space and for building our collections and programs. Contributions to the Library this past year have grown, and we look forward to increasing support. Thank you not only for your financial support, but particularly for your helpful suggestions on improvements you would like to see. I look forward to having you continue both. Best wishes for the new year.



The seventeenth-century grandfather clock, returning to the lobby after the elevator work and many member inquiries. Sketch by Byron Bell

The Library thrives and prospers through the generosity of our members and contributors. To join, renew, or make a contribution in support of our activities, send mail to the address below, visit our website, www.nysoclib.org, or call the Development Office at 212-288-6900 x214.

THE NEW YORK SOCIETY LIBRARY
53 EAST 79TH STREET
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10021



NOTES

VOLUME 14, NUMBER 1, JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2007

FROM THE HEAD LIBRARIAN NEW YEAR, NEW AND OLD FACES

January is seeing some qualities of the Library returning to their old style, and other things changing and improving. We expect a good year of lectures, workshops, children's events, reference questions, and, of course, books.

THE RENOVATION

At this writing, the east elevator is scheduled to be in full working order by early this month. The interior paneling with its period charm has been restored. We were also pleased to refurbish the entry hall plaque given by our historic donor Sarah Parker Goodhue. We appreciate all the feedback heard from members about the renovation, both complimentary and critical; please continue to share your comments. Improvements based on member requests include some new chairs and cushions in the fifth-floor Large Study Room and the upcoming installation of grab bars in the public restrooms.

THE AUDIO BOOK COLLECTION

Many members have a particular interest in our audio book collection. The Library holds almost 1,200 books on cassette or compact disc, and our collection continues to grow. Most recent audio book acquisitions can be found at the end of the monthly New Book List; a full list of audio holdings is available at the front desk or on the website at www.nysoclib.org/audiocassettes.html. With a few exceptions, the Library collects only unabridged classic titles—books that will continue to be read (and listened to) for decades to come. Shelf space, cost, and the limited availability of some titles prevents us from acquiring more widely in current fiction and some other areas. Most of the audio collection is in cassette form, but new additions and replacements are purchased on compact disc, if available. If you have requests, questions, or comments about the audio collection, please let us know.

STAFF NEWS

The major innovations this season involve some new faces among the staff and changes to the titles and responsibilities of some familiar staff members. Jane Goldstein, since 1998 the Head of Circulation, is the new Assistant Head Librarian, and Diane Srebnick has been named Development Assistant in a new two-person development office. We are also hiring a new Head of Cataloging and Bibliographic Maintenance, a Director of Development, and a Circulation Supervisor. Jane and Diane will still be visible at the front desk, and you can look forward to meeting the other new staff members in the coming months.

One final change is to this newsletter, which will move from four to five publications a year: January/February, March/April, May/Summer, September/October, and November/December.

I look forward to seeing you at the reference desk.



Jane Goldstein



Diane Srebnick

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Registration is required for all events. To reserve spaces, contact the Events Office at 212-288-6900 x230 or events@nysoclib.org. More information on all programs is listed inside.

Monday, January 22, 7:00 P.M.

Temple Israel

Teach Like Your Hair's On Fire
Rafe Esquith

Wednesday, January 24, 11:00 A.M.

Fiction Reading Group I
Carol Rial

Tuesday, February 6, 7:00 P.M.

Temple Israel

Eat, Pray, Love
Elizabeth Gilbert

Thursday, February 15, 6:00 P.M.

Counting on Grace
Elizabeth Winthrop

Tuesday, February 20, 6:30 P.M.

Naked in the Marketplace:
The Lives of George Sand
Benita Eisler

Wednesday, February 28, 11:00 A.M.

Fiction Reading Group II
Carol Rial

Thursday, March 1, 6:30 P.M.

Don Quixote: Found in Translation
Edith Grossman and George Guidall

February 28-March 8
Project Cicero Book Collection

Monday, March 5, 7:00 P.M.

Temple Israel
An Ordinary Man
Paul Rusesabagina

Thursday, March 15, 4:00 P.M.

The Hello, Goodbye Window
Chris Raschka

Wednesday, March 21, 11:00 A.M.

