

# Archivists & Archives of Color Newsletter

Newsletter of the Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtable

Vol. 12 No. 1

Spring 1998

## Brenda Square New Co-chair

### Message From Co-Chair

Cynthia Lewis



Many metaphors and analogies have been voiced in defining the significance of the Archives and Archivists of Color Round-

table. Clearly, AAC provides a forum where varied communities of color find a kaleidoscopic environment to address a commonality of issues and reflect on unique or specific concerns. The challenges of promoting the primary sources, papers, artifacts, artwork and other rare cultural materials often require stamina and determination in an atmosphere that has not always been nurturing.

AAC can serve as a fraternity for minority archivists; it can magnify the diversity of interests and assure the relevance and vitality of the Society of American Archivists (SAA) in general. The AAC Roundtable's purpose is to:

1. Identify and address the concerns of the archivists of color including those of African, Asian,

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### Brenda Square Elected New Co-Chair

During the business meeting of the AAC Roundtable at the 1997 SAA Annual Meeting in Chicago, Brenda Square was elected new roundtable co-chair. She replaces Deborah Saito, Fort Collins, Colorado-based archival consultant. Since 1994 Ms. Square has been Manuscript Librarian and Head of Reference Services at the Amistad Research Center at Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana. From 1982 to 1993, she was Administrative Supervisor and Special Assistant to the Director of the Tulane Law Library. Ms. Square earned an M.L.I.S. degree from Louisiana State University, as well as a certificate in paralegal studies from Tulane and a B.A. in political science from the University of New Orleans. Besides SAA, Ms. Square's memberships have included the American Library Association, the Louisiana

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### Gloria Meraz 1997 SAA Minority Student Award Recipient

by Kathryn M. Neal

And the 1997 SAA Minority Student Award goes to...Gloria Meraz! Ms. Meraz is the fourth recipient of this annual award, which was established in 1993 by the SAA and AAC Roundtable to recognize the academic and personal achievements of students of color who show interest in entering the archival profession and to encourage them to become active members of SAA. The award served to pay for Ms. Meraz's travel expenses to the 61st Annual SAA Meeting in Chicago and complimentary student registration. She also received a certificate at the awards banquet, where she was recognized for her achievement.

Born and reared in El Paso, Texas, Ms. Meraz later ventured to Waco, where she earned a B.A. in Museum Studies with a concentration in art history from Baylor University in December 1990. Four years later, she received an MILS with archival science as an area of specialization from the University of Texas at Austin. She is currently working on a doctorate in library and information science at that same institution, again focusing her studies on archival science.

Ms. Meraz's pursuit of further study in this area should come as no surprise. According to Ms. Meraz, she became interested in libraries and archives "very early on" as an undergraduate when she served as a docent at Baylor University's Armstrong-Browning Library. Besides fulfilling her duties in that position, Ms. Meraz had an opportunity to work with

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## Message, Continued from page 1

Hispanic, and Native American descent,

2. Promote wider participation of said archivists in the archival profession, and

3. Promote the preservation of archival materials that pertain to people of color.

The Roundtable meeting and ensuing activities afford a fostering of mutuality in addressing goals. Since our last formal meeting, much dialogue has occurred which addresses these stated objectives. More information will be forthcoming regarding the Minority Student Award, Native American Initiatives, minority survey and documentary projects and promoting minority participation in SAA.

Surely, AAC can provide a base of advocacy from which the collective voices of its members can be heard. As always, your comments and suggestions for AAC are encouraged. Remember,

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## An Open Letter to the AAC

Thomas C. Battle

Awards are often seen as ways to favor those who have made significant contributions in some field of endeavor or earned recognition for some important achievement. Indeed, the award itself may reflect such an accomplishment, having been established to honor some important personage. So it is in the Society of American Archivists, where most awards bear the names of those who have made significant contributions to our profession. Therefore, it seems only appropriate that the

SAA Minority Student Award, conceived and sponsored by the Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtable, honor a

minority individual who has made important contributions to our profession. I propose that the award be named in honor of Dr. Harold Pinkett, a pioneering professional at the National Archives. Dr. Pinkett is a scholar, archival educator and mentor who made significant contributions to the Society of American Archivists and was for many years, until 1992, the SAA's only minority Fellow. Honoring Dr. Pinkett by dedicating the Minority Student Award in his name recognizes the important contributions that minorities have made to the development of the profession. Join me in

sponsoring and supporting a resolution to effect the Harold Pinkett Minority Student Award.

