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NEWSLETTER

NEW ENGLAND ARCHIVISTS



C O V E R -- With assistance from a crane, the MITRE sign, designed after the company's original logo, was installed at the Bedford campus main entrance on October 26, 1964. By 1994, the sign needed repair and was not in conformance with the Town of Bedford bylaws that controlled the size of such signs, thus a replacement sign was required. With the installation of a new sign, the "MITRE" lettering was updated to reflect the company's current logo. Pieces of the original letters of the sign were offered to employees as mementos. *Credit: Courtesy of the MITRE Corporation, Bedford, Massachusetts.*

I N S I D E -- Sara Cheeseman chronicles the history of the company archives at MITRE corporation, formed in 1963, and outlines its current strategies for dealing with electronic records and a paper processing backlog (*Archival Insight*, page 4). Darla White interviews Melissa Mannon of ArchivesInfo consulting about mentoring and her career path in archives and libraries for our new column (*The Archivist: Profiles in Archival Careers, Mentoring, and Leadership*, page 16). Adrienne Marie Naylor was awarded the NEA Newsletter's third annual student writing prize, for her article on "Life Spans: Queer Archives" (*Student Writing Prize*, page 20).

TAKING THE PAST INTO THE FUTURE



New England Archivists

TAKING THE PAST INTO THE FUTURE

**Office of Medical History and Archives
The Lamar Soutter Library
University of Massachusetts Medical School
55 Lake Avenue North • Worcester, MA 01655
<www.newenglandarchivists.org>**

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Membership in *New England Archivists, Inc.* is open to all.

Dues of \$30/year (\$40 for institutions) should be sent to: Kristine Reinhard, Office of Medical History and Archives, The Lamar Soutter Library, University of Massachusetts Medical School, 55 Lake Avenue North, Worcester, MA 01655, or join online at <www.newenglandarchivists.org>.

Notices of archival events should be sent to: Michael Dello Iacono at <mdelloiacono@suffolk.edu>.

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: Judith Farrar <jfarrar@umassd.edu>, Sally Barkan <sally.barkan@gmail.com>, or to NEA Newsletter Editors, c/o Office of Medical History and Archives, The Lamar Soutter Library, University of Massachusetts Medical School, 55 Lake Avenue North, Worcester, MA 01655.

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

Deadlines for submitting materials are:

November 15 for January issue	February 10 for April issue
May 15 for July issue	August 15 for October issue

Advertising Policy:

There will be no fee to list position openings. Advertisements for archival products will be accepted as space permits. Advertising should be submitted to Jane Ward, (978) 459-2129 or <jane.ward@comcast.net>.

Rates: Full page: \$125; half page: \$75; quarter page: \$40. Payment is requested at the time the ad is submitted. All checks should be made payable to *New England Archivists*.

Newsletter design by Culp Design <www.culpdesign.com>



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From the Editors

- Judy Farrar

By this time we should be well into our autumn work routines. Many of us are governed by the academic cycle, so fall is a very busy time. First, the editors would like to thank Juliana Kuipers for three years of dedicated service on the Newsletter Committee, for which she most recently fulfilled the role of Senior Editor. Her organizational skills and knowledge of newsletter procedures helped the committee along during a time when not one, but two brand new editors started at the same time. Thanks Juliana! The committee also welcomes a new editor, Kathryn Puerini, Vermont State Archives and Records Administration, who is handling book reviews. Glad to have you join us!


In this issue we introduce a new column for the newsletter, "The Archivist: Profiles in Careers, Mentoring, and Leadership" written by Darla White, Harvard Medical School/Countway Library. It will focus on leadership and career issues in the archival profession and appear in the

April and October newsletters. Darla's intent is to interview one experienced archivist for each column, from a variety of backgrounds.

For *Archival Insight*, we hear from Sara Cheeseman about the MITRE Corporation Archives. She takes us through the history of the archives, its relation to MITRE, and her involvement in efforts to rejuvenate the program while fully integrating electronic records.

We introduce a new colleague with the publication of the "Student Writing Prize." In her paper "Life Spans: Queer Archives," Adrienne Marie Naylor puts historical perspective on early private and public collections documenting gay, lesbian and transgender history.

