

The Society of American Archivists

# SAA Newsletter

May 1983

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## Haig Donation to LC Raises Concern

In November 1982, the Library of Congress received 18 filing cabinets from the Department of State containing papers of Alexander Haig. Concern has been voiced by archivists and historians that the material may have contained official records. An August 1982 letter to the Archivist of the United States from William H. Price, Director of the Foreign Affairs Information Management Center in the Department of State, had described the "collection" as "personal papers and extra copies of governmental papers which Secretary Haig originated reviewed, signed, or received while serving as Secretary of State."

Responding to a recent request for clarification about the Haig donation from the AHA/OAH/SAA Joint Committee, Archivist of the United States Robert M. Warner provided information which may increase the concern of interested professionals.

After Price's August letter was received, a request by NARS to review the Haig material prior to its transfer to the Library of Congress was denied by the State Department. Price informed NARS that, in the opinion of State's legal counsel, NARS had no right to inspect the material.

Many *Newsletter* readers will recall that at the time of the Kissinger case several years ago, the Department of Justice, the normal arbiter of legal disputes between agencies of the federal government, concluded that NARS did not have the authority to determine which documentary materials in the Department of State constituted official records.

Faced with this unacceptable situation, NARS moved at that time to draft legislation to clarify the agency's authority. When the draft legislation was submitted to the various agencies for comment, the results were mixed, according to Warner, and indicated a great deal of confusion. The draft legislation has since been withdrawn and resubmitted for clearance.

It is interesting to note that Judge Harold Greene, in a ruling on a motion submitted in connection with the FBI appraisal case, stated that "it is clear that the independent professionals of the National Archives and Records Service are the final arbiters of what is 'appropriate for preservation'"

(cont. on p. 2)

## "Hitler Diaries": The Archival Connection

As skepticism grew in late April over the "Hitler Diaries" supposedly found in an East German hay-loft and bought by the West German magazine, *Stern*, archivists, manuscript dealers and appraisers, and historians found themselves in the media spotlight.

At an April 25 press conference in Hamburg, two historians engaged to bolster claims that the diaries were genuine said that they must be studied further. British historian Hugh Trevor-Roper, who had given a clear endorsement days earlier, said "There are still questions to ask." Gerhard L. Weinberg, University of North Carolina, who had been allowed two hours to examine the papers, remarked: "When I went through the material, I did not see passages that looked preposterous or forged. But a number of entries caused doubt." Weinberg, a member of the AHA/OAH/SAA Joint Committee in the 1970s who earlier worked with the U.S. Army and the National Archives in filming the voluminous captured German records brought to this country after World War II, was engaged by *Newsweek* as a consultant prior to that magazine's publication of excerpts from the diaries in its May 2 issue.

At the request of the *SAA Newsletter*, former SAA President Maynard J. Brichford discussed the developing story by telephone with Friedrich Kahlen-  
(cont. on p. 2)

## Congressional Papers Project Funded

The Congressional Documentary Heritage Program of the Everett McKinley Dirksen Congressional Leadership Research Center has made a grant of \$3,000 to the Society of American Archivists to support initial efforts toward developing guidelines for members of Congress and their staffs on the administration of current records and their eventual deposit in archival institutions.

A working group composed of Patricia Aronsson, special staff assistant to Senator Russell Long; David Wigdor, specialist in 20th century political history, Library of Congress; and William W. Moss, chief archivist, John F. Kennedy Library, will seek input from members of Congress, their staffs, research scholars, and archivists as it draws plans for a publication which will be prepared and published in a second phase of the undertaking.

## Diaries, cont.

berg, an official of the Bundesarchiv, the federal archives of the Federal Republic of Germany. Although *Stern* representatives had made mention of a review of the material by the Bundesarchiv, Brichford learned that only several pages had been furnished to archivists in Koblenz. The German archivists reported that handwriting analysis provided no indication that the documents they examined were false but cautioned that "the existence of the documents contradicts all we know about Hitler's 1932-45 recordkeeping practices."

Robert Wolfe, National Archives' expert on documentation created by the Third Reich, told the *Newsletter* that he'd be "surprised" if Hitler kept a diary. Wolfe noted that Hitler "was a dictator in more ways than one," who had produced *Mein Kampf* in the 1920s by dictating to Rudolf Hess. Although NARS has extensive holdings of German WWII records, both in original and filmed form, practically no handwriting of Hitler's, other than signatures, is included.

Professional archivists joined Brichford and Wolfe in decrying the manner in which the material and revelations about it had been handled. Until proper archival examination of all the papers is possible, their authenticity will remain in doubt.

## Nixon Library: One More Time

San Clemente? Whittier? Cal State Fullerton/Yorba Linda? UC Irvine? After years of false starts, it appears that Richard Nixon will have an opportunity to choose between formal proposals from a number of potential sites for a presidential library and museum. As the *Newsletter* went to press in late April, the Richard M. Nixon Archives Foundation was beginning consideration of offers from several Southern California locations.

John C. Whitaker, Nixon's representative in negotiations on site proposals, said in March that he had informed the University of California, Irvine, which had been a leading contender for the library and museum, that it was no longer under consideration because of delays caused by a late February faculty decision to study rather than immediately approve the facility for UCI. In a later development, the University of California Board of Regents asked UC Irvine to pursue the presidential library.

A proposal which would place the library at California State University, Fullerton, and the museum at Nixon's birthplace four miles away at Yorba Linda, was not expected to be acceptable, according to Whitaker, "unless some way can be found that funds come forth from the City of Yorba Linda and Cal State Fullerton so that the costs Congress would approve (for operating the facilities) come to no more than they would for one building."

## Tax Legislation Introduced

The National Heritage Resource Act, H.R. 1285, was introduced into the House of Representatives by Thomas J. Downey (D-NY) in February, to "end the 10-year drought in acquisitions the nation's great institutions have suffered," because of the impact of the 1969 tax law. The act would restore full fair market value charitable contribution deductions for the creators of literary materials, musical manuscripts, photographs, and other materials. The papers of public officials are excluded. Robert Byrd, chair of SAA's Manuscripts PAG, has appointed a sub-committee chaired by Lisa Browar of Vassar College to keep the PAG membership informed on tax legislation, to solicit specific information concerning the effects of the 1969 tax law, and to support passage of legislation similar to Downey's bill. SAA members who can provide Browar with pertinent information may contact her at Vassar College, Box 543, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601.

Downey has suggested to SAA that archivists can assist with his efforts by encouraging members of the House Ways and Means Committee, and its chairman, Daniel Rostenkowski (D-IL), to schedule hearings on the bill.

