LIZARD RAMONE IN HOT PURSUIT

-A GUIDE TO ARCHIVES FOR ARTISTS AND MAKERS-

WORDS/IMAGES - JEREMY FERRIS
2017
Hi! Thanks for reading this comic book! It was conceived of and printed by the Providence Public Library, working in collaboration with Jeremy Ferris, who created all the illustrations and text.

We work with a lot of artists and designers at our library. One thing we’ve noticed is that some artists (among many other humans) are intimidated by the process of starting research in archives or special collections. Archives have their own vocabularies and rules, and it can be a scary world for the uninitiated. Another thing we’ve noticed is that librarians and archivists enjoy helping people and want their collections to be more accessible, but don’t always know how to reach or work with creative researchers. We’re hoping that this comic book can be a little bridge helping artists and archivists find one another.

This book was written to be general enough that it can be of use to people all around the United States. We’re distributing it locally with an insert describing archives and historical collections in Rhode Island and we’re encouraging colleagues in other places to make inserts about resources in their own cities and states. You can learn more about this comic book, our creation process, and how it’s being used and distributed at www.provlib.org/hotpursuit.

The webpage also has a downloadable version of this book, if you’d like to print additional copies for non-commercial use. Feel free to get in touch with us if you have questions or want to learn more.

Angela DiVeGlia
Curatorial Assistant
Providence Public Library
LIZARD RAMONE, RAN DALL RUDE (M.L.S.) AND A ROBOTIC BUST OF DANTE IN...

DANTE'S IN-WHIRR-NO!

BURGERTOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
OPEN HOURS

Hi, you can just leave your stuff at the door and sign in with me. Let me know if there's anything else you want to look at.

Am I supposed to be here? The desk downstairs just gave me this and told me where to go.

Yeah, well I just came in to see if you had the latest issue of Zoomin'. The telescope quarterly. I'm a stargazer, y'know. Though it hasn't been very good lately.

There's a new development right next to my apartment. That's too bright and tall for me to see anything...

Any way.

So! You want to drop out of modern life? Special collections + archives at BTPL

Geez, I thought we burned all of those. This is your first time coming in then?

They didn't have the mag downstairs but said you might have something to look at. This is the place right? What is this place? What's time all about? What's like, perception??
WELCOME TO THE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AT BURGETOWN PUBLIC LIBRARY. SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AND/OR ARCHIVES HOUSE UNPUBLISHED AND/OR RARE MATERIALS WITH HISTORIC AND/OR CULTURAL VALUE.

THE LIBRARIANS AND ARCHIVISTS ARE HERE TO ASSIST YOU IN FINDING THE RECORDS AND INFORMATION YOU NEED--

I MEAN, I DON'T REALLY NEED ANYTHING, I'M JUST CURIOUS.

-- EVEN IF THAT NEED IS JUST A CURIOSITY! CURIOUS PEOPLE WANDER INTO SPECIAL COLLECTIONS ALL THE TIME, WITHOUT A SPECIFIC QUESTION. YOU ARE JUST AS WELCOME AS A HARDCORE RESEARCHER WHO WORKS HERE REGULARLY.

DURING OPEN HOURS, LIKE TODAY, WE PUT OUT THE MATERIALS THAT OUR LIBRARIANS SEE UNIQUE VALUE OR INTEREST IN.
**But--** If there's a topic that you have in mind, ask us and we will be happy to find what we can for you.

**Town of Burger Town**

**Ramone, Lizard Sewer Inspector**

**Whirrrrrrrrrr**

When you come in, the librarian will ask you to leave your coat, umbrella, bag, skateboard, hardhat, flashlight and/or muck boots by the door, on a coatrack or in a locker. You may also be asked to wash your hands.

You will be asked to fill out some simple paperwork with your contact information and we may ask to see your ID or hold onto it during your visit.

We will also make sure you understand the best ways to handle what is on display.

Thank you for your compliance.

End Transmission.
Uh, well, I don't really have a lot of time to look at all this stuff today.

That's alright, we can set up an appointment for you so you can spend as much time as you want.

They said downstairs that you'd have things I'd like. Do you have anything on space or telescopes?

Yes, if you ask for certain subjects we will do our best to find related materials. Setting up an appointment in advance helps us find the best things for you.

So, how do you think Dante did? Haven't used it in years.

It was weird, I'll be back soon.

Here's the new, less misanthropic version of the pamphlet in the meantime.

Thanks!
LIZARD RAMONE IN...