“...it seems only appropriate that the SAA Minority Student Award... honor a minority individual who has made important contributions to our profession.”

## Meraz, Continued from page 1

books and manuscripts in the library's Robert and Elizabeth Barrett Browning collections. Museum studies continued to be a strong interest, however, and she completed her degree in that field. After graduating from college, Ms. Meraz knew that she wanted to obtain a graduate degree but decided to take a break before enrolling in another degree program. Both museum studies and archives vied for her attention. She eventually found the information and library science program at the University of Texas at Austin appealing. Once a student there, she took David Gracy's introduction to archives course. "The glove fit almost immediately," she said. She embarked on studying information and library science with a special focus on archives.

In addition to pursuing her studies,

Ms. Meraz has gained practical archival experience. She has served as a volunteer for the Center for American History in Austin and has completed an internship in the Special Collections department of the University of Texas in El Paso. Currently, she is the archivist for the Texas Library Association (TLA) and is processing the organization's records that have been housed at the Texas State Archives. The Texas State Archives has received ten accessions of records from TLA and seeks to combine them. Ms. Meraz will merge these accessions, as well as oversee the transfer of the organization's more current records to the state archives. In 2002 TLA will celebrate its centennial, so Ms. Meraz's aspects of the organization, drawing upon her knowledge of the TLA records. Ms. Meraz eventually envisions herself

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## People, Places, Projects and Events

### **Archie Motley Named SAA Fellow**

**Archie Motley**, curator of archives and manuscripts at the Chicago Historical Society, was one of eight individuals to be named SAA Fellow on August 28, 1997, during the awards ceremony at SAA's 61st Annual Meeting in Chicago. This appointment is the highest honor bestowed on individuals by SAA, and is given in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the archival profession. An article will appear in the next issue.

### **NAACP Library and Archives Set for Digitization**

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) has announced plans to digitize many of its historically significant holdings in the Henry Lee Moon Library and Archives now located in the Baltimore headquarters. With a \$100,000 contribution from Bell Atlantic, the minority-owned computer firm Kestrel will perform the digitization process. The NAACP web page can be accessed at [www.naacp.org](http://www.naacp.org).

### **Texas African American Photography Archive Receives New Grant**

The Regional Archivist Program of the Texas African American Photograph (TAAP) Archive has received funding from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) of the National Archives. Grant funds will be used to assist two Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)-Jarvis Christian College and Wiley College- the African American Museum of Dallas, and the TAAP Archive to re-house, arrange, and describe their permanently valuable records. The project is intended to provide raw data for the ongoing Cooperative HBCU Archival Survey Project (CHASP), based at Spelman College in Atlanta. CHASP's mission to

complete surveys of the collections that are housed at ninety-nine HBCUs.

### **Exhibits on View at the Museum of Chinese in the Americas**

Three exhibits are currently on display at the Museum of Chinese in the Americas in New York City. "Where Is Home?" is a permanent exhibition, which offers an historical overview of Chinese in the Americas through the featuring of artifacts, textiles, and textual materials. The exhibition is show cased in a large structure shaped like a paper lantern, which was designed by architects Billie Tsien and Tod Williams. "Fly to Freedom: Paper Artwork by the Golden Venture Refugees" consists of three-dimensional artworks made entirely of paper, water, and glue. The pieces were created while the refugees were detained in York County Detention Center in Pennsylvania. The third exhibition "Portraits of Chinatown," a photography exhibit by students of the Fashion Institute of Technology, features images that document the diversity with Chinatown. The Museum of Chinese in the Americas also organizes special family programs, public programs, and historical walking tours. It is open Tuesdays through Saturdays from noon to 5 p.m. Suggested admission is \$3 for adults and \$1 for students and seniors; museum members and students under twelve may enter for free. Museum members receive special invitations and discounts to programs, exhibition openings, and special events. The museum now has a new e-mail address: [MoCA-org@juno.com](mailto:MoCA-org@juno.com).

### **Margaret Jerrido Elected Vice-President of OHMAR**

**Margaret Jerrido**, Archivist and Head of the Urban Archives, Paley Library at Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, has been elected Vice-President of OHMAR (Oral History in

the Mid-Atlantic Region) and appointed to the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Black History Advisory Committee.