## Haig, cont.

from the government's point of view." Some believe that this ruling is sufficient as a basis for NARS authority in such matters, although the Department of Justice disagrees. NARS' GSA legal counsel is currently reviewing the question.

However, according to Warner, in the case of the Haig papers, NARS, recognizing that the materials in question would be preserved and would ultimately be available for research, concluded that there was nothing more to be done.

### SAA Staff

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## More on NARS Independence

On March 23, Senators Thomas Eagleton (D-MO) and Charles Mathias (R-MD) introduced S. 905, to establish the independence of the National Archives from the General Services Administration. A bipartisan group of 13 other Senators signed on as co-sponsors on the day of the bill's introduction. They are Kassebaum, Sarbannes, Cranston, Sasser, Levin, Nunn, Cohen, Danforth, Moynihan, Jackson, Durenberger, Glenn, and Hatfield.

In introducing the legislation, Eagleton observed, "This bipartisan group of cosponsors reflects the growing understanding within the Senate that the plight of the Archives is serious and that independence for NARS is a crucial ingredient for strengthening the Archives in the future. I believe that this understanding and increasing support for independence from a range of affected groups gives us the real opportunity for legislative action in this Congress." Eagleton went on to observe, "In my judgement, the chronic problems at NARS have reached crisis proportions in the past two years because of the damage inflicted on NARS by deep and indiscriminate budget cuts. No price tag can be placed on preserving our historical records, but the archivist's work assumes importance only over a long period of time. The relatively small budget of the Archives has proven to be an enticing target for today's short-sighted budget-cutters. . . . 1984 marks the 50th anniversary of the National Archives; restoring the independence of NARS would be a particularly appropriate celebration."

As the *Newsletter* went to press, a late report from Washington indicated that five additional Senators had become co-sponsors of the legislation: Percy, Chiles, Hollings, Bingaman, and Goldwater.

More cosponsors are being sought. Interested archivists are urged to be in touch with their Senators to encourage them to lend their support to this undertaking. Background information and key points which may be used in legislative contact, prepared by Page Putnam Miller, National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History, follow.

Background The National Archives Act, passed in 1934, established the National Archives as an independent agency mandated with the task of collecting the scattered records of our documentary heritage and creating a system for the orderly accumulation of such records over time. The Archivist of the United States was appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate. Fifteen years later, however, the National Archives was incorporated into the newly created General Services Administration. In the post-war period a strong movement for federal reorganization to increase government efficiency and eliminate the excessive number of separate federal agencies led to the creation of one agency to manage the various housekeeping functions of the Federal government. The Hoover Commission's recommendations on reorgan-

ization culminated in the passage of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 which transferred the National Archives to the General Services Administration. Thomas Eagleton recently noted that "However sound the concept or compelling the policies, the arrangement has been troubled for at least two decades." He further stressed that "A brief history of the relationship of NARS and GSA presents a picture of perennial, nagging problems, related to the low priority status of NARS within GSA, and the lack of independence."

### Key Points

\*The basic mission of NARS and GSA are incompatible. In 1963 Senator Mathias expressed strong reservations about the "concept that GSA should become the guardian of history as well as the custodian of washrooms, storerooms, and workrooms." It is too much to expect that many GSA administrators would have the time or the inclination or background to develop a sensitive understanding of the needs and objectives of the National Archives.

\*NARS' lack of authority over budget, program priorities and personnel management has led to the devastation of morale among archival employees and to the perception both inside and outside of government that the National Archives is being poorly managed.

\*GSA has in recent years rarely sought funding for NARS. Instead of promoting adequate appropriations for NARS with the Office of Management and Budget, GSA has minimized NARS' requests. GSA principles of profit and loss are difficult to apply to the work of archivists and records managers, who deal with people and materials of intangible value in labor intensive work. As a result NARS' budget has suffered over the years while those of the Library of Congress and the Smithsonian have prospered by comparison.

\*As long as NARS is under the authority of GSA there is the danger of politicizing archival activities. The most disturbing case of political pressure on the Archivist involved the issuance of a questionable deed of gift for the vice-presidential papers of Richard Nixon.

\*The cost to administer the Archives as an independent agency could well be less than it presently costs to administer NARS as part of the GSA.

\*There are many precedents in the federal government for small independent agencies.

SAA has been on record in favor of independence for the National Archives since 1976.

## Perspectives

### TO THE EDITOR:

The statement of mission and goals for archives (*SAA Newsletter*, March 1983, p. 6-7) is obviously well-intentioned and needed, but requires considerable rewriting and thought. I recommend removing that aura of special pleading that certain words such as "maximum," "responsible," and "sound" imply. . . . Until now I had thought archivists--whom I fanatically distinguish from librarians--to be a rather literate, urbane, verbally facile group. Your statement on mission and goals for archives brought to my purview a new side of archivery, one that prompted me to write this letter. Please allow me to resume my accustomed languorous, peaceful state of mind and please produce an improved statement of mission and goals.

Edward J. Boone, Jr.  
MacArthur Memorial  
City of Norfolk

### TO THE EDITOR:

I have carefully read the draft statement on "Mission, Goals, and Objectives for the Archival Profession," published in the March 1983 *SAA Newsletter*.

I believe the committee has drafted an excellent statement, condensing the essence of our profession into very few words. However, I am concerned that the statement is too narrow. Although it might be implied on some of the subgoals, I am worried that records management is excluded. I strongly believe that the future of our profession and its effectiveness is dependent upon the reuniting of traditional archival and records management concerns. Increasingly, I think of myself as a "records administrator," not only an "archivist."

I look forward to seeing this statement after further revisions.

Richard J. Cox  
City of Baltimore

### TO THE EDITOR:

There is need for a better understanding of what archivists do, but the document entitled "Mission, Goals, and Objectives for the Archival Profession" does not meet that need.

It is so full of jargon that it will not assist anyone in communicating with archivists or non-archivists. It uses terms imprecisely, talking at times of records, at time of archival records, and at times of historical records. Where it attempts a definition of archival records it seems to be creating a new definition of archives.

There are many other problems with the document which are much more serious than terminology.

Is it really our purpose to assure that archival records be utilized at their maximum for the benefit of society? I had thought the purpose was to find out the TRUTH, which may or may not benefit a particular society. Some societies think it would benefit them most by burning records. Who will define benefit? Marxists, religious fanatics, evangelists, political parties.?

It is hardly worth exhausting energy on this highly abstract document when there are many more important things to be done. A case in point: a profession cannot be strong when its central institution is weak, for whatever reason. The most important goal, priority, objective, or task for the archival profession today is to restore some measure of strength to the National Archives.