LIL' (PAMPHLET) ANGELS ON MY SHOULDERS

LIZARD RAMONE WALKS HOME, PONDERING THE TWO PAMPHLETS RANDALL THE ARCHIVIST GAVE HER...

HMMM.

SO! YOU WANT TO DROP OUT OF MODERN LIFE?

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AT BTPL

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS FOR A VERY SPECIFIC YOU

AT BTPL
"When the sunlight burns, and the electromagnetic waves from your smartphone turn your brain to porridge, and every car aims to plow you down on their way to the strip mall, where do you turn to escape?"

"I bet you have never thought about your local special collections or archives, a haven to see and interact with something real in this soulless virtual world."

"Sigh... shuffle shuffle"
"It's not uncommon to find special collections and archives in your city. Talk to a librarian—they should be able to tell you what collections you can find nearby. Expect to visit public libraries, colleges, or historical societies."

"Looking at archival materials allows you to see historic books, prints, letters, and manuscripts that are as unique as you are." —Groan—

"To immerse yourself in arcane manuscripts and reject the garbage of society"—Come on—

"These are powers the archives can bring you. Imagine building radical new worlds from ideas and experiences from folk ignored until now. Archives are a tool of destruction and from destruction—regrowth!"

—No wonder they tossed these..."

"So come on down to the special collections that are hiding right in front of you! We're happy to help you discover new worlds, new to you, that is! Ha ha!"
I just want... Telescopes.

* * * These brochures produced by BTPL's non-defunct marketing department mean to say that there is a huge diversity of types of special collections and archives (from the federal govt down to small communities), materials within them, and their use and users. -- Ed.
LIZARD RAMONE
RANDALL RUDE (M.L.S.)
AND A ROBOTIC BUST OF DANTE IN
ARCHIVES ARE CHILL

Our story thus far—Lizard Ramone has waited anxiously all week to examine the astronomy stuff that Randall Rude has pulled. The day has arrived—let's see what they're up to...

SNIFFIFFF... THESE BOOKS SMELL GREAT... LIKE OLD WOOL.

Yeah they've come from a lot of different sources. We take care in noting where they came from, how they've been handled, and how to store them.

That one was found under the remains of a sweater worn by a doomed sailor! And no pens, please, we have pencils for you to use.

Ki.

History's pretty neat! Normally I'm looking through actual telescopes but 'cuz of this development I can't see anything at all. I guess this is a pretty good substitute.

I like the old diagrams.
LOOKING AT ARCHIVES CAN BE AN UNUSUALLY
BUT INSPIRING SOURCE FOR PEOPLE
LOOKING TO MAKE CREATIVE,
INTERPRETIVE WORK.

OH WELL I DON’T REALLY
THINK I’M AN ARTIST OR
ANYTHING, THOUGH THIS IS
GIVING ME A LOT OF GOOD
BESIDES TAKING PHOTOS
THROUGH MY TELESCOPE.

AS YOU COME IN MORE, YOU MAY FIND THAT THE FORMS
OF RESEARCH YOU’VE BEEN USING DON’T CUT IT
ANYMORE. IF YOU DECIDE TO INCORPORATE THESE
HISTORICAL MATERIALS INTO YOUR PRACTICE, KEEP IN
MIND THAT THIS PROCESS CAN BE VERY SLOW.

CLEAR OUT ENOUGH TIME DURING YOUR
APPOINTMENTS TO FIND THE ITEMS THAT
LEAD YOU IN INTERESTING DIRECTIONS.
THE LIBRARIAN FIND/DR ARCHIVIST CAN HELP YOU FIGURE OUT AN IDEA OF WHAT TO PULL AHEAD OF TIME, EVEN IF IT'S STILL VAGUE [I.E. OLD DIAGRAMS]. OF COURSE, THE MORE DEFINITE YOUR QUESTION, THE EASIER IT IS FOR THEM TO ASSIST YOU.

AND IF MORE THOUGHTS COME TO YOU DURING A VISIT, YOU CAN ASK THE LIBRARIAN FIND/DR ARCHIVIST TO RETRIEVE THEM WHILE YOU WAIT!

LORD ROSSÉ'S GIANTIC TELESCOPE

OR YOU CAN LOOK THROUGH MATERIALS WHILE SITTING IN SILENCE!

MAYBE YOU SHOULDN'T LET THAT... THAT... ROBO DANTE TALK RIGHT NOW THEN!

THE CHOICE IS ALL Y--

... SORRY...

WHIRR......
THANKS.