### **Tenth Annual Dorothy Porter Wesley Day**

The tenth annual **Dorothy Porter Wesley Day** at the **Moorland-Spingarn Research Center** will be celebrated April 24, 1998 with a forum and lecture. The theme for this year's program is "The Library and Local Government." Local funding for libraries, relationships with governing bodies and improving the support of government officials will be the focus of the forum and lecture. The featured speaker is Councilwoman Augusta Clark of Philadelphia, who as politician, librarian and lawyer, brings a wealth of experience and insight to share with participants. For more information contact Jean Currie Church or Rosa Anthony at (202) 806-7240.



### **Moorland Spingarn Announces Improved Website**

Visit the **Moorland-Spingarn Research Center's** new and improved web site at [www.founders.howard.edu/moorland-spingarn](http://www.founders.howard.edu/moorland-spingarn).

### **Photos of African Americans in Business Needed**

**The Alexandria Black History Resource Center (BRHC)** in Alexandria, VA is seeking photographs and memorabilia of local African American owned businesses. "African Americans in Business: The Path Toward Empowerment" is the theme of a permanent exhibition at the BRHC that will open April 25, 1998. For more information contact Audrey P. Davis at BRHC, P.O. Box 178, City Hall, Alexandria, VA 22313/(703)838-4356.



### National Archives for Black Women's History Expanded

The National Archives for Black Women's History, located at the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site in Washington, D.C., has a new look and more storage space thanks to a major renovation completed last fall by the National Park Service. The key component in the project was the installation of compact mobile shelving which increased capacity by 40%. The staff recently created a database on collections of African American women's papers. Thus far, the database includes more than 250 entries. Check out their new web site at [www.nps.gov/mamc](http://www.nps.gov/mamc). For more information contact Susan McElrath (202) 673-2402.

### SCSU Celebrates National Archives Week

The South Carolina State University Historical Collection (SCSU) celebrated National Archives Week, October 12-18, 1997. This was the university's first year of participation. The week included a series of sessions promoting archival awareness and contemporary uses. The historical collection staff chose the year theme, "Contribute to the Future...Give of the Past", which also served as the theme for archives week.

National Archives Week was used as a vehicle to bring out the inner archivist in its participants; and offered sessions which ranged from personal archives to

building institutional archival collections. All of the sessions were held on the campus of South Carolina State University. Topics discussed included "Personal Archival Care and Management and an Introduction to the SCSU Historical Collection Coordinator and Archivist; "Conservation and Museum Collections and an Introduction to the L.P. Stanback Museum", presented by **Frank Martin**, Curator of exhibitions and collections; "Using Archives for Genealogical Research and Preserving African American personal and Organizational Papers," **Sherman E. Pyatt**, Archivist, Avery Research Center in Charleston; "SCSU: The Early Years," **Dr. William Hine** of the Department of History; and "The African American Archivist: Preserving Our History and Building Collections." This session was conducted by **Karen L. Jefferson**, African American Bibliographer and Archivist at Duke University's John Hope Franklin Research Center, and **Carter Cue**, University Archivist at Winston-Salem State University.

For more information on the SCSU Historical Collection, please contact **Lela J. Sewell**, South Carolina State University, Orangeburg, SC 29117/(803) 536-8627/7045/lela@mcnair.scsu.edu

### What's New at the TAAP

by John Slate

The Texas African American Photography Archive (TAAP), Dallas, Texas, continues its mission of preservation and access to photographic materials through its National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) grant and an aggressive exhibits program. "The Last Look: The Funerary Photographs of Curtis Humphrey" (October 25, 1997-January 31, 1998) was the archive's fall/winter onsite exhibit, and received coverage in the Dallas Morning News. Due to popular demand, "The Last Look" extended its run through February 28, 1998. Another exhibit covering the breadth of Curtis Humphrey's work was exhibited at the gallery of Northeast

Texas Community College, Mount Pleasant, Texas during February. Also during February a small exhibit of the photography of Eugene Roquemore went on view at the corporate headquarters of Frito-Lay in Plano, Texas. Roquemore (1922-1993) worked at the Frito-lay plant in Lubbock, Texas for a number of years in addition to working as a community photographer. Finally, Richland College, Richardson, Texas also hosted during February, an exhibit featuring civil rights images from the TAAP Archive. Included were photographs of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during historic visits to Houston and Dallas, as well as images of demonstrations and protest marches.

