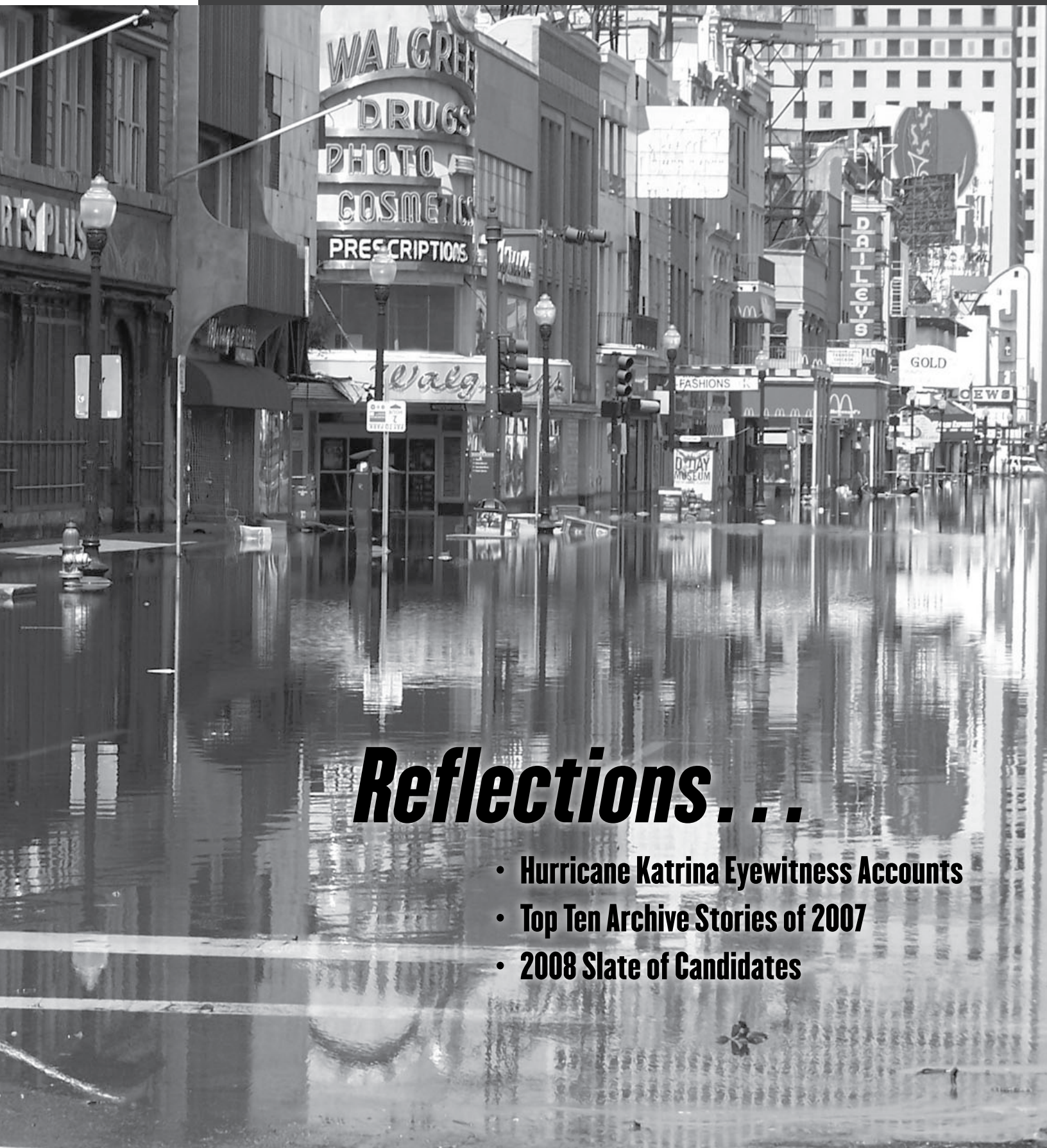


archival outlook



Reflections...

- Hurricane Katrina Eyewitness Accounts
- Top Ten Archive Stories of 2007
- 2008 Slate of Candidates

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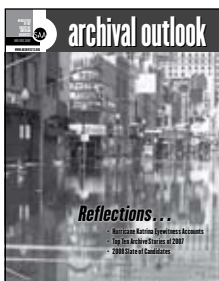
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On the cover

Reflections . . . A snapshot of a flooded Canal Street in the Crescent City, taken by Chris Mickal, district chief of the New Orleans Fire Department. Mickal photographed the devastation and first responders at work following Hurricane Katrina's landfall in 2005. Mark Cave of The Historic New Orleans Collection is documenting eyewitness accounts. Read about this oral history project on page 6, in "Through Hell and High Water."

archival outlook

the society of american archivists
serves the education and information needs
of its members and provides leadership to
help ensure the identification, preservation
and use of the nation's historical record.

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Ethics in Archives: Is Social Justice an Archival Ethic?

Those who know me best know that I generally don't hesitate to offer answers. But they also know that occasionally I'm apt to pose questions for which I haven't formulated an answer—for the express purpose of trying to stimulate contemplation and discussion. In this column I present a question that is far from academic, both because it has profound implications for our profession and because SAA's own Committee on Ethics and Professional Conduct will be considering variants of the question during the coming year.

The question at hand: Do archival ethics require active involvement in issues of social justice?

This question is not new, although it is being raised anew. The question was first brought to the forefront in U.S. conversation in the 1970s, with the presentation and publication of essays by Howard Zinn and Sam Bass Warner.¹ These remarks were explicitly aimed at the already tenuous tradition in our profession that argued for archivists to be purely disinterested and neutral parties in the process of creating, identifying, describing, preserving, and making accessible the records and papers of governments, businesses, families, individuals, and organizations. This was a tradition that arose in Great Britain and was championed in the U.S. by such significant figures as Margaret Cross Norton. But it was subtly undermined by such theorists as Theodore Schellenberg, simply by virtue of his insistence that archivists must have a great impact on appraisal, if not overtly on other aspects of archives administration.

The extent to which archivists should or must intervene actively in appraisal continued to be debated into the late 1990s, but by that time there was a much more profound argument building toward the active agency of archivists in the archival process, and that was post-modernism. Post-modernism insists that none of us can escape involvement—influence, impact, instigation—in the process we claim to administer. The archives—not just the building or the processes but the very content—are what they are because of the archivists, individually and collectively. Not everyone in our profession accepts such a perception, of course, although I do.

What I am less certain that I accept (although I am riveted by the proposition) is that this post-modern understanding leads to accepting that as archivists we

must transcend our professional theory and practice and place social justice at the center of our work. Here, stated directly and as a challenge, is the argument presented by Verne Harris, project manager for the Nelson Mandela Centre of Memory and honorary research associate at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg (and former deputy director of the post-apartheid South African National Archives):

The questions, of course, remain: should archivists strain against the gradient of archontic power? Should they strain against a "power to control"? Should they strain to deploy constructive rather than oppressive power? To all these questions I say "yes!" Not, as I did in the past, because power is always oppressive and because the archive calls us to fight for justice. I say, "yes!" because I believe that the call of and for justice—which comes from outside of archive, outside of any archival theory—is a calling more important than any archival calling.

Those who believe they can keep these callings separate, who believe they can separate the professional from other spaces, who believe they can remain professionally impartial, fool themselves and condemn themselves to being the pawns of those who hold power. As Chris Hurley has pointed out graphically: "We cannot comfortably design a better system for documenting the number of heads being processed through the gas chambers as if good recordkeeping (in a technical sense) can be divorced from the uses to which it is put." The role of pawn even in a democracy, I would argue, is closed to the call of justice and, in the end, is profoundly reactionary.

. . . Deconstruction, I would argue, inspires a radically activist practice of archives. It has little space for calm, cool, so-called impartial heads. It brings fever and yearning and determination to bring justice. The archive, for deconstruction, is not a quiet retreat for professionals and scholars and craftspersons. It is a crucible of human experience. A battleground for meaning and significance. A Babel of stories. A place and a space of complex and ever-shifting power plays. Here you cannot keep your hands clean. Here the very notions of profession and scholarship and craft must be re-imagined.²

If we accept that social justice is an archival ethic, how do we implement such a mandate?

It is perhaps easier to conceive of such practice in a government archives or a manuscripts repository, at least in terms of the material we accept, how we describe it, and how we reach out to our publics. But

continued on page 21



from the executive director

Nancy P. Beaumont • nbeaumont@archivists.org

A Good Year

By the time we prepare and deliver various versions of an annual report to members (at the Annual Membership Meeting in August, in my September column, and as an insert in this issue of *Archival Outlook*), the previous fiscal year (July 1 to June 30) feels like "old news." That's why we decided to have a little fun with the "Top 10" Archives-Related Stories in calendar year 2007 (page 8) and why I present SAA's internal "Top 10"—in no particular order—below.

No particular order.... But how can we not begin by lauding Sam Schiller as SAA's "Mr. 5000"? (See page 19 for more about Sam.) A goal of **5,000 members** may have seemed like a pipe dream to some. Fie on that; on to 6,000! There's strength in numbers....

The Posner-award winning **A*CENSUS report** is published in the fall/winter 2006 issue of *The American Archivist* and online. Additional tables and figures have been added to the website this month, so be sure to revisit the A*CENSUS results at <http://www.archivists.org/a-census/index.asp>.

MayDay (Year 2) is observed on May 1, with increased participation by archivists throughout the United States; expansion of the program to libraries, museums, and cultural heritage institutions via the good work of Heritage Preservation; and adoption of the logo and materials on the other side of the world—by Australian archivists.