Vernon H. Nelson  
The Moravian Archives

### TO THE EDITOR:

The following is my personal opinion. I would wish to take issue with the October 1982 resolution adopted by SAA calling for a Nuclear Freeze Agreement between the Soviet Union and the United States. (See *SAA Newsletter*, March 1983, p. 3.) While its openly humanitarian intentions appear to be very good, the road to Hell is paved with good intentions. Ideally, it would seem that the world would be better off without any nuclear weapons; I am not an enthusiast for them or any weapons nor would I enjoy a nuclear war.

And yet, the existence of such weapons may have helped to prevent a third world war since the two major world powers have hesitated to conduct such a war. I am not advocating, however, that good may come out of evil; I am only noting the sad facts of empirical reality, though one may wish to ignore those terrible facts.

Such vacuous resolutions are unfortunately typical of intellectuals: generous in their ostentatious intentions, faulty in their comical reasoning. This particular resolution calls upon the totalitarian Soviet Union to behave directly contrary to its established ideological motivations. Seriously speaking, one might as well simply request that it pull its invasion forces out of Afghanistan! The tyrants in the Kremlin only laugh at such naive resolutions; those who wish to defend the freedom of the West are forced to weep.

Joseph Andrew Settanni



## Annual Meeting Potpourri

SAA's 47th annual meeting will take place October 5-8 at the Leamington Hotel, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Complete program packets, including hotel reservation cards and registration forms, will be mailed to all members in July. Others may request a packet from SAA headquarters.

The March 1983 *SAA Newsletter* provided descriptions of the pre-conference workshops as well as some of the highlights of the program put together by the 1983 Program Committee, chaired by Linda Henry. James Fogerty's Local Arrangements Committee also has planned a busy week for meeting participants. Some of the highlights are listed below:

An Evening in F. Scott Fitzgerald's St. Paul. Fitzgerald was born in St. Paul and did some of his best writing there. In recognition of Fitzgerald's association with St. Paul, the Local Arrangements Committee has put together this gala evening, Tuesday, October 4, featuring a tour of his homes and haunts, a presentation of scenes from the play, *Scott and Zelda, The Beautiful Fools*, and dinner and a reception, complete with 1920s music, at the historic Landmark Center.

A Night on the Towns. Thursday evening, meeting participants are invited to dine at one of the Twin Cities' fine restaurants and then attend a performance of *The Entertainer* at the renowned Tyrone Guthrie Theater.

General Mills Tour. Meeting participants will have a chance to see the famed Betty Crocker Kitchens on this tour, as well as memorabilia collected by the corporate archives, and the company's fine collection of 20th century art.

Conservation Tour. This tour will visit conservation facilities at the Minnesota Historical Society and the Upper Midwest Conservation Association. At MHS, tour participants will see both the conservation facility for archival materials and the one for library materials. The facility at the Upper Midwest Conservation Association provides a comprehensive program for the conservation of artwork and related materials.

Minnesota Historical Society Tour. MHS was chartered in 1849, making it Minnesota's oldest institution. Tour participants will visit the Society's Research Center, which houses the state archives, a large collection of conservation organization records, and the papers of Hubert Humphrey, Walter Mondale, and Maurice Stans. Other features of the Center are document conservation and microfilm laboratories, a research room, records processing facilities, and administrative offices.

Post-Meeting Tours. Four tours are planned for Saturday afternoon, October 8. Each will end with an early evening reception at the historic James J. Hill House. Tours will visit the Pine Tree Apple Orchard, Historic Fort Snelling, the Minnesota Zoological Garden, and the Prairie School architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright and others.

Awards Banquet and Reception. Winners of SAA awards will be announced at this banquet on Friday evening, October 7. New SAA Fellows will be honored as well.

Finding Aids Fair. SAA's Description PAG is sponsoring this event, which will run simultaneously with exhibits on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Sample registers, guides, inventories, and other types of finding aids will be on display. Persons wishing to include their finding aids in the fair should send them to James Fogerty, Minnesota Historical Society, 1500 Mississippi St., St. Paul, MN 55101. Make sure that packages are clearly marked "For Finding Aids Fair." Any questions regarding the Fair should be directed to Kathy Brennan, 82 Pocantico St., N. Tarrytown, NY 10591, (914) 631-2577.

Audiovisuals for Archivists Meeting participants will have two opportunities to view audiovisual programs prepared by and/or about various archival repositories. One series of programs will be shown on Wednesday evening, October 5, and the other on Friday, October 7, from 11:15-12:30. Presentation of these programs is being coordinated by Timothy Ericson, University of Wisconsin-River Falls.

Briefing for New SAA Members. On Thursday, October 6, new members of SAA will have a chance to meet the Society's officers, Council members, and staff at this informal question-and-answer session.

Closing Luncheon. The meeting officially comes to a close on Saturday, October 8, following the luncheon. David B. Gracy II, incoming president of SAA will make some remarks, as will the Program Committee and Local Arrangements Committee chairs for the 1984 meeting in Washington, DC.

Getting There. SAA President J. Frank Cook has organized the "SAA Whistlestop" which will bring meeting participants to Minneapolis via train from Chicago on Monday, October 3. Persons interested in taking the train should contact Cook at B134 Memorial Library, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI 53706. Those preferring to fly can take advantage of the 30% discount offered by SAA's official carrier for this meeting, Northwest Orient, for travel between September 28 and October 12. To make a reservation, call (800) 328-7747 and mention that the reservation is for travel to SAA's annual meeting.

## Archivists in Fiction

Several SAA members responded to a call in last September's *Newsletter* for titles and descriptions of works of fiction in which archivists are among the characters.

From J. Frank Cook--

*A Canticle for Leibowitz*, by Walter M. Miller, Jr. This is a science fiction account of life in the United States 600 years after nuclear war has all but destroyed civilization. A monastic order arose which was dedicated to the preservation of the "Memorabilia" of this lost civilization. Several centuries later, the world is entering a renaissance. Secular scholars want to remove the "Memorabilia" from the monastery to New Rome where there is a concentration of intellectuals, but the monks refuse to allow it. Finally, in 3781 A.D. a new advanced civilization proceeds to destroy itself, but not before 27 monks who are "bookleggers (those who preserve and memorize texts) are put on a space ship and sent to another colony to continue preserving the records of past human accomplishments.

From David Bearman--

*The Technocrats*, by Forest W. Horton, Jr. This is a light thriller featuring computers and intrigue in which a future President of the United States designs an information and decision system through which he can control the President. The Archivist of the United States, Dr. Carol Youngblood, plays an uncomplimentary role as a bureaucrat more interested in records retention schedules and becoming the head of the presidential library than in the plot unfolding in front of him. The author of this novel was also the principal author of the Paperwork Reduction Act and is a leading figure in the information resources management movement.