As processing of the archive's first 16,000 prints and negatives near completion, Project Archivist John Slate is preparing machine-readable cataloging records (MARC) for the On-line Computer Library Center (OCLC) and the National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections, as well as supervising the preparation and microfilming of several thousand selected images from the collections. Microfiche sets and a guide to the collection will be available at the close of the project. Slate will also be preparing for another year of the Student Internship Program, offering paid internships to African-American students attending historically Black colleges in North and East Texas. For more information about TAAP, go to [www.docarts.com](http://www.docarts.com).

### Co-Chair's Message, from pg. 2

ber, Archives and Archivists of Color, we can make a difference!

Events of the past few months have invited more than my usual introspection and retrospection. Many activities have accelerated in anticipation of a long delayed medical leave (that I'm yet to embrace). However, I wish to express my appreciation for the many positive expressions for my well-being from my AAC colleagues and SAA members. For your precious vibes and prayers, I am truly grateful.

# Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtable Business Meeting Minutes

## Society of American Archivists

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m. by Chairperson **Cynthia Lewis**. Lewis was presented a gift of appreciation.

### Comments from SAA Officers and Council Liaison

Lewis opened the floor for SAA officers and Council liaison reports. **Laurie Baty**, SAA Council liaison to the Archivists and Archives of Color (AAC) Roundtable, discussed the movement within SAA to consolidate roundtables. Specifically, she reported that SAA plans to study the possibility of broadening minority concerns by way of a Diversity Committee, which would include the Women's Caucus. Baty also reported on the possibility that SAA would dissolve the Committee on the Status of Women. The membership discussed the issue. Members then passed a motion to endorse the Committee on the Status of Women's resolution against the dissolution of the committee.

### Native American Archives Coalition

**Richard Pearce-Moses** discussed the need for professional development for Native Americans. The membership discussed the prospect of a roundtable being formed to address the concerns of Native American Archivists and archivists who administer Native American collections, but reached a consensus that the most practical forum for helping Native American archivists is through the auspices of the AAC Roundtable. It was concluded that the AAC should work with Native American archivists to develop mutually beneficial goals.

### Committee Reports

#### AAC Archives Committee Report

**Deborah Dandridge** reported that the Archives Committee has gone through two cubic feet of records and is working on developing a retention schedule with 27 series. Dandridge brought up two items for discussion: 1) recommendations for the retention schedule and 2) a decision as to where AAC Roundtable archives should be kept, whether in institutions of

individual members on a rotating basis or in the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center of Howard University. The members decided that the Archives Committee should check with SAA to determine where the records of other roundtables are maintained. It was voted that if AAC Roundtable records are not part of SAA, then they should be at Moorland-Spingarn. Members called for all past chairpersons to turn over records to the Archives Committee.

#### 1998 SAA Program Committee Report

A liaison from the SAA 1998 Program Committee reported that October 10, 1998 is the deadline for session proposals for the next annual meeting, which will take place at Disneyworld in Orlando, Florida. There is to be no fee. Proposals might, for example, concern or relate to the park theme (e.g. environmental issues, popular culture, tourism, etc.). The Program Committee liaison also noted the need to nominate students for scholarships.

#### 1997 SAA Minority Student Award Committee Report

Lewis presented the 1997 SAA Minority Student Award recipient, **Gloria Meraz**, who thanked the ACC Roundtable for its support and encouragement.

#### AAC Roundtable Newsletter Report

**Kathryn Neal**, Editor, invited all to submit stories, news, and photographs.

#### AAC Directory Committee Report

**Karen Jefferson**, told the membership that the 1995-1997 edition had been completed and distributed. Data sheets for the 1997-1998 directory are ready for distribution and will be mailed in September. Revisions should be returned by October. She reported that the Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA) and other groups have shown interest in publishing the next edition.

#### Cooperative HBCU Archival Survey Project (CHASP)

**Taronda Spencer** spoke on the survey of

the records of historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and the African-American Educational Archives Project. As of November 1996, the project archivists had completed a survey of 30 colleges. The work is continuing on the second phase.

The SAA Fellows update was presented.

### Announcements

Lewis opened the floor for other business.

**Beverly Cook** affirmed the need for members to submit material for the newsletter. She also called for more formalization of goals and procedures, particularly the policies for elections of co-chairs. In addition, the membership called for a more intensive recruitment of minorities to the profession.

