

AAC Meeting Draws Crowd

From the New Co-Chair

by Deborah Saito

As I begin my stint as roundtable co-chair, I bring you exciting news. A proposal has been submitted to SAA Council, requesting an increase in funds allotted the AAC Roundtable for publication of the Newsletter and the upcoming Archivists of Color Directory. If found acceptable, the increase will reflect a greater amount of cost-sharing on SAA's part, to assist in covering the cost of distributing the biennial newsletter to the 400-plus individuals on the mailing list. Cost projections for the directory's publication and dissemination fees remain unchanged from last year.

Approximately six sessions that the AAC Roundtable has sponsored grace the roster of this year's SAA conference in San Diego. Please plan to attend the roundtable's business meeting. We want and need your representation!

Having introduced these news items, I would like to take an opportunity to introduce myself. An archivist for the past 12 years, I have lived in Sitka, Alaska; Hakodate, Hokkaido, Japan; Hawaii;

Continued on page 2

The 8th annual business meeting of the Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtable convened on Friday, September 1, 1995, at the SAA Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. Daniel T. Williams and Deborah L. Dandridge, senior and outgoing co-chairs, respectively, presided. Denise English recorded the minutes.

After Williams called the meeting to order, Thomas Battle invited the approximately 70 individuals present to attend the reception hosted by the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center following the meeting. SAA President Brenda Banks was then called upon to make a few remarks. Banks emphasized the need for all AAC Roundtable members to become active participants in SAA governance and reported that all those members who had informed her of their interest in serving on SAA committees were given assignments.

Louis Jones announced job openings at Wayne State University and reminded the membership that a meeting of the advisory board of the HBCU Survey Project would follow the business meeting. Next, Dandridge introduced Sharon Thibodeau, SAA Council's liaison to the AAC Roundtable. Thibodeau reported on Council activities, including the formation of a new task force, which will reexamine the role of roundtables in SAA.

Kathryn M. Neal, who served on the 1995 SAA Minority Student Award Committee with Dr. Florence Borders and Dandridge and was the

first recipient of the award, introduced this year's recipient, Ida E. Jones. A graduate student in Howard University's Public Administration program, Ms. Jones expressed her appreciation for the award and described her current activities as archivist for the Mt. Zion United Methodist Church project in Georgetown.

To maintain financial support for the award, Roundtable members at the meeting donated \$520 to the Minority Student Award Fund. Dr. Walter Hill accepted the responsibility of sending the donation to SAA headquarters as the Roundtable's 1995 contribution to the award.

With \$10,000 in the account for the Minority Student Award, a proposal to expand the benefits of the award beyond the current gift of complimentary registration was discussed. Members agreed to the recommendation of extending the award's benefits. Suggestions raised as to how to do so included providing

Continued on page 6

Inside This Issue

Jones Receives Minority Award	2
People, Places and Projects	3
Angel Program Visits ASALH	4
Archives Institutes	5
New Databases	5
Update: HBCU Survey	7
Participation in SAA	7

Ida Jones Receives 1995 SAA Minority Award

Have you met Miss Jones? The person in question is not the one referred to in the old pop standard but Ida E. Jones, who has been selected as the second recipient of the SAA Minority Student Award. This award, established in 1993, is intended both to encourage minority students to consider archival careers and to promote greater participation of minorities in SAA. As the honoree, Ms. Jones received complimentary student registration to the 1995 Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. Nineteen ninety-five was a professionally rewarding year for Ms. Jones: She also received the first Atlantic Regional Archives Conference Scholarship last spring.

Born in Cambridge, Mass., Ms.

Jones moved to Washington, D.C., to attend Howard University. She earned a bachelor's degree in news-editorial journalism in 1992 and a master's degree in public history in 1995. This spring, she will enter Howard's doctoral program in American History, with a concentration in public history.

Ms. Jones initially became attracted to the archival profession while she pursued her master's degree. She enrolled in a course new to the curriculum called, "Museums and Archives." During the archival segment of this one-semester course, students were exposed to the field's literature and to practicing archivists within repositories. After writing a research paper for the course, Ms. Jones realized that the profession was the one for her. Already an avid collector of African-American memorabilia and books, she believed that as an archivist, she could blend this pastime with helping people become aware of the historical value of their papers and records.