From David Horn--

*1984*, by George Orwell. The protagonist, Winston Smith, is an archivist of the worst kind--he changes the information in the records to conform to the current but changing government policies.

*The Stately Home Murder*, by Catherine Aird. This is a mystery set in an ancient British home. Detective Inspector C.D. Sloan tiptoes through the halls hoping to discover who murdered the family archivist. But the family ghost walks the same corridors.

*The Aspern Papers*, by Henry James. This short novel is an account in first-person style of a search for literary remains. It particularly raises questions about the ethics of collecting.

From Harley P. Holden--

*Remembrance of Things Past*, by Marcel Proust, vol. 3, *The Guermantes Way*. One section involves the narrator's visit to the Paris salon of Mme. de Villeparisis. Upon arrival, the narrator is shown to the drawing room where Mme. Villeparisis and an archivist are selecting the autographed letters to herself from various historical personages which will be reproduced in her memoirs. The archivist is described as "the only person Mme. Villeparisis was a little afraid of, and by whom she was being indoctrinated, though without much success. . ." The interesting thing about this section is that it is only in the recent translation by Terence Kilmartin that the archivist is mentioned as such. In the standard translation by C.K. Scott Moncrieff, he is called a librarian.

## Council to Meet

SAA's Council will meet June 6-8 at the Aylesford Center in Darien, Illinois. Copies of the agenda are available on request for SAA headquarters.

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The *SAA Newsletter* is a bimonthly publication of the Society of American Archivists. Copy deadline for the July issue is June 15. We encourage readers to send in clippings, cartoons, and other items which they feel are appropriate for publication in the *Newsletter*.

Letters of professional interest to SAA members will be considered for publication in "Perspectives." They should not exceed 250 words and should be signed. Letters must be received by the first of the month preceding the month in which a *Newsletter* is published (June 1 for the July issue). Letters received after the first of the month will be held for possible publication in a subsequent issue.

The *Newsletter* editor will solicit responses (to appear in the same issue) to letters that seem to warrant them. It may not be possible to print all letters received. The Editorial Board may be called upon to arbitrate occasionally and to make decisions about the pertinence and/or appropriateness of a particular letter.

The *Newsletter* also accepts both display and classified advertising. Information on rates and specifications is available from SAA headquarters.

All correspondence regarding the *Newsletter* should be sent to Deborah Risteen, Managing Editor, SAA, 330 S. Wells, Suite 810, Chicago, IL 60606.



# SAA Basic Archival Conservation Program

## A Selected Bibliography for the Administration of Photographic Collections

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This basic bibliography is intended to serve as an introductory guide to the literature of photography for archivists, librarians, and other curators of photographic materials. The articles, books, journals, and newsletters cited will provide useful information for planning programs to administer photographic collections. Subjects covered in the readings include preservation, legal issues, publication and exhibition, arrangement, description, and research use as they pertain to photographic materials. In a number of the readings, photographs are discussed from technological, historical, or sociological perspectives; a number of the sources also address such issues as visual literacy and aesthetics.

Titles recommended under the heading "Basic Bookshelf" are core publications and standard works which archivists will find helpful to have readily at hand as they develop and organize photographic holdings. Prices are provided to indicate the cost of assembling this basic collection. Additional readings are listed to provide further guidance and information on specialized topics.

### Basic Bookshelf

American National Standards Institute. *Method for Evaluating the Processing of Black and White Photographic Papers with Respect to the Stability of the Resultant Image*. New York: ANSI, 1974. (PH 4.32-1974) \$3.00.

American National Standards Institute. *Methylene Blue Method for Measuring Thiosulfate and Silver Densitometric Method for Measuring Residual Chemicals in Films, Plates, and Papers*. New York: ANSI, 1978. (PH 1.48-1978) \$5.00.

American National Standards Institute. *Practice for Storage of Black and White Photographic Paper Prints*. New York: ANSI, 1974. (PH 1.43-1974) \$6.00.

American National Standards Institute. *Practice for Storage of Processed Safety Photographic Film*. New York: ANSI, 1979. (PH 1.43-1979) \$6.00.

American National Standards Institute. *Practice for Storage of Processed Photographic Plates*. New York: ANSI, 1972. (PH 1.45-1972) \$6.00.

American National Standards Institute. *Requirements for Photographic Filing Enclosures for Storing Processed Photographic Films, Plates and Papers*. New York: ANSI, 1978. (PH 1.53-1978) \$5.00.

Betz, Elisabeth, comp. *Graphic Materials: Rules for Describing Original Items and Historical Collections*. Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress, 1982. \$12.00.

Newhall, Beaumont. *The History of Photography*. New York: Museum of Modern Art, 1982. \$40.00, \$13.95 paper.

PICTURESCOPE. Quarterly Bulletin of the Picture Division, Special Libraries Association, P.O. Box 50119, F Street Station, Tariff Commission Building, Washington, D.C. 20004. \$15.00/year-individuals, \$25.00-institutions.

Taft, Robert. *Photography and the American Scene: A Social History, 1839-1889*. New York: Macmillan, 1938. (reprint - New York: Dover, 1964. \$6.00).

Weinstein, Robert A. and Larry Booth. *Collection, Use, and Care of Historical Photographs*. Nashville: American Association for State and Local History, 1977. \$16.00, \$10.50 to AASLH members.

### Additional Readings

Arnheim, Rudolf. *Visual Thinking*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1969.

Askins, Barbara S., et al. "A Nuclear Chemistry Technique for Restoring Faded Photographic Images." *American Archivist* 41 (April, 1978): 207-213.

Barger, M. Susan, comp. *Bibliography of Photographic Processes in Use Before 1880: Their Materials, Processing and Conservation*. Rochester, N.Y.: Graphic Arts Research Center, Rochester Institute of Technology, 1980.

Betz, Elisabeth. *Subject Headings Used in the Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division*. Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress, 1980.

Casterline, Gail Farr. *Archives and Manuscripts: Exhibits*. Chicago: Society of American Archivists, 1980.

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- Eskind, Andrew and Deborah Barsel. "International Museum of Photography: Conventions for Cataloging Photographs." *Image* 21 (December, 1978): 1-31.
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- Frassanito, William A. *Antietam: The Photographic Legacy of America's Bloodiest Day*. New York: Scribner's, 1978.
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- Jussim, Estelle. *Visual Communication and the Graphic Arts*. New York: Bowker, 1974.
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*ASPP Newsletter.* (American Society of Picture Professionals). Box 5283, Grand Central Station, New York, N.Y. 10017.

