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# Archivists & Archives of Color Newsletter

Newsletter of the Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtable

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## FAREWELL TO KATHRYN M. NEAL, NEW CO-CHAIR

Kathy Neal served us so well as co-editor of this newsletter that expectations are high as she assumes the position of Co-Chair of the Roundtable, joining Co-Chair Brenda Square. Kathy is also in a new position at the University of Minnesota (see People, Places, Publications, Projects). Thank you, Kathy, for the energy and journalistic skills you brought to the newsletter, and good luck to you in both your new assignments.

## WELCOME TO NEW CO-EDITOR



Cathy Lynn Mundale, Archivist/Special Collections Librarian at Virginia Union University, volunteered at our last business meeting to be the new co-editor of the newsletter. Already she is proving herself to be dedicated to the task, gathering news and composing stories with alacrity. Cathy is a graduate of the University of California, Santa Barbara (B.A., English), and the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill (M.L.S.). At Virginia Union, where she has been for almost 2 years, Cathy initiated and developed VUU's first archival program, in which archival and manuscript collections are being accessioned, processed and described; and rare books and student museum collection, and develops and maintains the vertical files. In her short career, Cathy has become proficient in the ways of archives. Her co-editor looks forward to working with her for many issues to come. and rare books and student these are

being catalogued. As Special Collections Librarian, Cathy provides reference service; she also maintains the museum collection, and develops and maintains the vertical files. In her short career, Cathy has become proficient in the ways of archives. Her co-editor looks forward to working with her for many issues to come.

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## Documenting and Serving the Community: Starting an Archival Program at the Japanese American Service Committee of Chicago

By Deborah Mieko King

The Japanese American Service Committee (JASC) was founded in Chicago in 1946 as a social service agency. This agency sought to assist in the resettlement of over 20,000 Japanese Americans who were new to Chicago after release from internment camps on the West Coast during World War II. After resettlement the JASC undertook new priorities and began to provide comprehensive services for the Japanese American population and others in Chicago. Today the JASC provides diverse programs such as adult day services, casework and counseling, home support services, educational workshops and classes, community meetings, cultural events and festivals, a youth group, and intergenerational dialogs. The JASC has been a center of the Japanese American community in Chicago since its founding. The agency is keenly aware of the important role it can and should play in preserving, promoting, and passing on Japanese American traditions, history, culture, and arts and has made that heritage an integral part of its programming and services.

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The JASC archival program grew out a graduate student project conducted for Tim Ericson's advanced archival seminar at the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee in the spring of 1997. Initially I conducted a records survey at the agency and met with staff members to discuss their records management needs and why the agency and the community would want an archives and eventually a legacy (information) center at the JASC. The report included a brief organizational history, information about other resources regarding Japanese Americans in the Chicago area, a list of the JASC's records and their locations (six different places in the building!), recommendations for facility improvements and storage requirements, and issues to be considered such as a mission statement, governance, administration, legal rights to outside materials, preservation methods, ongoing organizational and financial support for the program, and alternatives to starting an archival program.

In the summer of 1997 the JASC administration decided to forge ahead with the archival program. Because the nature of the Japanese American population in Chicago and the United States as a whole is changing rapidly due to a high interracial marriage rate, low numbers of recent immigrants, and an aging population, the JASC sees itself today at a critical juncture for future plans and goals. As part of its changing and broadening mission, the agency believes that it is important to begin collecting within the Japanese American community and preserving its own agency history. Collecting within the Japanese American community is crucial now due to the age of many members of the community and because there is no repository in the Midwest dedicated solely to collecting Japanese American history.

As anyone who has started an archival program knows, after two years into the program I continually revisit the challenges outlined in the initial assessment report. One of the first hurdles I had to cross was convincing a JASC leader that the top priority should be basic care and control over the collections rather than the purchase of digital scanning equipment to scan board meeting minutes for JASC members to read. (Paper copies are

available and many elderly members prefer paper to the digital format!)