As a member of a group of students from the D.C. area selected to work on the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) John F. Kennedy Assassination Records project, Ms. Jones started building her archival skills. She and her student colleagues assisted archivists with preparing the records for public access, which included completing survey forms for each document. Following that experience, she became the project archivist for the Mount Zion Heritage Center. The center houses the records of the historically African-American Mount Zion United Methodist Church in Georgetown. Ms. Jones is helping the congregation establish an archival program, while also educating them about archival principles.

The church's records, which include minutes, financial ledgers, membership rosters and the like, date from 1830 to the present; most of the

19th-century records have been preserved in safes for much of their existence. Ms. Jones decided to tackle the more accessible materials, which were probably in greatest danger. For the project's first phase, she adapted the survey from the JFK assassination project for their use. They then described each item in the center, both paper- and non-paper-based, and began to establish broad record groups. Between 60 and 65 linear feet of material has now been surveyed, Ms. Jones says. Phase two will involve more detailed organization.

While preservation remains her first love, Ms. Jones says that she would like to become better trained at appraisal. She enjoys her work at the Mount Zion Heritage Center and stresses the importance of these church records being preserved for the sake of social history. The AAC Roundtable wishes her the best of luck with her project and with her career.

Co-Editors

Joellen ElBashir
Kathryn M. Neal

Layout and Design

R. Steven Norman, III

The Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtable Newsletter is published twice a year. It is financially supported by the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center and the Society of American Archivists.

Correspondence

Address all correspondence to:

Joellen ElBashir
Moorland Spingarn Research Center
Howard University
Washington, D.C. 20059
(202) 806-7480
Fax: (202) 806-6405

or

Kathryn M. Neal
Iowa Women's Archives
University of Iowa
Iowa City, Iowa
(319) 335-5068
Fax: (319) 335-5900

The New Co-Chair (cont. from p.1)

California; and am now settled in Colorado.

The most extensive archival program I have established is the Hawaiian Sugar Planters Association's Plantation Archives, which, in 1991, received a National Merit Award from the Association of State and Local History. I serve as a consultant to organizations, businesses, and agencies interested in establishing archives. Historical societies, museums, churches, academic and public libraries, and a medical center, are among the clients I have helped to tailor the needs of their records to fit with the organizations' missions. Besides being a past President of the Society of Rocky Mountain Archivists and a charter member of the Association of Hawaii Archivists, I am currently a member of the SAA Membership Committee.

People, Places, Projects and Events

Karen L. Jefferson

Karen L. Jefferson, former Curator of Manuscripts at the Moorland-Spangarn Research Center, Howard University, and more recently, Program officer in the Division of Preservation and Access at the National Endowment for the Humanities, is now African American Studies Archivist/Bibliographer in the Special Collections Library at Duke University, Durham, N.C. Ms. Jefferson is part of the initial staff developing the John Hope Franklin Research Center for African and African American Documentation. The Center will help to expand and enhance Duke University library's resources on the Black experience in the United States and throughout the world.

You can reach Ms. Jefferson at (919)660-5922; or by sending e-mail to karenj@mail.lib.duke.edu.

Elizabeth "Hope" Hayes

Elizabeth "Hope" Hayes has been appointed administrator of the African American Museum and Library of the Oakland Public Library, CA. She has served at the San Francisco Library (SFPL) for the past 15 years as chief of the main library, chief of branch libraries, and in other professional capacities. He has been a board member of the San Francisco African American Historical and Cultural Society and assisted in implementing the African American History Network Project, a combined database of materials at SFPL and the Society.

Renee McKinney

Renee McKinney has been named full-time archivist at Spelman College in Atlanta. A recent graduate of the University of Michigan's School of Information and Library Studies, McKinney was the recipient of the 1995 Midwest Archives Conference Minority Scholarship.

Regina Sinclair

Regina Sinclair - Formerly head of the preservation department at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Ms. Sinclair has accepted the position of preservation librarian at the University of Iowa in Iowa City. Sinclair will coordinate and manage the preservation program for the University of Iowa Libraries.

Sushan Chin

Sushan Chin has been hired as collections manager at the New York City-based Museum of Chinese in the Americas. Chin served as a 1994-1995 NHPRC/Mellon Foundation fellow at the Minnesota Historical Society and prior to that was an archivist at the New York City Department of Records and Information Services.

