

Archivists & Archives of Color Newsletter

Newsletter of the Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtable

Vol. 11 No. 2

Summer / Fall 1997

AAC Celebrates Ten Years!

Co-Chair Bids Farewell

By Deborah A. Saito



After hearing me question some procedure and/or outdated signature, a colleague once gave me the acronym of DTM—designated trouble-

maker. Indeed, I wear that acronym with some pride, as someone has to do it (or in this case, BE it)!

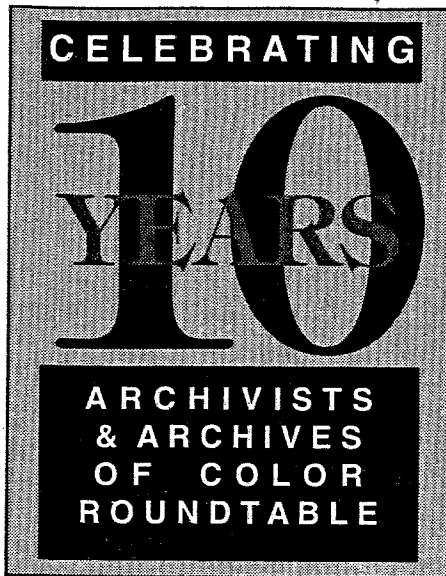
It has been a pleasure working as a co-chair of the Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtable (AAC). Over the years, AAC has grown and evolved. As a Roundtable, we are very fortunate to have many talented members who provide continuity, guidance, trouble-shooting, and wise counsel.

Special thanks to Karen Jefferson, Kathryn Neal, Deborah Dandridge, and others who assisted me throughout my tenure.

You, the membership, are in capable hands with Cynthia Lewis. Please give her your support as you have given it to me. There are projects to get involved with and activities needing follow-up. Thank you, or, as said in Hawaii, *mahalo nui loa*.

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SAA Convenes in Windy City

This year's SAA conference returns to the sweet home of its national headquarters, Chicago. The 61st Annual Meeting, which will take place from August 27 to August 31, 1997, boasts an impressive slate of sessions compiled by the Program Committee. Topics of these sessions run the archival gamut from preservation to donor relations, education to personnel and archival management, ethics and legal concerns to documentation efforts, and marketing to oral history. The featured-track format, which characterized last year's Annual Meeting, also frames SAA 1997. While racial and ethnic diversity and their relationship to the archival profession were emphasized at the San Diego meeting, this year's track relates to the information Age and its impact both on the record and on the profession. Sessions and events that might pique the interest of AAC Roundtable members are on page two.

Diversity Discussions Continue

by Kathryn M. Neal

Earlier this year, SAA Council accepted the final report from the Task Force on Organizational Effectiveness (TFOE). In that report, a charge was proposed to create a Diversity Committee:

- in coordination with the Membership Committee, to recruit a more diverse membership to SAA of individuals from a broad range of racial, ethnic, gender, sexual orientation, variously abled, and religious backgrounds;
- to encourage and promote the full participation of a diverse membership in SAA activities, including committee work, SAA leadership, annual program sessions, publications, educational offerings, and professional recognition;
- to educate SAA members to the range of diversity issues reflected in our society so as to ensure that the records of all people are properly documented, preserved, and made available; and
- to increase SAA members' sensitivity to the importance of diversity issues in their professional activities and conduct.

The Diversity Committee will maintain liaisons with the Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtable, the Lesbian and Gay Archives, the Women's Religious Archives Roundtable, and the

Continued on page 2

ANNUAL MEETING

of the
Archivists and Archives
of Color Roundtable

Friday, August 29

4:00 to 6:00 P.M.

1997 SAA Convention Highlights

Opening Banquet

Awards Ceremony
Thursday, August 28
6:30-9:00 p.m.

Gloria Meraz of the University of Texas at Austin will be recognized as the 1997 recipient of the Minority Student Award. If you are not attending the banquet, you may still attend the speaking portion of the ceremony; it will begin at approximately 7:45p.m.