Currently, I continue to appraise, arrange, and describe the agency's own records. Recently, the agency began accepting collections from Chicago's Japanese American community and I am trying to implement an agency-wide records management program. Today the collections consist of approximately 150 cubic feet of JASC materials documenting the executive board, the executive director, the administration, the development/public relations department, the social services department, JASC publications, and JASC audio-visual materials including films, photographs, negatives, slides, and videotapes. In addition, manuscript collections of Japanese American Chicagoans comprise approximately 10 cubic feet of materials including letters, diaries, certificates, photographs, and artifacts. Highlights include a diary kept by a young woman while incarcerated at the Jerome, Arkansas internment camp and her brother's World War II uniform. I strive to keep the JASC staff and the greater community aware of the archival program and its purpose and benefits for them. As any archivist knows, often it is challenging to convince people that office records or their diaries, letters, and photographs are important to preserve for future generations.

For more information about the program, please contact me on Mondays:

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## PROFILES OF ARCHIVES AND AFRICAN AMERICAN DONORS

by Cathy Lynn Mundale

L. Teresa Church began the African American Library Archives Project at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill during 1996, in conjunction with her studies in the School of Information and Library Science. For her Master's Paper research, she investigated the motivations of African Americans who have already donated personal papers to repositories. Her study included interviews with archivists, curators, and donors affiliated with a number of North Carolina libraries. Twenty-one participants provided her with data responses.

This investigation recognizes some strong resemblances between the profiles of African American donors at national, state, and local levels. Most such individuals, for example, are distinguished personalities with significant social standing and name recognition. The donors

represented in this study are educators, scholars, and business and community leaders. Their responses identified a variety of reasons for donating papers to libraries. Factors such as a donor's age, places of residence or geographic origin, and affiliations with particular libraries are often critical for decision making purposes.

The majority of donors participating in the study were at least sixty years of age when they donated their papers. In addition to documenting their own lives and accomplishments, they shared a keen interest in building collections of primary source materials for use by scholars and researchers. More importantly, however, they viewed donating their papers as a means of preserving African American history and culture. Several participants chose to donate their papers to North Carolina within close proximity to their residences. Doing so afforded the donors and their families convenient access to their materials. Another participant in the study selected a library in North Carolina at which to donate papers because the donor is a native of the state.

Church's study also examined how donors's affiliations with libraries affected their donation decisions. Her findings reveal that, in most instances, donors had established favorable relationships with personnel at the respective libraries prior to making their donations. Finally, she examines anecdotal evidence, such as friendships between library personnel and prospective donors, which may affect the decision to donate papers. Her thesis, *What Motivates African Americans to Donate Personal Papers to Libraries and How Their Giving Decisions Affect the Quantity and Quality of Collections Procured for Archives*, is available through interlibrary loan from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. (Please see the following Website for ILL details:

<http://dbserv.ils.unc.edu/projects/masters/queries/MPsearch.html>

## PEOPLE, PLACES, PUBLICATIONS, PROJECTS, EVENTS

The Eleventh Annual Dorothy Porter Wesley Forum and Lecture was held April 23, 1999 on the campus of Howard University. The theme for this year's program was "Librarianship and Electronic Publishing: Development, Access and Outreach." The guest panelists explored this topic from their different vantage points: multimedia publishing, electronic journals and, from the other end of the spectrum, traditional print publishing and how it is affected by the new technologies. The Forum was followed by the Lecture, presented this year by Dr. Thomas C. Battle, Director of MSRC, whose topic was "Libraries: The Adventure of Knowledge." The afternoon's activities culminated with a reception in the Howard University Museum.

**Kathryn Neal**, formerly assistant archivist in the Iowa Women's Archives, University of Iowa Libraries, and director of its African-American Women in Iowa project, has accepted a new position. She is now curator of the Archie Givens, Sr. Collection of African American Literature and Life at the University of Minnesota Libraries.

