

THIRD

WORLD ARCHIVISTS

NEWSLETTER

ROUNDTABLE

Vol. 2, No. 2

Spring/Summer 1988

The Library and Archives of the Atlanta Historical Society

Rosa L. Dickens

"The Color Purple" (the motion picture), "A Salute to Atlanta's Black Heritage" (The Atlanta Historical Bulletin, Spring 1977), and "Sweet Auburn" (a WAGA-TV 5 Atlanta documentary on Auburn Avenue, the birthplace of Martin Luther King Jr. and home of the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change) are just three samples of projects in which the resources of the Library and Archives of the Atlanta Historical Society have been involved. The library contains some 17,000 volumes, most of which pertain to Atlanta history, with an emphasis on biography, the Civil War period, and 19th century publications. A complete set of Atlanta City Directories dating 1859 to the present as well as many early periodicals and newspapers are housed in the library.

The Archives holdings total over 1,100 manuscript collections documenting individuals, organizations, and businesses, as well as subject and personality files and official records of the City of Atlanta and Fulton County. Also there is an exten-

sive Visual Arts Collection containing over 150,000 photographs, architectural drawings, maps, and plat diagrams.

Noteworthy among the Archives' holdings about Atlanta's Black community are the papers of Graham W. Jackson, the Long/Rucker/Aiken Family, and Grace Towns Hamilton. Graham W. Jackson was a musician and entertainer whose following included several Presidents of the United States including Franklin Roosevelt. Spanning the period 1859 - 1979, the Long/Rucker/Aiken family papers chronicle the political, civic, and cultural involvements of one of Atlanta's oldest and most prominent families. Grace Towns Hamilton was the first Black woman legislator in the Georgia General Assembly, who served from 1965 to 1984.

The Library and Archives are located in the Walter McElreath Hall that also houses the museum galleries, museum shop, auditorium, and meeting rooms. In addition the Atlanta Historical Society manages two historic

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Minorities Roundtable Seeks New Name

Carol A. Rudisell

At the first meeting of the Minorities Roundtable held at the Society of American Archivists Conference in New York this past September, those in attendance agreed that the Roundtable would be defined racially and ethnically within a Third World context. It was also agreed that the Roundtable's primary purpose would be to identify and address the concerns of archivists of African, Asian, Hispanic, and Native American descent. While there was overwhelming dissatisfaction with the name "Minorities

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THIRD WORLD ARCHIVISTS ROUNDTABLE

FROM THE EDITORS

Thank you all for your comments and compliments about the newsletter. Your encouragement is inspiring and your suggestions help us to develop and grow. We are pleased to note that an additional 25 names have been added to the mailing list since the last issue. Welcome to the new readers. We hope you will become active participants by contributing to the newsletter and attending the business meeting and open house at the upcoming SAA conference to be held in Atlanta in September. Special thanks to those who contributed to this issue. We look forward to your **TIMELY** contribution for the pre-conference newsletter. Please send your information by August 15, 1988. Looking forward to hearing from you.

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sites: the Tullie Smith House, a pre-Civil War plain-style plantation house built around 1840; and the Swan House, designed in 1928 by noted architect, Philip Trammell Shutze for one of Atlanta's wealthiest families, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Hamilton Inman.

The Atlanta Historical Society was founded in 1926 "to promote the preservation of sources of information concerning the history of the City of Atlanta in the state of Georgia; the investigation, study, and dissemination of such history; and to arouse in the friends and citizens of Atlanta an interest in its history." For more information contact: Atlanta Historical Society, 3103 Andrews Drive NW, Atlanta, GA 30305 (404) 261-1837.

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Roundtable," we could find no name which truly captured the essence of the group. "Third World Archivists Roundtable" seemed to come closest to reflecting our goals and actual composition, and so during the past year it has been informally adopted as our new title. Before formally declaring it as such and submitting the name change to SAA Council, we thought it would be good to solicit input from those of you who could not be present at the annual meeting. We would like to make a decision on a new name at the Roundtable's meeting during the SAA Conference in Atlanta this coming September. We welcome any and all serious recommendations which you may have. Please send your comments and recommendations to Ms. Carol Rudisell, University of Delaware Library, Newark, DE 19717-5267.

The **THIRD WORLD ARCHIVISTS ROUNDTABLE NEWSLETTER** is published 3 times a year: November, May, and August. Deadline for contributions is the 15th of October, April, and July. Questions? Contributions? Contact co-editors: Karen L. Jefferson, Moorland-Spin-garn Research Center, Howard University, Washington, D C 20059 (202) 636-7480; or Ruth E. Hill, Radcliffe College, Schlesinger Library, 10 Garden St., Cambridge, MA 02138 (617) 495-8618.

