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# ~ Archivists & Archives of Color Newsletter ~

Newsletter of the Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtable of the Society of American Archivists

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Vol. 22 No. 2

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## Message from the Co-Chair

By Josué Hurtado

Greetings AAC members! This year's meeting of the Society of American Archivists in San Francisco urges us to reflect on the nature and state of our profession in a time of exhilarating, technological change. The theme, "Archival R/Evolutions & Identities," will allow us to explore how this change influences our profession as well as the role that archivists will play in shaping it. Also on the agenda is the impact of demographic transformation. SAA President Mark A. Greene asks in the conference program, "How can our profession and the record of society more accurately mirror the changing makeup of America?" The 70 conference sessions offered will try to address this and other pressing issues facing archivists today.

There are numerous sessions that may be of interest to Roundtable members, outlined in the newsletter's "SAA Sessions to Note..."

Our Roundtable meeting is on Wednesday, August 27 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. In addition to announcements and elections, we will be joined by special guest Susan Englander, associate director of Stanford University's Martin Luther King, Jr. Research Institute. In 2007, the King Institute and the National Theatre Company of China staged the play *Passages of Martin Luther King* in Beijing as part of the city's first annual Martin Luther King Week. A documentary film based on the play will be released soon. For more information, visit <http://www.stanford.edu/group/King>.

We also will welcome the launch of a new SAA group, the Latin American and Caribbean Cultural Heritage Archives (LACCHA) Roundtable, which will gather after our meeting ends. Please show LACCHA your support by participating in this interesting and important new roundtable.

Although the conference's numerous sessions likely will consume most of your time, remember to visit San Francisco's many cultural sites. Take a tour of the murals in the Mission, walk the small streets of Chinatown, catch some jazz on Fillmore Street, or check out the 24-hour scene in the Castro neighborhood. The 72<sup>nd</sup> annual conference is full of stimulating, informative and useful sessions. It's an exciting time to be an archivist, and San Francisco is a beautiful town; so be sure to take advantage of all that is offered at the conference and in the city. Hope to see you there!

## Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtable Business Meeting Agenda

Wednesday August 27, 2008, 1:00-3:00 PM  
Plaza B, San Francisco Hilton

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1:00 – 1:15 PM: **Welcome and Introductions**

1:15 – 1:45 PM: **General Announcements**

- Josue Hurtado, co-chair
- Tomaro Taylor, newsletter editor
- Janel Quirante, listserv manager

### **Pinkett Award Announcement**

### **SAA President's Message**

- Mark Greene, SAA President

### **SAA Council Report**

- Nancy Zimmelman Lenoil, Council Liaison

### **Diversity Committee Report**

- Dr. Thomas Battle

### **Minority Student Award Committee Report**

### **Updates from the Latin American and Caribbean Cultural Heritage Archives roundtable (LACCHA) and the Native American Archives Roundtable**

1:45 – 2:00 PM: **Elections and Voting**

- Vice co-chair

### **Transfer of materials to SAA Archives**

2:00–2:45 PM: **Discussion on recent outreach programs and advocacy initiatives with a focus on the Martin Luther King Jr, Institute at Stanford University**

- Sue Englander, Associate Director

2:45 – 3:00 PM: Open Discussion

3:00 PM: Meeting Adjourns

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## SAA Sessions to Note...

*Compiled by members of the SAA AAC*

In addition to the AAC's meeting, the following sessions and meetings may be of interest to those attending the annual conference:

- Diversity Committee Meeting (Tuesday, August 26: 10 AM – 1 PM)
- Forum on Protocols for Native American Archival Materials (Wednesday, August 27, 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM)
- International Archival Affairs Roundtable (Wednesday, August 27, 3:15 – 5:15 PM)
- Archival Awareness Along the Pacific Rim” (Thursday, August 28, 8:30 – 10 AM)
- Developing Culturally Sensitive Archival Education to Meet Diverse Community Needs (Thursday, August 28, 10:30 AM – 12 PM)
- Native American Archives Protocols: Looking from Different Perspectives (Thursday, August 28, 2- 3:30 PM)
- Returning Displaced Archives: Legal and Ethical Perspectives (Friday, August 29, 2:30 – 4 PM)
- Ethnic Archives: Collecting Within Cultural Contexts (Friday, August 29, 2:30 – 4 PM)
- Archives in the Asian American Community (Saturday, August 30, 1:30 – 3 PM)
- Achieving Diversity in Institutional Archives: How Do We Get There? (Saturday, August 30, 9:30 – 11 AM)

A more complete listing of diversity and diversity-related sessions is available on the AAC website at <http://www.archivists.org/saagroups/aac/2008-sessions.pdf>.