Fiction Reading Group III
Carol Rial

POLICY NEWS

THE LIBRARY NOW ACCEPTING CREDIT CARDS

The Library is pleased to announce that we will be accepting Visa, MasterCard, and American Express for most common transactions as of January 1, 2007. The charge must be \$10 or more to use a credit card. For security reasons, credit card numbers cannot be taken by phone, except for the Events Office, and they should not be sent by e-mail. The Library will not keep records of anyone's credit card information beyond the immediate transaction.

Credit or debit cards can now be used for the following transactions:

- ☞ Membership applications and renewals. These can be done at the Reference Desk or by mail. The credit-card form will be included with all renewal mailings. You can also renew through our website via PayPal.
- ☞ Donations. These can be taken at the Reference Desk, by mail, or through our website (via PayPal) at www.nysoclib.org/donations.html.
- ☞ Fines/book replacement fees over \$10.
- ☞ Item sales—books at events, Library book bags, photocopier cards—over \$10.
- ☞ Event registration fees, according to the following guidelines:
 - Members registering for programs may pay by credit card over the phone (to the Events Office only) or by cash, check, or card at the door.
 - Seats paid for in advance are guaranteed. (Seats are nearly always available for those paying at the door as well.)
 - Reservations will be refunded if cancelled 24 hours prior to the program.
 - Those registering less than 24 hours before the program may only pay at the door.
 - Registration is still required whether you choose to pay in advance or at the door.

Your comments are always important to help us make our services and policies as convenient as possible, and we appreciate your cooperation as we introduce this new aspect of our operations. We hope the use of credit cards will make Library financial dealings smoother and easier for everyone.

BUILDING NEWS

AN OLD TRUSTEE GAINS A NEW LOOK

Visiting the Reference Room, member William Nash Ambler noticed an elegant portrait of Frederic de Peyster, severely darkened by age and dirt. He was particularly struck by the portrait because he is a descendant of de Peyster, and because his wife, Molly Ott Ambler, works with many art restorers. The Amblers contacted Library staff and arranged for artist and conservator Simon Parkes to clean and restore the painting. Its return put the finishing touch on the refinishing of the room over the summer. The Library is grateful to the Amblers for seeing both a need and a solution, and we are proud to have a unique historical item beautifully restored.

The Hon. Frederic de Peyster, LL.D. (1796-1882) was a Library trustee and chairman for many years and an enormous influence on the institution in the distinction of its activities and the friendliness of its tone at that time.



Head Librarian Mark Bartlett and Events Coordinator Sara Elliott Holliday with Molly and William Ambler and the portrait they restored

CHILDREN'S LIBRARY EVENTS

☞ To reserve spaces, contact the Children's Library at 212-288-6900 x234 or children@nysoclib.org.

☞ Listed fees may be paid at the door.

☞ A Children's Calendar listing events for younger children is sent monthly by mail and e-mail. To receive it, contact the Events Office at 212-288-6900 x230 or events@nysoclib.org.

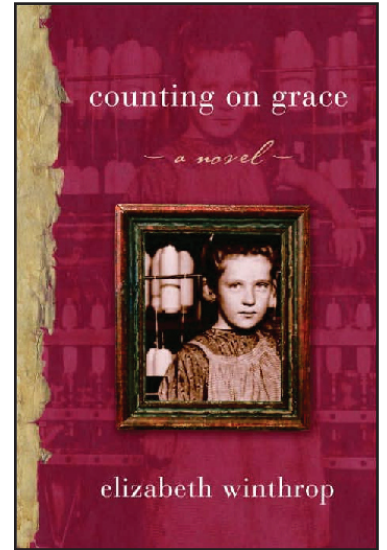
ELIZABETH WINTHROP

COUNTING ON GRACE

FOR AGE NINE AND OLDER

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 6:00 P.M., MEMBERS' ROOM, \$5 PER PERSON

Elizabeth Winthrop is the author of over fifty works of fiction, most recently the highly acclaimed historical novel *Counting on Grace*. Her book was inspired by an iconic photograph by great child-labor photographer Lewis Hine, of a 12-year-old girl named Addie in North Pownal, Vermont in 1910. In this program Winthrop will give a slide-show presentation on the creative process that took her from photograph to story and will also detail her exhaustive and ultimately successful search for the actual child in the photograph. *Counting on Grace* has received rave reviews and has been selected by the state of Vermont as its 2007 Community Read. In addition to young readers, this program will be of particular interest to teachers, librarians, literature students, historians, and genealogists.



