

For Spring Museum Archives Newsletter

Submitted April 6 2006

COLUMN FROM THE CHAIR

I hope that all of you are coming out of your winter hibernation into bright sunny days like the cherry blossom filled ones we are having here in Washington DC. It will be a bit warmer when you all come to the [2006 Joint Annual Meeting of NAGARA, COSA, and SAA](http://www.archivists.org/conference/index.asp) July 30 – August 5, 2006 < <http://www.archivists.org/conference/index.asp>>. Please plan to arrive in Washington DC in time to attend the Museum Archives Section's Working Group which will be held from 1pm until 3pm on Wednesday August 2. We will discuss fees. What do we charge for reproductions of collection material and for permission to publish on paper, film, or online? Learning how our colleagues generate revenue and recoup costs and how their patrons respond may help others determine and possibly reevaluate how much and for what we charge our patrons. The Museum Archives Section Business Meeting will be on Friday, August 4, from 10am to 12pm. We will conduct official business and brainstorm for session ideas for the 2007 SAA Meeting in Chicago.

In my last column I suggested that Museum Archives Section members consider donating to the Society of Southwest Archivists and the Society of American Archivists Emergency Disaster Assistance Grant Fund, <http://www.archivists.org/news/katrina_fund.asp>. I want to thank those of you that donated and hope that the information below will be gratifying to you. I also hope that it will encourage those of you that did not contribute earlier to consider doing so at this time it is not too late.

I look forward to see you all in August,
Kristine Kaske-Martin kaskek@si.edu

From the SAA homepage at <https://www.archivists.org>

Donate Now! SSA-SAA Emergency Disaster Assistance Fund Expanded; Grants Awarded

The Society of Southwest Archivists and the Society of American Archivists have *expanded* a fund to provide grants to archival repositories affected by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. As of October 31, grants have been awarded to the Louisiana Museum Foundation, the Newcomb College Center for Research on Women (Tulane University), the New Orleans Notarial Archives, the Tyrrell Historical Library, the University of New Orleans Earl K. Long Library, the Archives of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Medaille, the Archdiocese of New Orleans, the Dominican Sisters, Cabra, and the Sister Servants of Mary.

To apply for grant assistance or make a donation, <
https://www.archivists.org/news/katrina_fund.asp>
[List of major donors](https://www.archivists.org/katrina/donors.asp) <<https://www.archivists.org/katrina/donors.asp>>

Hurricane Katrina Recovery Information

[Documenting the Response to the Hurricanes](https://www.archivists.org/news/hurricanes111505.asp) at

<https://www.archivists.org/news/hurricanes111505.asp>

[Report of Hurricane Katrina Damage Assessment \(PDF\)](https://www.archivists.org/news/katrina_DamageReport.pdf) at

https://www.archivists.org/news/katrina_DamageReport.pdf

[Responding to Hurricane Katrina: Report from Mississippi](https://www.archivists.org/news/katrina_visit_report.asp) at

https://www.archivists.org/news/katrina_visit_report.asp

[Saving History from a Hurricane](http://www.csmonitor.com/2005/0928/p12s01-lihc.htm) at <http://www.csmonitor.com/2005/0928/p12s01-lihc.htm>

[Click here](https://www.archivists.org/news/katrina.asp) for information on recovery efforts...

<https://www.archivists.org/news/katrina.asp>

NEWS BLURBS

The San Diego Museum of Photographic Art's Edmund L. and Nancy K.

Dubois library will hold a grand opening on May 24, 2006.

The Dubois Library holds over 20,000 contemporary and historical items, comprised of more than 14,000 monographs and 120 journals, and is open to museum members, students, and researchers by appointment.

Three archives of special material round out the collection of the Dubois Library. The Louis Clyde Stoumen Archives preserve the personal papers of the noted photographer and filmmaker. The Nagasaki Journey Archives preserve the collection of material related to an exhibition of photographs taken by Japanese photographer Yosuke Yamahata. The institutional archive of the Museum of Photographic Arts preserves material from the history of the museum, one of the few institutions internationally that is devoted to photography.

