

N E A N E W S L E T T E R

Volume 33, Number 4 • October 2006



C O V E R — E & B Markets, 1973?, plastic shopping bag. Based on *The Big Push* (for CBS), 1957. *Courtesy of Stephen Lee Taller Ben Shahn Archive, Fine Arts Library, Harvard University (Around and About, page 20).*

I N S I D E — Processing and Providing Access to Boston's African American and Latino History (*Archival Insight*, page 4); Community and Communication--The Story of the Archives for Women in Medicine (*Open Forum*, page 12); The Stephen Lee Taller Ben Shahn Archive at Harvard University (*Around and About*, page 20).

N E A

New England Archivists

TAKING THE PAST INTO THE FUTURE

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The *NEA Newsletter* is published quarterly in January, April, July and October. The contents of the *Newsletter* may be reproduced in whole or in part provided that credit is given.

Articles and **News** of interest to archivists, historical society members, historians, and other NEA members should be sent to: *NEA Newsletter* Editors, c/o WPI Archives and Special Collections, Gordon Library, 100 Institute Road, Worcester, MA 01609, or <newsletter@newenglandarchivists.org>.

Contributions to the NEA Web site should be sent to: <webcoordinator@newenglandarchivists.org>.

Deadlines for submitting materials are:

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May 15 for July issue
August 15 for October issue

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From the Editors

- Susan Earle

This issue of the *NEA Newsletter* focuses in various ways on the challenges of selecting and appraising manuscript materials. It features two articles dealing with the difficulties and rewards inherent in collecting and processing underrepresented communities and professions. *Archival Insight* describes the experiences of two Northeastern University archivists in processing the papers of seven private, non-profit organizations related to social justice in Boston's African American and Latino communities. The articles also features an interesting response to the ideas expressed in Mark Greene and Dennis Meisner's article "More Product, Less Process."

Open Forum, in turn, describes the Women in Medicine project at Harvard Medical School, which aims to represent and document the special role that women have played in

mid- and late-twentieth century medicine. In this article, Giordana Mecagni, Project Archivist at Countway Library's Center for the History of Medicine, reports on the efforts to both provide better access to existing collections and to acquire the records of first-generation women leaders in Harvard medicine who are now nearing retirement.

Around and About describes the holdings of the Stephen Lee Taller Ben Shahn Archive at Harvard University. Frank Boles's book, *Selecting and Appraising Archives and Manuscripts*, reviewed in this issue by Anastasia Weigel, describes decisions archivists must make about the materials they select. Finally, Nora Murphy's *From the President* column reminds us of the importance and rewards of advocacy and urges us all to attend the fall meeting at the University of New Hampshire in Durham, October 20-21. ☺

☺ NEW ENGLAND ARCHIVISTS ☺



Courtesy of UNH Photo Services.

Fall 2006 Meeting: "Passionate About Archives"

The passions are the only advocates which always persuade. They are a natural art, the rules of which are infallible; and the simplest man with passion will be more persuasive than the most eloquent without.

--François de la Rochefoucauld (1613-1680)

- If you want to know how the National Historical Publications and Records Commission advocates for archives on many levels . . .
- If you want to discuss special interest topics with colleagues . . .
- If you want to promote the use of your collections . . .
- If you want to share your excitement about archives . . .

**Then join us for Passionate About Archives at University
of New Hampshire on October 20 & 21, 2006**

Archival Insight

Processing and Providing Access to Boston's African American and Latino History

Marisa Hudspeth and Kimberly Reynolds, Archives & Special Collections Department, Northeastern University

The Archives and Special Collections Department (UASCD) at Northeastern University has completed the first year of a two year grant funded project from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission entitled, **“Processing and Providing Access to Boston African American and Latino History.”** The goal of the project is to arrange, describe, and make accessible 436 cubic feet of twentieth century historical records from seven private, non-profit organizations relating to social justice in the African American and Latino communities in Boston. These interrelated organizations are: Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción (IRA), Escuelita Agueybana (Escuelita), United South End Settlements (USES), Roxbury Multi-Service Center (RMSC), Sociedad Latina, Urban League of Eastern Massachusetts (ULEM), and The Citywide Educational Coalition. The records of these organizations contain rich documentation of themes relating to school desegregation, public policy formation, public health issues, community relations, affordable housing, urban planning, social service delivery, cultural programming, violence prevention, and minority rights during the last decades of the twentieth century. When considered with the other African American and Latino collections already available in the Archives and Special Collections Department at Northeastern University, the body of material will comprise an invaluable historical resource.

The project will result in EAD

encoded descriptive inventories available electronically in HTML via the University Archives and Special Collections Department Web site <www.lib.neu.edu/archives/collect/mcoll.htm>. Collection level records with links to the finding aids will be available in the vehicle that results from the OCLC/RLG merger, Proquest's ArchivesUSA, and Northeastern University Libraries' online catalog, which is Internet accessible. Because the organizations whose records are to be processed are still in operation, project staff will also work with each organization to produce a documentation plan to assist with the identification, management, and transfer of historically significant records that should be preserved in the UASCD in the future.

As of August 1, 2006, three collections have been processed and their online finding aids made available: Roxbury Multi-Service Center, Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción, and Escuelita Agueybana. RMSC is a social service agency modeled after the nineteenth century settlement house where all client services were located under one roof. It began in 1964 as a three-year demonstration project to provide services to the Roxbury and North Dorchester neighborhoods of Boston. From its inception, the mission of RMSC has been to offer programs and services designed to empower the residents of Roxbury and North Dorchester to become economically and socially self-sufficient. Inquilinos Boricuas en Acción (IBA) is a community development corporation whose

mission is to guarantee residents of the Villa Victoria community long term control over their housing by offering programs in community organizing and development, human services, and art and culture. Located in the South End of Boston, IBA began in 1967 as a grassroots movement against the Boston Redevelopment Authority's urban renewal plan. IBA incorporated in 1968 as the Emergency Tenant's Council of Parcel 19, Inc. (ETC) and successfully designed its own award-winning housing development plan, Villa Victoria. Escuelita Agueybana was the first Hispanic day care center in Massachusetts to serve primarily Hispanic children and their families. This collection, not originally included as part of the grant project, was discovered in the records of IBA during processing. Apparently, Escuelita had historical and financial ties to IBA and when the Escuelita closed, its records went to IBA.

The original proposal was submitted to the National Historical Publications and Records Commission on July 27, 2004 and work on the project began August 1, 2005, prior to the publication of Mark A. Greene and Dennis Meissner's article, “More Product, Less Process: Revamping Traditional Archival Processing.”* As acknowledged in the article, existing processing guidelines detailed in the Northeastern University Libraries Archives and Special Collections Department Processing Manual to a large extent already embraced suggestions in this controversial article. In regard to the historically

less well-organized records of non-profit organizations, Greene and Meissner specifically suggest that “collections that are truly unorganized should be sorted/ordered only into series” with the caveat “unless, again, their perceived research importance demands more detailed work” (p. 244). In our case, we felt more detailed processing was needed not only because of the high research value of the collections involved, but also due to the condition and types of material we received.

We deviated from Greene and Meissner primarily in two respects, item-level weeding and screening. The choices we made, however, were not made due to “professional fastidiousness” or “our reluctance to be perceived as sloppy or uncaring by users and others” (p. 241). Although Greene and Meissner argue that we should no “longer insist that the small amounts of space saved by weeding at the item level are remotely worth the amount of time such action takes” (p. 243), we would argue that is not always the case. For all three collections, the material had been hastily boxed, had little to no order, and was demonstrably lacking

evidence of any forethought or understanding of what material should be sent to the archives. The amount of duplicated and historically insignificant material was enormous, including cancelled checks, federal registers, and grant writing guidelines. In total, we returned over 141 cubic feet of discards to the organizations, an amount of space we definitely deem worth the amount of time we spent weeding, especially considering the space constraint we face.