Archivists throughout the country promote the value of archives and archivists by "Celebrating the American Record" in October for **American Archives Month 2007**. A public awareness kit provides tips and ideas for promoting archives throughout the year; includes a poster for display in your repository; and features a special section on "spreading the good word" about archives to youngsters. And see page 23 for the winner of our First Annual "Best Elevator Speech" contest!

Peter Wosh signs on as SAA's new Editor of Print and Electronic Publications in March, and **SAA publishes seven new books** on topics ranging from *Film Preservation* (by Karen Gracy) to *Planning New and Remodeled Archival Facilities* (by Tom Wilsted). Visit the online publications catalog at <http://www.archivists.org/catalog/index.asp>.

SAA offers its first Spanish-language brochure—"Guía para donar sus documentos personales o familiares a un depósito"—a translation of the popular consumer brochure on family papers of which SAA has

distributed more than 36,000 copies since 1994. For more information, see www.archivists.org/publications/donating-familyrecs.asp.

More than 1,400 members attend **education workshops** in convenient locations around the country. And 25 members attend SAA's first-ever "Electronic Records Summer Camp," a limited-enrollment, 5-day, hands-on workshop held in conjunction with the San Diego Supercomputer Center, NARA, and the University of Maryland. Watch the SAA website for announcements about two offerings in 2008!

SAA welcomes more than 1,900 attendees to its own "Sweet Home Chicago" for **ARCHIVES/CHICAGO 2007**, complete with outstanding learning and networking opportunities, great repository tours, a stirring presidential address by Elizabeth Adkins, and (who would have dreamed?) even gorgeous weather!

The SAA staff enjoys the challenges of converting in April to a **new association management software system** and a new general ledger accounting system. Well, "enjoy" may be too strong a word.... But we're pleased with the system's capabilities and look forward to providing enhanced services to you.

The **National Coalition for History**, of which SAA is a member, launches a new website (www.historycoalition.org) that enhances our access to advocacy information and enables archivists to take action via a link to the Humanities Advocacy Network.

Lots of other things happened, too. Members approved a dues increase (effective January 1) proposed by the Council. The hotly debated issue of disposition of the Archives and Archivists List archives (1998-2006) was resolved when SAA negotiated a transfer of the archives from Miami University of Ohio to the University of North Carolina's iBiblio. SAA's committees, task forces, sections, and roundtables did good work on behalf of archives and archivists. And so on.... And just last week I participated with SAA President Mark Greene and President-Elect Frank Boles in an American Society of Association Executives' symposium for chief elected officers and chief staff executives. It was a good reminder that the most effective professional associations strike the right balance between strategic thinking and getting [the right] things done and never—ever—forget why they exist: to serve their members' needs and interests.

I hope that you had a good year, too.



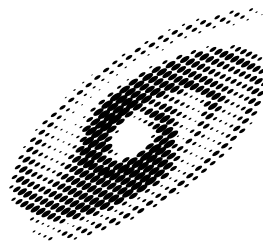
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"Through Hell and High Water"

Hurricane Katrina's First Responders Provide Eyewitness Accounts

MARK CAVE, Curator of Manuscripts and Oral Historian, The Historic New Orleans Collection

Editor's Note: In the days following Hurricane Katrina's Aug. 29, 2005, landfall in New Orleans, Mark Cave initiated an oral history project to record what happened in the city and how it affected its citizens during and after the Category 5 hurricane. Aimee Everett joined the project this year as its Oral History Processor, assisted by one volunteer. *"Through Hell and High Water, New Orleans Aug. 29—Sept. 15, 2005"* is funded through the Kemper and Leila Williams Foundation, which operates The Historic New Orleans Collection. Although a large percentage of the interviews are protected by a 25-year restriction on access, some are available today.

A month after Hurricane Katrina devastated the Big Easy, the Historic New Orleans Collection (HNOC) initiated a documentation effort to capture the stories of first responders who worked in New Orleans during the storm. There was a sense of urgency from the start of the project in October 2005. An estimated 75 percent of the local first responders had lost their homes and it was likely many would choose to move rather than rebuild. This concern proved true. Nearly one-third of local first responders have resigned since then, and many of the individuals we interviewed early on in the project no longer live in the area.

More than 350 subjects have been interviewed to date and the process has provided a much-needed outlet for first responders. Many had been discouraged by their agencies from talking for fear they would be misrepresented in the media, which caused additional public relations concerns

for departments already publicly maligned for their perceived inadequacy during the response. Local agencies, such as police and fire departments, have faced issues of declining manpower and shrinking budgets. As a result, the necessary intensive self-evaluation of their response to Katrina was not always feasible. Our interviews have been an important tool for the creation of departmental after-action reports and will influence the agencies planning for future storms.



A flooded Canal Street in New Orleans.

Photo credit: All photos in this article taken by Chris Mickal of the New Orleans Fire Department during the first week of September, 2005.



Soldiers on Loyola Avenue in New Orleans, near the Louisiana Superdome.

To date the agencies participating in the HNOC project include:

- New Orleans Police Department;
- New Orleans Fire Department;
- St. Bernard Parish Fire Department;
- Orleans Parish Criminal Sheriff's Office;
- U.S. Coast Guard, the Arkansas National Guard;
- WWL-TV in New Orleans; and
- San Francisco Bay Area Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT CA-6).

The work of HNOC has demonstrated that top-down methods of documentation do not work with an event like Katrina. The almost total loss of communications made it impossible for high-ranking members of various agencies to control, or even know, what other members were doing. As a result, it is necessary to cast a wide net in the documentation effort. The HNOC has offered a 25-year restriction on access, and this assurance of confidentiality has been a driving force behind the project.



First responders conduct a search along Carrollton Avenue in New Orleans.

However, not all of the interviews are restricted. The following quotes from first responders offer insight on the far-reaching impact of the disaster's devastation.

"We never thought we lived in a fish bowl"

St. Bernard Parish Fireman Mark Melancon, commenting on what was lost:

"You lost your community, you lost your friends, you lost going around the corner to Tom's house to play cards, or Dave's to have crawfish, or go visit this one, or go get a

tool from that one. None of that's there—it's something that most people don't understand. And hopefully they won't live through it too, to understand. I would never wish this upon anybody. It's not just your house or material things. It was a way of life that's no longer there. You lived here because it was a safe place, it was a great place, everybody knew everybody, you wanted to raise your kids here. Now, why would you want to live in a fish bowl? Well, we never thought we lived in a fish bowl. We thought we lived, or we did live, in a wonderful community."

"It got a little scary"

Dr. Richard Inglese, medical director for the Sheriff's Office, describes his experience in the Orleans Parish Prison on the Wednesday following the storm:

"Wednesday was personally tough for a lot of us, because the inmates got really, really unruly. You know, you tried to reassure them, but it would become too dangerous at some point. They would start to find ways out of their tiers. You know, if left in the dark long enough, the inmates found creative ways to get out. And they broke through the pipe chases behind the toilets and behind the showers, and got into control modules, and some of them went into the ductwork and made their way to the fire escape stairwell, which runs the length of the building. We had Security pushing them back and trying to keep them contained, but safe. Security was doing their best to try to keep it from being

continued on page 20



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TOP TEN Stories of 2007

Archive Issues In the News

Archival Outlook recently asked SAA members to tell us what they thought were the most important or interesting archives-related stories of 2007. With a bow to the *Late Show with David Letterman*, we present our own Top Ten List (in reverse order) of news that had an impact on the archival profession this year:

1 New York Times Columnist Lauds Archivists Controversy sparks in June when the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee reveals Vice President Dick Cheney refuses to comply with Executive Order 12958 reporting requirements and denies the Information Security Oversight Office access to his records. The National Archives fires off an appeal to the Justice Department. Cheney shoots back—insisting that the Office of Vice President isn't really a part of the Executive Branch. *New York Times* Op-Ed Page columnist Maureen Dowd responds to the brouhaha in her June 24 column, "A Vice President Without Borders, Bordering on Lunacy," and singles out "the little guys, the National Archive data collectors" as the "new macho heroes of Washington."



2 Presidential Records Act Amendment Passed by U.S. House of Representatives; Senator Jim Bunning Stalls Vote in Senate

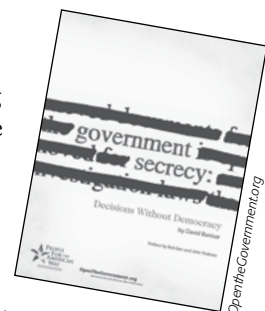
The Presidential Records Act Amendment (H.R. 1255) would nullify President Bush's Executive Order 13233, which gives current and former presidents and vice presidents authority to withhold presidential records or delay their release indefinitely. On March 1, past SAA president Steve Hensen testifies before the House Subcommittee on Information Policy, Census, and National Archives: "We believe that access to the records of public officials is essential to the accountability and rule of law that distinguishes democracies from other forms of governance. This is as true for the county clerk as it is for the President of the United States. The existing Executive Order thoroughly undermines that accountability at its highest and most essential level." On March 14, the U.S. House of Representatives approves H.R. 1255. On September 24, former Detroit Lions pitcher and current Senator Jim Bunning, (R-KY) objects to consideration of the bill on the Senate floor, holding up a vote. On October 1, a federal district court judge gives historians



and researchers a partial, but significant, victory in a lawsuit questioning the legality of EO 13233 when she strikes down the section that allows a former president to delay the release of records indefinitely.

3 Congress Approves OPEN Government Act

More than 100 organizations, including SAA, send a letter on May 17 to Senate leaders Harry Reid (D-NEV) and Mitch McConnell (R-KY) to urge passage of a measure that will give the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) more bite. Congress takes a significant step toward cleaning up the backlog of FOIA requests when the Senate passes the Openness Promotes Effectiveness in our National Government Act, or OPEN Government Act (S. 849) on August 3. The House approved similar legislation (H.R. 1309) in March by a vote of 308-117.