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## 2008 Harold T. Pinkett Minority Student Award Citation

*By Lisa Nguyen*

Established in 1993, the Harold T. Pinkett Minority Student Award recognizes and acknowledges students from underrepresented groups who, through scholastic and personal

achievement, manifest an interest in becoming professional archivists and active members of the Society of American Archivists. The AAC is pleased to present the 2008 Pinkett Award to Tiffany-Kay (T-Kay) Sangwand and Monique Lloyd. Both recipients, described by their nominators as dynamic, passionate, engaging, articulate, multi-faceted and natural leaders, have made strong impressions on faculty and future colleagues at their respective graduate schools.

T-Kay Sangwand is a second year student in the joint Master of Library and Information Science program and Latin American Studies program at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA). She is also an active member of the SAA UCLA student chapter. Her research uniquely combines her academic interests in ethnomusicology, Latin American Studies and archival studies. Among her recent work, Ms. Sangwand has been interrogating the importance and implications of Cuban hip-hop as oral history in archives. Her archival experience includes working with the UCLA Special Collections Ethnomusicology Archive, the Center for the Study of Women and the June L. Mazer Lesbian Collection, and Pacific Radio digital reformatting projects. At SAA Chicago 2007, Ms. Sangwand presented a poster session entitled “(S)aving (O)ur (S)ound: Overcoming Barriers to Digital Preservation in Small, Mixed Media Archival Institutions.” As her nominator Dr. Anne Gilliland describes, Ms. Sangwand “has a passion for social justice and commitment to the representation of marginalized groups within the archival record and her interest in pursuing an archival career in special collections where she can integrate many forms of media, including music, oral history and film.”

Monique Lloyd is a graduate student in the School of Library and Information Management at Emporia State University, Oregon. Ms. Lloyd is described by one of her nominators, Erika Castaño, as “a driven and engaged student [who] beyond her studies has truly a strong dedication to the professional issues facing archivists and larger societal issues intertwined with her notion of identity.” In addition to her coursework, Ms. Lloyd also is committed to serving on several professional organization committees: the development and fundraising committee and program committee for the American Indian Library Association and planning committee for the *National Conference of Tribal Archives, Libraries and Museums: Guardians of Language, Memory and Lifeways* to be held in Portland, Oregon in 2009. She has contributed to professional discourse by publishing several articles, including “Diversity in Library Science: The Underrepresented Native American” in the *Library Student Journal* (February 2007). Ms. Lloyd currently is working on a research paper tentatively entitled “Storytelling as a Technique to Introduce Native American Students to Tribal Archives.” In addition, she was engaged in professional dialogue by participating in the panel session “Breaking the Ice: Protocols for Native American Archival Materials and Archivists” at the May 2008 Northwest Archivists Association conference in Anchorage, Alaska. In her spare time, Ms. Lloyd maintains three blogs: “Adventures in Library School,” “All the Rest of My Life” and “Knitting for Peace.”

Please join the AAC in recognizing these two, exceptional students on the evening of August 29th at the SAA Annual Meeting Awards Ceremony.

*Recipients of the Pinkett Award receive full, complementary registration and monetary support for related expenses, such as hotel and travel, to the Society of American Archivists' Annual Meeting. More information about the award is available on the SAA website at <http://www.archivists.org/governance/handbook/section12-pinkett.asp>.*

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### **Black Metropolis Research Consortium Receives Funding from Andrew W. Mellon Foundation**

*Submitted by Tamar Evangelestia-Dougherty*

*Black Metropolis Research Consortium, University of Chicago*

The Black Metropolis Research Consortium (BMRC) at the University of Chicago has received funds from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to develop a plan for a survey of unprocessed and under-processed archival collections related to African American history in the Chicago metropolitan area.

The BMRC Survey Initiative will follow survey models developed by the Philadelphia Area Consortium of Special Collections Libraries (PACSCL) and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania (HSP), which include extensive explanations of a collection's description level, physical condition, and research value.

An effective workflow for the survey currently is underway and managed by the BMRC Survey Initiative Working Group, in accordance with the design of the PACSCL survey instrument. The Mellon grant also supports an exploration of the Archivists' Toolkit (AT) as a possible survey database.