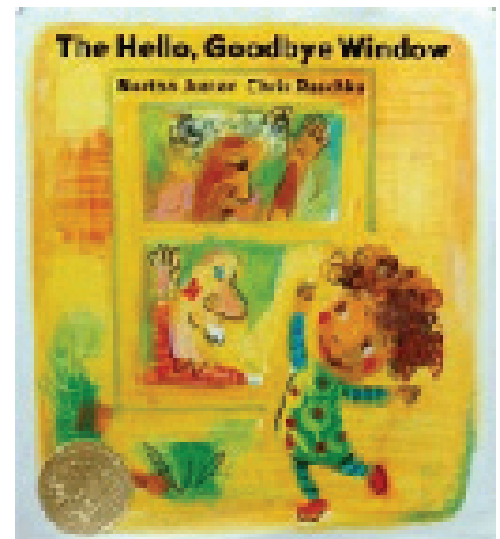
CHRIS RASCHKA

THE HELLO, GOODBYE WINDOW

FOR KINDERGARTEN AND OLDER

THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 4:00 P.M., \$5 PER PERSON

Chris Raschka won the 2006 Caldecott Medal for *The Hello, Goodbye Window* (written by Norton Juster). The Caldecott Medal is given annually by the American Library Association to the illustrator of the most distinguished American picture book for children, and it is considered the highest honor in that field. Raschka has also written or illustrated more than thirty other books including *Charlie Parker Played Be Bop* and the Caldecott Honor book *Yo! Yes?*. Several of his books have been honored with *New York Times* awards for the Best Illustrated Book of the Year. In this event, he will talk about how he creates his stories and art and will engage participants in performing his favorite scenes.



STAFF NOTE

REMEMBERING RITA ATTERTON

Rita Atterton, a longtime member of the Library's staff, died on October 11. Mrs. Atterton worked at the Library from 1968 to 1995, and many members will remember her as the lovely blonde English lady at the front desk. In addition to various circulation duties, she maintained the membership records and kept track of hundreds of member book requests. After her retirement, she continued to visit often with her husband, Jeff. Rita will be sorely missed by her many friends among the staff and members.



READING GROUP

☞ To reserve spaces, contact the Events Office at 212-288-6900 x230 or events@nysoclib.org.

☞ Reading Groups and Workshops are free of charge.

CURRENT FICTION: WOMEN AUTHORS ON THE FAMILY

WITH CAROL RIAL

WEDNESDAYS, JANUARY 24, FEBRUARY 28, MARCH 21, 11:00 A.M., WHITRIDGE ROOM

Educator and writer Carol Rial joins readers for a look at three bestselling female authors and their perspectives on functional and dysfunctional families. The group will also investigate writers' own ideas about reading fiction, using Francine Prose's *Reading Like a Writer*.

Books for discussion:

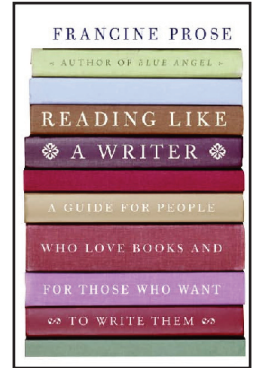
In general: *Reading Like a Writer* by Francine Prose, ISBN 0060777044

☞ January 24: Prose Chapters 1-3, *Digging to America* by Anne Tyler, ISBN 0307263940

☞ February 28: Prose Chapters 4-7, *The Memory Keeper's Daughter* by Kim Edwards, ISBN 0143037145

☞ March 21: Prose Chapters 8-11, *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* by Lisa See, ISBN 0812968069

Copies of the books will be available for purchase from the Events Office.