4 Congress Approves \$10 Million for NHPRC

President Bush's proposed budget for the 2008 fiscal year eliminates funding for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, but a broad coalition of archives and history groups rallies to influence Congress's deliberations. On June 28 the House of Representatives comes forward with \$10 million in funding for the NHPRC, including \$8 million in grants to states, local governments, universities, local historical societies, and others to help preserve and archive materials of historic significance. The Senate Appropriations Committee approves its version on July 12. The \$10 million reflects a \$2.5 million increase over FY 2007.

5 Nixon Library and Museum Becomes 12th Presidential Library

The Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum becomes the National Archives 12th presidential library on July 11, following its legal transfer from the Richard Nixon Library and Birthplace Foundation in Yorba Linda, California.



The Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum

6 Death of Robert M. Warner, Sixth Archivist of the U.S.

Robert M. Warner dies April 24 in Ann Arbor, Mich., at the age of 79. As Sixth Archivist of the United States (1980–1985), he led the National Archives during its transformation from a division of the General Services Administration (GSA) to an independent executive agency. His four-year fight for independence was won on Oct. 19, 1984, when President Ronald Reagan signed legislation that removed the National Archives from GSA and renamed it the National Archives and Record Administration.



Bentley Historical Library
University of Michigan

7 FEMA Awards \$2.6 Million Grant to Council of State Archivists

The Council of State Archivists (CoSA) celebrates when the Federal Emergency Management Agency awards it \$2.6 million in October. CoSA will use the grant for a new national initiative—dubbed the Intergovernmental Preparedness for Essential Records—that teaches state and local governments how to identify and protect their most essential records and recover those damaged by disasters. CoSA recently developed an Emergency Preparedness Initiative, which includes its trademarked Pocket Response Plan.

8 Guantanamo Bay Detainee Records in Jeopardy



REUTERS: Brennan Linsley

On April 19 SAA requests clarification of a protective order that could result in the destruction of Guantanamo detainee court case files. A letter is sent to The Honorable Thomas F. Hogan, chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia,

and to U.S. Archivist Allen Weinstein. SAA joins with the National Coalition for History to sign on to a letter from OpenTheGovernment.org.

9 National Security Archive Sues the White House

The National Security Archive files a lawsuit on September 5 against the Executive Office of the President, including the White House Office of Administration and NARA. The suit seeks to recover and preserve millions of email messages that were apparently deleted from White House computers between March 2003 and October 2005, according to the National Coalition for History. The National Security Archive is a member of NCH.

10 Archivists Rock!

Several members of SAA can be spotted in various newspaper stories, magazine features, and television shows, providing publicity that raises awareness about archives and archivists. Among those featured:

- **Elizabeth Adkins** responds to a January 22 *New York Times* story on Unabomber Theodore Kaczynski's legal battle to halt the sale of his papers in a Letter to the Editor published on January 28. She writes: "It is far more dangerous to presume to destroy or distort the historical record than to risk preserving the memory of a criminal."
- **Brenda Banks** is featured in the January 2007 issue of *Ebony* on its Centerstage page when she is named chief archivist of the newly acquired Martin Luther King Jr. Collection at Morehouse College in Atlanta.
- **Mark Greene** is quoted in a February 5 news story in the *Dallas Morning News* on Executive Order 13233: "There's been no indication from the Bush administration that they have in any way rethought the executive order, and it is our hope that these negotiations provide a possible pivot point."
- **Brenda Gunn** is among those interviewed by Texas Public Radio for a story on a new archive at the University of Texas, Austin that's preserving the origins of the video game industry. The piece was picked up by National Public Radio and aired on November 2.
- **Philip Mooney** is in the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution's* A-1 story on the new "World of Coca-Cola" museum published on May 9. The head of Coca-Cola's archives department for almost 30 years, Mooney oversees the company's huge collection of Coke memorabilia.
- **Becky Haglund Tousey** of Kraft Foods appears on the History Channel's "Modern Marvels" this summer to talk about the invention of processed cheese and how it is made. Tousey is Kraft's senior manager of Corporate and Region Archives.



And Other Items of Interest . . .

MARCH 24: Lawrence Small resigns as Secretary of the Smithsonian following questions about his leadership and Congressional criticism of personal expenditures.

AUGUST 8: Members of the Iraqi National Guard invade and occupy the Iraq National Library and Archive in Baghdad.

SEPTEMBER 25: The Ross Perot Foundation removes the Magna Carta from its home at the National Archives in Washington, D.C., and takes it to Sotheby's auction house in Manhattan. One of 17 existing versions of the "Great Paper," it is scheduled to be auctioned off in mid-December.

Election 2008

14 Members Stand for Office

Fourteen candidates vying for three different offices are slated on the 2008 SAA ballot. The top job of vice president/president-elect will be a contest between Fynnette Eaton of Eaton Consulting and Peter Gottlieb, State Archivist of Wisconsin. The candidate elected vice president will serve a one-year term beginning in August 2008 and will then become SAA's 65th president in 2009–2010.

Also on the ballot are six candidates for three spots on the Council. Those elected will serve three-year terms beginning in August and running through the SAA Annual Meeting in August 2011.

In addition, there are six candidates for the 2008 Nominating Committee. The three who are elected will serve one-year terms on the committee beginning immediately.

This year's Nominating Committee—Theresa Salazar (chair), Anne Ostendarp, Megan Phillips, Ben Primer, and Sheryl Williams—proposed the slate of candidates (see sidebar) but any eligible member of SAA can be placed on the ballot by submitting a petition signed by 50 individual members. Petitions must be received at SAA headquarters in Chicago by February 10, 2008. Voters may also write-in candidates on the ballot.

Question for Candidates

All candidates are asked to respond to a question regarding their potential position. Candidates' responses to the questions will be posted online, along with their biographical information. This year those questions are:

Vice President/President-Elect: What is your vision for the Society of American Archivists and what steps would you take towards promoting your goals? Discuss how you would work with the national and international archival community to promote that vision.

Council Member: As a member of Council how would you identify and advocate for member needs?

Nominating Committee: What qualities are necessary for leadership in SAA? How could the nominating committee put together a representatively diverse slate of potential leaders with those qualities?

Ballot Mailing and Deadline

Similar to last year, the candidate statements will be posted at www.archivists.org/election2008 by February. The ballot will be mailed via first class to all individual members in late February. If you have not received a ballot by mid-March, please contact Lee Gonzalez at 312/922-0140 or email lgonzalez@archivists.org. The deadline for returning ballots is April 14, 2008. ❖



Fynnette Eaton, left, and Peter Gottlieb are on the 2008 ballot for the office of vice president/president-elect.

The Slate of Candidates

The Nominating Committee has slated the following SAA members as candidates for office in the 2008 election:

Vice President/President-Elect

Fynnette Eaton

Eaton Consulting

Peter Gottlieb

Wisconsin State Historical Society

Council Members

Pam Hackbart-Dean

Southern Illinois University, Carbondale

Sara (Sue) Hodson

Huntington Library

Thomas Hyry

Yale University

Rosalyn Settles

U.S. Department of the Treasury

Diana Shenk

Smithsonian Institution Archives

Robert Spindler

Arizona State University

Nominating Committee

Sharmila Bhatia

National Archives and Records Administration

Julie Herrada

University of Michigan

Tara Laver

Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge

Christopher Prom

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Arlene Schmuland

University of Alaska, Anchorage

Helen Wong Smith

University of Hawaii, Hilo

Any eligible member of SAA can be placed on the ballot by submitting a petition, signed by 50 individual members, which must be received at the SAA office by February 10, 2008. Voters may also write-in candidates on the ballot, which will be mailed via first class at the end of February. The deadline for returning ballots is April 14, 2008.

October Events Draw Visitors to Archives Nationwide

HELEN JANOUSEK, Editorial and Production Assistant

"Celebrating the American Record" was the theme of this year's American Archives Month held nationwide throughout October. Repositories around the country did their best to entice and intrigue the public. From free root beer floats to a "stump the archivist" workshop, they held events to raise awareness about the significance of archives and showcase the important work of archivists. Following is a sampling of what some of your colleagues did to promote their archives and make their programs more visible and appreciated.

California

On Saturday, Oct. 6, residents of the Golden State were invited to take a behind-the-scenes tour of the California State Archives in Sacramento. Among the items visitors to the California Museum of History, Women and the Arts saw were: a book of 1800s inmate mug shots taken at San Quentin prison; a 66-foot-long map of the proposed Central Pacific railroad sketched in 1861; and police files on the 1968 assassination of Robert F. Kennedy. The state hosted Family History Day on Oct. 13, with classes on genealogy research that provided information on how to locate personal history documents. *Photo above:* California State Archivist Nancy Zimmerman Lenoil inspects rolls of building plans stored in the state archives during a media tour.



Photo courtesy of Sacramento Bee

Kentucky

A unique set of exhibits at the University of Kentucky's Archives gave 21st-century viewers a chance to see how their ancestors "let loose." Leisure was the theme, with displays on topics such as "Mustaches of the 19th Century." University Archivist Deirdre Scaggs said, "We hope to challenge the archival stereotype by showing the public the field's entertaining and historical side." She worked with photo archivist Jason Flahardy to assemble the historical images for the six exhibits. *At right,* a 1948 photo of a chicken that walks like a penguin from "Curiosities and Wonders."