**Thomas C. Battle**, director of the Moorland-Spangarn Research Center, has been invited by the Office of the Mayor of Washington, D.C. to serve on the board of what will become the Washington, D.C. African American Museum, Inc. When completed, the Museum will document and exhibit the history and contributions of African Americans to the city. On December 7, Dr. Battle was a guest panelist for the Cesar Chavez Charter School for Public Policy. In November, he was a panelist for a Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference program session entitled "African Americans and Archival Science: Major Issues for the 21st Century."

**Donna M. Wells**, prints and photographs librarian at the Moorland-Spangarn Research Center, recently became an advisory board member of the Shaw Oral History Project, an initiative to interview local residents. She was also chosen as advisory board member of "From These Beginnings, Part II: A Celebration of African American Women," an exhibit planned by the National Council of Negro Women, Inc.

The Center for the Book in the Library of Congress recently heralded the publication of **African American Newspapers and Periodicals: A National Bibliography** at a reception in February as part of the Center's "Books and Beyond" series and the Library's celebration of Black History Month. The two-volume publication (Harvard University Press, 1998), edited by James P. Danky, newspaper and periodicals librarian at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, is the first comprehensive guide to the body of newspapers and periodicals by and about African Americans. It contains more than 6,000 entries. The associate editor is Maureen E. Hady, African American newspaper and periodicals bibliographer at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. The bibliography sells for \$125.00. For information or to order by telephone, call Harvard University Press at (800) 448-2242 or (617) 495-2480.

**The George Meany Memorial Archives (GMMA)** is sponsoring the exhibit "Every Worker Is an Organizer: Photographs by David Bacon, The Story of California Farm Labor and the Resurgence of the United Farm Workers of America." Part of a larger project on workers affected by the global economy, Bacon's photographs document major events in UFW history since the death of Cesar Chavez in 1993, and the working and living conditions of farm laborers in California. The exhibit is up until May 28, 1999, at GMMA, 10000 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, MD For more information, call (301) 431-5451.

Richmond, Virginia will be the only East Coast site for one of the largest exhibitions of ancient Egyptian treasures to visit the U.S. in years. "Splendors of Ancient Egypt," at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts from May 25 to November 28, 1999, presents a panoramic view of one of the world's greatest civilizations and fills nearly 16,000 square feet of gallery space. The exhibition was assembled from the collection of Egyptian art at the Pelizaeus Museum in Germany, and features more than 200 masterpieces ranging from 5,000 years ago through the age of the pyramids, the times of Akhenaten, Hatshepsut and Ramses, to the 7th

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century A.D. For more information, contact Dr. Margaret Mayo, curator of ancient art, 2800 Grove Ave., Richmond, VA 23221/(804) 204-2704.

**Minneola Dixon**, Archivist at Oakwood College, hosted **Ms. Lona Nell Lea**, retired administrator from the Seventh-Day Adventist World Headquarters in Silver Spring, MD. Ms. Lea, a graduate of Oakwood in Huntsville, AL, having served the Church for 41 years before her retirement, volunteered to work for two weeks in the Oakwood College Archives, under the tutelage of Ms. Dixon. She was greatly impressed by the mission of the Archives - to preserve the historical and important records on Black Seventh-Day Adventists.

**The Urban Archives at Temple University Libraries** was awarded two grants from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission in December 1997. One enabled the archives to survey, compile, and produce the Directory of African American Collections in Greater Philadelphia and Selected Suburban Areas. The text of the directory is on the Urban Archives web site at [urban@www.library.temple.edu](mailto:urban@www.library.temple.edu). Print copies are available from the Urban Archives for \$8.00. Please contact Margaret Jerrido, Archivist and Head of Urban Archives, Paley Library, 13th and Berks Mall, Philadelphia, PA 19122/(215)204-5750/e-mail: [mj@astro.ocis.temple.edu](mailto:mj@astro.ocis.temple.edu). The second grant was to process collections formed by women or exclusively about women. As a result of the funding the Archives was able to hire a processing archivist to organize and preserve the following collections: CHOICE (Concerned for Health Options: Information, Care and Education), Gray Panthers, and five branches of the YWCA (Young Women's Christian Association). The finding aids for these collections have also been included on the Urban Archives web site (see above).

