
Archivists & Archives of Color Newsletter

Newsletter of the Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtable

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Greetings from the Co-chair

By Wayne Coleman

2003 marks the second year I have chaired the Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtable. It has been a challenging and interesting time, and I have worked with a variety of energetic, dedicated people, all of whom have helped me greatly during this period, including Rosalye Settles, Karen Jefferson, Rose Roberto, Cathy Lynn Mundale, Deborah Dandridge, Fred Stielow, and Diane Dimkoff. I thank them all for their gracious assistance and patience. I leave the Roundtable in the very capable hands of Rebecca Hankins, who will assume the role of chair at the SAA meeting in Los Angeles. Although I will not be able to make the trip to L.A., I will be there in spirit, and I hope everyone enjoys this year's annual meeting. I would like to say a word of congratulations to Ms. Michelle Baildon, winner of this year's Harold T. Pinkett Minority Student Award. Ms. Baildon is a full-time student in the Simmons College Graduate School of Library Science archives program.

I want to thank the Roundtable for giving me the opportunity to serve as chair and I look forward to working again on future projects.

Greetings from the Co-chair

By Rebecca Hankins

Your support of the Archives and Archivists of Color Roundtable is very important. It allows us to give important feedback to the larger organization about issues and concerns faced by the people who work in a variety of settings and organizations that collect, process, preserve, and provide access to materials that document the history and culture of people of color. Your participation, physically, is just as important to making your voice heard and represents a commitment to an active rather than passive involvement in this profession.

In this same vein of active participation, we hope to see more submissions to the AACR newsletter. Use this forum as an opportunity to showcase your institution's new or recently processed collections, new hires, exhibits, etc. If you send out press releases, send one to the newsletter. Send any announcements you have to the newsletter, along with any ideas you would like us to consider pursuing as a group.

I look forward to seeing everyone at SAA in Los Angeles. If you have any agenda items you would like added, please feel free to contact me at: (979) 845-1951 or rhankins@tamu.edu.

This Is the Last Print Edition of the AAC Newsletter

As announced in previous issues, the Fall/Winter 2003 Newsletter will be available only as an online edition on the Roundtable's Web site at the following URL:

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

Currently, all the back issues of the Newsletter are available on the site as PDF files.

When the Newsletter is posted to the site, we will make an announcement to the Archives Listserv, as well as contact members via email. Please make sure we have your correct email address. As of August 06, there will be an online form on the AAC Web site under the "Members" section that will allow you to update your contact information.

Diversity Abounds at SAA Annual Meeting in Los Angeles

The theme of the 2003 Annual Meeting is "Showcasing the Diversity of the Archival Enterprise," and the program and local arrangements committees took that to heart. Following is a list of tours and sessions that may appeal to Roundtable members, plus a few museums that the editor recommends. Check your program for times and tour costs.

Tours:

Centers of Diverse History Tour
Street Art & Diversity: Murals of Los Angeles Tour
Union Station Walking Tour
Activism & Political Expression Tour

Sessions:

Linguistic Diversity & Archives
National Commemorations & Archival Outreach Strategies
Diversity on the Screen
Central Avenue: Archival...Accounts from Black Musicians
Film Treasures in American Archives: Dancers on Celluloid
Documenting the Asian American Experience
Cultural Sensitivity...in Anthropological Papers
Who Is in the Workplace Now?
The Souls of Black Folk, Revisited

Museums:

We all know about the Huntington and the Getty, but do you know about the many museums that document the diverse peoples of Los Angeles? Following are descriptions taken from a few of these great museums' Web sites.

Continued on page 2

Career Moves

Rebecca Hankins, AAC Roundtable Co-chair, is the new American/African American Studies Librarian/Archivist at Texas A&M University as of July 01, 2003. She was previously an assistant librarian at the University of Arizona Library, Special Collections. Congratulations Rebecca!