For more information, or to schedule an appointment to visit the library, please visit

<http://www.mopa.org> or contact librarian Kaitlyn Means via email, means@mopa.org, or at (619) 238-7559 ext. 216.

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Golden Age of Radio Special Collections Museum collections included in new reference book

Researchers searching for archival material relating to radio's contribution to America's cultural heritage have a new reference tool at their disposal: *A Resource Guide to the Golden Age of Radio: Special Collections, Bibliography and the Internet* by Susan and David S. Siegel (Book Hunter Press, 2006).

The book includes 2,300 Special Collections in museums, academic and public libraries, historical societies, corporate archives and private collections in the United States containing the personal and business papers of the people who made radio possible (writers, actors, directors, station executives and owners, etc.), scripts, sound recordings of local, regional and network programs, including many long forgotten programs, photographs, publicity material, memorabilia and other ephemera.

The book also includes 1,500 Bibliographic citations grouped into 54 convenient subject categories from Advertising to World War II, 100+ research oriented Internet sites with leads to additional resources and an Index that integrates all 3,800 listings and which can be searched by person, program or subject.

For more information about the book is available at www.bookhunterpress.com/radio or contact the publisher at bookhunterpress@verizon.net.

Meskwaki Nation Receives Textile Grant from IMLS

This past fall, the Sac & Fox Tribe (Meskwaki Nation) received a grant from IMLS (Institute of Museum and Library Services) to train current museum staff and volunteers on proper textile care. The team met for an initial workshop at the State Historical Building in Des Moines.

They met Mary Bennett, Special Collections Coordinator at the State Historical Society building in Iowa City, Jerome Thompson, Pete Sixbey, curators and Sheila Hanke, a conservator. The team learned how to prepare items for storage, to protect them from

dust and other contaminants, to store like items together, and to stabilize fragile items. Sheila Hanke demonstrated how to do an “intake” to assess and document the condition of a newly received textile.

Jerome Thompson talked about controlling humidity, lighting, and building materials. At the Meskwaki dioramas, Jerome discussed techniques used in creating those displays. The team also visited a garage sized paint room, a construction room for making display cases, and areas for photographing, and preparing items for storage.

The second workshop, at the Meskwaki Tribal Center, taught additional skills on vacuuming, photographing, accessioning, describing techniques, identifying fibers, and building platforms for handling textiles.

Through these monthly workshops, the team will have prepared most, if not all, the textiles in the Meskwaki collection and will have selected 10-20 items to send to a conservator for repair. This one year project will be paid for totally by grant funds from IMLS.

The Meskwaki Museum is located in the Tribal Center at 349 Meskwaki Rd. Tama, Iowa, about seven miles west of Tama, Iowa. The museum is open 8:00 to 4:30 Monday through Friday.

Special Exhibits

New Exhibit at Southern Museum Reveals Harsh Reality of Railroad Life

The Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History will unveil a new exhibit about the harsh but human side of the railroad, a subject normally dominated by talk of machinery and technology.

Beginning January 21, *A World Apart: 150 Years of Railroaders at Work*, will tell the story of the risky and laborious lives of railroaders through photographs provided by the Center for Railroad Photography & Art. The earliest image is actually a daguerreotype depicting the crew of the locomotive Tioga, built in 1848.

"Most of these railroaders lived lives we could never imagine - lives tied so fully to the railroad, they put the railroad and their safety before their families and friends," said Sallie Loy, senior archivist at the Southern Museum. "This exhibit is truly 'A World Apart.'"

The Supreme Court even took note of the railroad worker's unpalatable duties in comparison to any other industry in the country, and called the railroad "a state within a state" in a 1957 decision.

The exhibit is made possible by generous support provided by the Kennesaw Museum Foundation. It is also part of a nationwide program underway by the Center for Railroad

Photography & Art, to increase awareness and understanding of the significance of railroad work in America. Major support for the "Work" program is provided by the North American Railway Foundation.