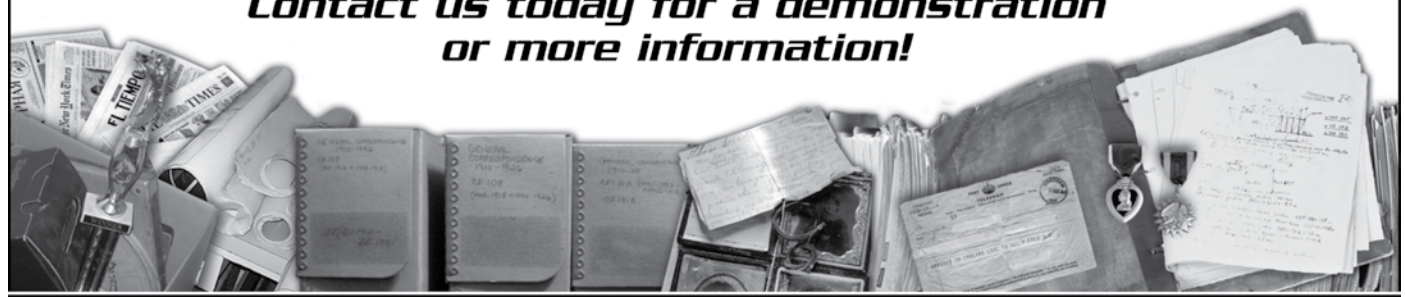
Throughout 2013 the newsletter will help celebrate NEA's 40th anniversary. Beginning with the January issue the newsletter committee would like to feature photographs of past NEA gatherings, meetings, workshops and special events. Please send digital versions of photos you've taken at past NEA events to Senior Editors Sally Barkan or me (Judy Farrar) along with a caption and date. ■



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ARCHIVAL INSIGHT

Reviving an Archives Program: an Overview of MITRE Corporate Archives

By Sara Cheeseman, Archivist, MITRE Corporation

What is MITRE? The MITRE Corporation was founded in 1958 as a private, not-for-profit corporation to provide engineering and technical services to the federal government. MITRE currently manages five federally funded research and development centers (FFRDCs), for the Department of Defense, the Federal Aviation Administration, the Internal Revenue Service, the Department of Homeland Security, and for the U.S. Courts. The company also has its own independent research and development program to explore new technologies and their uses to solve our sponsors' problems in the near-term and future.

MITRE currently employs over 7,000 scientists, engineers, and support specialists. The company has two principal locations in Bedford, Massachusetts and McLean, Virginia, as well as sites across the country and abroad. The archive for the entire company resides in Bedford, MA.

MITRE Corporate Archives contains project and program documentation, records of corporate policy changes and announcements, records of corporate officers and board of trustee members, company publications and news, procedures, manuals, and technical reports authored by MITRE, company memorabilia (awards, commemorative objects), photographs and audiovisual material. Our current staff is comprised of six employees: one manager, two records management staff, two archives staff, and one staff member that splits time between records and archives. Due to the sensitive nature of our work, access to MITRE Corporate Archives is restricted to MITRE employees.

Origins of Corporate Archives

MITRE Corporate Archives was established in 1963 with the mission of ensuring the company's record of origin and preserving organizational and major program documentation. Early collections had finding aids containing item level descriptions. In addition to highly detailed collections, the Corporate Archives had an appraisal policy with the goal of retaining approximately twenty percent of all documentation received.

Between the 1980s to early 2000s, the processing efforts of Corporate Archives became inactive while the company expanded. Additionally there was a large, growing collection of unidentified and unprocessed negatives and photographs. As digital content began replacing paper con-

tent in the mid-1990s, deposits to Corporate Archives diminished. Material once created in paper format, was now only created electronically. If this electronic material was not captured, it was likely lost. Photographs and negatives became replaced by JPEGs and TIFFs, stored on contemporary media.

Corporate Archives Initiative

As MITRE became increasingly concerned with the shift from paper to electronic records, outside consultants were brought in to assess the state of records management and archives within the company. The consultants recommended MITRE increase staffing and resources to address the needs of a records and archives environment as the company's documentation was going digital. In 2004, a manager was hired to begin the revitalization of MITRE Corporate Records and Archives with a new vision, strategy, roadmap, and the addition of new staff. The following year, I joined MITRE to assist with the archives initiative.