Museums (continued)

Southwest Museum (www.southwestmuseum.org)

The Southwest Museum holds one of the nation's most important museum, library, and archive collections related to the American Indian. In addition it has extensive holdings of Prehispanic, Spanish Colonial, Latino, and Western American art and artifacts. The collections of the Southwest Museum represent Native American cultures from Alaska to South America.

Japanese American National Museum (www.janm.org)

Incorporating hundreds of objects, documents, and photographs collected by the National Museum, the main exhibition chronicles 130 years of Japanese American history, beginning with the early days of the Issei pioneers through the World War II incarceration to the present. Among the notable artifacts on display is a Heart Mountain barracks, an original structure saved and preserved from the concentration camp in Wyoming.

California African American Museum (www.caam.ca.gov)

The California African American Museum researches, collects, preserves and interprets the art, history and culture of African Americans with emphasis on California and the Western United States.

Museum of Tolerance

(www.wiesenthal.com/mot/about/index.cfm)

The Museum of Tolerance is a high tech, hands-on experiential museum that focuses on two central themes through unique interactive exhibits: the dynamics of racism and prejudice in America and the history of the Holocaust - the ultimate example of man's inhumanity to man. The Museum, the educational arm of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, was founded to challenge visitors to confront bigotry and racism, and to understand the Holocaust in both historic and contemporary contexts.

Southern California Library for Social Research

(www.socallib.org/index.html)

Established in 1963, SCL is Southern California's library and archive on radicalism and social change. We document and preserve the history of labor, women, communities of color, peace, civil liberties, civil rights, and other progressive movements in the greater Los Angeles area. We are a unique institution that preserves our progressive heritage, linking it with the universal struggle for human dignity and justice.

For more museums in L.A., visit the UC San Diego Art and Architecture Library site at: <http://aal.ucsd.edu/musla.html>.

Linguistic Diversity and Archives: A Unique and Very Different Session at SAA

by Rose Roberto

Studies estimate that more than half of the world's 6,500 languages may become extinct by the end of the next century. Without an appropriate context, certain records documenting culturally and linguistically different groups may be misunderstood or incorrectly interpreted, even if they manage to be preserved.

Please make plans to join us at SAA on Thursday, August 21, 1:30-3:00p.m., for "Linguistic Diversity and Archives." This session will examine access to linguistically diverse material, addressing issues in oral history, electronic recordkeeping, and the need for accurate metadata.

Murtha Baca, of the Getty, will discuss multilingual equivalency work and will focus on various language issues related to providing access to materials online. In her paper, "Making Sense of the Tower of Babel: Issues and Challenges in Multilingual Equivalency Work," she will refer to specific examples from previous projects she has worked on, including the Spanish-language translation of the Getty's Art & Architecture Thesaurus, and a multilingual thesaurus of religious objects.

Elizabeth Konzak's paper, "Silent Voices Speak: Uses of Archival Materials in Language Revitalization," will examine issues relating to the use of archival materials in the restoration of indigenous languages. Themes include the interpretation of archival records created by another culture, the dependability of oral traditions, the adaptation of ancestral language for present use, and the importance of language on collective cultural memory. Konzak, of the University of Michigan, has been doing extensive research with Native American cultural records.

Brian Doyle, who many know as the SAA Webmaster and Graphical Designer, is also a graduate student in linguistics at Northeastern Illinois University. His paper, "Read ASCII or Die! Linguistic Documentation and Non-Roman Orthographies," will present a case study examining the creation, documentation and electronic dissemination of a single linguistic resource. Issues he will explore include an overview of current work in linguistic archiving, the application of principles and methods of oral history to linguistic field work, the encoding of non-English texts, and the exposure and harvesting of metadata as it pertains to linguistic resources.