Roundtable Meeting

Friday, August 29
4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Election of a new co-chair, project updates, and newsletter and sub-committee news are slated as agenda items. Send agenda items to Roundtable Co-chair: Cynthia Lewis, King Library and Archives, Martin Luther Jr. Center, 449 Auburn Ave., Atlanta, GA Zip; phone: (404)526-8985 or fax: (404)526-8969.

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Sessions

(See Convention Program for location and times.)

- | | | | |
|-----|---|-------|---|
| #6 | "African-American Archives: Embracing New Technologies" | #49SF | "Project 'Califia': An International Computerized Index of Archives of Baja California, Mexico and California, USA" |
| #7 | "Keepers of the Flame: Family Involvement in Managing Manuscript Collections" | #55SF | "An Archival Odyssey: The Search for Jackie Robinson" |
| #22 | "Native American and Australian Aboriginal Participation in the Archival Process" | #63 | "Visual Ephemera in Archives" |
| #32 | "Giving Workers a Voice: Studs Terkel's Oral History Archives and His Contributions to Working Class History" | #64 | "Us and/or Them? Issues in the Placement of Minority Communities' Records" |
| | | #66 | "Institutional Evaluation? Why and Why Not?" |

Diversity, Continued from page 1

SAA Women's Caucus.

Members of TFOE were divided on this matter. According to the report, "Proponents of a Diversity Committee believe that SAA should do more to address all aspects of diversity in the archival profession, including recruiting a more diverse membership, investigating ways to ensure diversity in archival collections, and serving users with diverse needs. In the past, SAA has established such "issue-oriented" committees as it did with the Committee on the Status of Women." Yet "[o]pponents of the Diversity Committee pointed out that the Committee would not carry out a programmatic or administrative goal of SAA. Such a committee would overlap with and duplicate efforts of other SAA units, in particular the Membership Committee, Appointments and Nominating Committee, the Education Committee, with advocacy, publication and editorial groups, and with Council. Moreover, its liaison and coordination responsibilities with respect to other groups adds excessive detail into the proposed organizational structure which is precisely the type of problem that TFOE was charged to address. Finally, some TFOE members questioned whether

such a committee was needed in light of other SAA units which should take responsibility for diversity issues."

In the March/April 1997 of *Archival Outlook*, SAA Executive Director Susan Fox devoted her column to the subject. Fox cited the aforementioned passages from the TFOE report and also included the possibility of the formation of a task force that would explore the issue of diversity. SAA Council member Lori Hefner reiterated this information in an e-mail message, which was sent to those archivists listed in the SAA leadership directory in late April. Hefner asked that comments and suggestions be sent to her for compiling. These comments would be presented at the SAA Council meeting that was to take place in Chicago, the weekend of June 7.

Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtable co-chair Deborah Saito sent the following response (excerpts of which appear here) to Hefner:

"I applaud the laudable ideals set forth in the proposed diversity committee. Without question, they are goals to which we, in our various roles within SAA groups, should all strive toward. Yet while I promote diversity both personally and professionally, I hesitate

Continued on page 7

People, Places, Projects and Events

From Slavery to Freedom Symposium Slated



You are invited to join in the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the publication of *From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African Americans* by **John Hope Franklin** and **Alfred A. Moss, Jr.** Now in its seventh edition and translated into five languages, this book has reshaped the way African-American history is understood and taught and continues to serve as the primary textbook for the field.

The Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History, Duke University, and North Carolina Central University are co-sponsoring a 50th anniversary symposium and banquet in Durham, NC, on September 19 and 20, 1997. For more information, see our web page at:

<http://scriptorium.lib.duke.edu/franklin/>

or contact: Karen L. Jefferson
ksf@mail.lib.duke.edu
(919) 660-5922 (voice-mail)
(919) 660-5934 (fax)

Danna Bell-Russel Assumes New Position



Danna Bell-Russel has assumed the position of curator of the National Equal Justice Library in the Washington College of Law, American University. The mission of the library is to collect books, archival materials, videos, memorabilia, and other materials relating to the defense of those individuals who cannot afford legal representation. It is the only library that has as its focus the study of the legal services, indigent defense, and pro bono movements in the United States and throughout the world. Bell-Russel formerly served as archivist of the Washington, DC Community Archives in the Washingtoniana Division of the DC Public Library.

