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The James Como Collection

John A. Drobnicki
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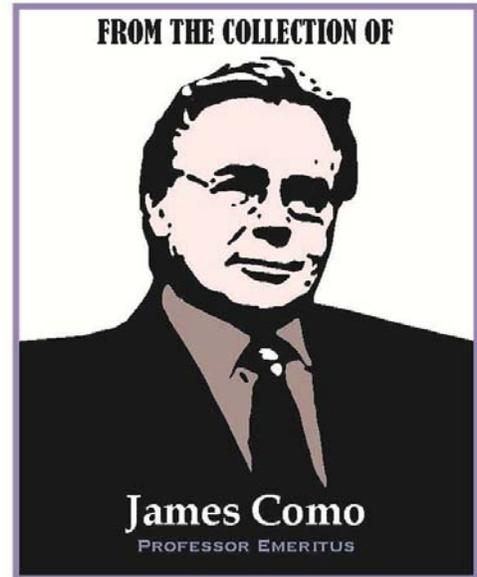
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The James Como Collection

In December 2014, thirty boxes of books were donated to the York College Library by Professor Emeritus James Como of the Department of Performing & Fine Arts, who retired in 2012. Professor Como, who continues to teach as an adjunct, joined the York College faculty in 1968 and founded the college's Speech program. He was chair of the Department of Performing & Fine Arts for fifteen years, and in 2014 he was presented with the Distinguished Faculty Award of the York College Alumni Association. Since Professor Como authored or edited four books on C. S. Lewis, we were expecting some secondary works on Lewis and Tolkien, as well as the author who inspired *them* – George MacDonald – and we weren't disappointed. However, what *was* surprising was the breadth and scope of Professor Como's (and his wife Alexandra's) interests. The library added 325 books to its collections, ranging from South American literature to American politicians, from Roman Catholic theology to French and English history and literature, and from science fiction to political pundits. Among the rarer items, which have been added to the library's closed stacks (special collections in the archive room) are a published collection of Daniel Webster's speeches (1854), as well as an edition of Parson Mason Locke Weems' *Life of George Washington* (1837). (It was Weems who circulated the famous anecdote about Washington and the cherry tree.) You can see the bibliographic records for the titles that were added to the Library in the online catalog. The books that were *not* needed by the Library were eagerly taken by students.



Thanks to Professor Todd Simpson, Head of Cataloging, and Ms. Rose Dunne (technical processing) from the library; to Mr. Jonathan Quash for coordinating with Professor Como; to Mr. Joe LoPinto and Mr. Ken Beck for designing the impressive bookplate; to Mr. Latchman Ramnauth for printing the color labels; to Vice President Ronald Thomas and Mr. James Minto for facilitating the pick-up; and to Mr. James Smith, Mr. Tim Lane, and the laborers for transporting the boxes from St. Joseph's Seminary (Yonkers) to the Library.

Prof. John Drobnicki
Head of Acquisitions and Collection Development