Rose Roberto, AAC's Web liaison, will be chairing the session. The commentator for this panel is UCLA's Professor Emeritus, Dr. Peter Ladefoged. A world-renowned expert in the linguistics field, Dr. Ladefoged has published widely on the subject of phonetics, is the Editor of the *Journal of the International Phonetic Association*, and is currently working on his next book entitled, "*Phonetic Data Analysis: An Introduction to Phonetic Fieldwork and Instrumental Techniques.*"

Cornell University Searching for African American Films by Reol Productions/Robert Levy

By Petrina Jackson, Assistant Archivist, Cornell University

Cornell University Library is seeking to locate films produced by Robert Levy and his Reol Productions for a donor interested in their restoration and preservation. Based in New York City, and with branches in Atlanta, Georgia and Cleveland, Ohio, the production company specialized in non-stereotypical, African American silent films based on literature by Black authors. These films include: *Eyes of Youth* (1920), *Sport of the Gods* (1921), *Call of His People* (1921), *Secret Sorrow* (1921), *Ties of Blood* (1921), *Burden of Race* (1921), *The Simp* (1921), *Easy Money* (1922), *Spitfire* (1922), *The Schemers* (1922), and *Jazz Hounds* (1922).

If anyone has information concerning the whereabouts of these films or any records associated with them, Robert Levy, Reol Productions, the Lafayette Players, Edna Morton, George Edward Brown, or S. H. Dudley, please contact me, Petrina Jackson, at pj43@cornell.edu.

Columbia University Acquires David N. Dinkins Papers

by Tamar Evangelestia-Dougherty, David N. Dinkins Archivist, Columbia University

The Columbia University Rare Book and Manuscript Library (RBML), has acquired and begun processing the papers of David N. Dinkins. Dinkins served as the 106th and first African American mayor of New York City from 1989-1993. After his term as mayor, Dinkins became a faculty member of Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs' Center for Urban Research and Policy. The papers are a part of the David N. Dinkins Archives and Oral History Project launched in April 2002. While the original papers of the Dinkins administration are maintained by the New York Municipal Archives, these photocopies and non-municipal documents contain Dinkins personal papers, along with several collections from Dinkins associates. The acquired materials span from 1979-1994, and include campaign resources, speeches, radio addresses, and correspondence relating to Dinkins' years as a New York City public servant.

The Columbia Oral History Research Office of RBML will be responsible for the Dinkins Oral History Project, which will include interviews with Dinkins contemporaries and Black political leaders in New York City.

Thurgood Marshall Law Library Announces the Nicholas and Gosnell Collection

By Lauren Bailey

The Thurgood Marshall Law Library of the University of Maryland School of Law is pleased to announce its first manuscript collection in the African Americans in the Law

Special Collection: the papers from the law firm of Dallas F. Nicholas and William I. Gosnell. The collection is approximately 122 linear feet, and includes case files, government documents, personal business records, photographs, and even x-rays. The law offices of Nicholas and Gosnell were a successful legal practice that operated from the 1930s to the 1960s. They kept offices in Baltimore and Cambridge, Maryland, which enabled the corporation to provide services for the entire state, as well as the Atlantic seaboard. The majority of their cases dealt with the following domains: divorce and family law; estate administration and probate law and practice; real estate business; income tax law and preparation; and personal injury cases. While those cases made up the bulk of their practice, they did not prevent Dallas Nicholas and William Gosnell from tackling significant civil rights issues of their day. Nicholas, through the Monumental Golf Club, fought for over a decade to integrate city parks, culminating in the case *Boyer v. Garrett*. Gosnell was co-counsel on *Murray v. University of Maryland*, the case that ultimately forced the desegregation of the University Of Maryland School Of Law.

In addition to providing information about their professional lives, the collection also contains a wealth of information about these lawyers' pursuits outside the realm of the law. Dallas Nicholas and William Gosnell led very active lives outside the firm and were members of a variety of clubs, both social and community service oriented. Nicholas was a member of Sigma Pi Phi social fraternity, served on the School Board in Baltimore's segregated system, and was active in the Episcopal Church. Gosnell was a member of the Elks and was part owner of the only area amusement park for African Americans, Paradise Island. The two men were married with children, and maintained strong relationships with extended family as well.