MARAC Celebrates its 25th Anniversary

MARAC celebrates its 25th anniversary in Wilmington, DE, November 6-8, 1997. The Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference (MARAC) held its first meeting in Wilmington, Delaware from October 13 to October 14, 1972. MARAC will celebrate its 25th anniversary in Wilmington, November 6-8 at its Fall Conference, the theme of which is appropriately titled "Homecoming."

A series of "Retro" sessions, based on the original 1972 MARAC program, will be held at which the historical development and contemporary status of such issues as conservation, appraisal, archival literature, description, and access, and the relationships between historians and archivists will be discussed. The program will also include six workshops and a series of "special focus" sessions designed to bring together archival practitioners facing very practical day-to-day problems. Attendees can follow one of three "tracks" through the conference, or they can mix and match from a number of offerings. Special anniversary activities and other entertainment is being planned. For additional information, contact: Margaret Jerrido, Temple University Urban Archives, Paley Library, 13th and Berks Mall, Philadelphia, PA 19122. PH: 215-204-6639; FAX: 215-204-3681; E-MAIL: mj@astro.ocis.temple.edu.

Cooperative HBCU Archival Survey Project (CHASP)

In August 1997, the Cooperative HBCU Archival Survey Project (CHASP) moves to a new home, Spelman College in Atlanta. The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has granted Spelman continuation grant funds to serve as host for the project. Originally sponsored by Wayne State University and North Carolina Central University, CHASP has as its mission to complete surveys of archival

collections that are housed at 99 historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs). **Bob Smith**, formerly of Wayne State University, and **Beverly Guy-Shelfall**, director of the Women's Research and Resource Center at Spelman, will co-direct the project. **Taronda Spencer** and **Janet Harper**, respectively former archivist and archival cataloguer at Wayne State University, will continue to function as the archival survey team that visits the various campuses. Spencer will also assume the position of interim archivist of Spelman College. Serving as archival consultant will be **Brenda Banks** of the Georgia Department of Archives and History.

Marc Cherry Receives Scholarship

Marc Cherry, archivist at the Vivian G. Harsh Collection of African American History and Literature received a \$1,200 scholarship from the Colonial Dames of America to attend the summer 1997 Modern Archives Institute at the National Archives.

MAC Minority Scholarship Recipient Named

The Midwest Archives Conference (MAC) Minority Scholarship is a pioneering effort to encourage minority student recruitment and participation in the field of archival administration. MAC offers an annual \$500 award. This year, the MAC Council voted to endow a second minority student scholarship.

This year's recipient, Paul Keith Baker, is the archivist at Fayetteville State University in North Carolina. Mr. Baker has already demonstrated a commitment to the profession. He is a practicing lone archivist at Fayetteville, has enrolled in an accredited archival administration program, and went to the Modern Archives Institute in Washington, DC, with support from grant funding provided by the NEH.

Archivists and Archives of Color Celebrate Tenth Anniversary

By Joellen Elbashir

During the 1981 annual meeting in Berkeley, California, SAA Council passed a resolution to establish the Minorities Task Force whose mandate was to recruit minorities into the profession, advance opportunities for minorities in the profession, assist them in becoming more active in SAA, and to interact with the Joint Committee on Opportunities for Minorities in Museums, Archives and Historical Agencies. The Joint Committee, composed of the SAA, the American Museums Association and the Association for State and Local History, shared the concerns of SAA's Minorities Task Force. **Paula Williams** was an original member of the Task Force.