Implementing More Product, Less Process (MPLP)

Three decades of processing inactivity resulted in a backlog of approximately 2,200 boxes. A Microsoft Access spreadsheet accompanying these boxes contained the following metadata fields for each box: location, box number, depositor, box title, box description, and date received. A majority of the box descriptions contained vague terms such as "office files," "documentation," and "miscellaneous." Additionally, many of these fields were frequently left blank or incomplete.

Using the MPLP approach, my goal was to improve collection access and retrieval without labor intensive processing. Archives staff would conduct a high level inven-

tory of the backlog, providing brief content descriptions and revise existing metadata for each box. Upon completion of the backlog inventory, the boxes would be shifted to reclaim shelf space. Our initial goal was to reclaim about twenty percent of our current space.

Prior to beginning our survey of the backlog, I created instructions for surveying the contents of each box and adding metadata to the existing spreadsheet. Existing metadata fields would be revised to contain general themes and key topics. For example, staff would change the box description field from terms such as 'miscellaneous' and 'documentation' to main individuals, projects, or subject terms. Additionally, to ensure consistency of metadata entered by multiple staff, we agreed upon a controlled vocabulary based on DACS rules.

We created several new metadata fields to be completed during the collection inventory. A status field was added to ensure that every box could be accounted for at all times. This field became highly important, as we began destroying a large number of boxes. We also added a 'Type of Material' field to record the formats contained in the boxes; this allowed us to determine new formats we had previously been unaware of in our collections, including new photographs and audio recordings. Lastly, an 'Initials' field was added so that we knew which staff member had worked with each box.

During the process, we kept monthly metrics to determine the number of boxes inventoried and the number of boxes destroyed. I conducted over fifty percent of the inventory, and the other half was completed with the assistance of one archives staff and two student interns. Due to other archives initiatives and staff working on multiple projects, the inventory was completed in approximately three and a half years and we reclaimed approximately 910 linear feet of shelf space. Based on our appraisal guidelines, we were able to destroy a large number of boxes containing drafts, duplicate material, and externally authored publications.

Additional Challenges

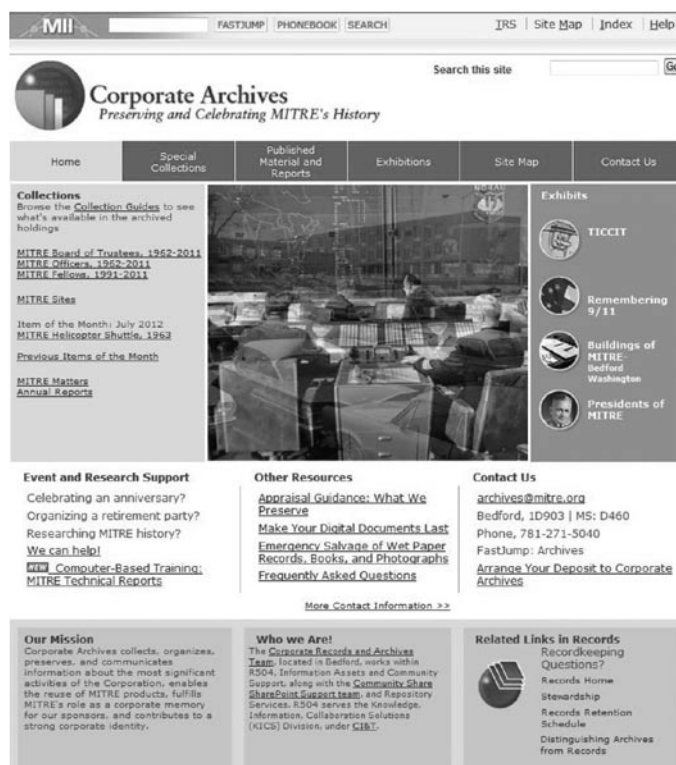
Reducing our backlog was only one task in the challenge of renewing and updating MITRE's Corporate Archives program. We felt that we needed to strengthen employee awareness about our services and promote our value to the company. Additional goals included: improve and increase our presence on the company intranet, provide

access to digitized copies of frequently requested reference material, create physical and virtual exhibitions highlighting MITRE's history and accomplishments, implement the use of EAD and encode finding aids of newly processed collections, and improve collection metadata.