The disorganization and poor condition of the records also resulted in the need for item-level screening and subsequent minimal arrangement. We encountered a significant number of labels that did not accurately reflect the contents of folders, missing labels, and unfolded materials. Although the fading and acidic papers throughout the collection were in most cases in no immediate danger of damaging the collections, considering the climate controlled environment of the archives, all the collections had a significant number of moldy documents that did need to be screened for and removed to keep them from posing a threat to the entire

collection. The most significant reason for item-level screening, however, was the need to identify potentially restricted information, an issue Greene and Meissner fail to address. Although we were able to assess at the folder level some portions of the collections that obviously did not need to be screened for this type of sensitive information, the bulk of the material did have social security numbers, personal client and employee information, and sensitive legal documents scattered throughout. In sum, considering the poor previous storage conditions and overall organization of the records, we decided it was too risky to both the physical and the intellectual integrity of the collection to process these collections at the series level.

Our experience processing these collections has reinforced our view that because each collection arrives with a different level of organization and with different restriction and preservation issues, processing levels for every series of each collection need to be carefully determined.

*This article appears in Volume 68, Number 2 of *The American Archivist*. ©



(left to right) Processing Assistant Dominique Tremblay and Assistant Archivist Marisa Hudspeth.



(left to right) Processing Assistants Susan Martin and Zachary Enright, and Project Archivist Kimberly Reynolds.

Internet Tidbits

- Susan Martin

The newest online exhibit from the American Antiquarian Society (AAS), "Architectural Resources at the American Antiquarian Society," showcases some of the library's many items related to the history of American architecture. Created by AAS staff members Christine Graham and Jaclyn Donovan and accessible at <www.americanantiquarian.org/Exhibitions/Architecture/>, the site features architectural drawings, lithographs, periodicals, and photographs of buildings in Massachusetts and other parts of the country. The architects represented are some of the most notable in American history: Asher Benjamin, the Massachusetts architect who in 1797 wrote the first original American work on architecture; Samuel Sloan, nineteenth century editor of the *Architectural Review*; Minard Lafever, who worked in both the Classical and Gothic styles; Charles Bulfinch, the first American-born architect and the designer of the Massachusetts State House; and many others.

The exhibit begins with a brief introduction to the architectural resources at the AAS, which include design books, biographies of architects, architectural journals, general reference books, and other secondary sources. The introduction is followed by individual sections devoted to drawings, lithographs, periodicals, and the Forbes Collection of architectural photographs. The Forbes Collection at the AAS contains (among many other items) 800 photographs of local architecture taken by Harriette Merrifield Forbes of Worcester, Mass., between the 1890s and the 1930s. Some of Forbes's favorite subjects were seventeenth and eighteenth century buildings in Worcester and Middlesex counties. Two well-known houses photographed by Forbes and highlighted in this exhibit are the Alcott House in Concord and the Austin-Cooper House in Cambridge. The site also includes

a section called "Search Tips"—a great resource for researchers, with a link to the AAS online catalog, helpful hints for searching, and specific examples.

All of the items in the exhibit are beautifully reproduced, down to the small print, signatures, annotations, details, colors, shadows, and imperfections of the originals. One particularly nice example is Earle & Fuller's drawing of the west elevation of St. John's Church in North Adams, Mass.; each pane in the stained-glass windows is clearly visible. Other highlights of the exhibit include Bulfinch's 1804 color drawing of the façade of the Worcester Courthouse (ca. 1803) and the Edward Mendel lithograph of a Gothic Revival building at Knox College in Galesburg, Ill., complete with nineteenth century pedestrians and horse-drawn carriages. Captions and accompanying text throughout the exhibit provide historical context on individual architects and buildings. The quality of the images, the variety of styles and eras represented, the comprehensive citations, and the straightforward design of the site make this exhibit a very effective advertisement for the American Antiquarian Society's impressive architectural holdings. ©



Back Issues of the NEA Newsletter Now Available Online!

Visit us at
<www.newenglandarchivists.org/newsletter/index>
to view issues of *NEA Newsletter*
dating back to January 2002.

Also, stay tuned for current issues available
online exclusively to NEA members.

Promote your photograph collections by sharing an image of an historic event, place, or person with the NEA community.

The *NEA Newsletter* is seeking submissions from repositories in Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont for back cover pictorial features in *This Season in New England History*. Send submissions in JPG or TIFF format, along with a caption detailing the subject of the photograph, to: <sheila.spalding@childrens.harvard.edu>. Photographs must be scanned at 600 dpi or better.

Inside NEA

From the President

- Nora Murphy



What is Advocacy? While Merriam-Webster's definition of advocacy as "the act or process of advocating or supporting a cause or proposal" may immediately bring to mind the image of someone proselytizing from a soap box, there are many more subtle forms of advocacy we can utilize.

Archivists have been trying for years to craft what some refer to as the "elevator pitch," bigger than a sound bite but smaller than a paragraph, to set the stage for conversation about what we do. So far we have not found a statement that applies universally. Maybe we try too hard to explain everything rather than finding small bits of information with which to start a conversation and further our cause. I'd like each of us to think about how we can invite interest in what we do.

Develop ways to describe why what you care for is important to your town, college, society, or organization in everyday life as well as historically. Think of the big picture – an entire repository – or parts of that picture – a single collection or program aspect – tailor it to your particular situation. Spread the word about your work with exhibits (physical or virtual), brochures, presentations, 'find of the week/month' emails to non-archives coworkers, newsletters, annual reports, or conversations with colleagues – the possibilities are limitless. Experiment to find what works best for you. Share successful and unsuccessful ideas and tactics with other NEA members – then maybe we can begin to craft that elevator speech that will benefit all of us. Advocacy is about supporting what we do in any way we can.

I hope to see you at the fall meeting at the University of New Hampshire in Durham on October 20-21, when there will be lots of opportunities to trade stories and ideas! ☺

Executive Board Meeting Report

- Elizabeth Slomba



The business handled at the June 19, 2006 meeting of the Executive Board is summarized below. All **VOTING** is in bold. Complete minutes are available on the NEA Web site or from the secretary.

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 AM by Nora Murphy. Minutes from the March 10, 2006 Board Meeting were presented. **All members voted to accept the March 10, 2006 Board Meeting Minutes.** There was a brief discussion about various committee reports and replacing retiring committee members.

Officers' Reports

President

Nora Murphy reported on difficulties in finding a location for the Spring 2007 Meeting and noted that she will be putting together a Spring 2007 Program Committee. The board discussed going back to the Lowell location used for previous NEA spring meetings.

Vice-President

Chris Burns discussed locations and recruiting for the Fall 2007 Meeting committees.

Immediate Past President

Paul Carnahan is recruiting volunteers for the 2007 Nominating Committee as well as candidates for Treasurer, Vice-President/President-Elect, and two Representatives-At-Large. He is also looking for nominees for the Distinguished Service and Archival Advocacy Awards before the spring meeting.

To reach NEA officers, please see contact information on the NEA Web site at:
www.newenglandarchivists.org

Treasurer

Lois Hamill sent in updates concerning the budget and current spending. The board discussed the projected budget and current expenses of the Newsletter Committee and whether the committee had been adequately funded.

Meetings

Fall 2006 Program and Local Arrangements Committees

Elizabeth Slomba discussed the proposed budget for the Fall 2006 Meeting, food costs, and likely attendance numbers. There was a lengthy discussion about vendors and conferences. The board also discussed a proposal to create a standard registration fee for each conference. **All members voted to set the Fall 2006 Meeting registration fee at \$45 for members, \$75 for non-members, \$22.50 for students and \$15 late fee.**

There was a general discussion about the program and the number of speakers.