The BMRC Survey Initiative will allow member repositories to gain information on the condition, content, and research value of unprocessed collections as well as receive additional information concerning research value and interest in the subject area of processed African American history collections.

The survey process also will collect and maintain information that can be used for the purposes of collection management and intellectual access. This will result in a central database of BMRC collections and assessment data that can be used to inform the basis of institutional and consortial processing priorities and future funding proposals. The benefits will include more transparent access to collections and a capacity for web-based subject searching across collections and formats.

### **The Organization**

The Black Metropolis Research Consortium (BMRC) is an unincorporated, Chicago-based association of libraries, universities, and other archival institutions with major holdings of materials that document African American and African diasporic culture, history and politics, with a specific focus on materials relating to Chicago. The University of Chicago serves as Host Institution of the BMRC. For more information please contact Tamar Evangelestia-Dougherty, Consulting Archivist, at [tamar1@uchicago.edu](mailto:tamar1@uchicago.edu).

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### **The Transcription Centre Records, 1931 - 1986 (bulk 1960 - 1077)**

*Processed by Bob Taylor, Submitted by Gabriela Redwine*

*The Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center  
University of Texas at Austin*

The Transcription Centre began its brief but significant life in February 1962 under the direction of Dennis Duerden (1927-2006), producing and distributing radio programs for and about Africa. Until the Centre's doors closed in 1975, it provided an important forum for African writers, musicians, artists, and scholars to perform and discuss their work.

The Congress for Cultural Freedom (CCF), which was later revealed to have ties to the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, provided the Centre with its initial funding. The CCF's support of non-totalitarian cultural values in sub-Saharan Africa, via funding for programs like the Centre, implicitly opposed Soviet efforts to promote Communism as a political alternative to the existing system of enforced social, racial, and economic subjugation of black Africans. This tension between politics, race, and art -- and the potentially conflicting interests of the Centre's financial backers and the audience it sought to reach -- often found voice through the Centre's programming decisions and is reflected in its records.

The collection includes files on conferences, festivals, music, publications, radio programs, scholarship and research, television projects, and theater and film projects in which the Centre participated. The materials contain a fairly complete collection of scripts for *Africa Abroad*, the prime broadcast vehicle for the Centre in its early years, along with scripts of other radio series it produced, such as *Oral Traditions* in Hausa and Swahili, *Men and Space*, and *People on the Move* (the latter two in English and Swahili versions). Other projects supported by the Transcription Centre include Gerhard Kubik's work in music ethnology, the Ijinle Theatre Company, and a film version of Wole Soyinka's *The Swamp Dwellers*. Materials relating to conferences and festivals of African art and culture in the 1960s and early 1970s -- in

particular the 1965 Commonwealth Arts Festival in Cardiff, Wales -- highlight the Centre's various efforts to assist African musicians and encourage interest in African musical performance.

The Centre's correspondence files reflect its tireless efforts to draw attention to African art, writing, and scholarship through broadcasting, conferences, and cultural festivals. The artists, writers, and scholars represented in the correspondence include Chinua Achebe, Jimo Akolo, Ulli Beier, Dennis Brutus, Alex La Guma, Ezekiel Mphahlele, Cosmo Pieterse, and Robert Serumaga, among many others. The Centre's extensive body of correspondence with Wole Soyinka is especially noteworthy.

To learn more about the Transcription Centre Records, please visit:

<http://research.hrc.utexas.edu:8080/hrcxtf/view?docId=ead/00447.xml> or contact the Ransom Center's reference staff at [reference@hrc.utexas.edu](mailto:reference@hrc.utexas.edu).

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### **Archives Leadership Institute: A Summary**

*Submitted by Claudia Holguin  
Harvard University Archives*

I attended the first Archives Leadership Institute, held at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (UW-Madison), June 21 – 28. The Institute, supported by a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), is loosely affiliated with the Society of American Archivists (SAA). The purpose of the Institute was stated as encouraging the growth of a network of archival “leaders” throughout the country – people with such shared values as a commitment to communication, outreach, and advocacy, a great interest in recruiting and training new archivists [diversity], and a very strong involvement or interest in access to and the preservation of electronic records.

One of the most prominently featured aspects of the Institute was the use of case studies to address archival issues. Twenty-seven institute participants were assigned to one of five groups, with each group being responsible for presenting the facts of its case, its issues and possible outcomes, and for encouraging discussion among the group. My assigned group dealt with the case of a governor who did not relinquish public records to his state’s archives upon leaving office. Although this topic may sound dry, it wasn’t – it was exciting and interesting to struggle with so many issues and vagaries and to listen to all the opinions presented.