The Archives intranet page that we inherited contained a general overview of Corporate Archives, our mission statement, staff contact information, and a flat title listing of legacy finding aids created in the 1960s and 1970s. The page was rarely updated with new content. In an effort to redesign the page and its content, we decided to significantly increase the amount of readily accessible digital content. Through the use of an in-house vendor, we digitized full runs of company newsletters, publications, and annual reports. The result was over 4,000 full-text searchable PDFs linked through our intranet page. Many of these publications were frequently requested, so this reduced time and level of effort to fulfill reference requests for these items. We also created reference guides for commonly asked questions, such as listings of MITRE's Board of Trustees, Corporate Officers, and locations of past and current MITRE sites. In addition to the legacy PDF finding aids, I implemented the use of EAD, and encoded all corporate officer collections I processed, thus increasing the number of finding aids available to MITRE staff. Adding to our electronic collections, approximately 30,000 unclassified MITRE technical reports have been digitized and made available through our catalog over the last two years.



Screenshot of Corporate Archives intranet page, 2002



Screenshot of Corporate Archives intranet page, 2012

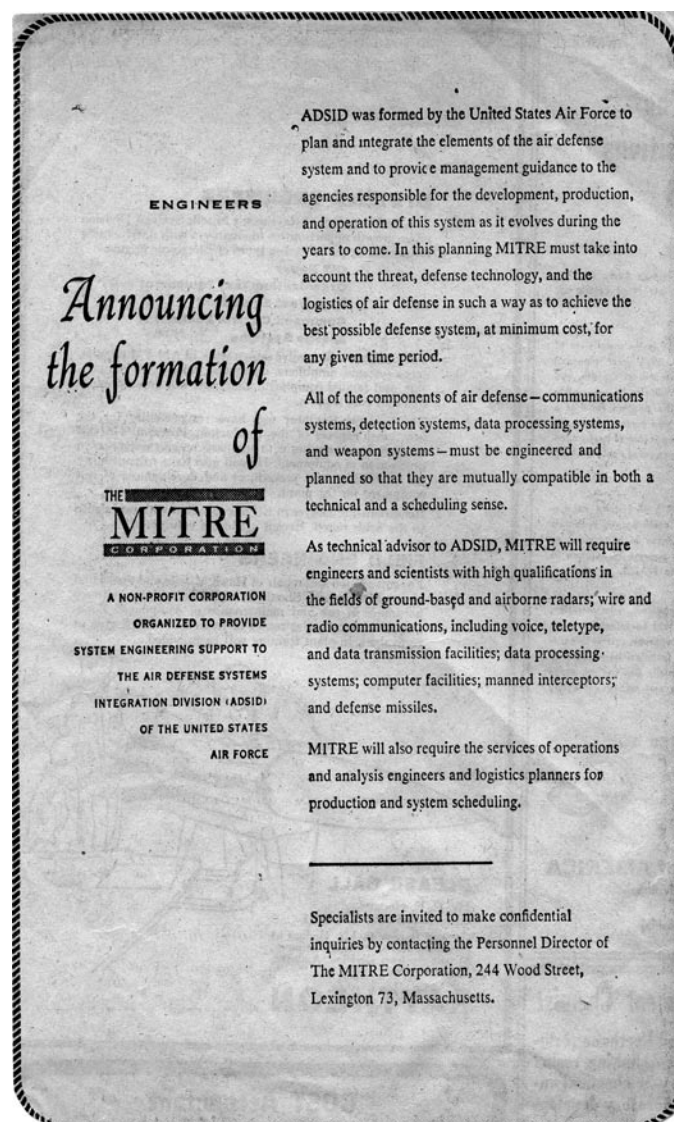
In 2008, MITRE celebrated its 50th anniversary. Corporate Archives played a significant role in supporting various anniversary related events and products, providing research, fact-checking, and photograph retrieval and scanning. As a result of our efforts, we received Program Recognition and Directors' Awards.

To reflect on MITRE's history and accomplishments, we began creating physical and virtual exhibitions, on topics such as technology, projects, and corporate culture. In 2010 we began conducting filmed interviews with employees and retirees discussing their work and experience at MITRE. In addition to using the videos for our virtual exhibitions, we now have a growing oral history collection. This collection includes a moving interview with an individual who was at the Pentagon during the September 11th attacks, as well as a MITRE first responder at Ground Zero.