Committee Reports to the Board

Development Coordinator

Jane Ward reported that she raised \$3900 at the Spring 2006 Meeting and hopes to raise \$3000 for the Fall 2006 Meeting.

Outreach Committee

April Hagins reported on the Outreach Committee's work with the Massachusetts Memories project, funded through the Massachusetts Historical Records Advisory Board (MHRAB). Outreach has created a basic informative brochure to be distributed at Massachusetts Memories events aimed at teachers. NEA had committed to staffing pilot project events and expressed interest in staffing future events if possible. Now that the brochure has been created, Outreach is considering using the brochure at other NEA events and for public relations purposes. There will be a limited print run of the brochure for distribution at Massachusetts Memories events; if NEA plans to use the brochure, NEA will need to pay for additional copies. There

was discussion about funding the printing of additional copies. Outreach had considered posting a PDF of the brochure on the NEA Web site, but there are concerns about the quality of brochure copies printed from it.

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee proposed forming a Membership Retention and Recruitment Task Force to research issues concerning membership, recruitment, and retention. **All members voted in favor to establish a Membership Retention and Recruitment Task Force and to appoint Debbie Richards and Lianne Keary co-chairs.** The committee plans to meet through 2008. Board members discussed how to handle legacy membership information, the numbers of new members versus old members, retention rates, how renewals are handled, and creation of lists of non-renewing members. There was an initial discussion among Membership Committee members about ways to recruit and retain members, such as getting lists from other organizations and members calling non-renewing members. There was a brief update on the status of the membership directory. It was suggested that there be a survey to find out why people do not renew their membership.

College and University Archivist Conference Steering Committee

Board members discussed at length the report from the College and University Archivist Conference Steering Committee recommending that NEA sponsor a conference for college and university archivists. They debated suggestions that the proposed conference be held before a regular NEA meeting or as a regular NEA meeting. Although the report had recommended a conference be held separately from the two semi-annual NEA meetings, concerns were expressed about the impact of a third conference in the region on attendance at the NEA meetings and about the difficulty in recruiting three program and local arrangements committees in the same year. There was discussion of whether NEA had had special theme programming for conferences before and whether special programming could splinter NEA. There was further discussion about conflicts with other organizations' conferences and the need to hold the annual business meeting at the spring meeting. The board also discussed holding the specially themed meeting in fall 2007 and developing programming around the New England region that would be of interest to the membership. It was suggested that Chris Burns appoint a program chair for the local events in fall 2007, such as workshops,

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lectures, round-tables, and sponsoring events with similar organizations.

Ad Hoc Committee on NEA Policy

Susan von Salis reported on the committee's work and requested appointment of an additional member. **All members voted to appoint Laura Morris to the Ad Hoc Committee on NEA Policy.**

Other Business

Brenda Lawson announced that NEA members had given \$1535 to the SSA-SAA Emergency Disaster Assistance Grant Fund. The NEA donation challenge has been met, so NEA will be sending the challenge donation to the Society of American Archivists.

Next Meeting Date and adjournment

The next quarterly Executive Board Meeting will take place at Dimond Library, University of New Hampshire, October 20, 2006, time to be announced. ☺

Please visit us online at www.newenglandarchivists.org for more information about becoming a member of NEA

New Members

- Rodney Obien

Jane A. Callahan
Simmons College

Michelle Romero

David Dwiggins
Simmons College

NEW INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS


Joshua A. Lascell
Simmons College

Littleton Historical Society (Mass.)

Kim Nusco
Massachusetts Historical Society

New Hampshire Technical Institute Library

Amy Palmer
Historical Associates Inc.



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People

Jeffrey Marshall Named University Libraries' Director of Research Collections



Associate Library Professor Jeffrey Marshall has been named the University of Vermont Libraries' Director of Research Collections, following the retirement of Connell Gallagher, whose thirty-six years of service helped to build collections of distinction, such as UVM's public policy archives and artists' books collections.

Over the last eighteen years, Marshall has served as UVM Special Collection's University Archivist, Curator of Manuscripts, and most recently, Curator of the Wilbur Collection. Prior to that, he was a manuscript curator at the Massachusetts Historical Society in Boston. Marshall brings extensive knowledge of UVM's collections and a great body of scholarship on Vermont history. He has produced guides to Special Collections' photographs, Civil War papers, and university records, and has written about materials as diverse as the Dorothy Canfield Fisher papers and photographs documenting the Winooski mills.

Marshall is the author of two books. *A War of the People: Vermont Civil War Letters* features Civil War letters from UVM's Special Collections and from archival repositories around the nation. It was a finalist for the Vermont Book Professionals Association's Book of the Year Award and the winner of the Society of American Archivists' Philip M. Hamer/Elizabeth Hamer Kegan Award for increasing public awareness of archival or manuscript collections. His most recent work, *The Inquest*, is a historical novel based on the true but largely undocumented story of Experience "Speedy" Goodrich, a young woman who died after undergoing an abortion in Burlington, Vermont, in 1830.

Vita Paladino Named Gotlieb Center Director

Vita Paladino, managing director of the Howard Gotlieb Archival Research Center (HGARC) since February 2004, has been appointed director, succeeding Howard Gotlieb, the center's founder. Instituted in 1963 as Special Collections and renamed in 2003 to honor its founder, the Howard Gotlieb Archival Research Center at Boston

University collects in the fields of literature, criticism, journalism, drama, music, film, civil rights, diplomacy, and national affairs. Prior to being named managing director, Paladino was associate director and served in various capacities at the center over the past twenty-nine years. A New York City native, Paladino earned a bachelor's degree in Sociology and a master's degree in Social Work from Boston University. In the past two years, the center has acquired the collections of such noteworthy figures as Emmy and Tony Award-winning actress Tyne Daly; two-time Pulitzer Prize winner Russell Baker; author and Vanity Fair writer-at-large Marie Brenner; investigative journalist and author Gerald Posner; Village Voice theater critic Gordon Rogoff; Senator Edward W. Brooke, III; opera stars Deborah Voigt and Denyce Graves; best-selling mystery and crime fiction writer Robert B. Parker; and Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Franz Wright. A sample of the recent events hosted by the HGARC include a presentation by Newsweek Senior Editor, columnist and author Jonathan Alter; an evening with renowned choreographer Mark Morris and the Boston Ballet's Artistic Director Mikko Nissinen; and an on-stage interview with Golden Globe-winning actress Mary-Louise Parker. The center's collections vary in size and content and contain a variety of manuscripts, drafts, galley notes, notebooks, journals, diaries, scrapbooks, reviews, photographs, memorabilia, and personal and professional correspondence. Although the twentieth century is the specialty of the center, there are substantial holdings of earlier historical documents and over 140,000 rare books. Under Gotlieb, who died in December 2005 at age seventy-nine, Boston University was one of the first to specialize in contemporary archiving, and it now contains private papers and artifacts of more than 2,000 notable figures.

Sheila R. Spalding Named Hospital Archivist at Children's Hospital Boston

Sheila R. Spalding has joined Children's Hospital Boston as the Hospital Archivist. The Children's Hospital Boston Archives was established in 1993 to acquire, preserve, and make available the historical records that document the ongoing history of the Children's Hospital community. The archives maintains a wide variety of collections comprised of letters, publications, photographs, artifacts, oral histories, and other records, which document the evolution of the institution as well as the guiding principals that have inspired generations of physicians, nurses, and

other professionals to provide the best care for sick and injured children. Serving as the hospital's memory, the Children's Hospital Boston Archives is fertile ground from which scholars can study the institution, the field of pediatrics, and the role of health care workers. In addition, it provides resources, such as data and imagery that support fund-raising, advertising, and public relations ventures.