*The Abbey Newsletter: Bookbinding and Conservation.* Ellen McCrady, Editor, c/o School of Library Service, 516 Butler Library, Columbia University, New York, N.Y. 10027.

*Afterimage.* Visual Studies Workshop, 4 Elton Street, Rochester, N.Y. 14607.

*The American Archivist.* Quarterly journal of the Society of American Archivists. 330 South Wells, #810, Chicago, IL. 60606.

*American Photographer.* 1515 Broadway, New York, New York, 10036.

*Archivaria.* The journal of the Association of Canadian Archivists. School of Librarianship, University of British Columbia, 1956 Main Hall, Vancouver, B.C. V6T 1W5.

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*History News.* American Association for State and Local History, 708 Berry Road, Nashville, Tennessee 37204.

*Image.* International Museum of Photography, George Eastman House, Rochester, New York 14607.

*PhotographiConservation.* Graphic Arts Research Center, Rochester Institute of Technology, One Lomb Memorial Drive, Rochester, N.Y. 14623.

*Technology and Conservation.* The Technology Organization, Inc., One Emerson Place, Boston, Massachusetts 02114.

*Bibliography compiled by Gerald J. Munoff, Mary Lynn Ritzenthaler, and Margery S. Long.*

May, 1983

Photographs are among the most intriguing of archival records. They often contain valuable historical data and are also capable of eliciting basic human responses in the viewer. Photographs are highly complex structures, with their own history of technological change and development. Although visual images are pervasive in our culture, archivists, in general, have not been trained to evaluate photographs nor consider them from the perspective of historical content or as historical artifacts.

Under its new program, Administration of Photographic Collections, SAA has begun a series of activities to train archivists to organize and manage photographic holdings. Through a series of regional workshops, such topics as identification, appraisal, collecting policies, arrangement and description, preservation, legal issues, and use will be addressed. A photographic consultant service will assist institutions in developing specific programs to evaluate and administer photographic collections. As an outgrowth of these two phases of the program, a manual on the care and management of archival photographs will be published at the end of the project.

*The Basic Archival Conservation Program is funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.*

## Advisory Committee

Shonnie Finnegan State University of New York at Buffalo	Mary Todd Glaser Northeast Document Conservation Center
Sue E. Holbert Minnesota Historical Society	Howard P. Lowell Oklahoma Department of Libraries
Margery S. Long Wayne State University	William L. McDowell, Jr. South Carolina Dept. of Archives and History
Gerald J. Munoff Kentucky Dept. for Libraries and Archives	George Talbot State Historical Society of Wisconsin
Larry A. Viskochil Chicago Historical Society	Edward R. Gilbert Technical Advisor Conservation Consultant

## Staff

Mary Lynn Ritzenthaler Program Director	Sylvia Burck Program Assistant
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For further information, contact: Basic Archival Conservation Program, Society of American Archivists, 330 S. Wells, #810, Chicago, IL 60606. (312) 922-0140



# PEOPLE PAPERS

Hartford, Connecticut Walter Plowman, arrested in 1978 for theft of approximately 1,000 items from the Connecticut Historical Society and the Connecticut State Library and Archives, received a suspended sentence for first degree larceny. As part of his sentence, Plowman has paid \$2,500 in restitution to the Library. Since the theft was detected, the Library has increased its security by a variety of measures, such as requiring that researchers show photo-identification cards prior to examining archival materials. In a related matter the Connecticut State Library Association and Connecticut State Library are co-sponsoring legislation to make theft and mutilation of library and archival materials in "library facilities" (records repositories, archives, libraries, and museums) a crime with mandatory penalties.

Washington, DC Nearly 3,000 people attended the March convention of the American Society of Association Executives. Representatives from organizations as diverse as the American Medical Association and the American Textile Machinery Association had opportunities to be enlightened by futurist David Pearce Snyder, columnist David Broder, humorist Art Buchwald, as well as SAA's Executive Director Ann Morgan Campbell and SAA Fellow Trudy Huskamp Peterson. Campbell's topic was financial management, while Peterson spoke to representatives of more than 50 associations about archives and records management.

Austin, Texas Texas A&M archivist and *American Archivist* editor Charles Schultz spoke before the Texas House State Affairs Committee in support of a bill to exempt portions of documents donated to public universities from the state's Open Records Law. Currently, public disclosure of official papers at public universities is required, making it more difficult for these universities to acquire papers for scholarly research. Private universities are not required to abide by the disclosure law. Under the proposed bill, libraries at public supported universities would be able to acquire official papers and keep "sensitive" portions secret for an indefinite period. Schultz was particularly concerned about the effect the current law has on an archives' ability to obtain oral history interviews. "What it boils down to is you either close a portion of the interview or you don't get it at all," he said. "It is better to get it and close it to public scrutiny than not get it at all."

Honolulu, Hawaii SAA Fellow Agnes C. Conrad received her March *SAA Newsletter* on March 21, 1983. Not bad, one might think, except for that fact that it was her March 1975 *Newsletter*! Among the stories covered in that issue were the upcoming annual meeting in Philadelphia, the appointment of C.F.W. Coker as editor of *The American Archivist*, and the signing of a bill by President Ford to enlarge the scope of the National Historical

Publications Commission, which was redesignated the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

Knoxville, Tennessee The McClung Historical Collection, a department of the Knoxville-Knox County Public Library, has been selected as the repository for the official collection of the 1982 World's Fair. The McClung Collection was chosen in part because of the early interest expressed in receiving the collection by McClung's head, William J. MacArthur, Jr. The collection includes the records and correspondence from the various departments and officials of the Fair, video cassettes, posters, souvenirs, newspapers clippings, and approximately 70,000 slides.

Rhode Island The Rhode Island Rape Crisis Center burned counseling records covering ten years and involving more than 1,000 rape victims. The center was about to be served a subpoena to supply a public defender with certain confidential records, but chose to burn all its case records to avoid future subpoenas. The chairman of the board of directors asserted that the decision was necessary to protect the privacy of rape victims and that the center had no obligation to preserve its counseling records.

## N.J. Archives Bureau Eliminated

The New Jersey Bureau of Archives and History has been eliminated in a reorganization effort launched by New Jersey State Librarian Barbara F. Weaver. The Archives Section of the Bureau was transferred to the State Library's Bureau of Law and General Reference, which is now the Bureau of Law, Archives, and Reference Services. A new Bureau of Records Management Services has been created within the Library. Weaver explained that the Library's records management program has expanded greatly in the past two years, creating the need for the new Bureau. The transfer of the Archives Section, according to Weaver, permits consolidation of some overlapping functions and places all public service operations of the Library under one administrative unit.