Strengthening Our Collections through Social Media

A large number of MITRE retirees worked with the company for over 20 years and are still actively involved in MITRE retiree groups. Through the use of MITRE-created social media, we were able to reach out to retirees for archives deposits and additional information to supplement our current holdings. During our backlog inventory,

we came across a large number of unidentified images. Through the use of Handshake, a MITRE social networking prototype similar to Facebook, I created a MITRE Alumni Group. To promote the Alumni group and instruct retirees on how to sign up for Handshake, I gave presentations at multiple retiree group meetings. Each month I share photo albums with the group, requesting their assistance in identifying the people, projects, and equipment in the images. In addition to the benefits of identified photographs and new archives deposits, I have built a strong network with many of these retirees, while enabling them to keep in touch with current employees.



On February 22, 1959, MITRE announced its formation with this advertisement featured in the *New York Times*, *Boston Herald*, and *Boston Globe*. In March, 1959 the same advertisement ran in *Scientific American* and by April it had appeared in *Journal of Operations Research*, *Physics Today*, and *Science Magazine*.

Moving Forward

In an effort to have all of our collection metadata in one searchable data management system, we are in the process of implementing Archivists' Toolkit. The revised metadata from our high level inventory has been exported from Access to Excel, and I am currently mapping the metadata fields to be ingested into AT. We will also be importing additional collection metadata into AT. However, to avoid 'garbage in, garbage out' results, we are in the process of revising the metadata prior to ingest.

Upon completion of our onsite backlog inventory, we now have to inventory a 1,300 box backlog located offsite for records that have passed their regulatory retention periods. To date, we transferred about 700 of these boxes from Corporate Records custody into the newly reclaimed

onsite shelf space, and will take the same MPLP approach to inventory and create metadata for these boxes.

In addition to managing our physical collections, we are addressing the challenge of hybrid and digital collections and investigating digital repository options. We have begun preliminary use of a digital asset management system for our images and audio visual content. These efforts will continue to increase and become the focus of our work within the next year.

In the 8 years since the archives initiative, we have laid the foundation to revive an archives program that had been inactive for decades. Moving forward, our goal will be to continue to strengthen our services and value to MITRE, while taking on the challenges of digital collections. ■

NEW ENGLAND ARCHIVISTS



FORTY YEARS AND
NEW FRONTIERS

SAVE THE DATE!

Spring 2013 New England Archivists Meeting

College of the Holy Cross, Worcester MA • March 21-23, 2013

Celebrating the 40th anniversary year of New England Archivists!

In spring 2013, NEA will host a three-day meeting with special programming and events celebrating the past and future of our organization.

The topical focus of the meeting will be on creative, unique, and unexpected collaborations within and across institutional boundaries. Sessions will explore how archivists and records keepers of all stripes are partnering with others both inside and outside of the profession to further their goals in the areas of access, research, preservation, education, advocacy, and/or outreach.

Five lucky members will win free registration. As a member your name will be automatically entered for a raffle; winners will be announced at the Fall 2012 meeting at Simmons.

Don't miss this historic meeting.

Visit the NEA web page for more information.

<WWW.NEWENGLANDARCHIVISTS.ORG>

Inside NEA

FROM THE PRESIDENT

- Paige W. Roberts



At the invitation of Gregor Trinkaus-Randall, President of the Society of American Archivists, I attended a summit of regional archival organizations and SAA leaders at the SAA meeting in San Diego in August. The meeting included repre-

sentatives of fourteen regional and state-level archival organizations at a five-hour brainstorming discussion of opportunities for collaboration with an emphasis on benefits and an eye to the importance and urgency of various issues. Based on ideas circulated by each organization via email prior to the summit, the brainstorming led quickly to several points of consensus and little disagreement. Issues on which there was the most agreement were the need to establish formal lines of communication between SAA and the regional organizations and among the regionals; the need for a strong, coordinated advocacy program; the desire (especially among smaller, state-level organizations) for national continuing education programs, and the value of regular meetings of regional leaders at SAA meetings (resurrecting a committee of regional archival activities). These issues on which we found broad consensus will enable us to develop some recommended actions. It was great to meet and work with colleagues from around the country, particularly from our neighboring organizations of the Archivists Roundtable of New York and Mid Atlantic Regional Archives Conference (MARAC) with whom we would like to hold another joint meeting. Discussion notes and recommended actions agreed upon at the summit will be drafted soon, and NEA leaders will keep you informed about next steps to bring these to fruition.