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PEOPLE

Ms. Diana Lachatanere has been appointed Head of the Rare Books, Manuscripts and Archives Section, The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York, NY.

Dr. Thomas C. Battle, Director of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University, Washington, D.C. has been appointed Acting Director of University Libraries. **Dr. Elinor Desverney Sinnette**, Chief Librarian, has been appointed Acting Director of the MSRC.

Ms. Joellen El Bashir, former Manuscript Librarian at the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, has been promoted to Senior Manuscript Librarian.

Ms. Tessa Perry has been appointed Education & Public Program Specialist at the Avery Research Center for African-American History and Culture, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC.

Ms. Rosalye Settles, formerly supervisor of Public Service Records Agency of the New York Department of Records has accepted the position of Archivist at The Studio Museum of Harlem, New York, NY.

Mr. Charles B. Sherrill has resigned as archivist of Malcolm X College/City Colleges of Chicago.

It is with sincere condolences that we report the death of **Mr. Sam Cameron**, former Archivist of Meharry Medical Library

Archives. Mr. Cameron died January 14, 1988. Contributions in memory of Sam Cameron may be sent to the Meharry Medical Library Archives, Meharry Medical College, Nashville, TN 37208.

Ms. Carol A. Rudisell, Co-chair of the Third World Archivists Roundtable, has been appointed to serve on the SAA 1989 Program Committee.

Ruth Edmonds Hill, Donna Wells, and Joellen El Bashir, along with Virginia Purdy will speak on the panel, "Resources for Study in Women's History," at the National Women's Studies Association Conference held in Minneapolis MN, June 22-26, 1988.

Ms. Donna Wells, former Photograph Archivist at Gallaudet University, Washington D.C., has been appointed Archivist and Special Collections Librarian.

Congratulations to all the newly elected officers of SAA, particularly to Vice-President Elect **John A. Fleckner**, a longtime advocate and supporter of minority participation in the archival profession.

In July, **Ms. Lynda DeLoach** will complete the NHPRC Archival Administration Fellowship at the Immigration History Research Center, University of Minnesota, St. Paul. She has accepted the position of Archivist at the George Meany Memorial Archives, Silver Spring, MD.

JOBS

Archivist III/Coordinate reference service, answer queries, publicize holdings, lecture to classes, prepare proposals, process collections/Graduate degree, formal archival training, 5 yrs exp./\$22,040 tenure track appointment/Walter P. Reuther Library, Archives of Labor & Urban Affairs, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI 48202, Warner W. Pflug, Assistant Director.

Intern/6 months/ Assist achivist in organizing collections/BA degree minimum, preferable MA student in art history, museum, or archival studies/The Studio Museum in Harlem, 144 W.125 St., New York, NY 10027, Dr. Sharon F. Patton, Chief Curator, (212) 864-4500.

Oral History Librarian/Coordinate and develop Oral History Dept./M.A. in Library Science/\$21,200/Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University, Washington, D.C. 20059, Karen L. Jefferson, Curator (202) 636-7480.

Manuscript Librarian/Process collections, assist in reference service and acquisitions/M.A. in Library Science/ \$21,200/Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University, Washington, D.C. 20059, Karen L. Jefferson, Curator (202) 636-7480.

Archivist/Organize and develop recently established archives for Low Country African-

(See Jobs - page 5)

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Moorland - Spingarn Research Center, Howard University.

Patricia Roberts Harris (1925-1985) Papers. Attorney, civil rights activist, government official, educator. Files document her activities as Ambassador to Luxembourg; and as Secretary of the Departments of Housing and Urban Development, and Health, Education and Welfare. Includes photographs, certificates and awards. UNPROCESSED

Hilyard R. Robinson (1899-1896) Papers. Architect, designer, and community planner. Among his designs are the Langston Housing Project, Washington D.C.; numerous buildings on the campus of Howard University; and the U.S. Army Air Base and Pilots' Training School, Tuskegee, AL. Includes office files, job specifications, reports, photographs, architectural renderings, and blueprints. UNPROCESSED

Thomas Wyatt Turner (1877-1978) Papers. Educator, biologist, and pioneer in the pursuit of racial justice within the Catholic Church. Includes correspondence, photographs, unpublished manuscripts ("The History and Heritage of the Black Catholic" and his memoirs), programs, news articles, certificates and awards. UNPROCESSED

The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

Alberta Hunter Papers, 1910-1984. Blues singer. Personal and professional papers including correspondence, contracts, handwritten lyrics, manuscript and sheet music, newsclippings, programs, playbills, audio tapes, photographs and a scrapbook.