Spalding's professional accomplishments include writing metadata for the digital collections at the Mary Baker Eddy Library in Boston and assisting in the grand opening of the library; processing and creating finding aids for over 350 cubic feet of the Desegregation-era Records Collection at the City of Boston Archives, under an NHPRC funded project; and assisting the Boston Public Schools with establishing a records management program under another NHPRC funded project. Spalding is currently the senior editor of the NEA Newsletter and the secretary for Friends of Boston City Archives.

Gregor Trinkaus-Randall Honored at SAA Annual Meeting

Gregor Trinkaus-Randall was honored at the Society of American Archivists DC 2006 Meeting as a member

of the most recent class of SAA Fellows. Gregor, currently a preservation specialist for the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, holds a bachelor's and double master's degrees from the University of Wisconsin. He has been extraordinarily successful in assisting institutions in preservation planning and implementation projects including disaster planning and recovery. The statewide preservation program he developed is, as one supporter noted, "worthy to be a model for other state libraries and archives."

His most notable contribution has been coordinating SAA's response to hurricanes Katrina, Wilma, and Rita in 2005. Following the destruction caused by these hurricanes, he generously gave his time to represent SAA on the Heritage Emergency National Task Force and helped SAA and its members understand how best to respond to colleagues who needed assistance. His outstanding service was recognized by SAA's governing council this year.

His professional involvement is indeed impressive. In addition to SAA, he participates actively in the Academy of Certified Archivists, New England Archivists, Midwest Archives Conference, Boston Archivists Group, and Association of College and Research Libraries. As his nominators summed up: Trinkaus-Randall "is a prototype for the dedicated archival professional." ☺

New Member/Change of Address/Directory Information

Name _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Home Business

Fax number: _____ E-mail: _____

Please mail to New England Archivists: **Rodney Obien**
WPI Archives & Special Collections
Gordon Library
100 Institute Road, Worcester, MA 01609
<robien@WPI.EDU>

Open Forum

Community and Communication—The Story of the Archives for Women in Medicine

Giordana Mecagni, Project Archivist, The Archives for Women in Medicine

The Center for the History of Medicine, The Countway Library, Harvard University

Contemporary historian Jill Lepore observed that “those who hold the evidence make the history.” But where is the evidence of women’s contributions to Harvard medicine?

Since the admission of the first female students in 1948, women have played an increasingly important role in the Harvard Medical School’s history. Despite this remarkable shift, women are woefully underrepresented in the manuscript holdings of the Countway Library’s Center for the History of Medicine.

HISTORY OF THE PROJECT

In 2000, Harvard Medical School and Harvard School of Dental Medicine’s Joint Committee on the Status of Women (JCSW) recognized and acted upon the need to represent and document the special role that women have played in mid- and late-twentieth century medicine through their own records.

In response to a call by Harvard Medical School’s dean Dr. Joseph Martin for projects and events to commemorate the new millennium, the Joint Committee on the Status of Women initiated a partnership with the Countway Library to create an Archives for Women in Medicine (AWM).

The JCSW undertook a vigorous fundraising effort that obtained gifts from 120 faculty and community members; these donations were

matched by Dr. Martin on behalf of the Medical School. Funding was sufficient to hire a project archivist for three years.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

In 2005, I was hired to be the Archives for Women in Medicine’s first project archivist. Our first project was to define our mission and charge:

The Archives for Women in Medicine is an initiative to capture the history of women in medicine, starting with HMS and the affiliates. In particular, we are interested in documenting the social phenomenon that brought women to the forefront of the profession of medicine, and in honoring the lives and achievements of women in medicine. Working from our solid base of early pioneers, we will continue to acquire collections of other noteworthy women professionals. Our goals are to:

- *Provide better access to collections;*
- *Acquire collections of personal and professional papers of outstanding medical leaders;*
- *Celebrate women in medicine, publicize our collections, and reach out to our communities.*

For the initial three years, we decided to work on all three of these objectives simultaneously: access, acquisitions, and outreach. Our goal is to push the project’s agenda forward, while remaining nimble enough to seize any unexpected opportunity to advance or promote women in medicine.

ACCESS—Bibliographic records

We had an agenda, a mission, a plan, but what kind of collections did AWM already have? A thorough search of the holdings of the Countway’s Center for the History of Medicine revealed a few collections that had been lost or were difficult to find. At the beginning of the project, we determined that:

- Sixty collections fall under the AWM umbrella
- Eight were not in Harvard’s online catalog at all
- Seventeen were not described in RLIN
- Fifteen had incorrect creator names—either spelled incorrectly, or recorded with an incorrect name authority

Of the sixty collections, only fifteen were open to research, and of those, only six had any kind of finding aid.

ACCESS—Processing

Once I cleaned up the bibliographic records, I moved on to processing. The first two collections I processed were the Lydia Dawes and the Ethel Collins Dunham papers. Dawes was a pioneer in child psychiatry and the first child analyst and child psychiatrist at Children’s Hospital. Dunham was a forerunner in care for newborns and premature babies. Perhaps most importantly, she established national standards for the care of newborns. Both

women now have an EAD finding aid in OASIS, Harvard's finding aid database.

I am currently working on the Grete L. (Grete Lehner) Bibring, M.D., papers. A student of Freud's and a member of the Vienna Psychoanalytic Society, Bibring fled Vienna with the Freuds after the Nazi annexation of Austria in 1938. She soon settled in Boston and worked at the Simmons School of Social Work and at Harvard Medical School. In 1946, she was appointed chief of psychiatry at Boston's Beth Israel Hospital, and in 1961 she became one of the first women physicians appointed to a full professorship at Harvard Medical School. Called the "doyenne of the Boston psychiatric community," Bibring was president of the Boston Psychoanalytic Society and Institute, president of the American Psychoanalytic Association, and vice president of the International Psycho-Analytical Association. Her papers are rich, highly detailed, and extensive.

AQUISITIONS

Many first-generation women leaders in Harvard medicine are nearing retirement. This gives us a unique opportunity to proactively capture the records of many pioneers. The project that began as a grass-roots effort, supported by a few key, influential women and men at Harvard Medical School, has become wildly successful—particularly on the acquisitions front. We acquired the papers of HMS superstars Mary Ellen Wohl, Patricia Donahoe, and Lynne Reid. We also conducted three Oral History interviews—two with HMS faculty, and one with Racquel Cohen, one of the students in the first class of women at Harvard.

OUTREACH—Direct

We have a mandate to honor the lives and accomplishments of female doctors making a difference, in the hope of inspiring a new generation of medical leaders.

In the spring of 2006, AWM hosted an exhibition created by the National Library of Medicine and the American Library Association. "Changing the Face of Medicine:



Curator of the "Stethoscope Sorority: Stories from the Archives for Women in Medicine" Lesley Schoenfeld shows guests items from the exhibit. *Courtesy of the Harvard Medical Library in the Francis A. Countway Library of Medicine.*

Celebrating America's Women Physicians" used interactive multimedia exhibits to tell the extraordinary story of how American women struggled to gain access to medical education and ultimately to pioneer in their chosen medical specialties. On a national tour, the exhibition stopped at the Countway Library from March 13 through April 20, 2006.

The traveling exhibition pays tribute to the lives and achievements of American women in medicine—past and present. We created a local list, online and paper, in order to emphasize the strong local representation in this national exhibit.

In addition to "Changing the Face," we created two corollary exhibits using Center for the History of Medicine material. "The Stetho-scope Sorority," curated by Master of Liberal Arts in Museum Studies candidate Lesley Schoenfeld, presents stories from some of the women in the Archives for Women in Medicine through their original documents and photographs. The materials selected illustrate these women's experiences as mentors, pioneering researchers, and strong voices.

"Refocusing Family Planning," curated by Center for the History of Medicine staff member Jennifer Pelose, chronicles the work of Abraham Stone and Alan Guttmacher in their roles as Director of the Margaret Sanger Research Bureau and as the President of Planned Parenthood-World Population, the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, respectively. Both men were responsible for shifting the focus of the organization to include fertility services, marriage counseling, and the prevention of global overpopulation by collaborating with international colleagues while continuing to provide birth control and family planning education in the United States.