John Hope Franklin Research Center

The establishment of the John Hope Franklin Research Center for African and African American Documentation at Duke University was formally announced in a reception held November 30, 1995. The highlight of the celebration was the presentation of a \$200,000 gift from Glaxo Wellcome, Inc. These funds will be used to start and endowment to assist with the acquisitions of materials and to underwrite awards to support students' research. Future plans for the Center include sponsorship of periodic publications, lectures, exhibits, and seminars. The Center is committed to working cooperatively with other individuals, institutions and organizations that are engaged in the work of preserving and making accessible documentation of Black history and culture. The papers of John Hope Franklin, renowned historian and author, will be the cornerstone of the collection.

The Mille Lacs Indian Museum

The grand opening of the Mille Lacs Indian Museum is slated to take place May 18, 1996, in the Mille Lacs region of Minnesota. Both a local history museum and a state historic site, the museum complex features a new building and a restored trading post. Photographs and objects dating from the 19th century comprise the museum's collection and document the lives of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. Exhibits will illustrate the history and culture of the band. Members of the Ojibwe community, including individuals instrumental in preserving the band's heritage, will maintain the museum. They have formed a partnership with the Minnesota Historical Society, which provides administrative and financial support.

African American Museums Association

The African American Museums Association (AAMA) will hold its 18th annual conference on August 29-31, 1996, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Kansas City, Missouri. The conference will be hosted by the Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Center. A call for conference session proposals has been issued, with a deadline of Monday, April 15, 1996. The theme of the conference is "Capitalizing On Our Culture: Heritage Tourism and the African American Museum." Proposals dealing with general museology topics are also encouraged. For session proposal forms, conference registration, or membership information, contact:
Jocelyn Robinson-Hubbuch
Executive Director
AAMA
P. O. Box 548
Wilberforce, OH 45384
(513) 376-4611

Continued on page 4

Black Police in America

Black Police in America, by **Marvin Delaney**, director of the Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture at the College of Charleston, tells the story of the black experience in American police departments from the post-Civil War period to the present. The book, published by Indiana University Press, has just been released. Using many primary and secondary sources, Dulaney shows how African Americans progressed from being second-class police officers to become some of the top police officers in the nation. It has taken more than 100 years and three generations of police officers for African Americans to define their position as law enforcement officers, says Dulaney, who also directs the African American Studies Program at the College. Forty percent of all proceeds from the sale of the book will be donated to the Avery Research Center Building Fund. For more information, call Marvin Dulaney, director of the Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture, at (803) 727-2009.

Janet Sims-Wood, Donna Wells and Joellen ElBashir

The Coalition for Maryland History and Culture has received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities for a series of six community forums to examine and encourage the preservation, interpretation and inclusion of African American history in the archives, museums and history of Maryland. The project will take place from March through October 1996 in several Maryland locations. Featured will be workshops on genealogy, oral history, photographs and documents, and family artifacts. Janet Sims-Wood, Donna Wells and Joellen ElBashir of the Moorland-Spangarn Research Center will conduct several of these workshops. Other activities will include a keynote speaker, a children's cultural

event, and music by local performers. Statewide coordinators for African American culture from neighboring states will be invited to attend the forums, so that they might consider undertaking similar events in their local communities. For more information contact Judy Dobbs.

Judy Dobbs
Project Director
Coalition for Maryland History and Culture, Inc.
601 North Howard Street
Baltimore, MD 21201-4585
or call (410) 625-4830.

The Angel Program Visits ASALH

by Walter Hill, Jr.
National Archives

Since 1916 the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History (ASALH) has promoted the study, research, teaching and writing of the history African American people. Carter G. Woodson founded the Association and the Associated Publishers to raise the conscious level of African Americans regarding their history, and to challenge and counter the virulent racism that plagued their history. Eighty years later, ASALH has consistently fulfilled Woodson's mission of keeping Afro-American history in the nation's conscience.

ASALH will host the 81st Annual Conference this fall in Charleston, South Carolina. It recently held the 70th Annual Black History Luncheon and National Theme Kick-Off Celebration in Washington, D.C. The *Journal of Negro History* has recently issued Volume 80, Winter and Spring 1995, and still remains a major publication for scholars to introduce their work. The *Negro History Bulletin* issued Volume 58, Winter

1995, on the history and politics of Black athletes, and is in preparation for the spring volume on Black Genealogy. Other ASALH programs such as the scholar-in-residence, teachers' workshop, and essay contest remain major features. A major work of the Associated Publishers is the production and publication of annual Black History kits for elementary and high school level teachers. ASALH continues to remind African Americans and the nation that this history is important and deserves recognition.

