Project Overview

by Peter Catapano

✏️ Part of an in-archives exercise at **http://www.teacharchives.org/exercises/vaudeville/**

Meet at the lobby of the Adams Street entrance, near the College Bookstore. We will leave promptly at 2:30 and walk to Brooklyn Historical Society.

At BHS, you will be introduced to the historical collections by members of the staff. In the library, there will be two research stations with maps and guidebooks which you will use to write a post on one of the many vaudeville theaters in Brooklyn at the beginning of the 20th century.

Each of you will be assigned a group and the name of a theater. You and your partners will be instructed to move through the archival material placed in various stations in the BHS library.

Your goal is to gather information to write a short theater description to post on the "What is Vaudeville?" website. In your responses, do not limit yourself to the questions below. Feel free to provide any other impressions about vaudeville that you discover in your research.

In your response consider the following:
- Where was your theater located? Describe the area the best you can. What was the proximity of mass transit?
- What were ticket prices? (Translate to current dollars by using the inflation calculator at **http://www.bls.gov/data/inflation_calculator.htm**)
- Who performed at the theater? Who would you imagine the audience for these types of performances? Why?
- Is there any other evidence that the theater catered to a different audience than a typical vaudeville theater?
- Be sure to take notes. You can use your digital camera to take photos of the archival material. I would also like for each group to take a photo in the library to post on the "Reflections" page. You are encouraged to collaborate during the research of the project, but each of <u>you must post your own page</u> describing the theater.

You are encouraged to work together at the archives. However, each of you is required to write your own 250-300 word post that includes an uploaded an image.

You are also required to write a paragraph post on the reflection page of the website. This post will not be graded, but must be completed to receive a grade for the assignment.

This assignment will count 15% toward your final grade for the course. Each post will receive a letter grade based on the quality and effort of your post.

REMINDER: Next class session, bring your notes and photos to the computer lab at G604 (on the 6th floor of the General Building). We will meet there at the usual time.