Smithsonian Institution Libraries Awards Five Resident Scholar Grants

Smithsonian Institution Libraries has awarded grants to two Dibner Library of the History of Science and Technology Resident Scholars and three Baird Society Resident Scholars for the 2009 academic year. These competitive short-term grants are offered for one to six months to historians, librarians and bibliographers, as well as predoctoral and postdoctoral students, with an approved research project. The five scholars will complete their residencies at one or more of the Smithsonian Libraries’ 20 branches for various lengths of time throughout the year.

The Dibner Library Resident Scholar Program supports research using the history of science and technology special collections located at the Dibner Library in the National Museum of American History. Meghan Doherty and Jennifer Lieberman are the grant recipients for the 2009 academic year. Doherty, a doctoral candidate in art history at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, will study how tools used in printmaking played a role in the creation of knowledge. She will research how the engraver’s burin and the etcher’s needle were used to make images by and for members of the Royal Society in England in the late 17th and early 18th centuries. Lieberman will analyze the literature and history of electrical science including physics, medicine and applied science and electrical engineering in the 19th and 20th centuries. Lieberman is a doctoral candidate in English at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign.

The Baird Society Resident Scholars may do research in the Smithsonian Libraries’ special collections located in Washington, D.C., and in New York City. Past candidates have completed projects in the Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum Library; the National Air and Space Museum’s Ramsey Room; the National Museum of American History Library; and the Archives of American Art and National Portrait Gallery Library.

Peter Knight, Bess Williamson and Eric Anderson received Baird Society Resident Scholar grants for the 2009 academic year. Knight, an associate professor at Manchester University in England, will research the Libraries’ trade-literature collection to see how Americans understood the “market”...
during the second half of the 19th to the early 20th century. Williamson will work on a project titled “design and disability, 1945-1960.” She will use rare materials in the National Museum of American History and Cooper-Hewitt libraries to review the production and marketing of assistive technologies and products for people with impairments. Anderson, a doctoral candidate at Columbia University, will study German decorative arts publications from 1870-1895 in the Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum Library.

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