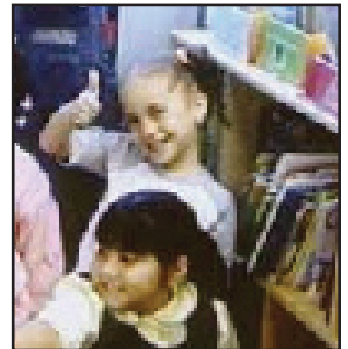


PROJECT CICERO 2007

BOOK COLLECTION AT THE LIBRARY

FEBRUARY 28 THROUGH MARCH 8

Project Cicero is now in its seventh year of bringing new and gently used children's books to the under-resourced public school classrooms of New York City. Since its inception in 2001, Project Cicero has placed over 800,000 books in 4,500 classroom and school libraries, reaching more than 50,000 students. To join over 80 schools and other organizations in donating books, look for the boxes in the Library's entry hall or call the Project Cicero mailbox at 212-288-6900 x511. More information about the book drive and a wish list of titles is available at www.projectcicero.org.



THE FIFTH ANNUAL YOUNG WRITERS AWARDS

COMPETITION OPEN JANUARY 15-APRIL 9

The New York Society Library Young Writers Awards honor excellent writing by young Library members. Writers in grades 3 through 12 are invited to submit a short story, essay, or poem with a New York City theme. Prizes will be presented by notable authors for prose and poetry in four age categories.

All submissions are subject to the competition rules, which will be available starting January 15 at the circulation desk, on the web at www.nysoclib.org/kids/young_writers.html, or by mail by calling 212-288-6900 x230. Entrants must be children or grandchildren of Library members, or students at a member or invited school. The deadline for submitting entries is April 9. Watch this space for announcements of the awards ceremony and the winning entries.

LINDSAY JADOW (2006 Third/Fourth Grade Winner)

BROOKLYN BRIDGE POEM

- bridge that leads me to another place!
- the way you vibrate when traffic goes by below!
- bridge, how could I get to work in winter
if you were not here?
- your mighty tall towers as high as the moon!
- the heaven of your towers!
- that strength in you that lights up the night!
- the smell of the salt water below!
- the way your towers hold the bridge up day and night!
- how you have the soul in you
of the workers that made you!
- how you charm the gods when they get sad!

LIBRARY LECTURE

☞ To reserve spaces, contact the Events Office at 212-288-6900 x230 or events@nysoclib.org.

☞ Listed fees may be paid at the door.

BENITA EISLER

NAKED IN THE MARKETPLACE: THE LIVES OF GEORGE SAND

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 6:30 P.M., MEMBERS' ROOM, \$10 PER PERSON

George Sand was perhaps the first Frenchwoman celebrated throughout Europe who was neither a saint nor a king's mistress, and she was also the first female bestselling novelist. She is as famous for her scandalous life as for her books—a life that included leaving a husband and child, setting up in Paris with an eighteen-year-old lover, liaisons and friendships with four artistic geniuses, and political action in two revolutions. Eisler's book tells the story of Sand's whirlwind life and affairs and traces her motivations to a lifelong consciousness of class and privilege based in a one-sided relationship to her working-class mother. *Booklist* says, "Eisler's portrait of this woman of many firsts brings Sand and her boldly improvised life forward more vividly than ever before."



Library trustee **Benita Eisler** was educated at Smith and Harvard and has worked as an art editor, reporter, on-camera correspondent, and television producer, as well as teaching nineteenth- and twentieth-century literature at Princeton University. She is the author of the biographies *O'Keefe and Stieglitz: An American Romance*, *Byron: Child of Passion, Fool of Fame* and more recently *Chopin's Funeral*.

SPECIAL EVENT

☞ To reserve spaces, contact the Events Office at 212-288-6900 x230 or events@nysoclib.org.

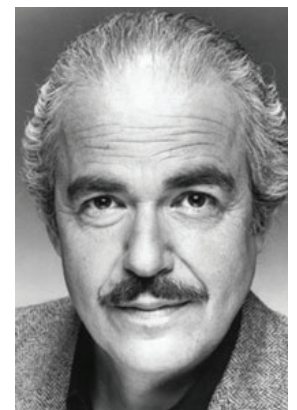
☞ Listed fees may be paid at the door.