The collection provides a rare view of a segment of society that has been, for the most part, ignored: the world of the mid-twentieth century African American attorney. These men held particular standing in the legal profession and moreover, were important figures in the African American community. As African American attorneys, they are important because they were among the first in a time when their numbers were few, yet they managed to make notable contributions in the struggle for civil rights. Within the African American community, these men, by benefit of their profession and knowledge, held positions of power and influence, and as such improved their community from within.

The Thurgood Marshall Law Library is located at 501 West Fayette Street, Baltimore, MD 21201-1786. You can contact us by phone at (401) 706-6502, or on the Internet at libraryweb@law.umaryland.edu. If you are interested in learning more about the African Americans in the Law Special Collections, please contact Lauren Bailey at (410) 705-0055 or lbailey@law.umaryland.edu or Bill Sleeman at (410) 706-0783 or bsleeman@law.umaryland.edu.

The HSI Grant at California State University, Northridge: An Update

News that the Oviatt Library of California State University, Northridge (CSUN) received a prestigious five-year, \$1.6 million federal grant through the Department of Education's Title V Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI) Program was reported in the last issue of the *Archivist and Archives of Color Newsletter*. The grant enables us to increase student library use and information competence by expanding the Library's collection of materials related to the Latino/Chicano experience. A portion of the grant funds is being used for work relating to the acquisition, processing, digitization, and improved accessibility of primary archival materials that document the experiences of Latino/Chicano leaders and organizations of the Los Angeles and San Fernando Valley area. Now, a year after the grant was first awarded, we would like to share a report of our progress.

The grant, titled *Improving Student Success Through Strengthening Library Collections, Archives, and Information Competence*, has been most visible thus far in its archival component at CSUN's Urban Archives Center. Since October of 2002 we have acquired several important research collections. These include an addition to the Dr. Rodolfo Acuna Papers. Dr. Acuna, a political activist who is also considered the father of Chicana/o Studies at CSUN, donated 166 cubic feet of materials covering his teaching and writing career as well as the development of the Chicana/o Studies Department at CSUN. We received the Felipe and Blandina (Guerrero) Family Papers—a collection of personal papers and photographs that document the migration of one family from Mexico to Arizona and finally to Los Angeles from 1913 to 1955. Millie Moser Smith, a member of the National Farm Worker Ministry (formerly the California Migrant Ministry) shared her experiences campaigning for the rights of farm workers in the 1980s with us in an oral history, and also donated some of her papers from this fascinating period. Finally, we received the administrative papers of the Comision Femenil San Fernando Valley—a chapter of the national organization that has the goal of providing leadership and educational opportunities for Latinas/Chicanas.

While we continue to negotiate with potential donors to acquire new collections, we have also been busy processing previously-donated collections of archival materials. The Urban Archives Center documents the history of the greater Los Angeles area by collecting original research materials from voluntary associations and civic and community leaders. We already maintain a significant number of collections documenting Latino/Chicano movements. These collections include the papers of Dr. Julian Nava (CSUN professor and former U.S. Ambassador to Mexico), the modern papers of the Community Service Organization (a largely Mexican American group modeled after Saul Alinsky's projects that helped train César Chávez in community organizing and grass roots movements), Frank del Olmo (journalist and associate editor of the *Los Angeles Times*), the Emergency Committee to Aid Farm Workers (from the Max Mont Papers), and the Supreme Council of the Mexican American Movement (an offshoot of the YMCA established in 1945). We also received

26 oral histories on the farm workers movement transferred to us by CSUN's Center for Photojournalism and Visual History.

Through the HSI Grant, the archival and research collections are being greatly strengthened. Public programs, in the form of exhibitions and lectures, are planned to share these resources with the community. Due in part to our strong commitment to teaching, scholarship, and active learning, as well as our desire to seek partnerships and alliances with the community, the grant will enable us to achieve the academic and social goals that have long been a part of the Urban Archives Center and the Oviatt Library.

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African Americans in Healthcare Database Project Underway at the National Library of Medicine

The National Library of Medicine's (NLM) History of Medicine Division is doing research to identify collections related to African Americans in health care or biomedical research roles, especially collections that include photographs. The information will be compiled into a Web-based directory to facilitate and promote awareness of the material.

