

The Society of American Archivists / Performing Arts Roundtable News

Issue for August 2001

[The Performing Arts Roundtable: Encourages the exchange of information on historical and contemporary documentation of music, dance, theater, motion pictures, and other performance media. (from the SAA Web site)]

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Notes on the Upcoming 2001 Roundtable Meeting in Washington, DC

The SAA Performing Arts Roundtable will meet on Friday, August 31, 2001 from 3:30-5:00 p.m.

The Roundtable Chair will be preparing the agenda for the meeting.

Summary of the 2000 Roundtable Meeting in Denver

The SAA Performing Arts Roundtable held its annual meeting on Friday, September 1, 2000 from 3:30-5:00 p.m. In an interesting meeting, those in attendance (approximately two dozen) waited for a long pregnant moment until inspiration entered and the attendees began exchanging information. During the course of the meeting La Nina Clayton of George Washington University volunteered to serve as chair and George Bain of Ohio University volunteered to be newsletter editor. No measures were presented for vote at the meeting. Members exchanged information about their respective repositories and collections and discussed common problems as well as had open ears for new currents related to performing arts collections in graduate archival schools.

A Roundtable Open to All Interested in the Performing Arts

Part of the discussion in Denver suggested that the focus of the group has changed and may be continuing to change. The resident memory was that some years ago the

dominant focus was on things related to theater collections, that it subsequently shifted to a focus on dance collections, while the preponderant interest in Denver was from music collections. Only one person attending had any extended connection with the roundtable and its meetings and activities. It is to be hoped persons interested in these and other aspects of the performing arts will come together to share common interests and mutual concerns, to do some networking that will carry forward into the coming year(s). Will we see you there?

The Newsletter and You

Another facet of the discussion in Denver was the changing nature of the roundtable's membership and focus. There was hearsay that there has been a newsletter (or more) previously, perhaps with a stronger (or more distinctive) title, but the resident institutional memory was in abeyance.

It is to be hoped this can be corrected in the upcoming year—and through input contributed as part of the roundtable meeting. As with any publication, however, it helps to have interaction among the membership if it is to serve this group. It should be obvious this can improve.

Newsletter Distribution

The newsletter is being distributed as paper copies at the roundtable meeting.

27 August 2001