EDITH GROSSMAN AND GEORGE GUIDALL

DON QUIXOTE: FOUND IN TRANSLATION

THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 6:30 P.M., MEMBERS' ROOM, \$10 PER PERSON

Miguel de Cervantes' *Don Quixote* has been called the first modern novel and the greatest book of all time. Edith Grossman's 2003 translation won high praise from critics and led Harold Bloom to dub her "the Glenn Gould of translating, because she, too, articulates every note. Reading her amazing mode of finding equivalents in English for Cervantes's darkening vision is an entrance into a further understanding of why this great book contains within itself all the novels that have followed in its sublime wake." In this event, Dr. Grossman will talk about the joys and challenges of translating this immortal novel and discuss scenes demonstrating Cervantes' keen eye for human nature, his remarkably postmodern vision, and the archetypal nature of his creations Don Quixote and Sancho Panza. These scenes will then be brought to life by award-winning audiobook narrator George Guidall. This one-time program is being created especially for the Library.



Edith Grossman is today's foremost translator from Spanish. Since *Love in the Time of Cholera* she has translated all of Gabriel Garcia Marquez's books, as well as works by Maria Vargas Llosa, Mayra Montero, Alvaro Mutis, and Julian Rios.

George Guidall has narrated more than 850 audiobooks, including everything from *Cheaper By the Dozen* to *Crime and Punishment*, for four major audiobook publishers. He visits libraries all over the country with his program "The Art and Artifice of Audiobook Narration, An Evening With George Guidall."

THE 2006-2007 AUTHOR SERIES

☞ *The Author Series is co-sponsored by the Library and Channel 13/WNET. Attendance is free for members of those organizations and their guests.*

☞ *To reserve spaces, contact the Events Office at 212-288-6900 x230 or events@nysoclib.org.*

RAFE ESQUITH AND THE HOBART SHAKESPEAREANS

TEACH LIKE YOUR HAIR'S ON FIRE: THE METHODS AND MADNESS INSIDE ROOM 56

MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 7:00 P.M., TEMPLE ISRAEL, 112 EAST 75TH STREET

For over 20 years, Rafe Esquith has taught fifth grade at the Hobart Boulevard Elementary School in Los Angeles, where many students begin school unable to speak English, all students receive free lunch, and 92 percent live below the national poverty level. But Esquith's students also attend school six days a week, score in the top five to ten percent nationally in standardized tests, and go on to some of the best universities in the country. With them Esquith established the Hobart Shakespeareans, who perform Shakespeare's work through performance, song, and discussion around the world. This unique event will feature not only Esquith describing his remarkable teaching techniques, but also eight of his students giving brief musical and theatrical presentations.

Rafe Esquith is one of the few people to be honored by both Oprah Winfrey and the Dalai Lama, and the only teacher to be awarded the president's National Medal of the Arts. *The New York Times* has called him "a genius and a saint."



ELIZABETH GILBERT

EAT, PRAY, LOVE: ONE WOMAN'S SEARCH FOR EVERYTHING ACROSS ITALY, INDIA AND INDONESIA

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 7:00 P.M.

TEMPLE ISRAEL, 112 EAST 75TH STREET

After a painful divorce, Elizabeth Gilbert embarked on a voyage of soul-searching and self-discovery through three countries with little in common other than the first letter in their names. In Italy she healed her body with wonderful food; in India she learned to calm her mind and spirit through meditation in an ashram, and in Bali she healed her spirit with the help of a swami and herbalist. *Eat, Pray, Love* chronicles her footloose quest in a manner *Booklist* calls "irreverent, hilarious, zestful, courageous, intelligent, and in masterful command of her sparkling prose."

Elizabeth Gilbert is the author of a story collection, *Pilgrims* (a finalist for the PEN/Hemingway Award), a novel, *Stern Men*, and the nonfiction book *The Last American Man*, a finalist for the National Book Award and the National Book Critics Circle Award. As a journalist, she wrote for *GQ* for five years and was nominated three times for the National Magazine Award.



