

MINORITIES ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER

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FROM THE EDITORS:

Surprise, a second issue of the Minorities Roundtable Newsletter! And to think there were skeptics out there who thought we would be one of those ephemeral, single-issue serials that we all love so dearly. We wanted to remind you of the MRT functions and encourage your active participation, before you pack your suitcase and head off to the 'Big Apple' for the 1987 SAA Annual Conference. The MRT inaugural meeting will be held on September 3rd, 11:15 am - 12:45 pm., at which time we will discuss many important issues which you won't want to miss. Our agenda will include the following:

1. Clarification of Goals.

Who are we, why do we exist, and what do we hope to accomplish? At present we consist of archivists who are classified as 'minorities' (as defined by the U.S. government) or who have minority concerns. At last year's meeting some archivists expressed dissatisfaction at being defined as 'minority' and recommended some sort of redefinition. We also received a formal request from gay and lesbian archivists to be incorporated into the Roundtable. These issues will be brought onto the floor for discussion, and we will seek to reach a consensus during the course of the meeting.

2. Long-term and Immediate Objectives.

3. Selection of a New Name for the Roundtable.

4. Election of New Coordinator(s) and Newsletter Editor.

5. New Title for Newsletter.

6. New Business.

Any ideas or information you have which might facilitate this meeting can be passed on to either of us.

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SAA NEWS

The 1987 Annual Conference of the SAA (New York, Sept. 2-6) features several lectures and events which will be of interest to members of the SAA Minorities Roundtable and to other archivists having similar concerns. We would like to thank Thomas Battle, a member of the 1987 Program Committee, and the other archivists who made these sessions possible. The conference's printed program includes a full description of the scheduled events; however, the highlights are:

Wed., Sept. 2 Schomburg Center Tour 2:00-5:00 p.m.
Tour of the Rare Books, Manuscripts, and Archives section as well as the Moving Image and Recorded Sound, Art and Computer Operations. A reception will follow.

Thurs., Sept. 3 Minorities Roundtable Meeting 11:15 am - 12:45 pm. The inaugural meeting will discuss goals and objectives of the Roundtable and agenda for upcoming year.

Fri., Sept. 4 "Racism, Sexism, Homophobia" 1:30-3:30 pm. Session participants (Barbara J. Morrison, E.J. Josey, Andrea Hinding, and Judith Schwarz) discuss the ways in which gender, race, and sexual preference affect our involvement in the profession.

Sat. Sept. 5 "Dichotomies and Conundrums: Documenting American History and Culture" 9:00-11:00 am. Session participants (Wilda Logan Willis, Sybil Milton, Shayne Del Cohen, Howard Dodson) will explore collecting and documentary activities among several of the nation's more visible ethnic groups.

Sat. Sept. 5 Minorities Roundtable Open House 11:15 am - 12:15 pm. This meeting will introduce the Roundtable to prospective members and will discuss issues of common concern and solicit new ideas.

Sat. Sept. 5 "Documenting Prominent Personalities: The Life of Paul Robeson" 1:00-3:00 pm. Session participants (Diana Lachatanere, Paul Robeson Jr., Karen L. Jefferson, and Martin Duberman) will focus on the efforts to document the wide-ranging activities of Paul Robeson.

The SAA Membership Committee will hold its first meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 2. Anyone having ideas on how the SAA can attract more minority members should contact Diana Lachatanere or Carol Rudisell who currently sit on the Membership Committee.

Diana Lachatanere has been appointed chair of the Manuscripts Repository Section for 1987/88 and encourages your participation in the group. The section will meet on Thursday, Sept. 3 from 1:00 - 3:00 pm.

Brenda Banks has been appointed to the 1988 SAA Program Committee, and she welcomes any and all ideas for program sessions for the next annual meeting.

NEWSNOTES

The W. R. Banks Library at Prairie View A & M University (Prairie View, Texas) currently has four professional positions which it is seeking to fill: 1) Special Collections Librarian, a new position which would have responsibility for establishing an Afro-American special collection; 2) University Archivist; and 3) & 4) two reference librarians. To obtain additional information contact: Mrs. Joyce Thornton, P.O. Box 2246, W. R. Banks Library, Prairie View A & M University, Prairie View, Texas 77446.

The Amistad Research Center is offering for sale two limited edition prints by Jacob Lawrence, 'General Toussaint L'Ouverture' and 'Birth of Toussaint'. The prints are reproduced from Lawrence's Toussaint L'Ouverture Series, which consists of forty-one tempura paintings depicting the history of blacks in Santo Domingo from its discovery by Columbus in 1492 to independence of the island's French colony and the establishment of the Republic of Haiti in 1804. For further information on the prints contact: Ms. Denise Glover, Amistad Research Center, Tulane University, Tilton Hall, 6823 St. Charles Ave., New Orleans, LA 70118-5698.