Archives, historical, and records management groups have expressed concern that the reorganization will have adverse effects on New Jersey's archival and records management services. SAA Executive Director Ann Morgan Campbell, in a letter of New Jersey's Commissioner of Education Saul Cooperman, said that the change "...raises serious administrative and professional problems. The elimination of the position of State Archivist appears to abolish an essential safeguard against destruction of vital information needed by the state and its people. . . ." This and other letters to Cooperman and Governor Thomas H. Kean have brought polite responses but no indication to date that the reorganization is being reconsidered.

## NISTF Conference

Over 30 people gathered at a conference in soggy northern California in mid-March to observe the official conclusion of SAA's National Information Systems Task Force project and working group and to suggest an agenda for information exchange within the profession in the future. SAA's new Committee on Archival Information Exchange (Lewis Bellardo, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives; H. Thomas Hickerson, Cornell University; William L. Joyce, The New York Public Library; Lydia Lucas, Minnesota Historical Society; Victoria Irons Walch, NARS; and Max Evans, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, chair) has now assumed responsibility for oversight of the format and the data elements dictionary developed by the NISTF project, and for coordination of possible follow-up activities.

The new committee (CAIE) developed a draft statement of mission at the Hoover Institution conference site: to promote, encourage, and support the development of effective means for exchange and dissemination of information about archival programs and holdings. Major goals were also defined.

The conference heard papers by NISTF chair Richard Lytle, and by David Bearman, NISTF's project director, among others. Local arrangements for the event were coordinated by Charles Palm at the Hoover Institution. Working groups at the conference, chaired by Toni Carbo Bearman, National Commission on Library and Information Science, Ann Morgan Campbell, Society of American Archivists, and William Wallach, University of Michigan, defined needed future activities in the areas of archives/library networks, professional and educational concerns, and research. The resulting "agenda" was transmitted to CAIE and to SAA's Council.

## Photographic Consultant Service

SAA is pleased to announce the availability of its photographic consultant service. This service will assist archival institutions in evaluating photographic holdings, setting up appropriate arrangement and description systems, and developing use and access policies. Storage systems and basic preservation needs also will be reviewed. A limited number of consultations is available on a cost-sharing basis. To qualify, institutions must maintain holdings of documentary photographic materials and have at least one full-time archival staff member working a portion of his or her time with the photographic holdings. For an application or further information, contact Mary Lynn Ritzenthaler. The photographic consultant service is part of SAA's Basic Archival Conservation Program, funded in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

## SAA Workshop Calendar

The Society has several workshops scheduled throughout the country in the coming months:

May 16-20, Dearborn, Michigan: Business Archives: The Basics and Beyond

June 9-11, Washington, DC: Starting an Archives

June 15-17, Atlanta, Georgia: Administration of Photographic Collections

July 27-29, Chicago, Illinois: Basic Archival Conservation

August 10-12, Newark, New Jersey: Administration of Photographic Collections

To apply for any of these workshops, contact SAA headquarters, 330 S. Wells, Suite 810, Chicago, IL 60606, (312) 922-0140.

## Records Management Fellowships

The School of Library and Information Sciences at the State University of New York at Albany has received a \$24,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education for fellowships to support qualified students who wish to pursue the M.L.S. degree with a specialization in records management. The 36-credit program will begin on September 12, 1983, and continue through the summer session of 1984 when the fellows will complete an internship in records management in an agency or organization of their choice.

Applicants for the fellowship program must meet the same requirements as other M.L.S. applicants: a bachelor's degree from an approved institution; a minimum of a 3.0 grade point average on a 4-point scale; and acceptable scores on the Aptitude Test of the Graduate Record Examination. The deadline for fellowship applications is June 15, 1983. Applications may be obtained from Lillian Orsini, Associate Dean, SUNYA School of Library and Information Science, 135 Western Ave., Albany, NY 12222.

## Awards Deadline

V. Nelle Bellamy, chair of SAA's Awards Committee, will continue to accept nominations for SAA awards until August 1, 1983. Nominations are open for all awards: the Distinguished Service Award, the Sister M. Claude Lane Award, the Philip M. Hamer Award, the Oliver Wendell Holmes Award, and the Waldo Gifford Leland Prize. (See the January 1983 *SAA Newsletter*, p. 6, for descriptions of awards.) Award winners will be announced at SAA's 47th annual meeting, October 5-8, in Minnesota.

All nominations should be sent to V. Nelle Bellamy, Archives of the Episcopal Church, P.O. Box 2247, Austin, TX 78768.



## News from the Regionals

*Georgia Archive*, the journal of the Society of Georgia Archivists, marked its tenth year of publication with the fall, 1982, issue. The journal was originally conceived as a small publication serving archivists, curators, and researchers in Georgia, but under the editorships of David B. Gracy II, Ann Pederson, and Linda Matthews, it expanded in both content and format. In 1982 over half the journal's subscribers were from outside Georgia. To reflect this broader audience, the board of directors has approved a new name for the journal, one selected by SGA's membership in a 1978 survey--*Provenance*. The first issue of *Provenance*, under the editorship of Ellen Garrison, will appear in May.

\*\*\*\*\*

On the occasion of its tenth anniversary, the New England Archivists established a monetary award to promote the professional development of archivists in New England. The Richard Walden Hale, Jr., Professional Development Award is established in honor of Hale, Archivist of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts from 1961-1976, and a founding member of the New England Archivists.

In this first year the Hale Award will consist of a \$200 stipend for attending SAA's annual meeting in Minnesota. The competition is open to all NEA members who have an expressed interest in archives as a professional endeavor and who have never attended a meeting of SAA outside of New England. The application deadline is June 1, 1983. To apply, interested persons must obtain an application form from NEA, provide one letter of recommendation, and write a one page (100 to 200 words) narrative answering the following question: "How would attending an annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists contribute to your professional development?"

To obtain an application, contact James O'Toole, Archivist, Archdiocese of Boston, 2121 Commonwealth Ave., Brighton, MA 02135.

\*\*\*\*\*

The first annual meeting of the Society of Florida Archivists was held May 5 in Daytona Beach in conjunction with the Florida Confederation of Historical Societies. Among the items on the agenda were approval of a constitution and the election of officers. For more information on this new group, contact Carla Kemp, Florida State Archives, Dept. of State, Tallahassee, FL 32301.