Members also discussed the service of **Bernice Brack**, who has been a very important asset to SAA. Accordingly, the membership talked about some form of commendation for Brack. Lewis accepted the recommendation. Members made suggestions as to the type of commendation.

### Annual Collection

Lewis opened the floor for the annual collection to contribute to the SAA Minority Student Award Fund. The total collected was \$350, which will be matched by SAA.

### Nomination and Election of Co-Chair, 1997-1998

Lewis opened the floor for the nomination and election of a new co-chair for the roundtable. **Brenda Square** was elected. She thanked the membership and said that she was enthusiastic about the position. Square concluded with a general announcement concerning the American Federation of Musicians and its need for information.

Lewis adjourned the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Meraz

\*Some editing was done for publication.

# Bordering on Excellence

## Florence Borders Carves Out Career in Libraries and Archives

by Kathryn M. Neal



In 1989, Florence Borders retired from the Amistad Research Center at Tulane University, where she had served as reference archivist and senior archivist. She planned to spend her newfound free time with her family. That plan succeeded...for all of five months. By the October's end that year, Mrs. Borders was back at work--albeit part-time--as head archivist of the Center for African and African-American Studies (CAAAS) at the Southern University--New Orleans (SUNO), a position she still holds. It seems that the dedication that she has brought to her careers in librarianship and the archival profession has shown no signs of waning.

The New Iberian, Louisiana native received her bachelor's degree in library science from Southern University in Baton Rouge. She earned a master's degree in that area from Rosary College (now Dominican University) in River Forest, Illinois. At that time, a fifth year of study in library science led to a master's degree. Mrs. Borders gained practical experience working in the cataloging department of Xavier University of Louisiana in New Orleans. Later she would become head of Technical Services in the library of Grambling State University in Grambling, Louisiana.

Although Mrs. Borders first heard the word "archives" when her third-grade teacher presented it to the class as a spelling word and later read about the National Archives, for years she knew no archivists. Yet her focus on librarianship would give way to archives in 1970 when she settled in New Orleans once again. Her interest in the profession was piqued when she attended the American Library

Association (ALA Joint Meeting of Libraries and Archives). That same year she accepted a position at the Amistad Research Center. The center's collections had recently been relocated from Fisk University in Tennessee to New Orleans-based Dillard University. They would eventually come to be housed at Tulane University, also in New Orleans. To aid her transition from the one information profession to another, Mrs. Borders participated in a workshop on libraries and archives, sponsored by the Ohio Historical Society in Columbus, which provided her with training for working with manuscript material and records. During the 1970s, she began to attend SAA meetings. She also became active in her local archival organization, the Greater New Orleans Archivists, and has served as its president, secretary, and newsletter editor.

Florence Borders would be one of a very small group of African-American Archivists present at the SAA meetings. When she entered the profession, she says, most of her contemporaries were retiring. The majority of African-American archivists whom she met at the time were employed by government archives, rather than manuscripts repositories. Many librarians at historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) had been handling archives and rare books for years but were not necessarily attending SAA conferences. In the early 1980s, Mrs. Borders would

be instrumental in establishing the SAA Minorities Task Force, which in 1987 would become what is now known as the Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtable.

Mrs. Borders sees an increase in the number of African-Americans choosing to enter the profession. She recalls that New Orleans native Taronda Spencer, currently part of the survey team for the Cooperative HBCU Archival Survey Project (CHASP) and interim archivist of Spelman College, was still in high school when she became interested in archival work. Ms. Spencer's mother was one of Mrs. Border's colleagues at the Amistad Research Center. According to Mrs. Borders, the young Taronda practically grew up knowing that she wanted to be an archivist because she had the opportunity to be exposed to an archival facility. Mrs. Borders said that when she herself was in high school, she could not have dreamed of working in an archives, and indeed, she and others of her generation wondered if building a career in archival work would be a viable option for Ms. Spencer. "But she's [Ms. Spencer] done it, and she's done it well," Mrs. Borders said.

Mrs. Borders said that she expects still more young people of color to enter the profession. During her tenure at the Amistad Research Center, she and other staff members tried to encourage both high-school and college students to consider archival careers by creating

visual resources that would entice them to use archival collections. As head archivist at SUNO's Center for African and African-American Studies, she has transferred that outreach effort to SUNO students. For example, she often recruits students to help her to install exhibits. Introducing student groups, such as the Future Farmers of America, to archival research is exciting. Mrs. Borders strives to show students that archival positions can be economically viable. Being an archivist herself, she said, is not as important as opening young students' eyes to the possibility of becoming one. Most of what's happened in her own career has been "rather accidental, but they can *plan* to [work in archives.]" She finds SUNO's Career Day activities helpful but believes that she is the only person who approaches the students about pursuing archival studies. She hopes to have more say in the development of some type of academic component on campus and would like to invite someone from the SAA staff to talk with students.