As with any organization, record keeping is essential to the maintenance and preservation of its activities. Insufficient attention to records management ultimately leads to any number of problems associated with improper care of records. At the fall meeting of ASALH in Philadelphia, Karen Jefferson, member of the Archives and Archivists of Color Roundtable, submitted a proposal to the Executive Council outlining a plan for correcting ASALH's record keeping practices. The plan proposed to have a team of archivists examine ASALH's and the Associated Publishers' records and to make recommendations to the Executive Council based on their findings. Karen devised the plan from an SAA initiative (Angel Program) which calls for archivists to donate their free time to assist various groups in the preservation of their records. Her proposal called for a team of archivists to donate one Saturday each month until the project is completed. The Executive Council praised the project and voted to implement the plan.

The National Archives Afro-American History Society and members of AAC recently met to discuss the merits of the plan. The group reached a consensus that the records of ASALH and the Associated Publishers are indeed valuable and something should be done to preserve them. Donald Roe, President of the NARA group, felt confident that a

Continued on page 5

plan of action could be agreed upon and the work undertaken with the assistance of Executive Council members. The initial thrust of the project will be the completion of an inventory of the works published by the Associated Publishers. Preliminary examination of its holdings has begun. The details of the plan and schedule of work have yet to be determined; however, the enthusiasm of the group points to the cooperative spirit on the part of ASALH and NARA/AAC. This is an important undertaking and all look forward to a mutually beneficial relationship. If you are interested in working with this project, please contact Walter Hill, Jr. at (301) 713-7250 or Wilda Willis at (301) 713-7110.

Archives Institutes

Modern Archives Institute Scholarship

The Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference (MARAC) recently instituted a scholarship program to provide two annual scholarships to cover tuition for one individual to attend each of the Modern Archives Institutes (winter and summer). This scholarship is established in honor of MARAC member Leonard Rappaport, and is known as the Leonard Rappaport Modern Archives Institute Scholarship. To qualify for this program an individual must meet the following criteria: be a new member in good standing of MARAC, with a membership of less than three years duration at the time of application, and a member of a State Caucus; be a new employee (at least one and no more than five years) in an archival or archives related institution; and not have received any MARAC scholarships prior to this award.

To apply, submit a current resume, a letter outlining compliance

with the qualifications, including a statement indicating the perceived benefit of attending the Institute, and two letters of recommendation from persons having definite knowledge of the applicant's qualifications. Applications should be sent to:

L. Eileen Parris, Chairperson
MARAC Education Committee
Virginia Historical Society
P. O. Box 7311
Richmond, Virginia 23221-0311

Individuals accepting the scholarship agree to write an essay not to exceed 1000 words for publication in the Mid-Atlantic Archivist describing their experiences at the Institute.

Western Archives Institute

Planning for the 10th annual Western Archives Institute is underway. The intensive, two-week program will be held at The Guest House at Fuller Seminary in Pasadena, California, July 28 to August 9, 1996. The Institute is designed to offer an introduction to modern archival theory and practice for a variety of participants, including those whose jobs require a fundamental understanding of archival skills, but have little or no previous archives education, those already in the profession who want to update and renew their archival knowledge and those who wish to explore the possibility of an archival career. The 1996 program will feature as the principal faculty member David B. Gracy II of the University of Texas at Austin, Graduate School of Library and Information Science. Topics will include history and development of the profession, theory and terminology, records management, appraisal, arrangement, description, etc.

Tuition for the program is \$475 and includes a selection of archival

publications. Housing and meal plans are available at The Guest House at Fuller Seminary for additional charges. Application deadline is May 15, 1996. For additional information and an application form, contact the administrator.

Administrator
Western Archives Institute
1020 O Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 653-7715.

New Databases

Online File of Authors and Copyright Holders

The Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center (HRHRC) at The University of Texas at Austin and the University of Reading Library in Reading, England, have created an on-line file of authors and copyright holders. Entitled WATCH (Writers and Their Copyright Holders), the file contains nearly 1,000 records and is available free of charge on the Internet. Users may access the file in a variety of ways:

1. The University of Texas General Libraries' gopher. Point your local gopher client to: gopher.lib.utexas.edu 70; or work your way through your client's gopher menus (the path changes but look for the UT Libraries menu option and the HRHRC sub-heading).
2. WWW ACCESS:URL: <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/Libs/HRC/HRS.WATCH.HP.html>
or
<http://www.lib.utexas.edu> (select UT Austin Libraries menu option and HRHRC on submenu).