## Additional Bentley Fellows

The Bentley Historical Library of the University of Michigan has announced additional fellowship awards to support research on appraisal problems of modern documentation. Paul Chestnut has been awarded a fellowship to study problems related to the papers of public officials on the state and local level. He is assistant state archivist at the Virginia State Library.

The Bentley Library regrets to announce that Patricia Aronsson will be unable to accept her fellowship award.

For a related project funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Bentley Library has invited Julia Young of the School of Library Service at Southern Mississippi State University and Frank Boles of its own staff to assess the implications of the research done by the Fellows for the management of university records. In addition, they will conduct their own research on the nature of administrative files in the university.

During the period May 1 to August 30, the seminar will meet once or twice a week. Archivists who will be in or near Ann Arbor can obtain the seminar schedule by writing Francis X. Blouin, Jr., Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan, 1150 Beal Ave., Ann Arbor, MI 48109.

### Enroll Now For June Institute

The Modern Archives Institute of the National Archives and Records Service announces

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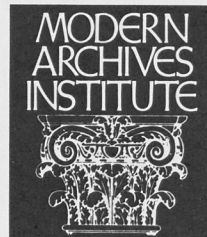
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## Transitions...

DONALD D. MARKS has recently founded an information systems consulting firm, Don Marks & Associates, Inc., in New Orleans. . . Utah State Archivist HAROLD JACOBSEN will retire on September 1. . . MICHAEL V. LEVELLYN, records manager for the Georgia Department of Labor, was killed in an automobile accident in December. . . The Southern Labor Archives at Georgia State University has hired CHRISTOPHER PATON as popular music archivist and JOSEPH W. CONSTANCE, JR. as an archival associate. . . ALLAN S. KOVAN has been appointed university archivist at the Golda Meir Library, University of Wisconsin--Milwaukee. . . MORGAN J. BARCLAY has been named university archivist at East Carolina University Greenville, N.C. . . GEORGE TSELOS has been named assistant director for archives of the American Chemical Society, Center for History of Chemistry, University of Pennsylvania. . . BILL SUMNERS has accepted the position of archivist at the Dargan-Carver Library in Nashville. . . SAA Fellow TRUDY HUSKAMP PETERSON has been awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to teach American studies at the University of Oulu, Oulu, Finland, from September 1, 1983 to May 31, 1984.

## Wanted

Chadwyck-Healey, Inc. invites repositories interested in having their finding aids listed in the new National Inventory of Documentary Sources in the United States to write the editor, Chadwyck-Healey, Inc., 623 Martense Ave., Teaneck, NJ 07666.

Ann Pederson is preparing her dissertation on the components, processes, and documentation of archival appraisal of public records in Australian repositories and is interested in hearing from others with established interests in appraisal. Contact her at the University of New South Wales, P.O. Box 1, Kensington, N.S.W., Australia 2033.

The town clerk of Glastonbury, Conn., is seeking information on Volume 1 of Glastonbury records, dated 1698, missing since the town hall was moved in January. For more information, contact Edward J. Friedeberg, Town Clerk, 2108 Main St., Glastonbury, CT 06033, (203) 633-5231.

## Archivists' Calendar

A national conference for genealogists, sponsored by three genealogical associations, will be held July 14-16 in Hartford, Conn. For details, write Hartford '83, P.O. Box 758, Glastonbury, CT 06033.

The Society of Indiana Archivists will sponsor a workshop on beginning archives at DePauw University, June 6-8. For details, contact David Horn, DePauw University Archives, Greencastle, IN 46135.

The Office of Museum Programs, Smithsonian Institution, will sponsor a workshop on museum archives, June 20-24. For details, contact Mary Lynn Perry, Office of Museum Programs, A & I, Rm. 2235, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC 20560.

The 1983 annual meeting of the Society of California Archivists will be held June 2-4 at the University of the Pacific in Stockton. For further information, contact Ronald Limbaugh, Holt-Atherton Pacific Center, University of the Pacific, Stockton, CA 95211.

The American Film Institute will offer a one week workshop in film/TV documentation, July 10-16, in Los Angeles. For details, contact the Registrar, Film/TV Documentation Workshop, American Film Institute, 2021 N. Western Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90027.

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# Professional Opportunities

**ARCHIVAL FILM SPECIALIST**, Smithsonian Institution, Human Studies Film Archives, Department of Anthropology. Duties include developing archival policies, investigating film and video techniques, developing systems of organization and control of materials for preservation and research, chairing advisory committee, preparing publications, serving as consultant on professional archival matters, and supervising archival and clerical staff. Qualifications: Candidates must have a knowledge of professional film archival principles and techniques, preservation and handling techniques for all formats of film and video materials, and organizational and research use systems for historical and contemporary documentary film and video materials. Appointment will be at the GS-11 level. Salary: \$24,508. Applicants should send a completed SF-171, Personal Qualifications Statement, and vita to: Office of Personnel Administration, Smithsonian Institution, Arts & Industries Building, Room 1410, Desk MMC, 900 Jefferson Dr., S.W., Washington, DC 20560. No closing date provided.

**LIBRARIAN**, Long Island Historical Society. Responsible for overall management of 125,000 volume library plus manuscript, photograph, map, and newspaper collections belonging to an organization founded in 1863. Reports to Executive Director and supervises assistant librarian, cataloger, two clerks, and volunteers. Provides reference assistance to readers, directs acquisitions and preservation programs, and is responsible for policy, planning, and budget preparation. Qualifications: M.L.S. required together with at least two years' supervisory experience in a comparable institution and experience in writing grant proposals. Second master's degree desirable. Salary dependent on qualifications, minimum \$16,000. Send resume to Executive Director, The Long Island Historical Society, 128 Pierrepont St., Brooklyn Heights, NY 11201. Application deadline: June 1, 1983.

**CONSULTING BUSINESS ARCHIVIST**, Bishop Museum. NEH-funded, one-year project to organize business and sugar plantation records, approximately 3,000 cu. ft. Grant period July 1, 1983 to June 30, 1984. Responsibilities will include training and supervision of entry-level staff archivist and clerical help. Qualifications: Applicants with extensive experience in the appraising and processing of business records and knowledge of 19th century bookkeeping practices will be preferred. Salary: \$21,000 plus dislocation allowance and transportation. Send resume and three references to: Project Director, Mrs. Cynthia Timberlake, Head Librarian, Bishop Museum, P.O. Box 19000-A, Honolulu, HI 96819. No closing date provided.