The Southern Museum, a Smithsonian Institution affiliate, features collections of rare Civil War weapons, uniforms, and other personal items; an exciting exhibit about The Great Locomotive Chase, including a short movie; and a full-scale replica of a locomotive factory that helped rebuild the South after the war.

To view other upcoming events, visit our calendar section.

The Southern Museum is located 20 miles north of Atlanta, off I-75 at exit 273. Click here for visitor information, or call (770) 427-2117.

Arcadia Publishing is seeking local historians, museums and archives to author pictorial history books. Arcadia books include approximately 200 historic images and captions, and tell the story of a community from the birth of photography to the present day. They are packaged in an attractive, affordable format, and appeal to a wide variety of retailers and book buyers. Arcadia finances all aspects of book production—including the actual printing of the book to sales, marketing, and distribution. Authors, in turn, receive 8 percent of the net profits. This is an unbeatable opportunity in local history publishing. Potential authors should contact Publisher Lauren Bobier at 843-853-2070 ext. 128 or at lbobier@arcadiapublishing.com. Search Arcadia's on-line catalog of more than 3,000 titles at <http://www.arcadiapublishing.com>.

Philadelphia Museum of Art Library and Archives Moving Notice

In the coming months, the following changes will affect services offered by the Museum Library and Archives in anticipation of their upcoming move. Departmental staff will need to prepare collections and reduce public services in two phases:

From February 1 through June 16, 2006, there will be limited access to collections, and reference assistance will not be offered by telephone, mail or email. Users may visit the Library and Archives by appointment only, to conduct their own research, Tuesday through Friday from 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. To schedule an appointment, please call the Library at (215) 684-7650 or the Archives at (215) 684-7659.

From June 19, 2006 until late spring 2007, the Library and Archives will be closed to all outside research.

This temporary service interruption is necessary because the Library and Archives will be moving to the Ruth and Raymond G. Perelman Building (formerly known as the Reliance Standard Life Insurance Company Building), located at 25th Street and the Benjamin

Franklin Parkway, across the street from the main Museum building. The Perelman Building is currently undergoing a major renovation to create a state of the art facility, which will include an improved and expanded space for the Library and Archives, along with art galleries, curatorial study-storage areas, an educational resource center, conservation labs, and offices. We look forward to welcoming visitors to our new home.

Updates concerning the moving project, including the official date of reopening (to be determined), will continue to be posted on the Library and Archives home pages (<http://www.philamuseum.org>).

Mary Curran Papers Donated to the Philadelphia Museum of Art Archives

We are pleased to announce the donation of the Mary Curran Papers to the PMA Archives. Mary Curran (1885-1976) was an important arts administrator in the Philadelphia area during the Great Depression and a colleague of former PMA Director, Fiske Kimball. Curran worked with the Works Progress Administration and faced a fair amount of scandal during her career, including a protracted battle with Albert Barnes (famous art collector and arts educator), to which Kimball came to her aid. The collection measures approximately 4 cubic feet and includes correspondence, memoranda, exhibition checklists, meeting minutes, photographs, drawings, scrapbooks, ephemera, and clippings. Also included is material relating to working women's groups in the Philadelphia area from the 1930s and 1940s and some Curran family memorabilia. It is a small collection with a very big scope and should be an excellent resource for the study of Depression-era arts initiatives in the region.

ARTICLE

Smithsonian Institution Archives Hosts Korean Graduate Students in Archival Science



Front Row: Kim Sehee, the author, Chung Eunkyung
Back Row: Captain Lee Hyundeog, Yeo Sangah, Captain Cheon Kwonju

Since 2003, I had been corresponding on an informal basis with Professor Kim Ki-Seok, who was in the education department at Seoul National University (SNU), and had developed the University's graduate archival science program. On April 7, 2005, he broached the idea of having seven graduate archival students from SNU visit the Smithsonian Institution and the National Archives for about one month. The students needed to apply for travel grants in a highly competitive atmosphere. A supporting letter to the University would be necessary.