We also reached out to dozens of media outlets and gained a wide range of coverage. More than forty publications included articles about the exhibits or mentioned the events that we co-hosted.

We co-hosted five programs during the time that the exhibit was at HMS. Perhaps the most exciting was our opening celebration event with speakers Tenley Albright, M.D. and Anne Klibanski, M.D., together with a panel of female HMS doctors at varying stages of their careers. This panel brought the “Changing the Face” exhibit to life as each panel member candidly described her own experiences as a woman in medicine. They explored the experiences, leadership, and accomplishments of women in medicine by discussing the critical decisions they made, the challenges they faced, and their proudest accomplishments. More than 200 attendees packed into our opening event, responded well to the panel, and participated in a lively question and answer session. We were delighted to see a mix of undergraduate and graduate students, medical practitioners, social science scholars, and library/archives/museum professionals.

Through registrations and strategically placed guest books, we capture and retain an email list of constituents and contacts for future mailings, invitations to events, and fundraising campaigns. We intend to foster a community of people interested in coming together to preserve the ‘stuff’ of women in medicine.

We take very seriously the statement that “those that hold the evidence make the history.” We want to ensure that the evidence is available, accessible, and easily found by practitioners, medical students, and history of science and gender studies researchers. We would like to foster the telling of the extraordinary stories of these women’s lives.

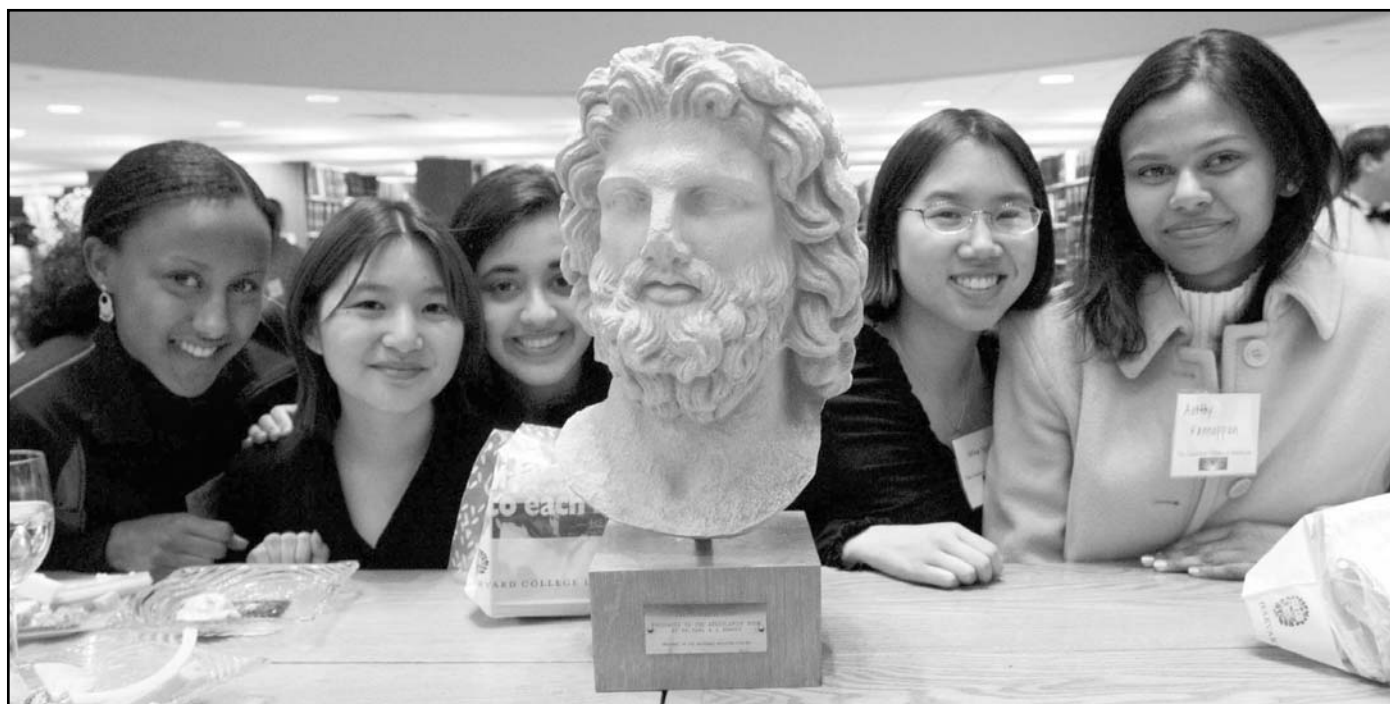
THE FUTURE

As I approach the second half of my term, I understand that there is still a tremendous amount of important

work to do. We are discussing the future and formulating a plan to continue the project; including how to fund it, how to continue to prioritize the collections we collect, and how to care for future acquisitions. We will continue to work on all three strands of the project— access, acquisitions, and outreach, and will add a fourth: strategic planning and fundraising for the future of the Archives for Women in Medicine.

The Archives for Women in Medicine
The Center for the History of
Medicine
The Countway Library
Monday-Friday, 9AM-5PM
Phone: 617.432.2170
Fax: 617.432.4737

<www.countway.med.harvard.edu/rarebooks/AWM.shtm> ©



Harvard Medical Students at the Opening of Changing the Face of Medicine. *Courtesy of the Harvard Medical Library in the Francis A. Countway Library of Medicine.*

News and Notes

CONNECTICUT

Chinese Archivists Visit Yale

Thirty Chinese archivists visited Yale from August 7-10 as guests of the Manuscripts and Archives department at the Yale University Library. The Chinese archivists came to the United States to participate in the Joint Seminar on Archival Methods, a program established in 1999 between the University of Michigan's Bentley Historical Library and the State Archives Administration of China (SAAC). The seminar and visit to Yale were intended to introduce young Chinese professionals to the current theory and practice of archival administration in the U.S. The delegates were selected by the SAAC based on their knowledge of archival administration in China and their ability to understand and speak English.

This year the seminar took place from July 23 - August 15. The first portion of the program was held at the Bentley Historical Library. The second portion of the program consisted of participation in the annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists in Washington, D.C. The program then continued at Yale, where the theme was "Yale and China." Sessions explored American archival practices by focusing on the preservation and documentation of American-Chinese interaction and history, primarily in Manuscripts and Archives, but also in the Divinity Library and the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library. In addition, scholars Beatrice Bartlett, Janet Chen, and Pierre F. Landry presented research on Chinese history and culture.

The seminar concluded with a visit to New York City.

Thomas J. Dodd Research Center, University of Connecticut Libraries, Announces Recent Acquisitions

Francis D. Donovan of Medway, Massachusetts spent his lifetime collecting and writing about the railroads of New England, particularly the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad and one of its better-known predecessor lines, the New York & New England Railroad. Following

Mr. Donovan's death in December 2005, Mrs. Mary Donovan donated her husband's extensive collection of photographs, timetables, publications, and research files to the Railroad History Archive.

The Connecticut Yankee Atomic Power Company opened for service in Haddam Neck, Connecticut in 1968 as the first commercial nuclear power plant in the state. In its twenty-nine years of operation, the plant produced over 110 billion kilowatt hours of electricity. Decommissioning of the plant, known as a "construction in reverse" process, has been underway since 1998. In March 2006, the company donated its historical records to the Connecticut Business History Archive. The records, which consist of design drawings, technical reports and manuals, employee newsletters, scrapbooks, photographs, and audiovisual material, document the impact of this important utility to the state.