The meeting at Simmons in November has been organized by the Program Committee to offer you many practical suggestions for day-to-day management of your archival operation. In addition, we are eager for your enthusiastic and active response to a roll out at the meeting of roundtables, a goal of NEA's Strategic Plan, to facilitate socializing, networking and collaborating on areas of common interest. I look forward to welcoming your participation in Boston on November 3rd! ■

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING REPORT

- Silvia Mejia



The business handled at the June 1, 2012 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.

MEETING UPDATES

Fall 2012

Maria Bernier moved to have the registration fee be \$55 for members for the Fall 2012 meeting. **All members voted in favor.**

Spring 2013

The program committee has met with Mark Savolis at Holy Cross to discuss the Spring program. The program committee is on board with the three-day/40th anniversary program.

Three-Day Task Force

A task force has been created to examine the idea of restructuring the NEA meetings. This will include changing the length of the annual meeting and possibly changing

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Proactive Archivists:
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 Simmons College, Boston

More information at <newenglandarchivists.org>

the Fall meeting. The task force will be spearheading the next membership survey to ask about the restructuring of the meetings. As an incentive to complete the survey there will be a raffle for a free SAA workshop.

40th Anniversary Task Force

The task force is targeting Friday as the celebration day. Some ideas for the celebration include: inviting all past presidents and officers, having a scavenger hunt like the one held at SAA's 75th celebration, oral histories, silent auction and matching funds in an effort to match 40 scholarships.

Treasurer Report

Some ideas to use the surplus included investing in the 40th anniversary celebration, the scholarship fund, annual meeting costs, and administrative expenses, including the web site.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Communications Committee

With Diana Yount transitioning out the committee took responsibility for creating a postcard that would replace the registration brochure. The purpose of the postcard is to alert the membership about the registration brochure on the web site (the registration brochure will only be available online).

Newsletter Committee

The committee has proposed to add a new column to the newsletter focusing on leadership in the archival community. The column will appear in the newsletter twice a year for three years. After the end of the three years the editors will reevaluate and decide whether to continue it. Darla White has volunteered to write the column for the initial three years.

Maria moved to appoint Heather Cristiano (Harvard Medical School) to be the News/Notes/Calendar editor for the term January 2013 to January 2016. **All members voted in favor.**

Web Committee

The meeting sessions are now available online; members can get to them from the main page as well as the meeting page. The committee has video of Snowden Becker's speech but they are running into file size problems when trying to upload it. The committee will be exploring the option of an NEA YouTube page.

NEA Board Pbworks site: The Board agreed that all committee and project pages be moved here.

Education Committee

The committee is in the midst of developing a day-long disaster preparedness workshop at Harvard University Archives, with Harvard co-sponsoring it. For the Fall 2012 the committee will be offering a SAA/DAS workshop on Achieving Email Account Preservation with XML, and another workshop on Basic Records Management and Marketing/Advocacy for Archives.

Maria moved to have Anne Ostendarp develop a workshop entitled Caring for Historic Collections, an Introduction for a fee. **All members voted in favor.**

Maria moved to appoint Jim DaMico (Rhode Island Historical Society) to be the Committee Chair for a three-year term from June 2012 – June 2015. **All members voted in favor of the appointment.**

Maria moved to allow a one-time honorarium of \$500 for the July 27th disaster planning workshop as opposed to the usual amount of \$30. **All members voted in favor.**

Maria moved to make a one-time exception to charge a workshop a fee of \$85 for members and \$110 for non-members for the July 27th workshop. **All members voted in favor.**

Adjournment and Next Meeting Date

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15pm.

Next Quarterly Board meeting will take place on November 2, 2012 at Simmons College, Boston, MA. ■

NEA Invites You to Start a Roundtable!

NEA is pleased to announce that NEA members can now start or join Roundtables! A new benefit offered by NEA, Roundtables will offer opportunities for members to connect over shared interests, affiliations, backgrounds, occupational categories, practices and methodologies, and other areas of interest. For more information on how to start a Roundtable, see the "Approved Proposal" or the "Roundtable FAQ" on the NEA web site at <www.newenglandarchivists.org>.