*It is assumed that all employers comply with Equal Opportunity/Affirmation Action regulations.*

**ARCHIVIST**, Charles Babbage Institute, University of Minnesota. Responsible for managing the Charles Babbage Institute Collection, including performing or supervising the functions of acquisitions, appraisal, arrangement and description, and preservation of records, and for providing access to and reference service from the collection. Trains and supervises staff members; promotes use of the collection through programs of instruction and research; and is also responsible, in cooperation with the CBI director and staff, for promoting the preservation of records of the history of information processing in other archives and manuscripts repositories. The archivist holds a 12-month appointment on a continuous appointment track and reports to the director of Walter Library. Qualifications: Applicants must have an advanced degree, preferably in the history of science and technology, American history or American studies, or an appropriate area of study, and a minimum of three years' professional archival experience. In addition, a successful applicant must have at least several of the following qualifications: experience with computer applications in libraries or archives; administrative experience or experience in organizing projects and supervision; demonstrated interest in instruction and research; the ability to work with the constituents of the Institute and Collection; and competence in records management. Salary: \$20,000 minimum. Applicants should send a letter of application, vita, and names of three references to: Robert L. Wright, Personnel Officer, University Libraries, 499 Wilson Library, 309 19th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55455. Application deadline: June 15, 1983.

**ASSISTANT ARCHIVIST**, Archives, History, and Genealogy Unit, Connecticut State Library. Under the direction of the State Archivist, assists in surveying records of Connecticut state government agencies to determine their potential value for research; assists in appraising records offered or available for acquisition for their archival value, and in accessioning records determined to be appropriate into the State Archives; assists in planning and managing the physical transfer of records, and arranging, packing, labeling, and shelving records; prepares or assists in preparing finding aids; assists in preparation of exhibits; does related work as required. Qualifications: A graduate degree in American history, archives administration, library science, political science, public administration, or a related field and one year of employment in professional archival work or library work involving experience with archival materials and including experience in historical research. Special preference given for work with government records. Salary range: \$19,087-\$22,968. Send resumes to: David Peck, Director of Personnel, Connecticut State Library, 231 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106. Application deadline: May 31, 1983.

**FIELD ARCHIVIST**, The Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies. Two-year, NEH-funded position. Responsible for surveying and collecting ethnic source materials in the Anthracite Region of northeastern Pennsylvania. Based in Scranton. Qualifications: M.A. in American history or M.L.S., archives training and one year experience. Previous experience in field surveys desirable and may be substituted for graduate training. Must have transportation. Salary: \$17,000 plus travel expenses and benefits. Send resumes and three references to: R. Joseph Anderson, Library Director, Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies, 18 S. 7th St., Philadelphia, PA 19106. Application deadline: May 25, 1983.

**CHIEF**, Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division, Library of Congress (Search Reopened). This division of the Library's Research Services Department provides for reference services, collection development, preservation, processing, special services, and custody of the Library's extensive holdings of motion pictures, radio and television materials, and sound recordings. Qualifications include one year of high level specialized library OR research experience which has demonstrated scholarly competence in one of the fields of communications (film, television, radio, recorded sound) sufficient to merit national recognition, ability to maintain effective liaison with the scholarly and library world and the professions concerned with these fields, and administrative skill. Salary: \$56,495-\$63,800. To obtain application forms and a copy of the vacancy announcement, interested candidates are invited to telephone the Library's Employment Office at (202) 287-5620 regarding Vacancy Announcement 30255 or to write to the Recruitment and Placement Office, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540. Applications must be on forms provided by the Library and be received no later than June 15, 1983.

**CHIEF**, Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress. This division of the Library's Research Services Department provides reference services to scholars for the Library's extensive collection of pictorial materials not in book format and is responsible for bibliographic servicing, custody, preservation, and processing of the collections. Qualifications include one year of high level specialized library OR research experience which has demonstrated scholarly competence in the field of pictorial collections sufficient to merit national recognition; administrative skill; and ability to maintain effective liaison with the scholarly and library world and the art professions. Salary: \$48,553-\$63,115. To obtain application forms and a copy of the vacancy announcement, interested candidates are invited to telephone the Library's Employment Office at (202) 287-5620 regarding Vacancy Announcement 30117 or to write to the Recruitment and Placement Office, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540. Applications must be on forms provided by the Library and be received no later than May 21, 1983.

# SAA Newsletter

The Society of American Archivists, 330 S. Wells St.  
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### Alternate Theories of Arrangement & Description

*Gregory S. Hunter, United Negro College Fund*

Archivists have been bound for too long to antiquated theories of arrangement and description first promulgated by French archivists in the late eighteenth century. I believe it is high time that archivists explored the insights other disciplines have to offer, and present the following as a first step in this important effort.

Theology offers several possibilities. One is the "Theory of Divine Provenance." Since, ultimately, all things come from God, archivists could organize their collections under just one record group labelled "God." A second is the "Creationist Theory of Arrangement and Description," under which archivists would divide their collections into seven records groups. If, for example, the item dealt with the sky, it would be in record group 2. Similarly, items dealing with plants, birds, and human beings could be in record groups 3, 5, and 6 respectively. Naturally, record group 7 would be left empty. When using the "Creationist Theory of Arrangement and Description, however, archivists must be careful to follow a strict interpretation of the record groups.

Psychology is also rich with options. For example, curators could arrange manuscript collections using the "Freudian Theory." There would be three records groups, with manuscripts divided according to whether the id, ego, or superego was most apparent. Speaking of a parent, some curators will probably want to create a fourth record group for manifestations of the Oedipal Complex.

And let us not forget Mathematics. Under the "Exponential Theory of Arrangement." records

groups would not be numbered "1", "2", and "3", but rather "10<sup>1</sup>", "10<sup>2</sup>", and "10<sup>3</sup>". Empty folders would now become null sets, and probability theory would help reassure archivists that there never was much chance of finding that missing document anyway.

Finally, there is Philosophy. Unfortunately, opinion still is divided over whether or not there can be arrangement of existential material realities in our metaphysical universe. Better luck next century!

### SAA Annual Meetings: Plan Ahead

The 1984 annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists will take place August 30-September 2 at the Capitol Hilton in Washington, DC. This meeting takes on special significance because 1984 is the 50th anniversary of the National Archives. The chair of the '84 Program Committee is David Horn, DePauw University. The 1984 Local Arrangements Committee chair is James O'Neill, NARS.

In 1985, the Society will go south to the Lone Star State. The dates for that meeting are October 29-November 1 at the Hyatt Regency in Austin, Texas.

1986 is the 50th anniversary of the founding of SAA. Consequently, the annual meeting will take place in Chicago, where SAA's headquarters are located. The meeting will be at the Marriott Hotel, August 29-September 1.

Watch the *Newsletter* for details on all these meetings.