During the week-long institute, presentations were made by professors of government, budgeting and finance, as well as by legislative advocates and a communications officer from UW-Madison. Speakers included Lucy Barber (NHPRC), who spoke on “The Art of Grants,” and Maureen Sullivan (an organizational development consultant), who addressed building personal strengths and leadership. Other presenters

included Christine Weideman of Yale, who talked about the characteristics of a good mentor. Institute participants utilized Weideman’s pointers during subsequent conversations with archives students who came to the Institute to discuss their own professional hopes and intentions.

The presence of SAA Fellow and Atlanta University archivist Karen Jefferson, archivist for the Martin Luther King, Jr. papers, was a high point. Ms. Jefferson discussed the impact that such a high profile collection could have on an institution’s collection development policy. After her talk, she was available to chat and answer questions about the King papers and mentoring.

I certainly recommend the Institute and hope that more members of the Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtable apply next year. Various forms of financial aid are available. Please feel free to contact me at [Klaudia52@yahoo.com](mailto:Klaudia52@yahoo.com), if you would like more information about the Institute; I would be pleased to answer any questions.

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### **Cornell University Library and Ithaca Community Planning Hip Hop Conference**

*Adapted from a posting by Ira Revels  
and Andrea Jackson to the AAC listserve  
and supplemented by various web resources*

The Cornell University Library's (CUL) Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections has acquired the “Hip Hop Collection” (“Born in the Bronx: The Legacy and Evolution of Hip Hop”). The gift, a donation from private collector Johan Kugelberg, includes items documenting and celebrating the first decade of hip hop music.

Since late January 2008, CUL staff, students, faculty, and Ithaca community members have been planning a Hip Hop Conference to celebrate the arrival of the collection and its importance to changing the scholarly discourse on the genre, the culture, and the movement. The Inaugural Conference *Heralding the Heroes of Early Hip Hop* will be held October 31 – November 1 at Cornell University. Afrika Bambaataa will headline the conference; Grandmaster Caz and Joe Conzo also are scheduled to appear at the conference, which includes academic discussions as well as musical performances. A complete schedule will appear in late August.

For more information about the collection, visit <http://rmc.library.cornell.edu/hiphop/index.html> or pick up the book *Born in the Bronx: A Visual Record of the Early Days of Hip Hop* (Universe, 2007), which includes photographs and other images from CUL’s collection. The online blog “Hip Hop Intellectuals” (<http://hiphopintellectual.blogspot.com/>) and the Inaugural Conference page (<http://rmc.library.cornell.edu/hiphop/conference.html>) provide continuous conference updates.



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## PEOPLE

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### ARCHIVISTS AT WORK

**Petrina Jackson** joined the staff of the Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library at the University of Virginia Library as Head of Instruction and Outreach in June. Her responsibilities in this newly-defined position will center on developing and delivering a broad range of instructional programs using the library's holdings of rare books, manuscripts, and cultural artifacts to enrich the teaching and learning experiences of faculty, undergraduate and graduate students according to their curricular needs.

With the opening in 2004 of the Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library (<http://www.lib.virginia.edu/small>) and the affiliated Mary and David Harrison Institute for American History, Literature, and Culture (<http://www.lib.virginia.edu/harrison/>), the University of Virginia Library has asserted its role as a premier destination for the study and appreciation of the American journey. Holdings include rare imprints, manuscripts, and maps pertaining to the founding of the American colonies, the early Republic, and Civil War; papers of UVA founder Thomas Jefferson; records of prominent Virginia families and plantations; early and contemporary African Americana; as well as primary collections of such major American authors as Walt Whitman, Willa Cather, Robert Frost, and William Faulkner.

Ms. Jackson joined the Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections from the Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections at Cornell University Library, where she most recently served as senior assistant archivist. She holds a Master of Arts in English from Iowa State University and a Master of Library Science degree from the University of Pittsburgh.

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**Helen Wong Smith**, Librarian and Archivist at the Edwin H. Mookini Library, University of Hawai'i at Hilo, presented "Identifying and Accessing the Lesser known Archival Collections" at the annual conference of the American Association for the Advancement of Science - Pacific Division on June 19. The presentation was made at the request of Alan Bain of the Smithsonian Institution Archives. One of five speakers in a session entitled "Hawai'i Archives: Records and Special Collections," Ms. Wong Smith focused on collections containing medical and other industry records of the sugar plantations, an economic and social

powerhouse in the islands for more than 100 years. She focused on collections with an online presence to facilitate research for those outside the 50th state. For her presentation, complete with hyperlinks, please send an e-mail [smith@hawaii.edu](mailto:smith@hawaii.edu).