C.L.R. James Letters, 1939-1946. West Indian scholar, historian, and political activist. A collection of letters to James' former wife and political associate, Constance Webb revealing a wealth of information on James' political thinking and activities during one of the most obscure periods in his life.

Urban Archives Center, Temple University

MOVE: Records of the Philadelphia Special Investigation Commission. MOVE, a "small, very extreme 'back to nature' radical group following the teachings of self styled John Africa" came to national attention upon its violent confrontation with Philadelphia police on May 13, 1985. The aftermath of this occurrence left 11 MOVE members dead, 61 homes destroyed, and some 250 persons homeless. The investigations of this tragedy, the culmination of a dozen years of conflict between neighbors of the MOVE residents as well as clashes with the police, accumulated some 29 cubic feet of files dating 1973 -1985. (excerpted from Urban Archives Notes)

Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, Wayne State University

George L-P Weaver Papers. Labor leader, government official. Active in the leadership of the CIO, IUE, and AFL-CIO, Weaver went on to serve in the Department of Labor and the International Labor Organization. Thirty-four linear feet of papers including correspondence, research notes, reports, clippings, and printed materials.

James and Grace Lee Boggs Collection. Community activists involved in the Michigan Freedom Now Party of the 1960's. A collection of audio-visual items that include audio tapes of Malcolm X and C.L.R. James.

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with Emperor Haile Selassie I of Ethiopia, and incorporates traditional dance-drumming and oral communication in its preservation of the African heritage.

"Melville J. Herskovits and the Future of Africana Studies: A Research Symposium" was held May 27-28 at The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. Speakers included distinguished scholars J. G. St. Clair Drake, Elliott P. Skinner, Sterling Stuckey, and John Szwed. Herskovits, noted anthropologist, author, and educator, established the first formal African Studies program in the United States at Northwestern University.

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EXHIBITIONS

"We Wish To Plead Our Own Cause," an exhibit on Black book publishing in the United States from 1817-1987, will be on exhibit at The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, 515 Lenox Avenue, New York City from April 22 - September 10, 1988. Complementing the exhibit is a series of public programs including lectures, conferences and discussion groups, designed to illuminate the relationship of Black Americans as publishers and thereby gatekeepers of Black culture.

The highly acclaimed exhibit "Field to Factory: Afro-American Migration, 1915-1940" originally scheduled to close Febru-

ary 1988 has been extended indefinitely. Congratulations to Spencer Crew, Curator, and the Smithsonian for a job well done. The exhibit is housed at the National Museum of American History, 14th Street & Constitution Avenue NW, Washington D.C.

Also extended at the Smithsonian's Anacostia Museum is the exhibit "Climbing Jacob's Ladder: The Rise of Black Churches in Eastern American Cities, 1740-1877." Located at 1901 Fort Place SE, Washington D.C., this exhibit has inspired much interest among local churches in preserving their history. The exhibit will remain on display until October

30, 1988 and plans are underway to prepare a travelling exhibit. For more information contact Dr. Edward Smith, exhibition curator, (202) 287-3369.

"Philadelphia African-Americans: Color Class and Style 1840-1940" will be on exhibit until July 9, 1988 at the Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies. The show focuses on Philadelphia's antebellum free Blacks and their descendants. Complementing the exhibit is a series of public programs and travelling exhibits highlighting the rich ethnic heritage of the Philadelphia communities. For more information contact the Balch Institute, 18 So. 7th St., Philadelphia, PA 19106.

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American history and culture./3 yrs. archival exp. or 1 yr. exp. + advanced degree or 1 yr. exp. + certificate in library or achival studies/\$28,000 + full state benefits/Closing date: October 3rd/ Send resume with 3 references to: Avery Research Center for African-American History & Culture, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC 29424, Dr. Myrtle G. Glascoe, Director (803) 792-5742.

Special Thanks to: Afro-Info Computer Services and the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University for making this newsletter possible.

This is your newsletter! Please send us any announcements, events, articles, comments, suggestions, or other information that we can share.

THIRD WORLD ARCHIVISTS ROUNDTABLE

PUBLICATIONS

The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture publishes a quarterly newsletter featuring articles on institutional activities, recent acquisitions, and programs. For subscription information write to: Editor, *The Schomburg Center Journal*, 515 Lenox Avenue, NY NY 10037.