News and Notes

CONNECTICUT

Update on CHS Grant Projects

The Connecticut Historical Society (CHS) is pleased to report the successful completion of the second of two two-year grants from NHPRC to hire extra staff to process their backlog of manuscript collections. The goal for this second grant, which ran from September 1, 2010 to September 1, 2012, was to catalog 3,000 collections. As of August 20, 2012, with two weeks to go, they have added 3,223 records to their online catalog. They are now addressing small collections, some consisting of a single document. The project judiciously used MPLP (More Product, Less Process) to make sure the greatest number of collections was cataloged, meaning more detailed processing still needs to be done on a number of larger collections. Volunteers were an integral part of the project as well—they processed collections and conducted research on individuals and companies represented in the collections to free up cataloging staff. The Project Archivist for the past four years was Jennifer Sharp; Project Manager was Barbara Austen, Archivist at the CHS. Some of the more interesting discoveries were reported through the CHS blog, at <www.manuscripts.wordpress.com>. The CHS would like to thank NHPRC for providing them with the opportunity to uncover some hidden treasures and make them better known to the public.

MAINE

Bowdoin College Library Receives National Award

The George J. Mitchell Oral History Project has earned the 2012 Elizabeth B. Mason Major Project Award, which is given biennially by the Oral History Association to an outstanding English language oral history project worldwide. The award recognizes projects of noteworthy scholarly and social value that also advance both the understanding of an important historical subject and the practice of oral history.

Under the auspices of the Bowdoin College Library, project director Andrea L'Hommedieu and several field

interviewers amassed over 230 oral histories from people in former Sen. George Mitchell's Bowdoin Class of 1954 life, including friends; family members, classmates, Maine legislators, political associates and competitors, campaign supporters, U.S. Senate colleagues and staff members, foreign policy specialists, law practice associates, and others. Cumulatively, their spoken accounts document Mitchell's life and career from early childhood onward, with particular emphasis on his public service to Maine and to the nation. They complement Mitchell's personal papers, which are also held by Bowdoin.

The oral histories are fully searchable and available for listening, reading, and downloading at: <digitalcommons.bowdoin.edu/mitchelloralhistory>.

MASSACHUSETTS

Harvard Art Museums Archives Announces Successful Completion of Getty and IMLS Grants

The Harvard Art Museums Archives has announced the successful completion of grants awarded in 2007 from the Getty Foundation and the Institute of Museum and Library Services' (IMLS) Museums for America program. The grants have enabled the Archives to continue to analyze and catalog its major holdings in order to encourage and promote research; use of the Archives has increased as a result.

The two grants enabled the Archives to catalog approximately 13,800 folders (760 archival boxes) of Art Museums records dating from the institution's founding in 1895 (as the Fogg Museum) to the present. Archivists also created in-depth finding aids, which are now online at Harvard University Library's Online Archival Search Information System (OASIS), oasis.harvard.edu. These finding aids will long outlive the grant period; they will serve as vital research tools to scholars, students, and the general public worldwide. The aids allow researchers to identify specific files or sets of records that can help them to direct their questions. This in-depth type of reference query is an indication that the grants have contributed to increased efficiency for researchers and staff.

The cataloged material includes items of great histori-

cal value to the museum and scholarly community, such as early exhibition records and the papers of Edward W. Forbes and Paul J. Sachs, director and associate director, respectively, during the first half of the 20th century. These collections not only illuminate the growth and development of the field of art history, but also highlight the adoption and evolution of the museums' teaching mission, showing how the museums became a premier training ground for art historians as well as museum administrators, curators, and conservators. Beyond the museums' specific history, the records reveal much about broader social issues, including women in the professions and the escape of Jewish curators and art historians to America

from Nazi-occupied Europe. The cataloged collections include correspondence from artists, writers, and scholars including Thomas Stearns (T. S.) Eliot, Georgia O'Keeffe, Alfred Barr, Alexander Calder, Ben Shahn, John Singer Sargent, and countless others.

