
Archivists & Archives of Color Newsletter

Newsletter of the Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtable

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AAC Welcomes Thomas C. Battle as Vice Chair

Join us in welcoming Thomas Battle as he assumes the position of Vice Chair of the AAC Roundtable. He graciously accepted being "volunteered" to the job at our business meeting at the Annual SAA Meeting in Pittsburgh. Dr. Battle has served as director of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center since 1986. As part of a long and distinguished record at Howard University, beginning in 1972, he served as curator of manuscripts, curator of the Howard University Museum, and reference librarian at the Center. He also serves as consultant to many institutions, including the DuSable Museum in Chicago, the National Park Service and the Smithsonian Institution, and is active in SAA and the Academy of Certified Archivists. He received the B.A. from Howard University, the Master of Library Science degree from the University of Maryland College Park, and the Ph.D. degree from The George Washington University. Dr. Battle joins Chair Kathryn M. Neal, Curator of the Archie Givens, Jr. Collection of the University of Minnesota's Wilson Library.

Native American Archivists & Anthropologists Meet

By David Keller

From Tuesday August 10 through Friday August 13, 1999, the Council for the Preservation of Anthropological Records (COPAR) hosted a diverse group of Native American archivists, anthropologists, museum directors, academics and other professionals to begin a dialogue between tribal archivists and anthropologists. Held at the Newberry Library in Chicago with grant funding from the Wenner-Gren Foundation, the conference was a first step toward opening the "Lines of

Communication" (the conference's working title) between two groups which for a variety of reasons have not always seen eye to eye. COPAR is a non-profit organization "dedicated to encouraging anthropologists to properly preserve their records and place them in appropriate repositories...and to develop guides to help researchers gain access to records in public repositories."

Conference organizers Willow Powers, an archivist and anthropologist, and the Project Director for the Wheelwright Museum in Santa Fe, New Mexico and Joe Watkins, an Agency Archeologist for the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Anadarko, Oklahoma did a masterful job of bringing together professionals from throughout the U.S. and Canada to assess their positions on a variety of archival and anthropological issues. In addition to all of the networking and communicating between professionals who might normally never have the chance to meet, another big plus was that the various tribal archivists agreed to stay in touch with each other. As someone who works in a tribal facility, this writer was heartened by this development and hopes to see such an informal network of tribal archivists grow and develop into a resource for all who work in this field. Another practical outcome from the conference was that attendees were able to learn more about which institutions held which tribes records, which in many cases were located in a variety of North American repositories.

Another standout feature of the conference was that it was limited to approximately 24 people which made direct communication between all parties practical. In addition a pleasant feeling of mutual respect developed during the conference which

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several people commented on. This feeling was further enhanced during lunch and dinner conversations where participants got to learn a bit more about each other. The conference brought together native peoples or tribal archivists from a variety of tribes and bands including Mohawks, Chickasaws, Lummi, Crows, Ogalala Lakota, Shoshone, Caddo, Navajos, Ramah Navajos, and Hopis. Other professionals attended from such institutions as the National Museum of the American Indian, Museum of Natural History/Department of Anthropology at the Smithsonian Institution, National Park Service, the Newberry Library, Arizona State University and Museum, University of Arizona, Williams College, and University of California, Davis among others.

In a short conference such as this not all of the discussion topics were covered, with perhaps more questions being raised than were answered. Still, the conference ended on a high note with participants exchanging addresses and agreeing to stay in touch to better communicate in the future.

At this writing another meeting is planned and all participants thank COPAR for its generosity in making such a get together possible.

David Keller works for the Lummi Indian Nation as the director of that tribe's Records and Archives department. The Lummi Nation is located in the Northwestern corner of Washington State near Bellingham.

The Native American Archives Coalition (NAAC), a division of the Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtable, is attempting to develop a network for archivists responsible for tribal and Native American, Inuit and Hawaiian-related collections. According to their Website, the NAAC also "seeks to promote among all archivists an understanding of archival issues common to Native Americans and specific to diverse tribes".

For more information on the NAAC, including their goals and proposed mission statement, please visit their Website at <http://www.heard.org/naac/>

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Politics and the Museum of the American Indian : The Heye and the Mighty. By Roland W. Force. Honolulu, Hawai'i: Mechas Press, 1999. 504 pages. Book Review by Cathy Lynn Mundale

In 1897 New Yorker George Heye (pronounced "high") purchased his first Native American artifact while working on a railroad in New Mexico. His interest in collecting soon became a mania which led to the creation of a premier collection of Western Hemisphere Indian art and artifacts. Heye, a wealthy heir who invested wisely in his friend John D. Rockefeller's Standard Oil, was able to travel the world buying and trading these artifacts. When his collection outgrew his home, he moved it to "Audubon Terrace", a museum complex developed by his friend Archer M. Huntington. The Museum of the American Indian (MAI), as it was now known, was founded in 1916 with over

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400,000 items. Heye continued to collect artifacts in addition to running the museum until his death in 1957.

Dr. Roland Force came to the MAI in 1977. This book is a memoir of sorts of his 13-year tenure as Director (and then Director and President). The background history leading up to his arrival at the MAI is an engrossing glimpse into the development and struggles of a collection and a museum. Especially entertaining is the "scandal" that rocked the MAI in 1974-1976 when mismanagement culminated in the museum selling items from its collection in its gift shop.

When Force arrived at the MAI, the collection had outgrown its space and the neighborhood had become unsafe for museum visitors. Force began a drive to move the collection to another section of New York City little knowing this would create a not-so-minor political war, first at the local level and eventually working its way to Congress. When Force retired in 1990, the MAI had survived all the battles to become the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI), part of the Smithsonian Institution. The NMAI will have three components: the Heye Center in Manhattan; the Cultural Resources Center (CRC) in Suitland, Maryland; and

the National Museum of the American Indian which will occupy the last free space on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. (to open in 2002, on a site between the National Air and Space Museum and the U.S. Capitol).

In his introduction, Force claims, "The saga of the MAI is significant; it needed to be told." I was a bit wary of such a statement, afraid that this would be an excuse for a bitter rant about his personal grudges. I was pleasantly surprised, however, at how little bitterness there is in Force's writing, especially considering what he did have to go through. Instead, what comes through is a real page-turner as the museum struggled to stay alive. The politics involved in the museum's relocation goals are mind-boggling, guaranteed to make the reader thankful it didn't happen to them.

Politics and the Museum of the American Indian is a fascinating read for any museum or archives professional who has had to work with "profession outsiders". I would also recommend it for anyone interested in the NMAI. Force's respect for the collections under his care and for the native peoples the collection represents make this an underdog story that is quite rewarding.

To order your copy of *Politics and the Museum of the American Indian*, contact John Cotton Wright at Mechas Press, 361 Kaimake Loop, Kailua, HI 96734-2018 or by fax at (808) 261-1337.

For more information on the NMAI, visit their Website at <http://www.si.edu/nmai/> Click on the center box or wait for it to load itself.

MAC Selects Knight and Meraz as 1999 Minority Scholarship Recipients

by Kathryn M. Neal

Michael F. Knight of California and Gloria Meraz of Texas have been selected to receive \$500 scholarships from the Midwest Archives Conference (MAC) to assist them in pursuing graduate study in archival administration. Besides excelling academically, both recipients have already demonstrated great promise in the archival profession through their respective research and activities.

Michael Knight is currently a student in the master's program in archival studies at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). At the time of award selection, he was also in the process of writing his master's thesis for the history program at San Francisco State University (SFSU). While based at SFSU, Knight served as a curatorial specialist at the African American Museum and Library in Oakland, California, where he worked closely with the institution's archivist and users of the archival collections. As a student at UCLA, he is archivist/bibliographer for the Marcus Garvey Project there, responsible for accessioning,

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preserving, and storing the historical documents of the early twentieth-century activist and leader of the Universal Negro Improvement Association. Knight has been active in the UCLA student chapter of the Society of American Archivists (SAA). Additionally, he was accepted as an intern during the past summer with the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)'s Still Pictures Division; his project was to entail assisting with the preservation of records that document African Americans in the military and on the home front during World War II.

Gloria Meraz is currently a doctoral student in library and information science with a concentration on archival studies at the University of Texas at Austin. She names appraisal and selection of cultural materials as two of her research interests. Particularly, she is interested in the acquisition of and uses of information found in archives and three-dimensional artifacts. Beyond her formal studies, Meraz has been actively involved in such campus organizations as the Cultural Diversity Committee and the student chapter of SAA. In 1997, she received the SAA Minority Student Award (now the Harold T. Pinkett Award). Like Knight, Meraz has been actively practicing archival work, having served as an archives intern in the Special Collections department of the University of Texas at El Paso for a summer and now as the part-time archivist for the Texas Library Association. After gaining additional professional experience, she hopes to become an archival educator.

In late fall or early winter MAC will begin to solicit applications for the 2000 MAC Scholarships for Minority Students in Archival Administration. The scholarships are intended to provide financial assistance to minority students pursuing graduate education in archival administration and to encourage ethnic diversification of the MAC membership and of the profession as a whole. To be eligible for an award, an applicant must be a student of African, Asian, Hispanic, Native American/American Indian or Pacific Islander descent, currently enrolled in or accepted into a multi course archival administration program in archival administration listed in the SAA Directory of Archival Education. The applicant must have a grade-point average of 3.0 or higher (on a 4.0)

scale. Applications will be available from the Minority Scholarship Committee Chair:

Kathryn M. Neal, Curator
Givens Collection of African-American
Literature
Special Collections and Rare Books
University of Minnesota--Twin Cities
Campus
309 19th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55455
612-624-3855 (phone)
612-626-9353 (fax)
E-mail: nealx008@tc.umn.edu

Witnessing the Japanese American Experience by Cathy Lynn Mundale

During my summer vacation in Los Angeles I found myself in Little Tokyo with a few hours to spare. Turning the corner, I was face to face with a stunning glass and steel edifice which reflected the traditional Japanese facade of its neighbor, a small Buddhist temple. I was looking at the new wing of the Japanese American National Museum (JANM) which opened in January 1999. Previously, since it's opening in 1992, JANM was housed entirely in the former Buddhist temple which still houses exhibits.

What I thought would be a brief diversion turned out to be an enlightening and heart-breaking journey following the displacement and internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. The exhibit which dominates the new wing is a chronological story of the Japanese American experience. It begins with Japanese immigrants arriving in America and chronicles the growing anti-Japanese racism and jingoism that culminated in President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Executive Order #9066. Their forced relocation placed about 120,000 people of Japanese descent (70% of whom were citizens) in internment camps far from their West Coast homes into such isolated and desolate locations as Heart Mountain, Wyoming.

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In one moving exhibit, the JANM reconstructed one of the Heart Mountain structures which housed interned families. Its small size and shoddy construction, along with the exhibit's photos of snow covered barbed wire and guard towers, really brought home the tragic conditions the internees endured. The exhibit also does a wonderful job of showing the sense of camaraderie and community that developed in the camps. By the end of the exhibit, I could not tell if the tears in my eyes were from shame or the joy found in the triumph of the internees' spirits. Okay, I admit it, I'm terribly sentimental.

Another highpoint of the JANM is the outstanding Hirasaki National Resource Center. The Center provides an extensive reference collection to visitors interested in further researching the Japanese American experience. Through the Center researchers can also access the museum and archives collections for primary resources. The library setting is beautifully modern, yet warm and inviting for the elderly community members that were there during my visit. All in all, the JANM is a must see for the Los Angeles tourist.

For more information on the museum, including the interesting history of how it came to be, please visit their Website at:

<http://www.lausd.k12.ca.us/janm/main.htm>

Other Websites that have information on the Japanese American internment are:

UC Berkeley's photograph collection accessible through the Online Archive of California:

<http://www.oac.cdlib.org>

Heart Mountain Digital Preservation Project at Northwest College:

<http://chem.nwc.cc.wy.us/HMDP/>

Also, California State University, Sacramento has an extensive Japanese American Archival Collection in their Special Collections. Their Website is:

www.csus.edu/csuslibr/services/depts/archives

National Forum on Archival Continuing Archival Education (NFACE)

By Danna Bell-Russel

As we face the end of the 20th century archivists find that their jobs are more difficult than ever. The creation of information is occurring at a greater rate than ever before. Electronic records are becoming a larger part of incoming collections. Changes in copyright law may change when we can allow patrons access to specific collections. Plus the Internet provides new ways for us to provide access to our collections and for patrons to contact us for information and assistance. To better handle the changing archival environment archivists must have access to continuing education opportunities.

However archivists may be unsure what opportunities are available for them to obtain continuing education. If they are not affiliated with one of the archival professional organizations they may be unaware of what programs are available. In fact those who become "accidental archivists" because of added work responsibilities or because there is no archivist at their repository may be totally unaware that there are specific skills that one must possess to be an archivist.

A variety of different organizations provide continuing education opportunities for archivists. However these organizations are also facing problems. They must meet the needs of all levels of archivists from those who have graduate level training to volunteers and interns who may have little or no training in handling historical collections. They must try to determine how to use scarce resources to develop training programs; resources that are harder and harder to locate and obtain. These organizations may also find themselves working in a vacuum, creating programs that have already been created by other organizations and unsure of what has already been created.

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Howard University partnered with MCI WorldCom to develop an electronic journal hosted by the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center. The premier issue of *HUArchivesNet*, funded by a \$100,000 grant from MCI WorldCom, was launched onto the Internet in August 1999 with the theme, *Race and Culture: The Progressive Era, 1865-1910*. The second issue, *The Voting Rights Act, 1965*, is now also up and running. These first issues and all ensuing issues provide a rare and unique look into African American history and culture reflected in the resources at Howard University, particularly Moorland-Spingarn. Each issue of the journal is theme-related and includes feature articles on the selected theme by guest contributors both within and outside the Howard community; teaching documents; items of interest for young historians; book reviews; a gallery of images; bibliographies; and columns written by the directors of the University's programs in Afro-American Studies, African Studies and International Affairs. The theme of February's issue is *The Black Press: Past, Present and Future*. Come visit the site at www.huarchivesnet.howard.edu for an amazing journey into the past.

Moorland-Spingarn Research Center Launches Electronic Journal

For further information about NFACE you can visit the NFACE Website at <http://www.coshrc.org/nface> or contact Kathleen Roe at 518-474-6926 or by E-mail at krroe@mail.nyse.gov or Victoria Walsh at 319-338-6650 or by E-mail at vwalsh@coshrc.org.

Kathleen Roe of the New York State Archives and Record Administration is chairing the NFACE program committee. Edward Weldon of the Georgia Department of Archives and Record Administration is serving as the Local Arrangements Committee Chair. Terry Davis, the Executive Director for the American Association for State and Local History is serving as the Administrative/Financial Director for the project and Victoria Walsh, archival consultant and author of the ground breaking report "Where History Begins", is serving as the project coordinator.

Though the Forum is the highlight of the NFACE program it is only one part of the process to insure that continuing education is available to all those who care for the nation's records. Prior to the forum the NFACE staff and Program Committee is working to gather data relating to the activities of the various providers of archival continuing education and to encourage their involvement with the NFACE program. In addition to assess the needs of those individuals involved in preserving the nation's records, surveys are being provided at various meetings and with the help of the State Historical Records Advisory Boards. This will allow NFACE staff to learn more about the educational needs of archivists throughout the United States. The results of this survey will be available on the NFACE Website. You can help by filling out the survey on the NFACE Website (see address below).

Historical Publications and Records Commission. This project and funding for the initial phase of the program has been provided by the National Local History is serving as a co-sponsor of

services. The American Association of State and constituents are potential consumers of those those caring for historical records or whose currently provide archival continuing education to Georgia and will include national and regional forum will be held from April 27-29 in Decatur, continuing education for the next decade. This providers and an develop action agenda for archival develop cooperative projects between education and share information about those continuing providers of archival continuing education to gather NFACE plans to bring together the many of the Council of State Historical Records Coordinators, on Archival Continuing Education. Created by the What is NFACE? NFACE is the National Forum

How can archivists get the training they need and how can organizations work together to develop that training? One way is to get the training providers together to share information and develop ways to collaborate on programs for archivists. We hope that NFACE will serve as the start of these efforts.

Archives Week at the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center

On October 20, 1999, the Moorland-Spingarn sponsored a symposium on the Voting Rights Act in celebration Archives Week and the completion of the Voting Rights Act Oral History and Documentation Project, which was supported by grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Ford Foundation. The end result of the Project is a significant collection of oral histories documenting the impact of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and how it changed the political landscape in the latter half of the 20th century. The Symposium entitled "The Voting Rights Act, 1965-2007: Documentation of the Past, Implications for the Future," featured Dr. Ronald Walters, Distinguished Scholar of the Burns Leadership Academy, University of Maryland College Park; Dr. Marsha Darling, Rockefeller Fellow at the Oral History Research Center, Columbia University and principal interviewer for the Project; and Dr. Lorenzo Morris of Howard University's Political Science Department. The Symposium was preceded by an Oral History Workshop, "In Their Own Words: The African American through Oral History," the purpose of which was to provide information on setting up an oral history project, including discussions of funding, preparing for and conducting interviews, and some legal issues involved. Among the Workshop presenters were Dr. Elizabeth Clark-Lewis from Howard's History Department who has conducted an oral history project involving domestic workers; Dr. Doris McGinty from the Shaw Oral History Project of the Historical Society of Washington, D.C.; and Ms. Avril Madison, former Oral History Librarian at Moorland-Spingarn, who wrote the proposal for the Voting Rights Act Oral History and Documentation Project. The day's activities culminated in a reception in the Howard University Museum.

Daniel T. Williams Retires

Tuskegee University Archivist Dr. Daniel T. Williams retired at the end of May after 40 years with the college. He was the recipient of numerous honors and awards throughout his long career, most recently being named a Fellow of the Society of American Archivists. Because of changes in his overall health, Danny has moved to a retirement community in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, where he will be near his brother. His address is **Tiffany House, Suite 159, 2900 Rio Mar Street, Fr. Lauderdale, FL 33304**. His phone number is (954) 563-3116. Danny invites his many friends to call anytime and visit him when in the area. He promises all a cool drink and a walk on the beach.

From the Oakwood College Archives and Museum

The Oakwood College Archives held their Annual Honors Dinner on Thursday, November 17 in the College Museum. Each year, Ms. Minneola Dixon, College Archivist, recognizes the excellent performance of students and volunteers who serve the college, the church and the community. Twelve volunteers received certificates of appreciation and gifts; five student assistants were also honored.