Back in January 2004 several students from SNU's archival program had walked into my office unannounced after visiting the Library of Congress. They had been sent my way by a former colleague, who knew about my interest in Asia. Upon receiving Kim's idea I suggested that if this became an annual or semi-annual event more formal ties should be developed between the University and the Smithsonian Archives. After discussions with the Office of Fellowships at the Smithsonian it was decided that they would not need to be involved in the negotiations or work with the program. The Smithsonian Center for Education and Museum Studies would process the interns through their system and help get two-week visitor passes. Kim accepted the proposal. A draft outline of what should transpire during the internship was sent to Kim and on April 29, 2005, a formal letter was sent to the Department of Archival Science in the College of Humanities at SNU, inviting the seven graduate students to a joint SNU-Smithsonian Institution Archives internship sometime during the summer-winter, 2005-2006. I named myself as the principal advisor. The seven students received grants. Five traveled to Washington in January 2006.

Chung Eun-kyung and Yeo Sang-ah had undergraduate degrees in library science and Kim Se-hee had been a history major. Captains Lee Hyun-deog and Cheon Kwon-ju

graduated from the Korean Military Academy. Lee majored in economics and Cheon had a degree in physics. It was never certain what the three women were going to choose for their thesis. Professor Kim suggested that they all visit modern military records at National Archives II. Lee and Cheon already had their agenda in place. The Republic of Korea Army was responsible for both its records management program and the retention of their archival material. This will be modified in revised legislation on archives sometime in 2007-2008. Thereafter, all permanent files would be transferred to the Korean National Archives. Lee and Cheon wanted to visit military records programs and were extremely interested in the records management of army records. They wanted to see if a program could be put in place so ROK Army personnel could get training in records management in the United States for six months. The arrangement could not be worked out while they were in Washington. Lee was also interested in handling classified and de-classified documents especially in electronic form and email. A meeting at the U. S. Army headquarters for records management was very helpful and the two students will be able to go on-line and look at the general disposition schedules and the Army's electronic records management program.

There was not enough time for a practicum, to shadow an archivist to see what functions take place each day. And, no time to process records or personal papers, which would have been very beneficial. Instead, the five students had a very hectic two weeks (which turned into three, with a fifth student staying for four weeks), spending the first two visiting seven Smithsonian archival programs, the Smithsonian Center for Archival Conservation, the Library of Congress Manuscript Division and LC's Asian Reading Room, and the Naval Historical Center and the United States Navy Museum. There was a workshop with SIA's information technology archivist to discuss electronic records, email and websites, and a follow-up session. They also met with the director of the Smithsonian's Asian Pacific American Program. The students went several times to visit the modern military archives at NARA II during the second and third weeks and spent some time at the archives at the University of Maryland. During the final week they met with the chief of the army records management program.

Language was a barrier and the students came armed with a very small tape recorder (about two inches long and one inch in diameter holding one gigabyte of data), so they could review and translate the detailed information when they returned to their motel and in more depth upon returning to Korea. Three times they emailed Kim and sent detailed reports on who they had seen and what they heard. Though Chung and Kim spoke very little, Lee began to ask questions. His use of verb tense was excellent. Cheon took risks in making mistakes in grammar and began having dialogues about archival subjects and general give and take of daily chit-chat. Yeo became proficient in English and left with excellent knowledge in understanding and speaking the language. All had an excellent sense of humor.

For a first program, it was extremely successful and satisfying. One student wants to send his wife next year even though she is not an archival student. I recommended that the students write about the program and send a translated copy to the Smithsonian Archives. A dialogue needs to occur about what worked well for the students, how the

program can be improved and if special interests require modifying the sites to visit. Kim and I will need to discuss how we can develop a six-month program and it may be up to the ROK Army to enter in the negotiations.

Alan L. Bain
Archivist
Director, Technical Services Division
Smithsonian Institution Archives