THE 2006-2007 AUTHOR SERIES CONTINUED

☞ *The Author Series is co-sponsored by the Library and Channel 13/WNET. Attendance is free for members of those organizations and their guests.*

☞ *To reserve spaces, contact the Events Office at 212-288-6900 x230 or events@nysoclib.org.*

PAUL RUSESABAGINA

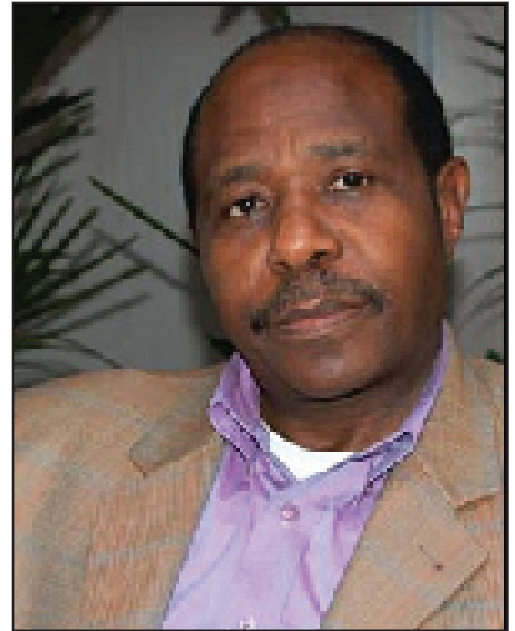
AN ORDINARY MAN: AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY

MONDAY, MARCH 5, 7:00 P.M.

TEMPLE ISRAEL, 112 EAST 75TH STREET

In the spring of 1994 in Rwanda, 800,000 people were slaughtered, most hacked to death by machete. Rusesabagina, manager of a Belgian luxury hotel, took in more than a thousand of those in danger and for 100 days kept them away from the murderous mobs outside the gate through a combination of persuasion, diplomacy, and bribery. His courageous actions inspired the film *Hotel Rwanda* and are now recounted in his memoir *An Ordinary Man*. The book also contextualizes the massacres with details of Rwandan culture and geography and makes essential points about race, ethnicity, human weakness, and human resilience. Mr. Rusesabagina will be introduced by Rabbi David J. Gelfand of Temple Israel, who was active in Rwandan relief during the crisis.

Paul Rusesabagina has been called “the Oskar Schindler of Rwanda” for his humanitarian work during the genocide of 1994. He is a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the National Civil Rights Museum’s 2005 Freedom Award. He now lives in Belgium with his family.



RARE BOOK NEWS

MEMBER MARION EDEL DONATES AN ELZEVIR BIBLE

After a visit and tour of the Library’s rare book stacks on November 15, member Marion Edel generously donated a pristine copy of the New Testament in Greek which had been in her family for many years. The book is bound in vellum and was printed in Amsterdam in 1678 by Louis (1604-1670) and Daniel (1626-1680) Elzevir, members of a family of much-sought-after printers. Research by Arevig Capirelian, Rare Book Librarian, reveals that there are only six other reported copies of this gem, held by Princeton and Oxford Universities and the Library of Congress, among others.

Lodewijk (Louis) Elzevir, born in 1540, was the patriarch of the famous Dutch printing firm (the name is also spelled Elsevier and Elzevier). His legacy was carried on until 1712, with the last-known involved family members being the widow of Jean Elzevir (1661-1681) and their heirs. Showing the cosmopolitan nature of early modern Amsterdam, the Elzevirs printed a wide range of works in many languages—mostly Latin, but also Greek, French, Italian, Dutch, German, and Semitic tongues. English was the least popular: Bonaventura Elzevir’s 1634 stock list names only seven books in English, compared to 500 in French and 307 in Italian.

In order to protect French Jansenist authors from accusations of Calvinism, the Elzevirs published some volumes under fictitious or anonymous imprints in Liège or Cologne. However, despite the nobility of concealing their proud name to protect others, the Elzevirs were not above pirating popular works such as French plays.

This marvelous Greek New Testament joins five other Elzevir family imprints among our holdings, three of which are in the Sharpe Collection.