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**The North Carolina Central University African American Resources Collection now available at UNC-CH**

The North Carolina Central University African American Resources Collections of the School of Library and Information Sciences have

been moved to the secure, climate controlled Manuscripts Department stacks in Wilson Library at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The papers of William Kennedy, Jr., Floyd McKissick, Sr., and other related collections now join the Southern Historical Collection, the Southern Folklife Collection, and interviews by the Southern Oral History Program. N.C.C.U.'s extraordinarily rich African American Resources Collections placed with the documentation collected by the Manuscripts Department will make this joint archive one of the best repositories for African American research in the South.

The N.C.C.U. Collection includes over a half million manuscripts, oral histories, and video tapes documenting the development of Soul City, the North Carolina Mutual Insurance Company, and the Triangle African American community. The N.C.C.U. School of Library and Information Sciences will assist in providing access to and maintaining these archival collections by supplying a graduate intern. Combined with a project archivist recently hired by the Manuscripts Department and potential grant funding, greater researcher access to all of the collections will be available within the near future. The Curator of Manuscripts at UNC-CH will work jointly with both institutions to ensure that cooperation in documenting the African American community is not a static activity, but rather a dynamic relationship enriching their mutual collections and programs.

For more information, please contact Dr. Benjamin Speller, Dean, N.C.C.U. School of Library and Information Sciences or Tim Pyatt, Curator of Manuscripts, UNC-CH.

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**ARCHIE MOTLEY: ARCHIVIST EMERITUS,  
CHICAGO HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

By Beverly A. Cook and Michael Flug

It has been more than one year since Archie Motley, Curator of Archives and Manuscripts at the Chicago Historical Society (CHS), retired. A number of fine tributes to Archie's 42 year career at CHS have appeared in newsletters of the archival

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of knowing the city, knowing the Black community, and knowing the social service agencies," Archie said.

He insists the credit for the transformation of CHS collections should not only be given to the archivists. "Much of the 'credit' should go to the times. It was a different era in the 1960s. The nation was interested in a wide variety of issues because of the ferment of the period. Race, poverty, labor and women's issues were being discussed. The rise of the civil rights movement, nationally and in Chicago, and the great increase in the number of graduate students in history departments fueled collecting activities here and elsewhere."

"In the first group of large collections, we received the papers of Paul Douglas, the Senator from Illinois, and Arthur Mitchell, the Black congressman who represented Chicago's South Side in the 1930s and 1940s. At this time, the University of Illinois at Chicago began to collect actively. Both of us approached social service agencies for their records, which had such breadth. Again and again we found that when we met with their institutions, we were informed this was the first time anyone had approached them for their records."

Archie Motley is the son of Archibald J. Motley, Jr., and Edith Granzo Motley. Archie's father was a renowned African American painter in the Chicago Renaissance. Among his best known works were those which depicted life in Chicago's nightclubs and streets in the Bronzeville area. Archie gives credit to his father for nurturing his collection development instincts. "I graduated from Englewood High School. My dad went there too and so did my cousin [the African American novelist] Willard Motley. My father talked about race and politics at the dinner table. He was curious about history, always reading, always talking about politics and sports. And so I knew the Black community in Chicago; I knew who was who and how to talk to people."

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profession. These have focused on his extraordinary contributions to the work of the Society of American Archivists, the Midwest Archives Conference, and a long list of Illinois historical organizations.