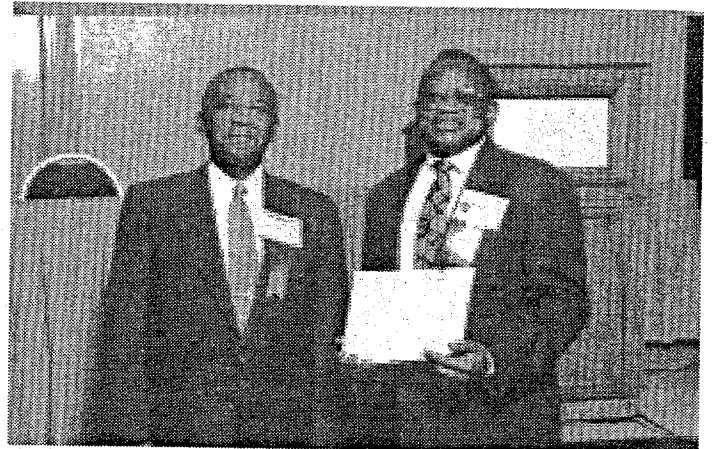
Six years later, in the Spring of 1987, the Minorities Roundtable (MRT) was approved by SAA Council at its Winter meeting. The purpose of the MRT was to act upon those

concerns identified by the Task Force; namely, to promote wider participation of minorities in the activities of the profession and its professional organizations; to maintain a roster of minority archivists, curators, and manuscript librarians; to advise SAA on minority concerns; to support and promote all efforts to genuinely improve the status of minorities in the profession; and to ensure the preservation of archival material pertaining to minorities.

Our goals have remained consistent through the years, even if our name has not. During this brief period, the Archives and Archivists of Color Roundtable has become a significant vehicle for minority participation and communication within the SAA and the profession as a whole. The following timeline highlights some of the milestones in our growth and development.



When the roundtable held its first meeting during the SAA annual meeting in New York City in September of 1987 **Diana Lachatanere** (left) and **Carol Rudisell** (right) were selected as the first coordinators.



Pioneer **Harold Pinkett** (l.), became SAA fellow in 1962, served as editor of *American Archivist* 1968 to 1971, and on SAA Council 1971-1972. With him is **Daniel T. Williams** of Tuskegee who was selected as a SAA fellow in 1992 at Montreal.

Ten Years of Progress for Archivists of Color

September 1987 - September 1997

1987

In September, the roundtable held its first meeting during the SAA annual meeting in New York City. **Diana Lachatanere** and **Carol Rudisell** were the first coordinators.

The name, "Third World Archivists Roundtable," was adopted.



C. Rudisell



D. Wells

Carol Rudisell and **Donna Wells** became the first co-chairs of the roundtable.

Diana Lachatanere and **Carol Rudisell** served as the editors of the first roundtable newsletter. The co-editorship for later newsletters was assumed by **Karen Jefferson** and **Ruth E. Hill**, who remained editors until 1990. The Moorland-Spangarn Research Center from the beginning shared with SAA financial support for the newsletter. The MSRC has continued its support through the years.



K. Jefferson

1988

In September, the roundtable held its second meeting in Atlanta. The membership voted to change the name to "African-American and Third World Archivists Roundtable," (AATWAR).

Donna Wells and **Wilda L. Willis** shared the responsibility of co-chairing the roundtable.



W. Logan

1989

The roundtable held its annual meeting in October in St. Louis. **Wilda L. Willis** and **Lynda DeLoach** served as co-chairs.



J. ElBashir

Joellen ElBashir joined **Karen Jefferson** as co-editor of the roundtable newsletter.

1990

The annual meeting was held in Seattle in August. **Lynda DeLoach** and **Deborra Richardson** were co-chairs.

1991

The annual meeting was held in September in Philadelphia, with **Deborra Richardson** and **Clifford Muse** serving as co-chairs.



C. Muse

The preliminary edition of the AATWAR membership directory was made available, thanks to the efforts of **Carol Rudisell**.

1992

The annual meeting was held in Montreal. **Clifford Muse** was joined by **Beverly Cook** as co-chairs of the roundtable.