"PHOTOGRAPHIC HISTORY OF THE 46-INCH CROWN DISC OF YERKES TELESCOPE."

fig 8

EXCELLENT JOB, RANDALL, WITH THIS WE SHALL ACHIEVE TOTAL ARCHIVES!

ALRIGHT, SEE YOU NEXT TIME, THEN!

HEY WAIT...

WHY DOES DANTE HAVE A CRANK AND A PLUG?...

STAY TUNED FOR THE SMOKING REVELATION!

SEE YOU!
FIRST AID... FINDING AID... LEMONADE!!

Yikes... well, that's a finding aid. D'you want to look at it online instead?

No way. I tried to go on with my smartphone and the touchscreen... *and the popups... slow response... and can't figure out how to take notes!

Then at least check online for papercut prevention because we're gonna look at some serious finding aids! It goes a little something like this...

Can we just not use the robot?

*Burger Town's digital finding aids have greatly improved and are a popular way to access them, thank you very much—oh.

Oh, I mean... I guess it's not that bad this time...
Now you may be asking yourself...

What is "finding aid"?

Cannot compute.

You won’t be disappointed!

A finding aid is a helpful tool to figure out what an archive has in its collection and what you want to look at.

Finding Aid

Affirmative

The William Crapley Coffin Sailor Diary Collection

Finding Aid

1. Abstract
2. Historical Note
3. Scope & Contents

A catalog, like what you look at for the regular library collection, is mostly a list of what's available. A finding aid is more like a story.

...where a collection came from...

What it contains...

Its context...

Why it's important...
So based on my notes... could I see box 177 materials from 1878?

Sure, I'll be right back.

William Crapley Coffin became enraptured with the star charts over the North Atlantic, drafted by his navigators while circling the Arctic.

"Gasp!"

"Until his death at the age of 114 in 1906, he maintained that careful examination could unlock 'infantile deities from their cribs of ice.'"
HERE IT IS!

THESE CHARTS ARE SO THOROUGH!

AND ALL THESE DESCRIPTIONS OF ICE-BERGS MAKE ME WANT SOME LEMONADE!

YOU'RE ALMOST DONE TODAY, RIGHT? WANNA GET SOME?

NOTHANKS, HIGH MOISTURE AND ACID CONTENT, NOT REALLY THE BEST ARCHIVAL PRACTICE.

HUUH, ALRIGHT! THESE DIARIES GAVE ME A FEW GOOD IDEAS. Gotta go get set up for some observations and calculations tonight.

ENJOY YOUR LEMON JUICE!

LEMON JUICE??

THE PLOT THICKENS...!
LIZARD RAMONE, RANDALL RUDE, AND A ROBOTIC BUST OF DANTE IN...

CIRCU-YOU-LATER!!

How'd it go last night? You seemed excited to get back to work.

It was great. Figured out I need these, though.

HMM...

BABYLONIAN CONSTELLATIONS...
ANDREW JACKSON BIOGRAPHY...
"SHORE-TO-SHORE" BROADCAST RECORDINGS...

You can get most of these downstairs, or put in requests.

OH!

OH...

Do you want help finding them?

No... I think I'll be fine. Thanks.

JSF '17
Sometimes the materials that you need can be found in the regular library collection. Or, they can be requested through an interlibrary loan, if they aren't available at your home library.

Special collections, archives may not always have what you need, and often, the things that artists search by—visual appearance or technique—are not used in organizing the collections. Still, talking to them will help you figure out where you need to go.

Circulation

Alright, these are due back December 21.

And it looks like that magazine you requested is here, too!

Oh, that. Thanks.

Zoomin':

We know more than you!

Only real hardcore telescopes and facts for physicists, not artist babies!!!
It seems like ages ago...
I don't think I need it any longer.
Thank you.

So much left to do...

I can't believe it...
My position is ideal!
CELESTIAL ART HALTS LUXURY CONDO DEV, LEADS TO LIGHT POLLUTION TERMINATION
"THANKS, MYSTERIOUS AND EARNEST LIBRARIAN," SAYS RAMONE

BRU-XIOR, ENORMOUS THREE-HEADED BEAST, RELEASED FROM CRIB OF ICE
NON-HIERARCHICAL PROSPERITY AT ALL TIME HIGH ACCORDING TO GLOBAL COMMUNITY

LEGISLATORS LAUNCH INVESTIGATION INTO GOATS "HOW ARE THEY SO GREAT?"
WHO WE ARE——

JEREMY FERRIS IS A LIBRARIAN AND ARTIST BASED IN PROVIDENCE, RI.

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