MAINE

Maine Memory Network Exhibits

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, a native of Portland, helped define America by creating stories that continue to live in the American imagination: Paul Revere's ride, Hiawatha, and Evangeline. The Maine Memory Network, a statewide digital museum of over 10,000 historical items from over 160 museums, historical societies, libraries, and other organizations from every corner of Maine, is now featuring online exhibits based on a 2002 gallery exhibit at the Maine Historical Society: *Henry Wadsworth Longfellow: The Man Who Invented America*. To learn more about Longfellow, visit the Network's Web site: <www.mainememory.net/exhibits_front.shtml>.

MASSACHUSETTS

Lawrence Public Library Special Collections Announces Opening

The Lawrence Public Library Special Collections department announces the opening of a new Local History Reading Room on the third floor of the main building at 51 Lawrence Street, Lawrence. The room has been open to

the public since April of this year. The Special Collections department collects material on Lawrence and Merrimack Valley history, the textile industry, labor, immigration, ethnic groups in the Merrimack Valley, and local genealogy. At present the collections include city records and documents, printed material concentrated on labor and the textile industry, the 1912 textile strike, family histories, and other genealogical resources. There is also a collection of Robert Frost monographs and the Ancient Order of Hibernians library.

Stephen Phillips House Receives ENHC Grant

The Stephen Phillips House, the newest property of Historic New England, has recently received grant funding from the Essex National Heritage Commission (ENHC) to process the papers of Stephen Willard Phillips (1873–1955). The grant funding will provide for an archivist to process approximately seventy-five linear feet of archival material belonging to Stephen Willard Phillips, lawyer, philanthropist, and Hawaiian scholar. The project will culminate with a finding aid accessible via the Phillips House Web site and associated collections at the Peabody Essex Museum and the Phillips Library.

The Essex National Heritage Commission (ENHC) is the non-profit management entity for Essex National Heritage Area, one of twenty-three heritage partnership parks of the National Park Service. Working in collaboration with the National Park Service, ENHC promotes pub-

lic/private partnerships and develops and implements programs that enhance, preserve, and encourage regional awareness of the unique historic, cultural, and natural resources found within the area.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

“Mystery Stone” On Display



One of the New Hampshire Historical Society's most mysterious and requested artifacts, the “Mystery Stone,” is now on display at the Society's museum in the exhibition *New Hampshire Through Many Eyes*.

In 1872, construction workers dug up a suspicious lump of clay near the shore of Lake Winnepesaukee, and Seneca A. Ladd of Meredith discovered the carved stone within the clay casing. Amateur and professional archaeologists have speculated about the stone's origin for over a hundred years. At the time of discovery, the *American Naturalist* described it as “a remarkable Indian relic.”

Frances Ladd Coe of Center Harbor, the daughter of Seneca A. Ladd, donated the “Mystery Stone” to the New Hampshire Historical Society in 1927. Society staff know of no other reported findings of a stone like this in the United States. ©

Three E-Mail Lists at a Glance

NEAboard: Established in February 2001, this is an unmoderated list that facilitates communication of the NEA Executive Board. However, it is also open to all current NEA members. Scope of messages is limited to discussion of issues that come before the NEA Board; electronic votes may also be taken via the list at the discretion of the President.

NEAannounce: Intended to facilitate communication about NEA-sponsored events, programs, and elections. It is open to all current NEA members, who will automatically be subscribed. However, messages may be posted by members of the NEA Board and committees only.

NEAdiscuss: An open forum for NEA members to communicate about items of common professional interest. Open to all members, and moderated by the E-mail Coordinator for content.

For more information, go to <<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/neaboard/>>.

Reviews

Boles, Frank, *Selecting & Appraising Archives & Manuscripts*. Chicago: American Library Association, 2005. 192 pp. \$49. ISBN: 1-931666-11-3.

Anastasia S. Weigle, Adjunct Faculty, Information and Library Services, University of Maine, Augusta.

Dr. Frank Boles, author of *Selecting & Appraising Archives & Manuscripts*, explains the theory and practice of archival appraisal without putting you to sleep! I have used F. Gerald Ham's book, *Selecting and Appraising Archives and Manuscripts* (1993), in my class, "Preservation and Archiving of Library Materials," and found his book easy to incorporate into my lectures on appraisal. However, Dr. Boles's book takes the archivist and/or student to a deeper level of appraisal theory. With his extensive knowledge and background in appraisal methodology, Dr. Boles has put together an authoritative book that gives us a clear and thorough history of appraisal practices in our profession today.

The book is broken down into six chapters starting with an introduction to why we, the Archivist, select—laying out our history on appraisal. We find chapters 2, 3, and 4 the most enlightening with chapter 2, "Muddied Waters and Conflicting Currents," and Chapter 3, "The Big Picture," the most educational. Dr. Boles reviews the various appraisal theories developed by the early fathers of archival practice—Jenkenson and Schellenberg—as well as modern archival theorists such as F. Gerald Ham, Margaret Cross Norton, James O'Toole, and Dr. Boles himself. He also discusses the importance of mission statements and collecting policies as these two go hand in hand in establishing appraisal policies. Chapter 4, "Mucking About in the Records: Making Selection Decisions on the Ground," and Chapter 5, "Putting the Pieces Together," take those policies and practices and put them "to the test," so to speak. These two chapters help us understand how archivists begin to determine what practices work and what practices do not within our own unique institution.

The last chapter is a real treat: "All Media are Created Equal and with the Right to be Archived." You cannot ignore the serious challenge in archiving electronic records. Dr. Boles discusses why we must actively address the need to treat "born" digital records as equally as their paper counterparts. Electronic records are important and information

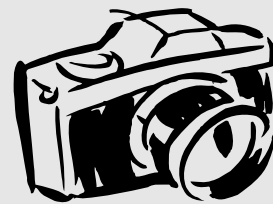
contained in this format can be manipulated advantageously. Paper, although more stable than electronic data, cannot be manipulated in this fashion—it is static. If we do not attempt to migrate and preserve electronic data, we are contributing to the loss of information.

For me, the true test of this book was using it on my third year undergraduate students. The theoretical examples were a real revelation to many of my students who clearly were unaware of the various methods and challenges involved in appraising collections. It hit home on a number of areas, including the differences between archivists and record managers.

Dr. Boles' book ends with three appendices: 1) dealing with transferring records to the custody of the archival repository; 2) mathematical sampling in selection; and 3) an extensive bibliography in the theory of appraisal.

I strongly recommend Dr. Frank Boles' *Selecting & Appraising Archives & Manuscripts* to all archivists and students interested in this field. Dr. Boles has written a "primer" for selection and appraisal of archives and manuscripts. ☺

Attention Amateur Photographers!



The Public Relations Committee seeks to compile a list of photographers to be made available to all NEA committees. Individuals with high quality digital cameras can help document the NEA organization by taking photographs of members, keynote speakers, leadership and committees at bi-annual meetings, special events, etc. To join the list of photographers, contact Tracy Messer at: <tracy.messer@crotchedmountain.org>. ☺

NEA Annual Business Meeting

NEA Annual Business Meeting
Saturday, March 11, 2006
Yawkey Center, Boston College
1:30 – 2:15 PM

Call to Order and Welcome

Paul Carnahan called the meeting to order and thanked Laura Katz Smith of the Program Committee and David Burns of the Local Arrangements Committee and their committees for their work on the conference.

Approval of Minutes

The Annual Business Meeting Minutes of April 30, 2005 were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Lois Hamill reported that NEA's total assets as of February 28, 2006 were \$76,325.78. She explained the unearned dues line and discussed the adjustments to liabilities and income lines in the financial report. She answered a question about the amounts of money in the NEA checking account by saying that NEA collects most of its income at the beginning of the calendar year due to membership renewal and then spends down the income for expenses throughout the rest of the year. There was a discussion of possibly investing money to earn interest.

