



RIAH LEE KINSEY

HE/HIM/HIS

ARCHIVIST

& HISTORICAL RESEARCHER

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

MLS degree holder with 5+ years of experience in archival processing, preservation, and outreach. Seeking work on team-based projects that improve archival access and make visible the histories of marginalized people and communities.

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

MASTER OF LIBRARY SCIENCE

2023

QUEENS COLLEGE, CUNY -
QUEENS, NY

- CONCENTRATION: Archives and the Preservation of Historical Materials
- HONORS/AWARDS: TBA

MASTER OF ARTS

2017

THE GRADUATE CENTER, CUNY -
NEW YORK NY

- CONCENTRATION: Individualized Study (American Studies, Historical Archaeology, Digital Humanities)
- HONORS/AWARDS: MALS Thesis and Capstone Prize Winner

HONORS BACHELOR OF ARTS

2011

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE -
NEWARK, DE

- CONCENTRATION: Anthropology (Historical Archaeology) and Women's and Gender Studies
- HONORS/AWARDS: Graduated cum laude

CORE SKILLS

TECHNICAL PROFICIENCIES

Educational Development

- program design
- resource guide creation

Community Connections

- creating digital exhibits
- writing blogs and social media posts

COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT

Microsoft Office and Google Suite

Basic markup languages

- HTML
- XML
- CSS

ARCHIVAL OUTREACH

Description and Metadata Creation

Preservation

- rehousing
- basic book and paper repair
- low-level triage

Digitization

- scanning/photography
- data organization
- file management

CAREER HISTORY

2022-2023 **GRADAUTE INTERN**
MUNICIPAL ARCHIVES -
NEW YORK, NY

Successfully led a semester-long research project to identify collection materials related to queer life in 19th-century New York City, resulting in the discovery of numerous previously unexplored materials.

- Drafted an extensive finding aid on locating queer New Yorkers in 19th-century court and police records
- Initiated an indexing and transcription project focusing on 19th-century sodomy case files, garnering positive feedback from established queer scholars and historians
- Authored a blog post on 19th-century Black transfeminine sex worker, Mary Jones (alias Peter Sewally) which has since been used as a teaching tool in undergraduate history classes at Johns Hopkins University

2018-2020 **COLLEGE AIDE**
DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS -
NEW YORK, NY

Worked with Records Manager to perform daily tasks including the processing of new records into the database, editing and correcting existing records, and various preservation and triage activities.

- Processed a large backlog of records into the agency's records database
- Participated in a disaster-management project resulting from a fire in our main headquarters in which approx. 50 boxes of records were waterlogged and required triage
- Helped assess the condition of and research grants for the conservation and digitization of fragile and at-risk records dating from 1800-1950s

2021-2022 **RESEARCH ASSISTANT**
CUNY QUEENS COLLEGE -
QUEENS, NY

Conducted extensive research on the history of seaman's censuses and immigration policies in early 20th-century America in collaboration with the Coordinator of the Dual Degree in Library Science and History, resulting in the identification and analysis of a previously unrecognized documentary resource on the subject.

- Identified, indexed and analyzed 500+ submissions to the Brooklyn Daily Eagle's "Immigration Questions" section (1929-1934) relating to sailors and their social networks

2016-2018 **LEAD EDUCATOR**
BOWNE HOUSE HISTORICAL SOCIETY -
FLUSHING, NY

Conducted extensive research to identify previously unknown archival materials related to slavery, servitude, and race at Bowne House, resulting in new and improved educational resources for staff and visitors.

- Created resource guide identifying enslaved occupants of the house using records from the Bowne Historical Society, Brooklyn Historical Society, New York Public Library and the Quaker Meeting House.
- Revised and tested tour scripts highlighting the presence and contributions of enslaved people throughout the early history of the Bowne House.
- Delivered lecture exploring the nuances of Quaker Flushing's evolving relationship with race and enslavement from the 1600s-1800s.
- Led 1-3 tours per week incorporating the material history of the Bowne house into larger systems of 18th-century world culture.

2015-2016 **GRADAUTE INTERN**
NYC ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPOSITORY -
NY, NY

Collaborated with lead archaeologists to curate and digitize collections owned by the City of New York's Landmarks Preservation Commission, allowing unparalleled public access to the Stadt Huys (1979) and South Ferry Terminal (2005) artifact collections

- Assisted in the rehousing and documentation of repository holdings, leading to the proper organization of the collections for efficient and accurate retrieval
- Entered metadata for over 100 artifacts, allowing for online public access and contributing to increased transparency and public engagement in historical preservation efforts

2013-2015 **COLLEGE AIDE**
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION -
NEW YORK, NY

Assisted in digitization of over 5,000 photographs detailing the construction of the Catskill Water System (1907-1924), including scanning and formatting each photograph, as well as uploading the images to our collections management program and social media accounts.

- Sorted, rehoused and indexed collection materials
- resulting in increased accessibility to the collection for research and educational purposes
- Crafted engaging social media posts sharing and contextualizing our holdings, resulting in greater visibility and awareness of our organization
- Carried out internal and external research requests

2015 **RESEARCH ASSISTANT**
NYPL PRESERVATION DIVISION -
LONG ISLAND CITY, NY

Performed basic and intermediate-level treatments on a variety of paper-based collection materials, including books, pamphlets, maps, and album covers.

- Completed 20-50 treatments per day, including enclosure preparation, tip-ins, paper mends, pamphlet sewing, opening leaves, and basic spine/hinge repair

SPECIAL PROJECTS

AUTHOR

The People vs. Mary Jones: Rethinking Race, Sex and Gender through 19th Century Court Records
New York City Municipal Archives' For the Record Blog

CO-AUTHOR

No Manuals: Archives Administration 100 Years After Jenkinson's Manual
Journal of Contemporary Archival Studies

PRESENTER

Mapping the Paresis Hall Image Series: Reimagining Archival Provenance in Queer Online Spaces
[Paper]
Provenance in Place Symposium

TEAM MEMBER

Olde Towne of Flushing Burial Ground Project [Researcher]
Lott House Excavations [Graduate Student Archaeologist]
King Manor Excavations [Volunteer Archaeologist]

AFFILIATIONS

PHI BETA KAPPA (PBK): ALPHA OF DELAWARE CHAPTER

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (ALA)

SOCIETY OF AMERICAN ARCHIVISTS (SAA)

NEW YORK LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (NYLA)

ARCHIVISTS ROUND TABLE OF METROPOLITAN NEW YORK, INC. (ART)