We decided to discuss a different subject with Archie -- his role in the remarkable transformation of archives and manuscripts at CHS from a small collection focused on the business and professional elite to one of the largest and most important collections documenting the whole spectrum of the urban experience. Aggressively seeking collections which illuminate the history of African Americans, women, labor, social services, and social movements in Chicago, Motley reshaped the holdings of his institution and influenced the work of historical societies nationally.

We asked Archie how the transformation of CHS collections began and what were the factors that contributed to his success. "I wouldn't say that the CHS holding, when I first arrived in 1955, were 'typical', but the collecting program was a passive, rather than active one, basically consisting of small collections and significant individual items. There was a 'benign neglect' of urban issues before 1965. We held about 400 linear feet in archives and manuscripts when I arrived. We had fine material on Illinois and Chicago, mainly before the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. But like many other institutions, we did not solicit big collections. The McCormick family, for example, offered us their papers, but since it was a huge collection, we declined and it went to the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. It was during the mid-1960s when all this began to change. Today we have about 16,000 linear feet of archival and manuscript holdings."

Archie outlined three factors which facilitated the great expansion in CHS holdings: 1. In the mid-1960s, a new director, Clement Silvestro, changed the collection development focus to allow the accession of large collections; 2. At the same time, Archie was given the freedom to set policy on collection development and strong institutional support to acquire large important collections; 3. As a lifelong Chicago resident, Archie applied his in-depth knowledge of the city to decide which collections to target for accession. "It was a matter

"From 1955 to 1965 the archives at CHS was a single person shop. After 1965, we began to increase staff and the collections began coming in rapidly. One of the things that helped us was that the material was very well cataloged, one of the better repositories in the United States in this regard. People knew what was here. Our cataloging of large collections during the 1980s and 1990s was greatly assisted with the acquisition of grant monies. My colleague Linda Evans was very proficient in this regard. Throughout my years at the CHS, I did a great deal of reference work, ably assisted by Ms. Evans and Ralph Pugh. Researchers often put our names in their books and articles when citing our holdings - giving us and the program greater visibility. We were also fortunate to be part of a major historical institution- known to many people- that has heavy visitation and excellent media coverage."

Archie is still thinking about what has been achieved and what remains to be done in collection development. "There is more effort now to deal with questions of diversity and race. In urban areas, there has been an awareness about this for a long time. It's not the rosier picture, but it's better than it was. Ken Burns and other PBS documentaries have helped by using archival material, giving us more visibility than ever. This is beginning to combat ignorance about who is out there in the minority community with records of achievement. And foundations are giving more money to fund Black exhibits now."



"One of the issues I think still needs more work is the question of diversity in the archival profession. The minority scholarship in the Midwest Archives Conference and the minority award in the SAA are excellent recent developments, but more needs to be done. I'm not sure what will be more successful. Can we get corporate funding to endow scholarships? We really need an affirmative action approach to achieve diversity. We also need to create alternative pathways for people to become archivists. For some it may help them to begin their

career by volunteering. This is sometimes a good way to enter the profession."

Archie's "retirement" began on March 1, 1998, but sources tell us that he is still working as Archivist Emeritus about 25 hours a week on a number of ongoing processing projects and collection development.

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#### GREETINGS:

I would like to take this opportunity to bid farewell as outgoing Chair for the Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtable. May I also again express my appreciation for the work and support of many members. The past year brought focus on the AAC's organizational and procedural structure especially on the electoral process; support and recommendation for a new designation for the Minority Student Award to the Harold T. Pinkett Minority Student Award; renewed organizational commitment to enhanced AAC participation for all racial/ethnic groups; and increasing avenues for meaningful AAC input to the Society of American Archivists. Many issues have allowed me to interact with diverse imaginative and energetic groups.

I have seen SAA serve as a positive fraternity for minority archivists. Indeed AAC, we have made a difference. I consider it a privilege to have shared the experiences and dynamics of serving as AAC chair and pledge continued alliance. Looking forward to making a difference in the future!

Blessings,

Cynthia Patterson Lewis