The project contact person is Ms. Michelle Hudson-Ochillo (ochillm@mail.nlm.nih.gov), who initiated the project as a postgraduate Fellow in NLM's Associate Fellowship Program. She is working with Dr. Paul Theerman, Head of NLM's Images and Archives Program, and Ms. Jan Lazurus, Manager of NLM's Prints and Photographs Collection. Please contact Michelle if your collection includes materials of this type. She will follow up to obtain further information and determine whether you would like an entry for your institution to be included in a public directory.

The fellowship program in which Michelle is participating is a postgraduate internship designed to prepare librarians for future leadership roles in health sciences libraries and health services research. She became interested in starting this project after learning about the NLM's digital library program and seeing the great potential of the Web-based technology to document and promote awareness of African American collections in medicine and biomedical research. As an African American, Michelle understands and appreciates the opportunity to develop a guide that will provide access to invaluable information concerning the contributions of African Americans and point scholars, teachers, and others to collections around the country.

Nelson-Strauss Joins Archives of African American Music and Culture at Indiana University

Brenda Nelson-Strauss, formerly the director of the Rosenthal Archives of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, was recently named Head of Collections for the Archives of African American Music and Culture (AAAMC) at Indiana University. The AAAMC is a repository of materials on various Black musical idioms and cultural expressions, including Black radio, blues, popular (rhythm & blues, soul, funk, hip-hop), religious, jazz, and classical music, primarily from the post-World War II era. Collections include oral histories, interviews, photographs, manuscripts, audio and video field and commercial recordings, scores, music radio programs, radio air-check tapes, posters, and other artifacts and ephemera.

Established in 1991, the AAAMC is part of the Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology at Indiana University-Bloomington. Since its inception, the AAAMC has made significant strides towards fulfilling its mission by supporting the research of scholars, students, and the general public from around the world. A wide range of programs are also offered that showcase selected collections and disseminate information about the musical and cultural history of African Americans as well as the pioneers whose innovations have contributed to new Black creative expressions.

For additional information, or to donate materials, contact the Archives of African American Music & Culture, Smith Research Center, Suite 180, 2805 E. 10th Street, Bloomington, IN 47408; tel. (812) 855-7530; bnelsons@indiana.edu

Northeastern Announces Two New Collections

Northeastern University Libraries is pleased to announce the acquisition of the historical records of United South End Settlements and the Boston Foundation's Boston Persistent Poverty Project. This material contributes to the University Archives and Special Collection Department's collecting focus on the records of private, non-profit, community-based organizations that are concerned with social justice issues and that serve the African American, Chinese, Latino, or gay and lesbian communities.

United South End Settlements was founded in 1960 as the merger of four settlement houses—South End House, Lincoln House, Hale House, Harriet Tubman House—and the Children's Art Centre, all which had been founded in the 1890s. Settlement houses were tied to low-income neighborhoods, and their goal was to provide educational and recreational services and to bring about social reform. The material, dating from 1892-2000, documents United South End Settlements' predecessor organizations in addition to current programs in art, education, technology, and social services. The records include correspondence, board and

committee minutes, reports, photographs, contracts, annual budgets, and newspaper clippings.

Began in the early 1980s, the Boston Persistent Poverty Project is a broad-based, collaborative campaign to eradicate chronic, intergenerational poverty in Boston. The Project's goal is to create a new social contract that recognizes and honors the reciprocal rights, responsibilities and interdependence of all members of our community, and to build and sustain commitment to a process of change.

The Project works to provide a framework for the new skills, leadership, and relationships required to eradicate persistent poverty in Boston. The material, dating from about 1972-2001, includes the publications and records of the Boston Persistent Poverty Project; records of the Boston Community Building Network, an outgrowth of the Boston Persistent Poverty Project; The Boston Foundation annual reports and newsletters; and speeches of Anna Faith Jones, who was president of The Boston Foundation, 1984-2001.

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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:

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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:

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