D. Williams

Daniel T. Williams of Tuskegee University Archives was selected as SAA Fellow.

AATWAR proposed that SAA establish an award to encourage minorities to enter the profession.

1993

The roundtable held its annual meeting in New Orleans. **Beverly Cook** and **Deborah Dandridge** were co-chairs.

Deborah Saito requested that the roundtable consider changing its name again. Suggestions were solicited.



D. Saito

The SAA Minority Student Award was established.

Brenda Banks of Georgia Department of Archives and History was named an SAA Fellow.



B. Banks

1994

The annual meeting was held in Indianapolis in September. **Deborah Dandridge** and **Daniel T. Williams** were co-chairs.

The roundtable members voted to change the name to "Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtable."

Kathryn M. Neal was the first recipient of the SAA Minority Student Award.



Kathy Neal

1995

Washington D.C. was the site of the annual meeting in September. **Daniel T. Williams** and **Deborah Saito** served as co-chairs.

Brenda Banks became president of SAA.

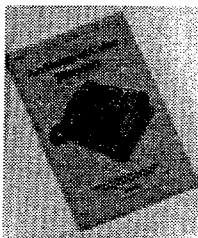
Kathy Neal replaced **Karen Jefferson**, as co-editor of the roundtable newsletter.

Ida E. Jones received the SAA Minority Student Award.

1996

The annual meeting was held in San Diego in August, with **Deborah Saito** and **Cynthia P. Lewis** as co-chairs.

A motion was passed to endorse and co-sponsor a special issue of the *American Archivist*.



Karen Jefferson, Steven Norman, and David Moltke-Hansen publish *Archives and Archivists of Color Directory*.

Clifford Muse and Deborah Dandridge volunteered to serve on a task force to preserve the history of the roundtable.

Thomas Battle and David Moltke-Hansen moved to endorse **Archie Motley** as an SAA Fellow.

R. Steven Norman, III took on the task of newsletter layout, design, and publication.



R. S. Norman

Letha E. Johnson received the SAA Minority Student Award.

1997

The annual meeting will be held in Chicago. **Deborah Saito** and **Cynthia Lewis** will co-chair AAC annual business meeting...

Gloria Meraz to receive the SAA Minority Student Award.



C. Lewis



Japanese American Exhibit and Access Project

by Theresa Mudrock
University of Washington Libraries

The Japanese American Exhibit and Access Project is a multifaceted project to create a permanent web site, which provides enhanced access to the University of Washington Libraries holdings on the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II. The project web site has three components: Finding aids, a virtual exhibit, and a bibliography.

Finding aids to collections in the University of Washington Libraries Manuscripts and University Archives Division, which document the mass evacuation of Japanese Americans from the Seattle area have been digitized, marked up and made available to users of the World Wide Web. Although we experimented with using SGML (Standard Generalized Markup Language) and DTD (document type definition) for Encoded Archival Description (EAD), full implementation proved to be beyond the time and staffing constraints of the project. We did model our narratives using the structure of EAD, however, and this should make the move to SGML easier in the future. Since putting the guides up on the Web, we have seen an unexpected increase in e-mail inquiries about our holdings on the Japanese American incarceration.

A second component of the project is a virtual exhibit on the Puyallup Assembly Center at Camp Harmony. The exhibit

Roundtable Co-chairs 1987-1997

1987-1988
Carol Rudisell
Donna Wells

1992-1993
Clifford Muse
Beverly Cook

1988-1989
Donna Wells
Wilda L. Willis

1993-1994
Beverly Cook
Deborah Dandridge

1989-1990
Wilda L. Willis
Lynda DeLoach

1994-1995
Deborah Dandridge
Daniel T. Williams

1990-1991
Lynda DeLoach
Deborra Richardson

1995-1996
Daniel T. Williams
Deborah Saito

1991-1992
Deborra Richardson
Clifford Muse

1996-1997
Deborah Saito
Cynthia P. Lewis

Thanks to: Katharine Salzmann, Manuscript Librarian at MSRC, for her assistance in compiling these highlights.

includes photographs, drawings, excerpts from local newspapers, government reports, and letters and internal documents from the camp. Especially moving are the letters from children and students, drawings by Eddie Sato, and descriptions of the housing and food situation at the assembly center. The exhibit illustrates the types of material available in the UW Libraries and acquaints users around the world with our collections as well as serving as a scholarly site in its own right by providing access to selected primary documents.