A Guide to the Transcripts of the Schlesinger Library's Black Women Oral History Project edited by Ruth Edmonds Hill and Patricia Miller King is now available. The guide includes a brief description of each interview, a short biographical sketch of each interviewee, and an extensive subject index. The Guide costs \$9.00 and may be ordered from the Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe College, 10 Garden Street, Cambridge MA 02138.

This past winter, the Bethune Museum and Archives published the first issue of *Legacy*, a quarterly newsletter providing information about the BMA and topics related to the history of Afro-American women. The newsletter is available as part of the annual membership to the museum. For more information contact Ms. W. Yvette Parker, Editor, Bethune Museum and Archives, 1318 Vermont Ave. NW, Washington, D.C., (202) 332-9201.

A Guide to the Collections of the Department of Archives and Manuscripts, Linn-Henley Research Library, Birmingham, Public Library describes the vast holdings on the

history of Birmingham, Jefferson County, and surrounding areas of Alabama. The archives is the repository for the records of the City of Birmingham and collects materials documenting the business, education, religions, civil rights, civil war, social, cultural, and women's history in the area. The guide includes a brief description of each collection and a subject index. For more information contact the archives: Birmingham Public Library, 2100 Park Place, Birmingham, AL 35203.

The George Meany Memorial Archives is seeking articles for its soon to be published quarterly journal, *Labor's Heritage*. The journal will focus on labor history, manuscript collections, and exhibits. For more information contact: Mr. Stuart Kaufman, Director, The George Meany Memorial Archives, The George Meany Center for Labor Studies, 1000 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20903 (301) 431-6400.

Afro-American Healers: A Historical Perspective, a selective bibliography, by Sam Cameron is available free from the Meharry Medical Library Archives. The bibliography includes books, articles, and oral history tapes from the collections in the archives. To obtain a copy contact: Meharry Medical Library Archives, Meharry Medical College, Nashville, TN 37208 (615) 327-6470.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The official opening of the new facility for the National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center, Wilberforce, Ohio, was held on April 15th with the premiere of its first permanent exhibit, "From Victory to Freedom: Afro-American Life in the 1950's." The exhibit examines the lives of Afro-Americans between 1945 and 1965, beginning with World War II and ending with the passage of the Voting Rights Acts revealing the complex social world of Afro-Americans during this historic period when the U.S. was challenged to fulfill its promise of justice and equality for all. In addition to this exhibit, the Center opened on May 15th in the changing exhibits gallery, "Ceremonies and Rituals: 50/50, A Commemorative Exhibition of the Works of Willis 'Bing' Davis." For more information call: 1-800-BLK-HIST.

The Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University welcomed the visit of the elders of the Nyahbinghi Order from Jamaica West Indies in a program, "Understanding Rastafari: A Discussion of the Philosophy." This program was one of many events during the tour of the elders to increase community awareness about the Rastafarian faith and culture. The Nyahbinghi Order of Rastafari of Jamaica represents orthodox expressions of Rastafarian culture and ideology. It developed in the shanty towns of West Kingston, spiritually identifies

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MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

The Third World Archivists Roundtable would like to produce a directory which we can share with our readers. We anticipate that such a directory will facilitate networking and promote fuller participation of our members in Society of American Archivists activities. Please take a few minutes to complete the attached survey. Feel free to attach your resume or other information as you feel is appropriate. We will also use the information you provide to update our mailing list.

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

1. NAME: _____

2. MAILING ADDRESS: _____

3. PHONE NO.: (work) _____
(home) _____

4. POSITION/TITLE: _____

5. INSTITUTIONAL AFFILIATION: _____

6. AREAS OF EXPERTISE (check all that apply):

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> administration/management | <input type="checkbox"/> films/video |
| <input type="checkbox"/> appraisal/acquisition | <input type="checkbox"/> oral history |
| <input type="checkbox"/> arrangement & description | <input type="checkbox"/> photographs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> automation | <input type="checkbox"/> reference service |
| <input type="checkbox"/> conservation/preservation | <input type="checkbox"/> security |
| <input type="checkbox"/> emergency preparedness | <input type="checkbox"/> sound recordings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> exhibits | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

7. Are you currently a dues paying member of SAA?

yes no

If yes, would you like to be considered a member of
the Third World Archivists Roundtable? _____

If no, are you interested in becoming a member of SAA?

yes no

8. Are you interested in presenting papers at SAA?

yes no

Serving on SAA committees? yes no

9. RACIAL/ETHNIC IDENTIFICATION:

- African-American Hispanic
 Asian Native American
 Other (please specify)

10. OTHER PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS:

RETURN SURVEY TO: Ms. Carol Rudisell, University of Delaware Library,
Newark, DE 19717-5267