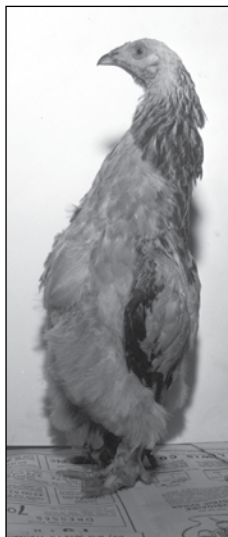


Photo courtesy of University of Kentucky Archives

Mississippi

"The Many Faces of Mississippi" was the theme of an exhibit at the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, which featured photos demonstrating the diversity of its citizens. Corresponding lectures included "The Life of African American Operatic Soprano Ruby Elzy"; the history of the Chinese in Mississippi; and a discussion of Native American ritual architecture. *Photo above:* Barnett Taylor, former president of the Family Research Association, conducts an Oct. 25 workshop on African American Genealogy at the William F. Winter Archives and History Building in Jackson.



Chris Goodwin, Mississippi Dept of Archives and History

Nevada

Gov. Jim Gibbons proclaimed October "Archives Month in Nevada." Events kicked off Oct. 12 with the screening of the documentary "Where's the Loot?" at the Nevada State Library and Archives in Carson City. The state chose the theme "Discover Nevada's Documentary Treasures at Your Local Archives" and created a list of places to discover on an Archives Month Treasure Map.

New York

Since 2004, the New York State Archives has issued a poster to promote Archives Week and now does so for Archives Month. This year's poster (*right*) was produced by the Archives Partnership Trust, with funding provided by the New York Council for the Humanities. New York chose the theme "Exploring New Worlds . . . Archives in Our Lives" and the poster includes web links to information about related events.



Photo courtesy of New York State Archives

continued on page 23



Opening the Files on World War II Crimes

A few months ago, the National Archives officially brought to a close the work of a special panel of professionals who declassified and made accessible to the public some of the last remaining classified U.S. records of World War II.

The Nazi War Crimes and Japanese Imperial Government Interagency Working Group, known as the IWG, has issued its final report. Historians and others

researching World War II will now find richer, more enlightening and, in some cases, more chilling, details about Nazi and Japanese war crimes and criminals and the misuse of many of these individuals by American officials in the postwar period. In total, more than 8.5 million pages of previously sealed documents pertaining to Nazi and Japanese war crimes and war criminals were opened to the public over the life of the IWG.

These are not captured enemy documents, but official U.S. government records of U.S. intelligence

and espionage activities during and immediately after the war. Now they are available to historians and other researchers responding to the continued public interest in World War II.

Chaired by NARA, the work of the IWG was carried out by representatives of more than a dozen government agencies, a group of historians expert in the era, and professional archivists at the National Archives and other agencies. For eight years, they located, declassified, and provided public access to U.S. records on Nazi and Japanese war criminals—and how many of them escaped punishment for their deeds.

This effort to add details to the history of the war would not have been possible without support from Congress (which created the IWG in 1998), the cooperation of various federal agencies, and the dogged determination of the public members appointed by President Clinton.

The declassified files include, among others, those from the Office of Strategic Services and its successor agency, the Central Intelligence Agency, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Army Counterintelligence Service. Also included were name files on Adolf Hitler and top operatives in the Nazi regime.

The records also document how early indications of the persecution of Jews by the Nazis were ignored by U.S. and British officials and, in the postwar years, how U.S. officials used former Nazi agents to help gather information on our ally-turned-enemy, the Soviet Union.

In addition to revealing the contents of the records, their release demonstrated that no harm was done by declassifying records of half-century-old intelligence operations. The release of these records in no way threatened the nation's security. Rather, it has enhanced public confidence in government transparency, which is vital to a democracy.

Moreover, the release of these documents supports and underscores the importance of our work at the National Archives. In providing access to government records, the work performed at NARA enables citizens to hold government officials accountable and to guarantee their rights under the Constitution.

In its final report, the IWG made several recommendations to Congress for any future declassification efforts that lawmakers may authorize, including adequate funding for targeted declassification efforts. Also, the IWG said there should be "absolute deadlines" for these efforts, along with adequate oversight, and that such projects should involve public members as well as representatives of the affected agencies.

World War II was the pivotal event of the 20th century, forever changing America and the world, setting the stage for the Cold War that followed, and creating the boundaries of geopolitics for the generations that have followed.

You can read the final report of the IWG, as well as learn about the content of the records it has declassified, at www.archives.gov/iwg.

The National Archives has been engaged also in a number of other international programs designed to improve archival and record-keeping standards internationally while increasing our knowledge of major episodes in modern history.

Since becoming Archivist of the United States, I have encouraged the closest cooperation with NARA's counterparts in Canada (with whom we are engaged in various joint programs) and with the national archivists of the world's other great democracies. I will write about some of these programs in subsequent columns. ♦

The release of these records in no way threatened the nation's security. Rather, it has enhanced public confidence in government transparency, which is vital to a democracy.



NARA to Digitize Civil War Records

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) and the Genealogical Society of Utah (GSU) have announced a five-year partnership agreement to digitize case files of approved pension applications of widows of Civil War Union soldiers from NARA's holdings.

The partnership will begin with a pilot project to digitize, index, and make available the first 3,150 of the pension files. Upon successful completion of the pilot, GSU, doing business as FamilySearch, in conjunction with Footnote.com, intends to digitize and index all 1,280,000 Civil War and later widows' files in the series. These records are currently available only at the National Archives Building in Washington, D.C.

FamilySearch will make the digitized materials available for free through and in 4,500 family history centers worldwide, or on a subscription-based website operated by a third party, subject to National Archives approval. They will also be available at no charge in National Archives' research rooms in Washington, D.C., and regional facilities across the country. In addition, FamilySearch will donate to the National Archives a copy of all the digital images and the associated indexes and other metadata that they create. This agreement is one of a series of agreements that the National Archives has reached or will reach with partners to digitize portions of its holdings.

Library of Congress Materials "Unaccounted For"

The Library of Congress came under fire from Congress recently when an internal Inspector General's report surfaced showing that nearly 17 percent of materials requested by users from the library's inventory could not be found. Of that figure, 4 percent were found to be in processing, but nearly 13 percent were considered unaccounted for.

At an oversight hearing on the Library of Congress, Members of the Committee on House Administration questioned officials on the library's operations, including significant gaps in its inventory management plan. Library officials who testified before the committee claim that subsequent inventory reviews had found the percentage of unaccounted for items to be closer to 10 percent.

Despite the fact that a "Baseline Inventory Project" has been in operation since 2002, only 20 percent of the 135 million items in the library's holdings have been inventoried.

Committee member Dan Lungren (R-CA), suggested that the library consider modeling their tracking system after successful tracking programs within the private sector. "If UPS can track tens of thousands, if not millions of pieces per day, and doesn't have a lost rate of 10 percent, why can't you?" Lungren asked. "I would bet you that if UPS or any of the others had a loss rate of 10 percent, they would be out of business."

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Council of State Archivists Receives \$2.6 Million from FEMA to Develop Disaster Training Programs

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has awarded \$2.6 million to the Council of State Archivists (CoSA) to lead a new national initiative that will provide critical training to state and local government agencies. Dubbed the Intergovernmental Preparedness for Essential Records (IPER), the project will develop workshops for delivery nationwide designed to teach state and local governments how to identify and protect their most essential records and recover those damaged by disasters.

David Carmicheal, director of the Georgia Archives, will chair the project's Advisory Board. "At crucial times states, cities, and counties immediately turn to documents containing communication plans and delegations of authority. Infrastructure records tell them where the gas mains and electrical lines are and whether bridges and tunnels can withstand the stress of the disaster. All of these help the government respond at the moment of the emergency," Carmicheal observed. "After the disaster, governments need records to restore the community. Deeds and other property records, court records, and historical records help put a community back together again and restore order."

The IPER initiative will develop a national curriculum and create Web-based seminars, which will be customized to meet

specific needs and concerns at the state and local levels. Teams from each state will enhance the curriculum with guidance about state-specific regulations and ways to prepare for the kinds of disasters most common in the region. They will then deliver the training to state, local, and tribal agencies.

The state archives and records management program will coordinate each state's team. Other team members will include representatives from the state emergency management agency, the state chief information officer and information technology agency, as well as a local government representative. The regional offices of the National Archives and Records Administration and FEMA will actively support this effort. More information on the IPER project and CoSA's nationwide Emergency Preparedness Initiative is available on the organization's website: www.statearchivists.org/prepare.

1910 Volume of Town's Records Found in Bookstore

The New York State Archives gave the town of Manchester a missing piece of its history when it presented a volume of 1910 justice records to Town Clerk JoAnne Henry. The one-of-a-kind volume was discovered by Warren Broderick, a member of the state archives staff, while he was browsing at Kavanagh Books. He recognized the volume was a local government record and informed store owner Bethany

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Haswell, who agreed to return it. State Archivist Christine Ward sent Haswell a letter thanking her for permitting the return of the local government record and "abandoning an opportunity for personal gain." Ward said finding a government record in the hands of a private individual is not uncommon, but that Haswell's willingness to surrender the record was exceptional. In some cases, legal proceedings have been initiated to convince individuals to return records to the government that created them.

Milwaukee County Zoo Wins 2007 Governor's Award



Michael Nepper, Milwaukee County Zoo

From left: Charles Wikenhauser, Dr. Ellsworth H. Brown, Elizabeth Frank, Kaye Lynne Carpenter, Christine Birt, Jennifer Johnston, and Scott Walker.

The Milwaukee County Zoo recently won the 2007 Governor's Award for Archival Innovation. The award was presented Oct. 24 by Wisconsin Historical Society director Dr. Ellsworth Brown for the zoo's development of its archives for research. In addition to creating its own history photo and film archives, the zoo accepted ephemera files from the Smithsonian's National Zoological Park Library to preserve a collection in one place. The archival project was headed by former curator of large mammals, Elizabeth Frank. SAA member Ken Wirth, records and archives manager at Johnson Controls, and Harley-Davidson archivist Bill Jackson were assigned to assist the zoo through the assessment-mentoring program developed by the State Historical Society's Wisconsin Historic Records Advisory Board.

Improving Access to Records

- *The Philadelphia Museum of Art Archives* has received a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission to fund a three-year project that will establish a formal records management program at the museum and support the processing of special exhibition records. The processing phase of the project will improve researcher's access to the museum's exhibition records and give a detailed perspective of how the institution has presented and interpreted art over time. Project Archivist

Bertha Adams will assist the museum's archivist, Susan Anderson, with the project. The team will first conduct a records inventory of all museum departments and produce a records management manual with retention schedules. During the second phase of the grant, they will arrange, describe, and preserve exhibition materials and produce finding aids using Encoded Archival Description (EAD) and MARC records. The descriptions will eventually be available on the museum's website, the Library OPAC, and the OCLC network. For more information about this project, see www.philamuseum.org/archives/.

- *The Radcliffe Institute's Arthur and Elizabeth Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America* in Cambridge, Mass., recently began a five-year project that will accelerate processing for nearly 5,000 linear feet of its holdings. The multi-million dollar project will enhance access to the library's repository of diverse research materials that focus on the lives and contributions of American women, gender issues, and culinary history. Among the library's holdings are the papers of important women in history, including suffragist leader Susan B. Anthony and aviator Amelia Earhart.

continued on page 22

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Pacific Recordkeeping Toolkit Launched

The Australian National Archives launched the *Pacific Recordkeeping for Good Governance Toolkit* in October. Jane Urquhart, Australian consul-general to New Caledonia, hosted the launch at the Australian consulate in Noumea, in association with the annual meeting of the Pacific Area Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives. The toolkit includes guidelines that underscore the principles of good governance, public sector efficiency, and accountability. Also included are slides and brochures that help archivists explain their aims to in-country support constituencies.

Australian Archivists Produce Three Booklets

The Australian Society of Archivists (ASA) has produced three short publications pertaining to access, description and outreach. For more information, see www.archivists.org.au/.

- *Made, Kept, and Used* is a 57-page booklet celebrating 30 years of the ASA. Six essays reflect on various aspects of access, following a brief forward by past-ASA President Catherine Robinson and a general overview by Archivist of Australia, Ross Gibbs. Dr. Eric Ketelaar, honorary professor at Monash University, addresses access as a democratic imperative; Dr. Sigrud McCausland, ASA education officer, addresses access and the success of advocacy; Professor Lynnette Russell, director of the Centre for Australian Indigenous Studies, Monash University, writes about the mutual obligations and importance in trust building in preserving indigenous archives; Archives Consultant Bruce Smith considers access to business records; the archivist for Community and Personal Histories, Queensland Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy, looks at access to indigenous-related records from a community perspective; and Christine Yeats, manager for Public Access, State Records New South Wales, writes about access to archives as a positive thing.
- *Describing Archives in Context: A Guide to Australian Practice* was developed by the ASA Committee on Descriptive Standards, chaired by Adrian Cunningham. This 77-page booklet reviews and further explains the Australian series system for archival description. Its purpose is to enable full and accurate description of records in archival environments, increase standardization of descriptive practice across Australia, and facilitate the sharing of archival data. Chapters deal with the development and functionality of the series system, the principles of the series system, and components of the series system in terms of entities, relationships and metadata elements. A final chapter offers additional implementation considerations. Appendices provide a glossary, examples of series system descriptions and further readings.

- *Archives Matter!* is a 23-page pamphlet about archives—what they are and what they do—used to enlighten various constituencies. Beautifully designed and illustrated, this outreach tool answers the questions “What Are Archives . . . and Why Do They Matter?” It explains how archives are part of Australia’s ongoing national heritage, not odd and irrelevant bits from the past. Short chapters address “Archives at Work” in the natural and built environments, and in reinforcing community and personal identity. A chapter on archives and education covers a range of school uses. “Issues for the Future” discusses managing access, sustaining services, and maximizing resources.

New Zealand Exhibit Looks at War Art

Archives New Zealand opened an exhibition on War Art last April, which consists of 26 paintings from the National Collection of War Art. The paintings relate to New Zealanders’ experiences in World War I and World War II and include battle scenes, portraits, landscapes that range from representative pieces to abstractions. The exhibit is composed of both official works commissioned by the government and other unofficial works acquired or donated to government departments. The exhibit’s paintings were selected from a group of 1,500 maintained by Archives New Zealand and chosen by archives staff, who provide details on why they picked the paintings.

National Archives Announces Discovery of “Hitler Albums” Documenting Looted Art

On Nov. 1, 2007 the National Archives announced the discovery of two original leather bound photograph albums documenting art that was looted by the Nazis during World War II. Robert M. Edsel, president of the *Monuments Men Foundation for the Preservation of Art*, will donate the albums to the National Archives. The albums were in the possession of heirs to an American soldier stationed in the Berchtesgaden area of Germany in the closing days of World War II. Edsel understood the importance of the albums and worked closely with the heirs to acquire them. The albums were created by the staff of the Third Reich’s Einsatzstab Reichsleiter Rosenberg (ERR). This special unit was organized in the summer of 1940 under Reich Leader Alfred Rosenberg, initially to collect political material in occupied countries. The ERR established its base of operations in Paris in July 1940 and on November 5, Hermann Goering assigned the ERR the responsibility for the confiscation of “ownerless” Jewish art collections. On November 18 of that year, Adolf Hitler ordered that all confiscated works of art be brought to Germany and placed at his personal disposal. During the next several years, the ERR would be engaged in an extensive and elaborate art looting operation in France that was part of Hitler’s much larger premeditated scheme to steal art treasures from conquered nations. You can view images from the donated Hitler album at www.archive.gov. ❖

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MAX J. EVANS will retire as executive director of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission on January 31, 2008. He will take on a new position with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Salt Lake City. Evans was appointed to the NHPRC in January 2003. During his tenure he oversaw a complete overhaul

of the Grants.gov application process and the agency's internal grants management system; the creation of grant programs for basic and detailed processing, collections digitization, implementation of electronic records programs, archival strategies and tools; and the launch of grant support for a new Archives Leadership Institute (to be administered by the University of Wisconsin, Madison). He was an advocate for increased use of the Internet as a publishing medium for historical records collections. Prior to joining the NHPRC staff, Evans was the director of the Utah State Historical Society and editor of the *Utah Historical Quarterly*. He was a founding member of the Conference of Intermountain Archivists and is an SAA Fellow. He helped develop the MARC-AMC format and the Research Libraries Group's archives and manuscripts programs.

ELIZABETH HULL has joined the university library staff at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, as assistant photo archivist in the North Carolina Collection Photographic Archives. Hull previously served as the technical services archivist and librarian at the Forest History Society in Durham, North Carolina.



MARY IDE is the new regional manager of the Vermont Adult Education Program in Brattleboro. She recently retired as director of the WGBH Archives in Boston after 16 years, where she just completed a major Mellon Foundation project to assess the value of the WGBH media collection for higher education. Ide has

worked in the field of library and archives management for more than 25 years.



JENNIFER SCHAFFNER has joined RLG Programs in San Mateo, Calif., as a program officer. She works with the communities of archives, rare books, special collections, and museums. Schaffner has worked in libraries at the University of California, Los Angeles; the California Historical Society; the Institute for Advanced

Study, Princeton University; the New York Public Library; the University of Alberta; and Stanford University.



LEE STOUT recently retired as head of Public Services and Outreach for the Eberly Family Special Collections Library at Pennsylvania State University Libraries. He developed and administered outreach programs for three archival and rare book units and taught in the library studies and history programs, in addition to lec-

turing on campus history and architecture. Stout has been a consultant to colleges and universities, governmental archives, corporations, and historical societies. He serves as a member of the Pennsylvania State Historical Records Advisory Board, which he was appointed to in 1989. In 2003 Stout was appointed to the U. S. National Historical Publications and Records Commission and chairs its executive committee. He has served as chair of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference and was the treasurer, vice president and president of the Society of American Archivists. In 1996 he was named an SAA Fellow. Stout describes his role at the helm of SAA from 2000 to 2001 as the culmination of 25 years of work with the organization: "It was a wonderful, challenging experience, and I'm proud of the fact that the organization has continued to grow."

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Around SAA . . .

Membership Hits Record 5,000!

Like many professional associations, SAA believes there's strength in numbers. SAA is proud to announce that our long-standing goal of reaching 5,000 members was achieved in October. "Mr. 5000" is **SAM SCHILLER**, a first-year graduate student in the Master of Library and Information Science program at the University of Denver. When he received a phone message from SAA, Schiller said his first thought was that he had filled out his application incorrectly.



"It's a pleasant surprise that, instead, I have such a unique opportunity to help SAA celebrate this milestone," he said. Schiller is pursuing his degree in Archives and Records Management and is particularly interested in the preservation of early photography, audio recordings, and motion pictures. "We have incredible cultural and historical information stored in these materials, yet as we all know, many of these items are already deteriorating at an alarming rate. I hope to find a career where I can dedicate myself to preserving these materials for future generations to learn from and enjoy."

Schiller joined SAA at the urging of his program chair, and also became a member of the American Library Association, the Special Libraries Association and the Colorado Association of Libraries. He has already attended two activities in October as a result of his new affiliations. "In fact, one is an SAA program right here at the University of Denver. I am thrilled that such opportunities are happening so early in our program and so close to home," Schiller added. His prizes include a free year of membership, free registration to ARCHIVES 2008 in San Francisco, and a set of *Archival Fundamentals Series II*.

2007 Annual Report Available

The Society of American Archivists' Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2007 is being mailed with this issue of *Archival Outlook*. The report provides an overview of SAA's strategic activities across the fiscal year, as well as a financial summary of income and expenses. The report is also available online at www.archivists.org.

Clarification

The article, "Awards Acknowledge Outstanding Achievements" on page 13 of the September/October issue of *Archival Outlook* misidentified Greg Bradsher in a photo. Mr. Bradsher is the winner of the 2007 C.F.W. Coker Award. The man in the photo is Christopher D. Burns, an assistant professor in the Special Collections Department at the University of Vermont and chair of the Coker Award Committee. SAA regrets this error.



Fielder's Choice

The Archivists out-slugged the Historians 22-12 in their 2nd annual softball game at History Associates Incorporated on Sept. 15, 2007, in Rockville, Md. Sporting "100% Archivist" t-shirts, the team included (from left): Erica Haakensen, Jim Griesel, Elizabeth Borja, Greg Pike (standing in back), Lloyd Williams (kneeling), Julie Schweitzer, Liz Suckow, and Jim McIntyre.



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New Orleans firefighter on the stairs of what was once an Uptown apartment building.

a full-scale conflict. The last thing Security wanted was to have a fight. So they were trying to keep them restrained, but not use any kind of force.

"And then Security went out to put down some inmates acting up, and the inmates started running, and they trampled one man and fractured his leg—actually they dislocated it—but it was ugly, just hanging off to one side. One of the nurses and I broke a cot and made a litter out of it and we went up with armed escorts into the middle of that riot. I use the term 'riot' for lack of a better word. I mean, it wasn't full scale, but there were loose inmates in the stairwell in the dark. And so we went up there and had to carry him down. You know, people are going around the corners with their guns, clearing the way for us. Security's trying to keep the inmates down. And for a while there it got a little scary. You know, they were still lighting fires and . . . and it really got tense."

"They just lied to us"

The chaplain for the DMAT CA-6, Rev. Toby Nelson, gave these comments on the team's experience at the Louisiana Superdome:

"The newspapers will say that there were only five people who died at the Superdome, and I wish you would get the answer to this. We have direct knowledge of 60 to 70 people who died there. Everybody has the same story except we have direct knowledge, eyeball knowledge. I had eight or nine people die in my arms.

"They say there weren't gunshots and that's just a lie. We had gun victims in our clinic, even one of the Army soldiers

had a gunshot wound that we took care of. It was very disconcerting to see the spin put on that...I have never had direct knowledge of our government lying to us, but I'm sure they do. But I'm talking direct knowledge . . . they just lied to us. I'd tell people back at my church, then they would come back the next week and say, 'Well gee, we read in the paper that only five people died there' and they'd look at me as if I'm making stuff up. It was truly apocalyptic. Actually I'm surprised that all of our team got out of there. We had to run for our lives. Had to run for our lives."

It is still far too early to draw conclusions regarding the events that followed Hurricane Katrina—the documentation will require the work of generations—and the process is complicated by the displacement of so many citizens. If you are interested in our project, or would like to contribute to it by interviewing displaced New Orleanians in your community, please contact The Historic New Orleans Collection at (504) 598-7132 or markc@hnoc.org. ❖

Disaster Fund Takes on New Focus and Name

The SAA Foundation Board of Directors met on Aug. 28, 2007, in Chicago and passed motions to rename and re-direct the Emergency Disaster Assistance Fund established in 2005 following hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

First on the agenda was the motion to broaden the scope of the Society of Southwest Archivists/Society of American Archivists Emergency Disaster Assistance Fund from its original intent—to assist Gulf Coast repositories affected by the hurricanes—to one that encompasses helping all archival collections struck by major disasters "regardless of region or repository type." In keeping with this new direction, the board also renamed the fund the "National Disaster Recovery Fund for Archives." In its support statement, board members noted, "The name reflects a national scope, is easy to understand, and has an inspirational ring."

The board also agreed to appoint a standing Grant Review Committee, which will evaluate applications to the National Disaster Recovery Fund for Archives as well as other grant requests. The committee also would draft application procedures for foundation funds. These procedures would be reviewed and approved by the board. The fourth and final motion passed by the board requires SAA's executive director to send a letter to donors of the original fund informing them of the recent changes, after the correspondence has been reviewed by a consultant specializing in fundraising.

The board cited initial contributions totaled approximately \$45,800, with the majority of funds going to archives damaged by the 2005 hurricanes, leaving a remaining balance of \$15,000. ❖

President's Message

continued from page 3

what about an institutional archives? What would this mean for a religious archives, a university archives, a non-profit archives, or a business archives? Even if we could conceive of how it might happen, should it happen? Is it fair to create a dichotomy between social justice archivists on the one hand and Nazi archivists on the other?

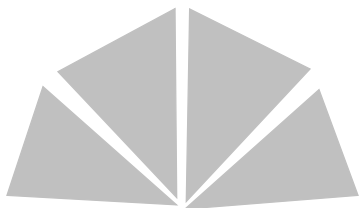
Ironically, in the same essay Harris states, "I no longer hold to the binary oppositions—remembering/forgetting, sight/blindness, and so on—which informed my thinking in the past. Increasingly the either/or seems overwhelmed by the both/and of our absorption into what have been called the conditions of post-modernity."

Can post-modernity have it both ways? Can it posit polar opposites between social justice and a total absence of humanity on the one hand but "both/and" areas of gray everywhere else? And if everything should be viewed as shades of gray and part of the mix is social justice in archives, how much of the mix does it comprise, and where, how, when?

Just a few questions to think about as we ponder the identity of our profession. . . .

¹ Howard Zinn, "Secrecy, Archives, and the Public Interest," *Midwestern Archivist* 2:2 (1977), 14-25. Sam Bass Warner Jr., "The Shame of the Cities: Public Records of the Metropolis," *Midwestern Archivist* 2:2 (1977), 27-34.

² Verne Harris, "A Plea for Ethics in Archival Practice-Seeing (in) Blindness: South Africa, Archives and Passion for Justice," August 2001 Silver Jubilee annual conference of the Archives and Records Association of New Zealand (ARANZ), <http://www.caldeson.com/RIMOS/harris01.html>. ❖



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At Little Tennessee River, Comp. 1979

Tellico River

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National News Clips

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IMLS/NEH Digital Partnership Grants Awarded

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) recently announced the first three grant recipients under "Advancing Knowledge: The IMLS/NEH Digital Partnership," a funding opportunity that brings together museum, library, archive, and IT professionals with humanities scholars to spur innovative digital projects. The following was awarded:

- \$347,520 to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania for its project "PhilaPlace: A Neighborhood History and Culture Project." PhilaPlace is an interactive Web resource chronicling the history, culture, and architecture of Philadelphia's neighborhoods. Complete with maps, historical records, photographs, and digital models of select neighborhoods, it will serve as a prototype for communities wishing to digitize their cultural heritage.
- \$349,939 to Tufts University, Medford for "Scalable Named Entity Identification in Classical Studies." The Perseus Project and the Collections and Archives of Tufts University will construct a testing database of scholarly and cultural documents about the ancient world. It will develop a digital reference tool to allow context-based "smart searches" of un-indexed words from existing databases.
- \$349,996 to the University of California, Berkeley for its project "Context and Relationships: Ireland and Irish Studies." The university, in collaboration with the Queen's University, Belfast, will develop a digital database of Irish studies materials to test three open-source digital tools. Using a common word search feature in digital collections, the tools will allow users to access ideas associated with the words, thereby creating context through maps, primary texts and secondary works.

National Museum of the American Indian Appoints Director

Kevin Gover has been named director of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian, effective December 2. He is a professor of law at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University in Tempe, an affiliate professor in its American Indian Studies Program and co-executive director of the university's American Indian Policy Institute. Gover grew up in Oklahoma and is a member of the Pawnee tribe. A presidential appointee, Gover served as the assistant secretary for Indian Affairs in the U.S. Department of the Interior from 1997 to 2000.



Photo credit: Ken Rahaim

Apply for Free IMLS Bookshelf

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is offering 2,000 free copies of the *Connecting to Collections Bookshelf*, a set of books, DVDs, and online resources for the care of collections. IMLS Director Anne-Imelda Radice calls it

"a set of power tools that will provide immediate answers to conservation issues faced by museums, libraries, and archives." Recipients will also receive a user's guide, including an annotated bibliography. Recipients of the first application period (Sept. 1 to Nov. 15, 2007) will be announced in February 2008. The second application period is March 1–April 15, 2008, with recipients announced in July 2008. An application for the IMLS Bookshelf is available at: www.aaslh.org/Bookshelf.

SLA Salutes Librarians

More than 300 information professionals were recently honored by the Special Libraries Association for "Serving those that Serve." Members of SLA's Military Librarians Division were given the 2007 Professional Award at the association's

annual conference in Denver. The award recognizes a special event, major achievement, or specific contribution to the field of librarianship or information science. Members represent all military branches and work in a variety of settings, including academic, medical, scientific, and field posts. For more information, see <http://units.sla.org/division/dmil/AboutMLD.htm>.



Photo courtesy of the Special Libraries Association

Audit of Reagan Library Says Items Pilfered

The Ronald Reagan Presidential Library is unable to find or account for tens of thousands of valuable mementos of Reagan's White House years because a "near universal" security breakdown left the artifacts vulnerable to pilfering by insiders, an audit by the National Archives inspector general has concluded. Inspector General Paul Brachfeld said that his office was investigating allegations that a former employee stole Reagan memorabilia but that the probe had been hampered by the facility's sloppy record-keeping. The hilltop complex near Simi Valley that houses Reagan's papers is the most visited of the nation's 12 presidential libraries.

But, investigators said, they encountered the most serious problems at the Reagan library, a finding that may mortify fans of the late president, who often inveighed against government inefficiency. About six months ago, an archivist was accused of stealing from the collections and was fired, said a longtime volunteer at the library who asked not to be named for fear of reprisal. Of particular interest is whether the artifacts that are unaccounted for include pieces from a large collection of ornamented Western belt buckles given to Reagan over the years by admirers who knew of his attachment to his ranch. The audit found that the Reagan library was unable to properly account for more than 80,000 artifacts out of its collection of some 100,000 such items, and "may have experienced loss or pilferage the scope of which will likely never be known."

—the *Los Angeles Times*

October Events

continued from page 11

Oregon

Oregon staged events from Ashland to Portland, with the main event "Home Movie Day" on Oct. 20. Four theaters were set up in Portland to screen 16mm, 8mm, and Super 8 movie film with the focus on how to care for it. Film technicians and archivists were on hand to look at the reels in an effort to educate the public about the importance of preserving the visual history of 20th-century Oregon. At Oregon State in Corvallis, the university archives staff held a "Taste of the 'chives Recipe Cook-off" to "experience the tastes of yesteryear" by preparing and sharing historical recipes. In Portland, visitors to the Portland Archives and Records Center sipped root beer floats and tested their knowledge of city trivia for a chance to win a framed, historic image.

South Dakota

In Deadwood, South Dakota, the *Black Hills Pioneer* ran historic photos from the Homestake Archive Collection in the newspaper throughout October. "It is a great way to let the public know what archives are and how they help us understand our history," said Carolyn Weber, archivist of the Adams Museum and House. *At right:* a 1920 photo of the Homestake Mining Company, which offered guided tours during the summer.



Photo courtesy of the Adams Museum and House

Texas

The SAA student chapter at the University of Texas at Austin sponsored a panel discussion on politics and archival work. "We want the public to be involved in archives," said Melissa Guy, vice president of the student chapter. "One way to get the public involved is to have a discussion." Panelists included: Regina Greenwell of the LBJ Library and Museum with a presentation on the history of the declassification of documents at the library; Philip Doty, an information associate professor, who spoke about the media and the conflict in Iraq and how he believes it threatens privacy and the use and abuse of records; and Steve Mielke, a librarian at the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, who recounted his history with the Woodward and Bernstein documents on Watergate and the technical aspects of restricting documents in order to keep sources confidential.



Say What?

Elevator Speech Contest Winner Is . . .

. . . **LISA LEWIS**, associate archivist for the Archdiocese of Baton Rouge, for her **WINNING ENTRY**:

"Archivists bring the past to the present. They're records collectors and protectors, keepers of memory. They organize unique, historical materials, making them available for current and future research."

Lisa will receive a complimentary one-year membership in SAA and a \$50 coupon for books.

An **HONORABLE MENTION** goes to **Jacquelyn Ferry**, cataloguing archivist and EAD coordinator for the Wisconsin Historical Society, for her entry: "Archivists acquire, manage, preserve, and help patrons identify and use historically significant collections of unique materials, such as government records, manuscripts, photographs, films, and sound recordings." She will receive a \$50 coupon for books.

There were 37 entries in the first annual "Best Elevator Speech" contest to define what an archivist does in 30 words or less. Entries were judged by a sub-group of SAA's American Archives Month Task Force (Geof Huth, Jelain Chubb, and Dean Weber).

Thanks to all who entered and congratulations to the winner and runner-up!

The next time some asks, "What's an archivist?"—remember to say what!

Washington State

The Evergreen State held its first celebration of Archives Month this year with the theme "Waters of Washington." Events held throughout the state included:

- A "Stump the Archivist" workshop inviting the public to bring their federal research problems to challenge a group of archivists to solve them;
- A workshop for K-12 teachers to explore the Pacific Northwest Indian Records in the National Archives; and a
- "Basics of Archives Workshop" to give those working in related organizations practical advice.

Co-sponsors included the Washington State Archives, the Washington State Historical Records Advisory Board, and the Heritage Resource Center. ❖

New Director Named for Clinton Presidential Library

Archivist of the United States Allen Weinstein recently announced the appointment of Terri Garner as the new director of the William J. Clinton Presidential Library in Little Rock, Ark. From 2005 to the present, Ms. Garner has served as executive director of the Bangor Museum and Center for History. Garner will assume her duties on November 5, 2007.

Ms. Garner is currently finishing her Ph.D. in history at the University of Maine, Orono. She holds a M.A. in history from the University of Colorado, Denver, and a B.A. in Political Science from Chatham College in Pittsburgh.

House Passes Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library Bill

On September 24, 2007, by voice vote, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 1664, a bill that would authorize the National Archives and Records Administration to make pass-through grants towards the establishment of a Woodrow Wilson presidential library in Staunton, Virginia, Wilson's birthplace.

It should be made clear that H.R. 1664 only authorizes that federal funds can be used to make grants to the Wilson library. Separate language in an appropriations bill would be needed to provide NARA the funds needed to make the grants.

In addition, the legislation sets stringent requirements that must be met before any federal dollars may be appropriated. First, the private entity running the Wilson library must certify that it has raised double the amount of the proposed federal grant from non-federal sources. Second, the grant is conditioned on the Wilson library coordinating its programs with other federal and non-federal historic sites, parks, and museums that are associated with the life of Woodrow Wilson. Finally, the bill prohibits the use of federal grant funds for the maintenance or operation of the library.

The legislation also makes it clear that the library will not be considered part of the existing Presidential Library System and that the National Archives will have no involvement in the actual operation of the library.

While the Bush administration took no formal position on H.R. 1664, sources at the National Archives do not feel that NARA should be used as a pass-through for federal funds to a private entity. Private institutions usually receive funds through specific earmarks in appropriations bills.

The bill had the unanimous support of the Virginia delegation in the House. Companion legislation (S. 1878) has been introduced by Senator James Webb (D-VA), with the co-sponsorship of Virginia's senior Senator John Warner (R-VA).

Library of Congress and UNESCO Sign Agreement

Librarian of Congress James H. Billington and UNESCO Assistant Director for Communication and Information Abdul Waheed Khan recently signed an agreement at UNESCO headquarters in Paris pledging cooperative efforts to build a World Digital Library website.

The World Digital Library will digitize unique and rare materials from libraries and other cultural institutions around the world and make them available for free on the Internet. These materials will include manuscripts, maps, books, musical scores, sound recordings, films, prints and photographs.

Under the terms of the agreement, the Library of Congress and UNESCO will cooperate in convening working groups of experts and other stakeholders to develop guidelines and technical specifications for the project, enlist new partners and secure the necessary support for the project from private and public sources. A key aspect of the project is to build digital library capabilities in the developing world, so that all countries and regions of the world can participate and be represented in the World Digital Library.

To test the feasibility of the project, the Library of Congress, UNESCO and five other partner institutions—the Bibliotheca Alexandrina of Alexandria, Egypt; the National Library of Brazil; the National Library of Egypt; the National Library of Russia; and the Russian State Library—have developed a prototype of the World Digital Library. The World Digital Library will become available to the public as a full-fledged website in late 2008 or early 2009.

The prototype functions in the six U.N. languages—Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish, plus Portuguese—and features search and browse functionality by place, time, topic and contributing institution. Input into the design of the prototype was solicited through a consultative process that involved UNESCO, the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, and individuals and institutions in more than 40 countries.

NPRC Announces Release of Military Personnel Records

The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has announced it will open for the first time all of the individual Official Military Personnel Files (OMPFs) of Army, Army Air Corps, Army Air Forces, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard military personnel who served and were discharged, retired or died while in the service, prior to 1946. Collectively, these files comprise more than six million records. This is the second step in the progressive opening of the entire paper and microfiche OMPF collection of over 57 million individual files. Additional military personnel records will be made available to the public each year through 2067 until the entire collection is opened.

To view an original record, individuals may visit the NPRC Archival Research Room in St. Louis. Research room hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Central Time, Tuesday through Friday. Visitors are strongly encouraged to call ahead (314-801-0850) to make reservations.

The National Personnel Records Center, Military Personnel Records (NPRC-MPR) is the repository of millions of military personnel, health, and medical records of discharged and deceased veterans of all services during the 20th century (Records prior to WWI are in Washington, D.C.). NPRC-MPR also stores medical treatment records of retirees from all services, as well as records for dependent and other persons treated at naval medical facilities. ♦

2008 Awards Competition and Fellows Nominations

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Awards: www.archivists.org/recognition/awards.asp; or

Fellows: www.archivists.org/recognition/fellows.asp.

Completed forms must be postmarked
by Feb. 28, 2008, with exceptions noted.

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ARCHIVES FIELD

- Distinguished Fellows
- Distinguished Service Award
- Sister M. Claude Lane, OP, Memorial Award
- Spotlight Award

PUBLIC AWARENESS

- J. Franklin Jameson Archival Advocacy Award
- Philip M. Hamer – Elizabeth Hamer Kegan Award

PUBLISHING EXCELLENCE

- C.F.W. Coker Award
- Fellows' Ernst Posner Award
- Preservation Publication Award
- Theodore Calvin Pease Award
- Waldo Gifford Leland Award

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

- Colonial Dames of America Scholarships
- Donna Cutts Scholarship
- Donald Peterson Student Scholarship
- Harold T. Pinkett Minority Student Award
- Oliver Wendell Holmes Travel Award



SAA EDUCATION CALENDAR

Legal Aspects of Photographic Rights, Archive Management and Permissions

November 28, 2007—Santa Fe, NM

Business Archives... Establishing and Managing an ArchivesDecember 5–7, 2007
San Francisco, CA**Understanding Archives: An Introduction to Principles and Practices**December 6–7, 2007
Hattiesburg, MS**Understanding Archives**

March 6–7, 2008—San Antonio, TX

Applying DACS to Single-Item Manuscript Cataloging

March 10, 2008—New Haven, CT

Project Management for Archivists

March 14, 2008—Chicago, IL

Understanding Photographs: Introduction to Archival Principles and Practices

April 10–11, 2008—Baltimore, MD

Encoded Archival DescriptionApril 22–23, 2008
University Park, PA**Style Sheets for EAD: Delivering Your Finding Aids on the Web**April 24–25, 2008
University Park, PA

For details or to register, visit www.archivists.org and click on Education. **Questions?** Contact us at education@archivists.org or 312/922-0140.

We are continually planning and adding programs to our schedule; please keep up to date by checking the website periodically!

CALENDAR

December 6, 2007

The Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts presents "Exhibitions and Case Design: Integrating Preservation in Planning" in Philadelphia. Co-sponsored and hosted by the Chemical Heritage Foundation, this program will address exhibit development, best practices for collections care of objects on display, and other preservation considerations when mounting exhibitions in cases. For more info: www.chemheritage.org.

June 21–28, 2008

Funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, the first annual Archives Leadership Institute will be held June 21–28, 2008, at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. The application deadline is Jan. 2, 2008, and selections will be made by mid-February. The week-long event will feature presentations by professionals in the archival field and relevant leaders outside the profession. The goal of the project is to examine the leadership needs of the archives profession and to prepare participants to influence policy and effect change. Sessions on Leadership, the Public Sector, Entrepreneurship, Collaborations, Fundraising, and Case Studies will form the bulk of the program. Produced by the university's School of Library and Information Studies (SLIS), it is directed primarily at mid-level to senior staff and archivists who aspire to leadership roles in organizations and professional associations. SLIS will select 25 archivists to spend the week at the university's lakeshore conference center and guest house. A registration fee of \$500 includes tuition, instructional materials, lodging and some meals. A number of scholarships for travel and tuition will also be awarded. For more information, contact Jane Pearlmutter, associate director of the SLIS at 608/262-6398 or jpearlmu@wisc.edu.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Organization of American Historians

The Organization of American Historians (OAH) invites you to submit a session or single paper proposal for the 2009 OAH Annual Meeting, to be held in Seattle, Wash., March 26–29, 2009. The call for papers is available on the OAH website at www.oah.org/2009. Direct questions to Amy Stark at 812/855-9853.

FUNDING

Harry Golden Visiting Scholars Award

The University of North Carolina, Charlotte announces the opening of competition for the

Harry Golden Visiting Scholars Awards for 2008/2009. Two grants of \$500–\$1,000 will be awarded to researchers using materials held by the Special Collections Department at the Atkins Library. Preference will be given to projects that focus on the history and culture of the 20th-century South. For further information on resources available in the department, link to http://dlib.uncc.edu/special_collections. **Deadline for applications: February 15, 2008.** Candidates will be notified by March 15. **To apply**, researchers should send a letter to Mr. Robin Brabham, Rare Book Librarian & Archivist, Atkins Library, UNC Charlotte, 9201 University City Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28223 or e-mail him at rbrabha@email.uncc.edu. The letter must include a vita; a description of the research proposal and the extent of research already completed; an estimate of the research remaining; a summary of how the project will benefit by using resources in the UNC Charlotte Special Collections; and a projected budget. Doctoral students doing dissertation research, independent scholars, and journalists are encouraged to apply.

U.S. Capitol Historical Society Fellowship

Applications are invited for the 22nd year of the United States Capitol Historical Society Fellowship. This fellowship is designed to support research and publication on the history of the art and architecture of the U.S. Capitol and related buildings. Graduate students and scholars may apply for periods ranging from one month to one year; the stipend is \$2000 per month. **Deadline: applications must be postmarked by March 15, 2008.** For more information, contact: Dr. Barbara Wolanin at 202/228-1222 or www.uschs.org.

Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Grant Applications

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) invites libraries, archives, and library agencies, associations, and consortia to apply for the Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian grant program. The grant will support efforts to recruit and educate the next generation of librarians, and faculty members who teach library science. It also supports grants for research related to library education and staffing needs; curriculum development; early-career development programs for tenure-track library and information science faculty; and continuing education and training for current librarians and their staff. **Application deadline is December 17, 2007.** Applications, guidelines, and examples of successful proposals can be found on the agency's website at www.imls.gov. All applications must be submitted electronically through Grants.gov. Instructions for completing and submitting applications through Grants.gov are in the guidelines and on the IMLS Web site. For more information: contact Senior Program Officer Stephanie Clark at sclark@imls.gov or Program Specialist Karmen Bisher at kbisher@imls.gov with questions or for more information.



FACULTY POSITION IN ARCHIVES

University of Maryland
College of Information Studies
College Park, MD

The College of Information Studies (CLIS) invites highly qualified individuals to apply for a faculty position in archives, records and information management. Expertise is sought in one or more of the following areas: archival theory, appraisal, archival description, records management, non-textual records, electronic records, or digital preservation. We prefer an individual with an established, dynamic research program that will complement our existing teaching and research strengths. The ideal candidate will: assume a leadership role within the college; lead and conduct high impact research that shapes the information field; demonstrate exemplary and innovative teaching; possess a demonstrated record of publications and presentations or the potential for demonstrating excellence in these areas; exhibit evidence of relevant and effective professional service; and work comfortably within an interdisciplinary environment within the college, the university and the broader community. Appointments are for nine months with opportunities for grant-funded summer research and/or summer teaching. **Qualifications.** Ph.D. in an appropriate field. **Application Submission:** for best consideration, submit applications prior to December 1, 2007. The position is expected to be filled no later than August 2008. Send application materials by e-mail (preferred) or by postal mail including a CV, a letter of interest that clearly describes your primary area(s) of expertise and the specific contributions that you would make to the college, and a statement that outlines your research and teaching interests. The University of Maryland is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer. Minorities and women are encouraged to apply. To apply, contact: Archives Search, College of Information Studies, University of Maryland, 4105 Hornbake Building, South Wing, College Park, MD 20742-4345; clisarc@umd.edu; www.clis.umd.edu.

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PRESIDENT THE ROCKEFELLER ARCHIVE CENTER



The Board of Trustees of The Rockefeller Archive Center invites applications and nominations for the position of President and Chief Executive Officer. The Rockefeller Archive Center primarily focuses on materials from United States not-for-profit institutions and families that have been deeply involved in national and international philanthropic activities over the course of the past century and a quarter. Taken in their totality, the materials of the Archive Center are an essential source of information and knowledge for any study of the nature and history of private philanthropy in the United States.

Until July of this year, the Archive Center operated as a division of The Rockefeller University. Now an independent institution with its own board of trustees, the Archive Center continues to maintain a close relationship with its founding institutions, and the Board of Trustees includes representatives of the Rockefeller family, The Rockefeller Foundation, The Rockefeller University, and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund.

In its first president, the Board seeks an entrepreneurial leader with initiative, energy, vision, and high integrity to successfully lead an institution that has 26 full-time staff members, 80 million pages of documents, 750,000 photographic images, 4,000 films, and an endowment over \$100 million. In an effort to carry forward a mid- to long-range planning process, including a detailed five-to-ten-year financial and business plan for The Rockefeller Archive Center, the ideal candidate must have a broad knowledge of the philanthropic field, successful experience leading and managing a cultural, academic or other nonprofit organization, the ability to respond effectively to multiple constituencies, familiarity with archives and archive functions, and strong academic credentials. The President of The Rockefeller Archive Center will be an ex officio member of the Center's Board of Trustees and will have full responsibility for the Center and all its operations.

At present the Board of the Center consists of David Rockefeller, Sr.; Stephen Heintz, President of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund; Judith Rodin, President of The Rockefeller Foundation; Paul Nurse, President of The Rockefeller University; and Neil Rudenstine, President Emeritus of Harvard University.

The Archive Center's scenic, park-like setting, approximately 30 miles north of New York City, is located at Pocantico Hills in Tarrytown, New York. Visit our web site at: <http://archive.rockefeller.edu>.

The review of credentials will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled, with the intention of announcing the appointment by the end of 2007. The new President will take office as soon as possible thereafter. Salary for the position will be fully competitive with executive compensation at analogous institutions in the non-profit sector. The Archive Center offers a generous benefits package and a pleasant and collegial work environment.

Nominations should include the current title, addresses, and phone numbers of nominee. Applicants should submit a letter of interest demonstrating how the candidate fulfills the qualifications for this position, along with a current Curriculum Vitae and a list of three references to:

**Presidential Search Committee, Rockefeller Archive Center c/o The Rockefeller University, 1230 York Avenue, Box 125,
New York, NY 10021; resumes@rockefeller.edu (indicate President in the subject line of email); Fax: 212-327-8699**

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Santa Claus . . .

is a world-class record keeper and an honorary member of SAA. He has an enormous archives staff who can identify correspondence in every language, which they typically file under the categories of Naughty or Nice. This 1951 painting is from the archives of The Coca-Cola Company. Artist Haddon Sundblom created a canvas every year from 1931 to 1964 for the company's holiday advertising campaign.

Photo courtesy of Philip Mooney, The Coca-Cola Company.