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**Tomaro I. Taylor**, AAC newsletter editor, has agreed to serve as one of two Florida Library Association representatives on a steering committee for the grant-funded project "Connecting to Collections- Planning for a Florida Collections Assessment." The project, which will include three state-wide community forums to be held in Miami, Orlando and Tallahassee over the next year (2008 -2009), joins members of the museum, library, archives and archeological communities to assist with the development of "strategies to educate legislators and public officials about their responsibility to preserve and converse Florida's collections." The eventual goal of the project, to be actualized in three stages, is to implement an effective solution to the problems identified during the planning stage.

Ms. Taylor would like to communicate with and learn about the experiences of those who have participated either on "Connecting to Collections" committees or in forums in other states. Please contact her at [ttaylor@lib.usf.edu](mailto:ttaylor@lib.usf.edu) if interested.

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### Call for Proposals

Pre-conference workshop and session proposals are sought for the 2009 Society of American Archivists' annual conference "Sustainable Archives / Austin 2009." Session proposals are due October 8; pre-conference workshop proposals are due October 15. For more information, visit the following websites:  
<http://www.archivists.org/conference/austin2009/AM09-call.asp> and  
<http://www.archivists.org/conference/austin2009/AM09-call-precons.asp>.

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### Call for Applications

In cooperation with the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) is

developing a national program, "Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives: Building a New Research Environment," to identify and catalog collections and archives that have not been described effectively. The process will involve adopting a technology platform that will allow accurate descriptive information to be entered quickly and efficiently, the results of which will be linked to and interoperable with those of all others to form a federated environment that can be built upon over time. Institutions of higher education and cultural organizations that hold important collections that are difficult or impossible to locate through finding aids are invited to submit requests for funding. Applications must be submitted online by September 2. For more information about the program, including an online application and guidelines, visit <http://www.clir.org/hiddencollections/index.html>.

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### Call for Papers

The editors of *Library Quarterly*, *Archival Science*, and *Museum Management and Curatorship* have announced plans for three special issues exploring the shared information needs and challenges facing libraries, archives, and museums in the information age; the overlapping educational goals of library and information science, archival studies, and museum studies programs; and areas of convergence for educators and professionals working to meet user needs in libraries, archives, and museums.

The resulting three, separate journal issues will be published at approximately the same time (end of 2009) and will be guest edited by Dr. Paul F. Marty, College of Information, Florida State University.

The impetus for this project stems from a recent conference, sponsored by the IMLS, on the need for information professionals who can transcend the traditional boundaries between libraries, archives, and museums to meet user needs in the information age (see: <http://chips.ci.fsu.edu>). Papers are sought that address one or more of the following three broad questions in ways that cut across the traditional distinctions between libraries, archives, and museums:

1. What are the information needs of libraries, archives, and museums in the information age, both internally (staff and other professionals) and externally (public services)? How can new information technologies support information professionals as they adapt to meet these needs?
2. What are the roles and responsibilities of information professionals in libraries, archives, and museums in

the information age? What are the knowledge, skills, and abilities they need to succeed at their jobs (e.g. intellectual property, information management, digital preservation, etc.)?

3. What kinds of educational programs best prepare information professionals to meet the needs of libraries, archives, and museums in the information age, including degree and non-degree programs? How are these programs currently preparing their students, and what potential is there for sharing expertise across programs?

While authors may choose to focus on one of the aforementioned institutions, each article should attempt to explore issues of convergence across all three. Optional abstracts are due September 1; the submission deadline is December 1. It is asked that submissions be geared towards the journal most closely matching the particular focus of the article. Contact Paul Marty ([marty@fsu.edu](mailto:marty@fsu.edu)) for more information or to submit proposals.

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VISIT THE  
ARCHIVISTS AND  
ARCHIVES OF COLOR  
ROUNDTABLE WEBSITE!

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

**REMINDER:**

If you're not a member of the Archivists & Archives of Color Roundtable ( AAC), it's never been a better time to join! Visit [http://rose.mygarden.com/Members\\_form\\_remote.html](http://rose.mygarden.com/Members_form_remote.html) to sign up.

**Editor**  
**Tomaro I. Taylor**

The Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtable Newsletter usually is published twice a year.

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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: