
Archivists & Archives of Color Newsletter

Newsletter of the Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtable

Vol.16 No. 1

Spring/Summer 2002

Greetings from the Co-chairs

by Rosalye Settles

Some things in life, like the change in seasons, occur with regularity and precision, and move us to make decisions about our daily activities. So, if it is summer, then it must be time for the annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists (SAA). This year's meeting will be held in Birmingham, Alabama from August 19-25 at the Sheraton Birmingham Hotel. Like clockwork, the Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtable will meet during the SAA annual meeting on Thursday, August 22nd from 5:15 – 6:45 p.m.

This year's SAA theme, Archival Roots: Our Foundation and Our Future, provides meeting participants with opportunities to learn about projects documenting the African American experience, diversity, and role of the host city in the annals of American social change. Sessions, such as Sustaining the Human Mosaic: Diversity Activities in Libraries and Archives, and others are designed to inform and inspire us to continue our efforts to make the historical voice of people of color heard today and in the future. In between educational sessions, consider taking one of several tours that highlight the historical and cultural history of Birmingham and the state of Alabama.

Like clockwork, it's time to nominate and elect a new co-chair. Members interested in serving as nominees are invited and encouraged to contact co-chairs Rosalye Settles at rosalye.settles@do.treas.gov or Wayne Coleman at wcoleman@bcri.bham.al.us by close of business Friday August 9. Also, please let us know if there are any items that need to be added to the meeting agenda.

Lastly, I bid farewell as Chair for the Roundtable. All the hard work and support I received from members is most appreciated. The benefit of others experience was tremendous in getting things done. I leave confident that the Roundtable will continue to fulfill its mission well in to the future. We are, indeed, blazing a trail for those who follow behind us.

See you in Birmingham, The Magic City!

Co-Chair Wayne Coleman Invites Us to Birmingham

Wayne Coleman is Head of Archives Division at the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, an archives and educational facility that focuses on the Civil Rights Movement. The Institute encourages discussion on global human rights issues and serves as a depository for civil rights

archives and documents. A native of New Orleans, Louisiana, Coleman was previously employed by the Amistad Research Center.

On November 15, 1992, the doors of the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute opened to the public. The Institute itself is a state-of-the-art structure that houses permanent museum exhibitions depicting historical events from post World War I racial separation, through the era of the Civil Rights Movement, to present day American society in seven galleries. In addition to permanent and traveling exhibitions, we host numerous educational programs including conferences, workshops, and lectures, all designed to make our facility a vital part of the Birmingham community.

Since 1994, the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute has conducted interviews with individuals who played decisive roles in the active resistance of the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s. Under the direction of Dr. Horace Huntley, professor of history at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, over three hundred black and white men and women who were citizens of the city of Birmingham during that period have been interviewed and video taped as part of an ongoing project to record the history of that era. The interviews reveal the impressions, ideas, concerns, and reflections of these individuals, all of whom have firsthand knowledge of the history of Birmingham's civil rights struggle.

The topics discussed include confrontations between demonstrators and city police, the indifference of religious, business, and educational institutions within the white community, and the courage of school children that braved police dogs and hoses. The true history of one of America's most urban cities is revealed in the video and audiotapes of the Institute's project. A variety of perspectives and memories shed light on how and why the city of Birmingham was capable of transforming itself during the second half of the twentieth century.

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Wanted: AAC Newsletter Editor

Looking for a fun and challenging way to be active in the AAC Roundtable? The Newsletter comes out twice a year and is a great way to show your support for the mission and goals of the Roundtable. Contact either of the current editors for more information!

All New AAC Roundtable Web Site Unveiled!

The AAC Web site committee is pleased to announce the new site will be hosted on the SAA server at the following URL:

<http://www.archivists.org/saagroups/aac/index.htm>

Features include regularly updated announcements, back issues of the newsletter (as PDF files), and the Archivists of Color Directory, as well as wonderful images from archives of color. Congratulations and thank you to the Web site committee: Karen Jefferson, Teresa Mora, and Rose Roberto. (The latter two are former recipients of the Pinkett Award!)

Coleman Invites Us to Birmingham (continued)

The Richard Arrington, Jr. Resource Gallery provides access to information on the Civil Rights Movement, African American history, and the international human rights struggle. The highlight of the Resource Gallery is an online connection to the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute's Oral History Project. The research computer rooms, give visitors access to eight different CD-ROM research and educational programs – from the United Nations' Refworld resource on refugee related information to interactive presentations on the African American struggle for freedom.

The Institute is also the centerpiece of Birmingham's Civil Rights District, a six-block tribute to the monumental fight for human rights in this country. Historic Kelly Ingram Park became the focal point of a grassroots resistance to the inhumanities of racism and discrimination by law and by custom. Sculptures commissioned for the park depict attacks on demonstrators, children jailed for their role in the protests, and a tribute to the clergy's contributions to the Movement. The Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame makes its home in the historic Carver Theater for the Performing Arts. The museum honors great jazz artists with ties to the state of Alabama. A significant part of the Civil Rights District is the newly renovated Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, site of the infamous 1963 bombing that killed four little girls and brought world condemnation of racial violence. The neighborhood along Fourth Avenue from 15th to 18th Streets developed as the city's black business district in the early part of the 1900's.

Alabama History Tours at the SAA Annual Meeting

The 2002 Host Committee for the 66th SAA annual meeting in Birmingham is pleased to offer tours highlighting African American history that may be of interest to Roundtable members. Registration for the tours is limited, so sign up early so you don't miss out! Tour registration forms are available on the SAA Web site at:
www.archivists.org/conference/birm2002-regforms.pdf

Sure to be one of the most memorable experiences during SAA, "Bus Boycott to Selma March: A Civil Rights Tour"

will be offered on both Tuesday and Wednesday. In Selma, experience the Selma Civil Rights District and visit the Pettus Bridge where the infamous "Bloody Sunday" occurred. After traveling on to Montgomery, enjoy a box lunch and tour of the Alabama Dept. of Archives and History, the first state archives in the United States. After lunch, you'll visit the Rosa Parks Museum established at Troy State University Montgomery in 2000; the Civil Rights Memorial, which was designed by Maya Lin (designer of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.); and the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, where Martin Luther King preached non-violence.

No visit to Birmingham is complete without a tour of the Civil Rights District. Within a six-block area, visitors witness a lasting tribute to an important struggle for human and civil rights in America. This walking tour will be offered on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday mornings and will include stops at the 16th Street Baptist Church, the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, Kelly Ingram Park, the Fourth Avenue Business District, and the Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame.

If baseball is your game, then you must join us for a Wednesday evening at historic Rickwood Field. Built in 1920, Rickwood is the oldest baseball park in the United States. Home of the Birmingham Barons and the Black Barons of the Negro League, the park has played host to such greats as Babe Ruth, Honus Wagner, Stan Musial, and Dizzy Dean. The Black Barons included team members Satchell Paige and Birmingham's own Willie Mays. Former members of the Black Barons will join the group and share their stories of playing baseball in a segregated system. Stay for a casual ballpark dinner and watch local teams play a game.

Documenting the African American Experience in East Texas at Stephen F. Austin State University

The East Texas Research Center (ETRC) at Stephen F. Austin State University was recently searching for a way to make their collection more widely available and to add value to their finding aids. They decided to create a "Sharing History" digital project to bring together all collections in a particular subject area. For the pilot project they chose to highlight various collections that document the "African American Experience in East Texas."

The mission of the "African American Experience in East Texas" was to make primary resources regarding African American life and culture in East Texas available for researchers and educators through the Web. The project generated excitement and enthusiasm in the library administration and with the public. When the initial Web site was shown in February possible donors saw what would be done with their materials and became more eager to donate material. For more information contact:
Rachel Galan, Director, ETRC
(936) 468-4100 rgalan@sfallib.sfasu.edu
or Linda Reynolds, Asst. Director, ETRC
(936) 468-1562 lreynolds@sfasu.edu

Career Moves

Kathryn Neal traded her snowshoes in for a surfboard and moved to Southern California. As of July 01, she is the Manuscripts and Archives Librarian in the Special Collections and University Archives department at the Malcolm A. Love Library, San Diego State University. Congratulations Kathi!

Project to Catalog Atlanta Life-Herndon Family Records by Carole Merritt, Director, Herndon Home

The National Endowment for the Humanities has awarded a grant to The Herndon Home in Atlanta for the cataloguing of one of the most extensive collections of Black insurance records in the nation. More than 300 linear feet of Atlanta Life Insurance Company and Herndon family papers dating from 1895 to 1980 are to be processed in a ground-breaking collaborative effort of three Atlanta repositories: Auburn Avenue Research Library on African-American Culture and History, Emory University's Robert W. Woodruff Library, and The Herndon Home, the project sponsor.