All members voted to approve the Treasurer's report.

Distinguished Service Award

Mary Ide presented the Distinguished Service Award to Megan Sniffin-Marinoff. Ms. Ide introduced the winner and described her impact on the profession and her service to NEA.

Join NEAdiscuss: An open forum for NEA Members to communicate about items of common professional interest. Open to all NEA members and moderated by the email coordinator. Send subscription requests to: <proberts@SPFLDCOL.EDU>.

Hale Award

Anne Sauer announced the winner of the Hale Award. Nancy Noble will use the award to attend the Association of Canadian Archivists Annual Meeting. Ms. Noble will write an article for the *NEA Newsletter* on her experience.

Nominating Committee Report

Dan McCormick of the Nominating Committee announced the results of the election:
Chris Burns – Vice-President/President-elect
Elizabeth Slomba – Secretary
Karen Adler Abramson – Representative-At-Large

Paul Carnahan thanked the committee for their work.

President's Report

Paul Carnahan announced the NEA Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund Challenge. If the NEA membership donates up to \$500 to the SSA-SAA Emergency Disaster Assistance Grant Fund, NEA will give a matching donation of up to \$500. He said that the matching donation would apply to donations made between January 1, 2006 and June 30, 2006.

Paul Carnahan and Mary Ide unveiled the new NEA logo, which is part of the new NEA graphic identity. Ms. Ide described what a graphic identity is and how the Branding Committee and the graphic designers developed the identity. The graphic designers reviewed current and past NEA graphic identities to develop a consistent graphic and compelling look for electronic and print publications. She discussed past NEA logos and how the graphic designers wanted to develop a look that would be related to the NEA mission and would distinguish NEA from other organizations. In choosing the logo, the Branding Committee discussed online surveys and development of graphic identity style sheets and taglines. She mentioned that taglines complement the mission statement and should be active not passive. Ms. Ide then described the new logo and how the red color in the logo is reflective of New England red brick buildings and cranberries while the file tabs in the logo refer to paper and digital files.

Mary Ide recognized members of the Branding Committee. Paul Carnahan thanked Mary Ide for her leadership on this issue.

Remarks from the Incoming President

Paul Carnahan introduced Nora Murphy as the incoming president.

Nora Murphy expressed gratitude to previous presidents for their work. She mentioned the work done on the membership directory and the Branding Committee survey.

Ms. Murphy thanked Mary Ide for her work as President and Immediate Past President and Anne Sauer as Representative-At-Large.

Then Ms. Murphy urged the membership to become more involved in NEA as NEA exists for the benefit of the membership. She urged members to contact the board with their ideas and concerns. She mentioned that the NEA listservs are wonderful ways to communicate with members. And she suggested that members can volunteer in many ways, such as submitting articles to the *NEA Newsletter* and serving on committees. She encouraged NEA members to become involved, because the more participants NEA has, the better NEA is.

She announced that the Fall 2006 Meeting would be at the University of New Hampshire in Durham, New Hampshire. The topic is Archival Advocacy and the featured speakers will be Kathleen Roe and Kathleen Williams. Ms. Murphy announced the names of those serving on the program and local arrangements committees.

Ms. Murphy also urged the membership to think of ways to publicize and celebrate Archives Week and their archives and to work on ways to share our passion for archives with others.


New Business

Gregor Trinkaus-Randall announced the May Day initiative and urged attendees to sponsor activities to raise awareness of disaster preparedness.

NHPRC had been zero-funded again and attendees were urged to continue to advocate for support for NHPRC.

The Annual Business Meeting adjourned at 2:20. ☺

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NEA Matches Member Donations for Hurricane Katrina Recovery Efforts

NEA members individually donated over \$1,500 to the Society of Southwest Archivists-Society of American Archivists Emergency Disaster Assistance Grant Fund for archival repositories directly affected by Hurricane Katrina <<https://www.archivists.org/katrina/contribute.asp>>.

Because of your generosity, NEA has sent a matching \$500 in addition to a \$500 donation voted on by the Executive Board last fall.

Around and About

The Stephen Lee Taller Ben Shahn Archive at Harvard University

Susan Milstein and Robert Sennett

Tucked away in a corner of the Fine Arts Library at Harvard University is the “headquarters” of the Stephen Lee Taller Ben Shahn Archive. When Dr. Taller (1933-1997) began collecting in the mid-1980s, his goal was to document every printed image by the artist Ben Shahn (1898-1969). While it is not entirely clear why he chose to focus his collecting efforts on Shahn, Taller had known Shahn’s eldest son, Ezra, when they were both students in New York City. To achieve his stated goal, Taller corresponded with Shahn scholars, museum curators, art gallery staff, and book and antique dealers from around the world. In return, many scholars use his repository as a resource for their own research. Today, Taller’s “Work Files” contain the records of his voluminous correspondence with his network of contacts.

Ben Shahn was born in Kovno, Lithuania in 1898 and immigrated to Brooklyn, New York with his family in 1906. As a young man he became interested in the social and political issues which became his life-long preoccupation. For example, an early series of work focused on the Sacco and Vanzetti trials and convictions in Boston in the 1920s. Shahn’s style is a unique blend of social realism and expressionism which never loses the minimalist

qualities of a master printmaker and graphic artist. While Shahn worked in many media, including photography and painting, it is his graphic work which has best endured over time and become his signature style.

The Taller Archive was given to Harvard University as a joint gift to the Fine Arts Library and the Fogg Art Museum in 1999, following the untimely death of Dr. Taller in 1997 and based upon his expressed wishes. While original works of art and impor-

tant graphic works became part of the permanent collection of the Fogg, the bulk of the research material, over 9,000 items, is now part of the Special Collections of the Fine Arts Library.

The Archive is unusual in that it is primarily a repository of printed resources. There are thousands of magazines and newspaper clippings dating from the 1920s-1990s. This includes such rare material as the arts journal *Art Front* published from November, 1934 through December, 1937; Shahn

was a frequent contributor to this political magazine. There are also hundreds of reference books about Shahn and his circle, as well as exhibition catalogs, textbooks, and popular literature. Each item was collected by Taller because it contains one or more images created by Shahn. The image can be as small as a framed print by Shahn hung in a room in a *House Beautiful* magazine, or an entire book designed and illustrated by Shahn himself, such as *November Twenty-six, Nineteen Hundred and Sixty-three* (1964). Here, Wendell Berry’s emotional poem about the assassination of President John F. Kennedy (which originally appeared in *The Nation*, December, 1963) is poignantly illustrated with drawings by Shahn.



Menorah, 1965, illustration from *The Haggadah for Passover* (Boston: Little Brown & Company, 1965).

The collection also contains hundreds of examples of Shahn’s graphic art, from prints, posters, postcards, greeting cards, advertisements, and artists’ proofs to more ephemeral examples such as calendars, brochures, and even a plastic shopping bag (*E & B Markets*). Shahn himself was not averse to working on commercial illustrations or political advertisements as a way to supplement his often modest income. He also held strong political views supporting social justice and equality. Some of his images are so popular that they appear in many formats. For example, the candelabra which first appears in *The Haggadah for Passover* (1965) has been used for everything from holiday cards to a refrigerator magnet.

Another unusual feature of the Archive is that it was organized into

sixteen categories or series in Taller’s home, so it was easy to retain his organization at Harvard. When Taller became ill, he hired a curator who helped him organize the material and create records for each item in a FileMaker Pro database. This database is continually updated and new records are created for recent acquisitions. At the time of his death, Dr. Taller was working on an inventory, or catalogue raisonné, of original works of art by Shahn. Dr. Taller also maintained an extensive “image file” or picture archive of Shahn’s work arranged alphabetically by title of work.