The final component is a description of the UW Libraries' wide-ranging holdings on the incarceration of Japanese Americans. This bibliography incorporates primary sources, such as camp newspapers, graphic materials in Special Collections, and personal papers and organizational records in Manuscripts and University Archives. Government and other selected publications from the general collections-including important secondary sources-are also included.

Support for the project was provided by the Allen Endowment Funding for Programs. Some photographs were provided by the Museum of History and Industry, and the University of Washington Press provided permission to allow one chapter from Nisei Daughter to be included on the home page. The Japanese American Exhibit and Access Project can be found at: <http://Weber.u.washington.edu/mudrock/ALLEN/>

Diversity, Continued from page 2

to fully endorse an SAA diversity committee at this time. . . .

There are already established groups within SAA which address many of the objectives and whose mission is to promote similar goals stated in the proposed committee. . . .In addition, the mentoring program and the Minority Student Award are indeed steps in the right direction.

As already demonstrated by the new and attractive SAA membership brochure, there is an increased awareness of

the need to diversify our membership. (A personal note: It is important that SAA be sensitive not to portray an 'abundance' of ethnic minorities in the organization. In fact, SAA has so few such minorities it could be misleading to newly recruited archivists. Balancing the need to strongly encourage versus the unintended skewing of actual number of members is key.)

Unity leads to a greater means to achieve (most anything!) and as such, it is extremely important for SAA groups not to become too fragmented. I fear that if SAA creates a diversity committee without thorough examination, this committee might possibly build up rather than tear down walls of communi-

“. . . a task force to fully examine the function, responsibility, and role of the proposed diversity committee seems the best path to take in this matter.”

cation and shared goals . . .

What is a possible solution? Ms. Fox's proposal of developing a task force to fully examine the function, responsibility, and role of the proposed diversity committee seems the best path to take in this matter. This pro tem task force could well be composed of chairs of key SAA groups as well as other SAA members. For this diversification to be successful, I believe it is important that these key persons become advocates of diversity. It may become necessary for each chair to approach its own group and ask his or her group to consider whether to incorporate (at least some of) the stated goals of the proposed diversity committee into their own long-range or strategic agenda or plan (The assumption here, of course, is that each SAA group has a plan or agenda. The various groups, then, 'own' it.) This effort at

diversification has already been demonstrated by the SAA Membership Committee chair's recruitment of several under-represented groups onto its eight member committee.

One area that I did not see mentioned which the task force might wish to address is the recruitment of students. In doing so, the task force might consider the following: continue efforts to improve graduate study programs by offering expanded archival courses in many disciplines that express the need for documenting all the various components of society; create incentives for 'diverse' graduate students in various disciplines to consider the archives field (perhaps expand the Minority Student Award and develop funding sources for other diverse students), etc. . . .

Also, I wish to reiterate that although I am co-chair of a roundtable, the above ideas are my own and do not necessarily reflect the views of the roundtable at all. To gain feedback from the roundtable, it is best to have the issue brought up as an agenda item at the annual business meeting.”

What do you think? Susan Fox continues to encourage feedback regarding what SAA can or should do to promote diversity. This issue may be discussed at this year's annual roundtable meeting, so please feel free to bring your ideas and opinions to share with the roundtable membership.

Annual Meetings of the Society of American Archivists

1998

Orlando, Florida

August 31 - September 6, 1998
Walt Disney World Dolphin Hotel

1999

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

August 23-29, 1999
Hilton and Towers

2000

Denver, Colorado

August 28- September 3, 2000
Adams Mark Hotel