The two-year project will arrange, describe, and make accessible to a broad public the Atlanta Life-Herndon family manuscript collections. Bibliographic records will be created and a combined guide to the collections will be encoded and mounted on the Web. The project evolved from the activities of the Atlanta Area African American Archives Group, an organization of local librarians, scholars, and museum professionals who seek to address common problems, share resources and information, and develop programs that further the preservation of and access to African American archival materials. AAC Roundtable member Lamonica Jenkins Sanford will be the project archivist.

Vivian Virtue Papers at Pennsylvania State University

The Vivian Virtue Papers were a recent gift to Rare Books and Manuscripts, Special Collections Library, Paterno Library, from Alan L. McLeod, a Penn State Ph.D. and now Emeritus Professor of English and Speech at Rider University in Lawrenceville, New Jersey. After writing an article on Virtue, Dr. McLeod carried on a long correspondence with the poet until Virtue's death in 1998. When Virtue died, he left his manuscripts and literary effects to McLeod.

After the publication of his only full book of poems, *Wings of the Morning*, printed in Jamaica in 1938, Virtue was hailed in the 1930s and 1940s as the successor to Claude McKay, the Jamaican national poet and Virtue's father-in-law. Virtue was an active member of the Jamaica Centre of the International P.E.N. Club and a frequent broadcaster on the BBC's "Caribbean Voices" radio program. Prominent correspondents in the Virtue Papers include Harlem Renaissance poets Claude McKay and Langston Hughes.

The processing of this collection is part of a concerted effort to catalog the manuscript collections in their Black History and Literature Collection. Currently twenty-three collections are cataloged, including the Vivian Virtue Papers. The completed Vivian Virtue finding aid is available online at:
<http://www.libraries.psu.edu/crsweb/speccol/FindingAids/virtue.html>

New American Memory Collection: Slaves and the Courts

Slaves and the Courts, 1740-1860 is the latest addition to the more than one hundred online collections that are a part of the American Memory Historical Collections presented by the Library of Congress. This new collection features about one hundred pamphlets and books documenting the difficult experiences of African and African American slaves in the American colonies and the United States. Drawn from the Law Library and the Rare Book and Special Collections Division of the Library of Congress, these materials include an assortment of trials and cases, reports, arguments, examinations of cases and decisions, proceedings, and other works of historical importance concerning slaves in free jurisdictions, fugitive slaves, slave revolts, the African slave trade, and abolitionists in the North and South.

The collection can be found at the following URL:
<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/sthtml/>

Co-Editors
Joellen ElBashir
Cathy Lynn Mundale

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

Address all correspondence to:
Joellen ElBashir
Moorland-Spangarn Research Center
Howard University
Washington, D.C. 20059
(202) 806-7480
Fax: (202) 806-6405
E-mail: jelbashir@howard.edu

or

Cathy Lynn Mundale
Atlanta University Center
Robert W. Woodruff Library
111 James P. Brawley Dr., SW
Atlanta, GA 30314
(404) 522-8980 x1218
Fax: (404) 978-2109
E-mail: cmundale@auctr.edu

Moorland-Spingarn Research Center
Howard University
Washington, D.C. 20059

Mission Statements

The Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtable

The Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtable was established in 1987 as an interest group within the Society of American Archivists. The Roundtable's purposes are to:

- 1) identify and address the concerns of Archivists of African, Asian, Latino, and Native American descent
- 2) promote wider participation of said archivists in the archival profession
- 3) promote the preservation of archival materials that pertain to people of color

The co-chairs of this Roundtable are:

Rosalyn Settles
Dept. of the Treasury
Office of Foreign Assets Control
1500 Pennsylvania Ave, NW Annex
Washington DC, 20020
(202) 622-1281
rosalyn.settles@do.treas.gov

Wayne Coleman
Birmingham Civil Rights
Institute
520 16th Street North
Birmingham, AL 35203
(205) 328-9696
wcoleman@bcri.bham.al.us

The Society of American Archivists

The Society of American Archivists (SAA), founded in 1936, is a professional association of individuals and institutions interested in the preservation and use of archives. Its membership includes individuals serving government, academic institutions, businesses, churches, libraries, historical societies, museums, and professional associations in more than sixty countries. Through its publications, annual meetings, workshops, and other programs, SAA provides a means for contact, communication and cooperation among archivists and archival institutions:

Society of American Archivists
527 Wells Street, 5th Floor
Chicago, IL 60607
Telephone: (312)-922-0140
Fax: (312) 347-1452
E-mail: info@archivists.org
Web page: <http://www.archivists.org>