These organizational tools make it easy for researchers to find material in the Archive. Queries mostly come via email or telephone, but each year a number of researchers use material from the Archive at the Fine Arts

Library. Scholars from as far away as Japan, Europe, and California spend anywhere from one day to two months doing research. In recent years there has been an increase in requests for images in digital formats. The Archive staff use the services of the Library’s Scanning Lab to provide this service.

The Archive is open to the public from Monday-Friday, 9 AM-5 PM by appointment. A newsletter highlighting the Archive’s activities appears annually.

For more information about the Stephen Lee Taller Ben Shahn Archive, contact Susan Milstein <smilst@fas.harvard.edu>, 617-384-7437 or Robert Sennet <rsennett@fas.harvard.edu>, 617-496-1502. ☺

NEA is always looking for ideas for sessions at the fall and spring meetings. Your suggestions are invited!

Please complete and send this form to:

Nora Murphy
Reference Archivist, Institute Archives
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
77 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02139-4307

Proposed by: _____

Institution: _____


Mailing address _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Please provide a brief description of the session you’d like to see offered at an NEA meeting. If possible, include the overall purpose and a general description of the session, and its intended audience (including skill level and topic category). If you have ideas for potential speakers for this session, please include their names and institutional affiliations.

Calendar



Press releases and other announcements of upcoming activities to be published in the *Newsletter* should be sent to NEA, c/o WPI Archives and Special Collections, Gordon Library, 100 Institute Road, Worcester, MA 01609, or sent via e-mail to <Michael.forstrom@yale.edu>. Please provide the date, time, place and a brief description of the event and the name, address and telephone number of the person to be contacted for information.

Oct 5 - 6, 2006. SAA Workshop, "Understanding Photographs: Introduction to Archival Principles and Practices." Chicago, IL. Co-sponsored by the Chicago History Museum. For details and registration information see <www.archivists.org/prof-education/workshop-detail.asp?id=1908>.

Oct. 6 - 7, 2006. Midwest Archives Conference (MAC) symposium on Meissner and Greene's "More Product, Less Process," proposals for rethinking the tradition of detailed collection processing and reducing archival backlogs. Omaha, NE. See <www.midwestarchives.org/>.

Oct 11 - 14, 2006. Association of Moving Image Archivists (AMIA) Annual Conference. Anchorage, AK. See <www.amianet.org>.

Oct 16, 2006. SAA Workshop, "Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACs)." Haverford, PA. Co-sponsored by the Haverford College Magill Library. For details and registration information see <www.archivists.org/prof-education/workshop-detail.asp?id=1808>.

Oct 20, 2006. NEA Workshop, "Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACs)." Durham, NH. Co-sponsored by SAA. For details and registration information see <www.archivists.org/prof-education/workshop-detail.asp?id=1809>.

Oct 20 - 21, 2006. NEA Fall Meeting, "Passionate About Archives." University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH. See <www.newenglandarchivists.org/activities/meetings/index.html>.

Oct 22 - 25, 2006. Association of Records Managers and Administrators (ARMA) International Annual Conference.

San Antonio, Texas. See <www.arma.org>.

Oct 25, 2006. SAA Workshop, "Digital Libraries and Digital Archives." Knoxville, TN. Co-sponsored by the Society of Tennessee Archivists. For details and registration information see <www.archivists.org/prof-education/workshop-detail.asp?id=1953>.

Oct 26, 2006. SAA Workshop, "Building Digital Collections." Morristown, NJ. Co-sponsored by the Mid Atlantic Regional Archives Conference (MARAC). For details and registration information see <www.archivists.org/prof-education/workshop-detail.asp?id=1921>.

Oct 27, 2006. SAA Workshop, "Legal Aspects of Photography Rights, Archives Management, and Permissions." Bismark, ND. Co-sponsored by the North Dakota State Historical Records Advisory Board. For details and registration information see <www.archivists.org/prof-education/workshop-detail.asp?id=1960>.

Nov 1, 2006. Deadline to register for the Modern Archives Institute, NARA. Washington, D.C. Contact: Modern Archives Institute, Professional Development and Training (PDT), National Archives and Records Administration, Room 3110, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001.

Nov 1 - 3, 2006. SAA Workshop, "Business Archives... Establishing and Managing an Archives." Chicago, IL. Co-sponsored by the Archdiocese of Chicago. For details and registration information see <www.archivists.org/prof-education/workshop-detail.asp?id=1671>.

Nov 6 - 7, 2006. SAA Workshop, "Understanding Archives: An Introduction to Principles and Practices." St. Meinrad, IN. Co-sponsored by St. Meinrad Archabbey. For details and registration information see <www.archivists.org/prof-education/workshop-detail.asp?id=1907>.

Nov 8, 2006. SAA Workshop, "Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACs)." Salt Lake City, UT. Co-sponsored by Salt Lake County Records Management and Archives. For details and registration information see <www.archivists.org/prof-education/workshop-detail.asp?id=1691>.

Nov 9 – 10, 2006. SAA Workshop, “Copyright: The Archivist and the Law.” Lexington, KY. Co-sponsored by Kentucky State Historical Records Advisory Board. For details and registration information see <www.archivists.org/prof-education/workshop-detail.asp?id=1683>.

Nov 9 – 10, 2006. SAA Workshop, “MARC According to DACS: Archival Cataloging to the New Descriptive Standard.” Salt Lake City, UT. Co-sponsored by the Salt Lake County Records Management and Archives. For details and registration information see <www.archivists.org/prof-education/workshop-detail.asp?id=1692>.

Nov 17, 2006. SAA Workshop, “Managing Literary Manuscripts: Identification, Arrangement and Description.” New York, NY. Co-sponsored by The New York Public Library. For details and registration information see <www.archivists.org/prof-education/workshop-detail.asp?id=1948>.

Dec 12, 2006. SAA Workshop, “Advanced Appraisal for Archivists.” New York, NY. Co-sponsored by the Metropolitan Library Council. For details and registration information see <www.archivists.org/prof-education/workshop-detail.asp?id=1989>.

April 12 - 13, 2007. SAA Workshop, “Understanding Photographs: Introduction to Archival Principles and Practices.” St. Meinrad, IN. Co-sponsored by St. Meinrad Archabbey. For details and registration information see <www.archivists.org/prof-education/workshop-detail.asp?id=1906>.

Aug 27 – Sep 2, 2007. SAA Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL. For details and registration information see <www.archivists.org/conference/index.asp>. ©

NEA Archival Advocacy & Distinguished Service Awards

Invitation for Nominations

NEA grants the Archival Advocacy Award (AAA) to an individual or institution demonstrating extraordinary support of New England archival programs and records; either politically, financially or through public advocacy. For more information on this award, visit: <www.newenglandarchivists.org/services/awards/aa_award/index.html>

The New England Archivists Distinguished Service Award (DSA) is granted to individuals or institutions who are dedicated to the promotion of NEA objectives and who have made significant contributions to the profession, their institution, NEA and/or the archival community in New England. The award shall reflect the total experience of the awardee(s) and is based upon knowledge, leadership, participation and achievements in the profession. For more information on this award, visit: <www.newenglandarchivists.org/services/awards/distinguished_award/index.html>

Please submit nominations one month prior to the summer or winter Board meetings to: Paul Carnahan, Immediate Past President, Vermont Historical Society, 60 Washington Street, Barre, Vermont 05641-4209; (802) 479-8508 or <pcarnahan@vhs.state.vt.us>.

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This Season in New England History



Students practicing the Ling System of Gymnastics

The Boston Normal School was established to train teachers in the city of Boston. In 1872, the Normal School separated from Girls High School, which was founded in 1852. The Normal School was renamed the Teachers College of the City of Boston in 1924; in 1952, it became the State Teachers College at Boston. The college was renamed Boston State College in 1960 and merged with UMass/Boston in 1982.

Boston Normal School Photographs, 1891-96. Archives and Special Collections, Healey Library, UMass Boston.