Suggestions for the U.S. about the file or information about copyright holders not listed in the file can be

Continued on page 6

sent to Cathy Henderson, Research Librarian at:
HRHRC
University of Texas
Austin, TX 78712-7219
E-mail: c.henderson@mail.utexas.edu

Eastman Seeks Info for Photographers Biography Database

The George Eastman House in Rochester, New York is interested in receiving information about black photographers for their Photographers Biography database. The information will be available on-line as well as automatically included in future editions of *Index to American Photographic Collections*.

Entries should consist of the photographer's name, vital and active dates, identifying information such as race and gender (if the latter is not clear from the person's name), and the number of photographs in the collection or a qualifying term such as "substantial" (25 or more photographs), or "modest" (1-24 photographs).

The repository name, address, telephone and fax numbers, and contact person should also be provided. Information can be sent to

Andrew Eskind
George Eastman House
900 East Avenue
Rochester, NY 14607
(716) 271-3361
FAX: (716) 271-3970
E-mail address:
andy@manning.hrc.utexas.edu

AAC Meeting *Cont. from page 1*

complimentary tickets to SAA's opening and closing banquets, a stipend up to \$500 and/or a one-year membership in SAA. Both the overall recommendation and the suggested revisions will be sent to Thibodeau

and to Council.

Karen L. Jefferson distributed a draft of the national Archivists of Color Directory, which included 75 entries, and reported on the current needs for the project's completion. She also encouraged all who had not done so to complete the directory's entry forms, which were being distributed at the meeting. It was suggested that the directory be made available on-line to facilitate updating. To determine the printing needs of the project, a committee comprised of **Beverly A. Cook**, **Dennis Scott**, and **Deborra Richardson** was established. **David Moltke-Hansen** volunteered the services of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to publish the directory.

Other items shared involved news pertaining to publications. It was announced that Neal will fill the position of the AAC newsletter co-editor recently vacated by Jefferson. **Joellen ElBashir** will continue as co-editor. The SAA/MAC national survey of minorities in archival institutions and educational programs was reported to be ready for distribution by mail. **Donna Wells** discussed the need for the development of a bibliography of archival holdings of people of color and for the production of studies in archival theory that deal with this subject matter.

Reports on SAA activities focused on ways the Roundtable could strengthen its contribution to SAA's annual program. Hill discussed the Roundtable's forging a stronger link with the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History. An exchange of annual-program sessions between the two groups was proposed and supported. Wells, who served on the 1995 SAA Program Committee, stressed the need for members to respond to the call for sessions. She also urged members to develop session proposals that consist of complete descriptions and confirmed speakers to increase the possibility of

their passing the Program Committee's evaluation process.

As a member of the 1996 SAA Program Committee, Neal outlined the evaluation requirements for sessions. Instead of a general theme, the program for the 60th annual meeting will emphasize a track devoted to racial and ethnic diversity in archives. Members were encouraged to gain the sponsorship of roundtables and sections for their proposals.

New projects involving the archival records of people of color also graced the meeting's agenda. **Willow Powers** discussed the establishment of a program on Navajo Indians in New Mexico, and **John Slate** reported on a project being undertaken at the University of Texas at Austin to document the history of African Americans through photographs.

The nomination of **Deborah Saito** as the new junior co-chair of the Roundtable received full support from the membership. She will preside over the Roundtable's 9th annual business meeting in San Diego.

Contributions of members to the activities of the Roundtable were acknowledged. Wells distributed gifts to Jefferson, ElBashir, and Neal for devotion of their time to the newsletter's production. Founders of the Roundtable present at the meeting were also recognized. They included **Thomas Battle**, **Karen Jefferson**, **Diana Lachatanere**, and **Carol Rudisell**. **Florence Borders** was also honored for her pioneering efforts in the archival profession.

Under the leadership of **Wilda Logan Willis**, the annual brainstorming session was organized, to take place immediately following the Roundtable's business meeting.

The meeting was adjourned, and members reconvened in the hotel's State Room for the elegant reception hosted by the **Moorland-Spingarn Research Center**.