As Chicago celebrates its 150th anniversary in 1987, black scholars are seeking to convey the history of the Windy City's black community. Dr. Christopher R. Reed of the University of Illinois at Chicago will publish in late 1987/88 a history of the Chicago chapter of the NAACP. At the same time, Prof. Charles E. Walton of Malcolm X College has interviewed over 200 people involved in various aspects of Chicago black history, focussing primarily on blacks in radio.

ALA MINORITY CONCERNS

Ann K. Randall, chief librarian of the City College of the City University of New York, brought the report of the ALA Committee on Minority Concerns, which she chairs, to the ALA Council. The report, based on several years of study and

research, presented a number of action requests. The Council agreed to direct the ALA Office on Library Outreach Services (OLOS) to conduct a study broader than an earlier one to implement the recommendations in the 1986 report "Equity at Issue" from the President's Committee on Library Service to Minorities created and appointed by then ALA president E.J. Josey.

The Council approved some 22 recommendations from the Committee, including strong efforts to gather data on the number of members of racial and cultural minorities who serve in all types of libraries, to encourage recruitment of minority students to library schools, and to strengthen staff development opportunities for minority persons working in libraries. ALA will also study courses in library schools which focus on services and materials for cultural minorities.

ALA will work to create continuing education programs to increase library staff sensitivity to minorities, to obtain more scholarship help and opportunity to recruit minority people into the profession, and to develop programs to teach effective lobbying techniques to get local, state, and federal funding for developing quality library and information services to minorities in the United States.

ALA will develop programs to help publicize programs in libraries for cultural minorities and to measure the existence and quality of such programs. Libraries will be urged to include minority representation on their boards, and ALA will develop information on model programs.

The committee recommended and Council endorsed urging libraries to remove all obstacles to library service, particularly fee charges and language barriers. The report went on to say that fees tend to be discriminatory and to recommend that ALA follow up on its past agreement to "promote efforts to assure every individual access to needed information". [Reprinted from Library Journal, March 15, 1987.]

PEOPLE

Spencer Crew was appointed curator for African-American material culture at the Smithsonian Institution. The new position is a result of the collecting begun for the "Field to Factory" exhibition and the commitment of the Smithsonian to do more active collecting in this area.

Denise Glover has been appointed assistant director of the Amistad Research Center, now located at Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Karen Jefferson and Brenda Banks were selected as two of fifteen participants at the NEDCC/SAA Preservation Management Institute which was held June 15-19 at Simmons College in Boston, MA.

Karen Jefferson has been elected to serve on the 1987/88 Nominations Committee of MARAC (Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference).

Carol Rudisell recently accepted the position of Black Studies Reference Librarian at the University of Delaware where she has selection responsibilities in the areas of black studies and women's studies.

EXHIBITIONS

"Marcus Garvey: The Centennial Exhibition" opened Aug. 7 at the Schomburg Center Gallery where it will be available until March 5. Guest curated by Robert A. Hill, one of the foremost authorities on Garvey, the exhibition commemorates the 100th birthday (Aug. 17, 1887) of the black nationalist leader. The exhibition, presented by the Schomburg Center in collaboration with the Marcus Garvey and UNIA Papers Project (African Studies Center, UCLA), features more than 300 photographs, manuscripts, prints, publications, paintings and memorabilia drawn primarily from the collections of the Schomburg Center and the Garvey Papers Project. The gallery is located on the second floor of the Schomburg Center (515 Lenox Ave., Harlem) and is open during the following hours through Labor Day: Mon. and Wed., noon-8:00 p.m.; Tues., Thurs., Fri., noon-6:00 p.m.; Sat. 11:00-4:00 p.m. After Labor Day the hours will be Mon.-Wed., noon-8:00 p.m.; Thurs.-Sat., 10:00-6:00 p.m.

There will be four forums presented in conjunction with the Garvey exhibition:

1. "The Legacy of Marcus Garvey," Sun. Aug. 16, 4:00 p.m., will feature Robert A. Hill, members of the Garvey family, and other Garvey scholars.

2. "Garvey Remembered," Sun. Aug. 30, 4:00 p.m. This will consist of recollections of the Garvey era by friends and associates of the nationalist leader.

3. "Marcus Garvey and The Crusader: The Black Opposition," Sat. Oct. 24.

4. "Marcus Garvey: A Reappraisal," Sat. Feb. 6, 10:00 a.m.-5:00.

Admission to all events is free. A commemorative poster is available for sale.

Harlem Renaissance Exhibit at Studio Museum of Harlem, 144 West 125th St., New York, NY. Featured artists: James Van der Zee, Aaron Douglas, Meta Vaux Warrick Fuller, William H. Johnson, Carl Van Vechten. Open until Aug. 1987. Hours: Closed on Mon. and Tues., Wed.-Fri. 10:00-5:00 p.m., Sat.-Sun. 1:00-6:00 p.m. For information: (212) 865-2420.

