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| **For Immediate Release**   **May 1, 2024** | **Contact: Mercedes Diez** Director, Communications & College Relations Mercedes.Diez@lehman.cuny.edu 917-213-4836 |

**Celebrating the Literary Legacy of Joseph Tusiani: Special Collection Launches at Lehman College**

**The Bronx, NY—** A world of imagery and meanings from the pen of internationally acclaimed poet, translator, humanist, and scholar Joseph Tusiani (1924-2020) are now available to the public courtesy of the Leonard Lief Library at Lehman College. The Library acquired Tusiani’s archival collection and proudly makes it available for further study and research through a dedicated [website](https://tusiani.commons.gc.cuny.edu/). In addition, an exhibit about Professor Emeritus Tusiani is now on display in the Library.

“The careful curation of Joseph Tusiani’s life’s work marks a significant milestone in preserving his literary legacy,” states Kenneth Schlesinger, Associate Dean and Chief Librarian, Lehman College. “This archival collection enhances our Library’s resources, enabling students to broaden their perspective and enrich their understanding and appreciation of literature, language, and culture.”

This archive preserves Tusiani’s most notable creations, ranging from authored works to translations, poems, essays, and more across five languages. Enhancing the collection is a series of video interviews that give viewers the opportunity to hear Tusiani reflect on his life, family, and writing. These intimate conversations offer insight into the poet’s mind and the creative process that helped shape his work.

* Watch a short video when Tusiani was honored with the Distinguished Accomplishment in Literature Award at Lehman’s 2015 Awards Dinner: <https://youtu.be/mHF_vZIVsAY>.

Working under direction of Lehman Special Collections Librarian Janet Butler Munch, the collection was curated by College alumna Marguerite Zappa, who assisted Professor Tusiani over many years in preserving his legacy and critical reception.

“A literary masterpiece, the Professor Joseph Tusiani Collection is vast in scope, rich and brilliant in content. Through his poetry, translations, essays, novels, and other writings, the legacy he leaves to us is testament of his humanity, intellectual rigor, and genius,” said Zappa.

2024 marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of Professor Tusiani, as he is being celebrated both in the United States and abroad. In March his hometown of San Marco in Lamis (the Apulia region of Italy) dedicated a bench featuring a life-sized bronze sculpture of him.

Known as the “Poet of Two Lands” and named New York State Poet Laureate Emeritus in 2016, Tusiani’s contributions to literature are recognized worldwide and have inspired future generations of poets.

To access the collection finding aid, please visit [here](https://lehman.edu/library/tusiani-finding-aid.php). To schedule an appointment to visit the exhibit or conduct research in the archival collection, contact Leonard [Lief Library](https://tusiani.commons.gc.cuny.edu/contact/).

**About Lehman College**    
A perennial national leader in promoting social mobility, Lehman College of The City University of New York serves as an intellectual, economic, and cultural center for the Bronx, New York City, and beyond. The college - which sits on a tree-lined 37-acre campus – supports more than 13,000 undergraduate and graduate students, another 14,000 students in continuing and professional programs, and over 90,000 alumni. As a federally designated Hispanic-Serving Institution in the Bronx, Lehman College educates a diverse population of students. The college offers bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees as well as certificate programs in the liberal arts, sciences, and professions.