While Mrs. Borders has tried to be a mentor to students, early in her archival career, she was herself a protégée. Her experiences were enhanced chiefly by two individuals: Dr. Clifton Johnson, former director of the Amistad Research Center, and another Amistad colleague Gracilia Hardacre. Although he was a white Georgian whom others might have stereotyped based solely on his background, Mrs. Border said that Dr. Johnson worked hard to build the collections at Amistad and helped her to understand the importance of archival records. In fact, she said that she feels that she owes him much for exposing her to the world of archives. "He was willing to let me learn," she said. Ms. Hardacre "showed her the ropes," particularly when it came to teaching her the basics of archival accession and description, to using the National Union Catalog for Manuscript Collections (NUCMC), and to assisting her through the institution's creation of MARC records. The use of electronic descriptive tools proved invaluable to Mrs. Borders once she assumed her position at SUNO. Today's students are so computer-literate, she

said, that she feels that the most effective way to teach them about access to archival collections is through the formats with which they are most familiar.

Besides devoting her time to outreach, Mrs. Borders, who works 20 hours per week, also publishes a newsletter and will soon edit the CAAAS journal. Mrs. Borders most enjoys her field work, making contact with people who have materials that they have not held in great esteem but, thanks to her efforts, discover that their papers have great historical significance. She has been especially interested in documenting family histories and the histories of defunct organizations. As an example, she mentioned meeting a woman who had been chair of the New Orleans chapter of the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA), yet the woman did not consider that information to have been important. Mrs. Borders considers her least favorite task to be finding space to accommodate the archives' collections, which are burgeoning. Although she thinks that it would be helpful to have additional funding to create a new facility, she suspects that the center's storage needs might change if CD-ROMs are used, in some cases, to preserve information.

Over the course of her archival career, Mrs. Borders had also served as a consultant for documentary films. The late filmmaker Marlon Riggs drew on her expertise for his documentary "Black Is, Black Ain't." She was consulted for "House Divided," a film about segregation in the Civil Rights era. Mrs. Borders herself coordinated field researchers' interviews for the oral history project "Behind the Veil: Documenting the Jim Crow Era," which are now part of the CAAAS Archives' holdings.

Given Florence Borders's lengthy career in archives, has she any regrets? Even if she were not an archivist, she says that she would not stray far from the profession. She feels destined to have become a librarian or an archivist. "I like books and I like people," she said. "So I think that the two things would [still] have made me think that library science was a right vocation."

## **Meraz, Continued from page 2**

teaching but "not until I've been in the trenches, so to speak" she says. For now, she enjoys working directly with records and manuscript material.

Winning the Minority Student Award enabled Ms. Meraz to attend her first SAA meeting and experience which she called a "career opportunity" since it gave her a chance to become acquainted with several archivists and to interact with them professionally. "I was very excited," she said of receiving the award. "And actually, this sounds somewhat corny, but it was really kind of humbling." She explained her reaction further by saying that she considers the award a "professional honor" but also meaningful personally, given the divisiveness that has occurred on the University of Texas campus as a result of the debate over the future of Affirmative Action there. She finds it gratifying and reassuring that an organization such as SAA understands the concern of minority students.

Ms. Meraz offers words of praise for the AAC Roundtable. She has heard discussions about the differences between for-profit and non-profit institutions and organizations. Generally, she finds archivists to be generous both with their financial support of new professionals and with their time. When AAC Roundtable members performed their now-traditional "passing of the hat" at the 1997 roundtable business meeting for donations to the 1998 Minority Student Award fund, Ms. Meraz considered it particularly touching. She contends that the quality of archivists' work and deeds is a reflection of their caliber as professionals. The same can be said of Ms. Meraz, and the AAC Roundtable wishes her good luck.

## **Square, Continued from page 1**

Archives and Manuscript Association, the Louisiana Library Association, the Southeastern Museum Conference, the New Orleans Association of Law Libraries, and the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society, United Church of Christ.