"Field to Factory: Afro-American Migration, 1915-1940," which opened in February, 1987 will be available until February 1988 at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History

in Washington, D.C. Hours: Mon.-Sun, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
For information: (202) 357-2700.

"Black Wings: American Blacks in Aviation," a permanent exhibit at the National Air & Space Museum, the Smithsonian Institution, opened on February 12, 1987. For information: (202) 357-1300.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Amistad Research Center, Tulane University

Jason Berry Papers, 1966-1982. Civil rights activist, and press secretary for Charles Evers' campaign; author of Amazing Grace: With Charles Evers in Mississippi (1973) and co-author of Up from the Cradle of Jazz (1987).

Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University

Kwame Nkrumah Papers, 1909-1972. First head of state of Ghana, 1957-66. Consists primarily of drafts, annotations and research notes of publications, with some correspondence and photographs covering the period prior to the 1966 coup. Also includes some materials from the post-coup period when Nkrumah was in Conakry, Guinea. Gift of Mrs. June Milne, executrix of the Kwame Nkrumah literary estate and publisher of Panaf Books, Ltd. NOT AVAILABLE FOR RESEARCH UNTIL AFTER 1990.

The Archives of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons, P.H.A. District of Columbia, Inc., 1848-present. Organizational archives documenting the first Prince Hall lodge in the District of Columbia, with the grand lodge today having jurisdiction over twenty-four lodges in the area. Includes minutes, charters, photographs, artifacts and publications.

Paul Robeson Papers, 1898-1976. Acclaimed baritone, athlete, scholar, actor and internationally recognized activist for peace and human rights. Includes writings, correspondence, photographs, artifacts, films, recordings, newsclippings, programs, and scripts. EXPECTED TO BE AVAILABLE FOR RESEARCH IN 1988.

Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York Public Library

African Methodist Episcopal Church. Dept. of Home and Foreign Mission. Records, 1915-1960. Correspondence, financial records, annual reports, minutes and printed materials documenting the AME church's missionary activities in the United States, Canada, the Caribbean and Africa. Gift of the Church, 1987. CLOSED FOR RESEARCH UNTIL PROCESSED.

Negro Actors Guild of America. Records, 1904-1982. Minutes, correspondence, financial and welfare data, clippings, programs, scripts, music, membership data and sound recordings of this welfare and benevolent organ for black performers. Gift of the Guild, 1986. OPEN FOR RESEARCH.

Mabel Mercer Papers, 1920-1983. Correspondence, personal documents, sheet music, programs, sound recordings and artifacts of Mabel Mercer (1900-1984), the English song-stylist and entertainer who came to the U.S. in 1940 after establishing her reputation as a night club singer in Paris. Gift of the Estate, 1987. CLOSED FOR RESEARCH UNTIL PROCESSED.

The Melville J. and Frances S. Herskovits Collection, 1899-1972. This voluminous collection of manuscripts, books, photographs, sound recordings, art, and artifacts documents all phases of the pioneering work of these noted anthropologists in Africa, the Caribbean, and the United States. The manuscripts include the Herskovits' field notes for research in traditional West African societies, as well as in Surinam, Brazil, Haiti and Trinidad. Gift of Jean Herskovits, 1986. OPEN FOR RESEARCH.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Black Ethnic Collectibles, a magazine for the black memorabilia collector. Published bi-monthly by Ethnic Treasures, 1401 Asbury Court, Hyattsville, MD 20782.

Black History: A Guide to Civilian Records in the National Archives. By Debra L. Newman. Washington: National Archives Trust Fund Board, 1984.

The FBI Files on the American Indian Movement and Wounded Knee. Edited by Rolland Dewing. Frederick, MD: University Publications of America, 1986. (26 reels).

Federal Surveillance of Afro-Americans (1917-1925): The First World War, the Red Scare, and the Garvey Movement. Edited by Theodore Kornweibel. Frederick, MD: University Publications of America, 1985. (25 reels).

A Guide to the Archives of Hampton Institute. Compiled by Fritz J. Malval. Westport: Greenwood, 1985.

The Marcus Garvey and Universal Negro Improvement Association Papers. Edited by Robert A. Hill. Berkeley, Calif.: Univ. of California Press, 1987. Volume 5.

The Martin Luther King, Jr., FBI File. Part II: The King-Levinson File. Edited by David J. Garrow. Frederick, MD: University Publications of America, 1987. (9 reels).

The Papers of the NAACP [New parts on Educational Equality, Voting Rights, Housing, the Scottsboro Case, and Anti-Lynching].
Edited by August Meier and John Bracey. Frederick, MD:
University Publications of America, 1987.

The Peonage Files of the U.S. Department of Justice, 1901-1945.
Edited by Pete Daniel. Frederick, MD: University of
Publications of America, 1987. (26 reels).

Slavery: A Worldwide Bibliography, 1900-1982. By Joseph C.
Miller. White Plains: Kraus, 1985.