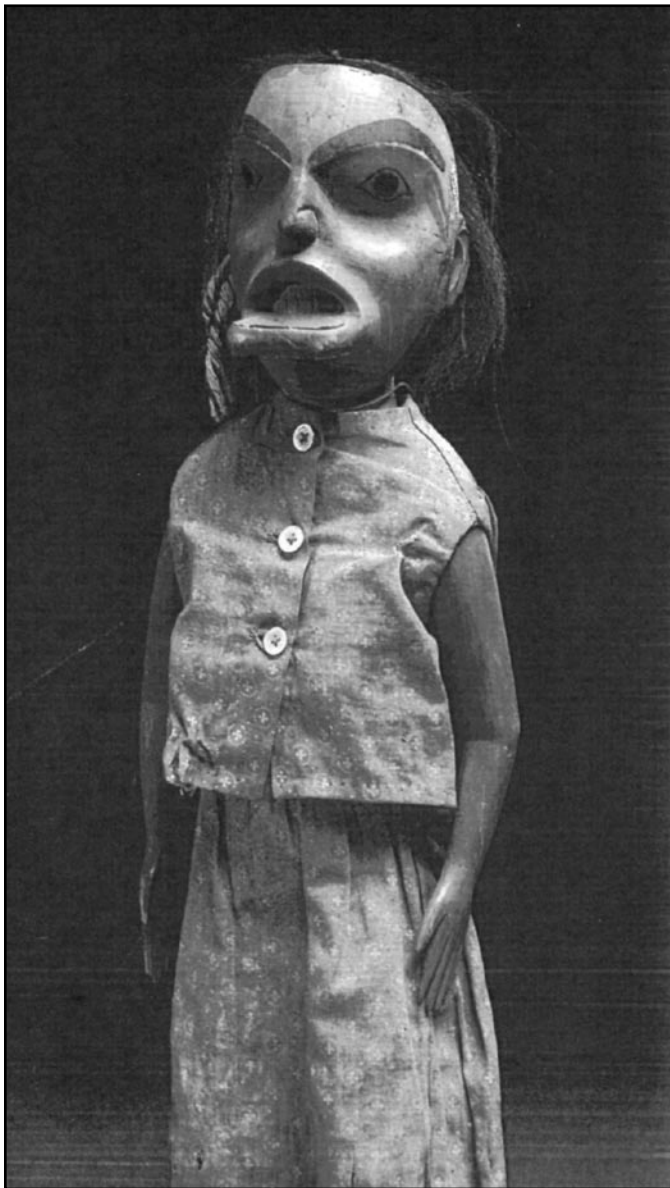
Sale of Native American Doll Benefits the Woburn Public Library

On May 22nd Sotheby's auctioned a Haida doll in their American Indian Art Sale, netting the Woburn Public Library nearly \$200,000. The doll was discovered during a routine appraisal by Sotheby's of objects in the library's museum, which is a part of the Dr. Thomas J. Glennon Archives.

The doll was originally brought to Boston in 1828 on a China Trade vessel, the *Louisa*, by Captain William Martain. Captain Martain acquired the doll in the Puget Sound region en route from Canton, and gave it to his granddaughter, Woburn resident Sarah Ann (Tidd) Nichols. Mrs. Nichols eventually donated the doll to the library in the winter of 1923 at the age of ninety-three. The wooden polychrome doll is one of four dolls and one mask known to have been carved by the "Jenna Cass" carver, one of the great Haida artists of the early nineteenth century. The Haida are an indigenous nation from the Pacific Northwest coast of North America. The doll had been miscataloged years ago as a Central American doll and was appraised for just \$2,000 in 1998. Proceeds from the auction will be added to the Library Building Fund and will also fund the purchase of supplies and PastPerfect software for the Glennon Archives.

New Digital Exhibit at the Congregational Library, Boston, MA

The Catharine Brown correspondence has lived quietly at the Congregational Library for uncounted decades. It tells a very small part of the story of a young Cherokee woman who was educated through the efforts of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM) home mission division. Miss Brown became a poster-child of success for the Board after her early demise. Subsequently, Board member, Rufus Anderson, wrote her memoir, which is available via Google Books.



Woburn Public Library's Haida doll. Photo courtesy of Sotheby's.

The collection is comprised of 25 documents: letters by Brown and from her friends and family. The correspondence was then used later as the basis of her biography. Because the Congregational Library's building housed the American Board headquarters for a number of years, it is not surprising that we became the eventual guardian. The collection was chosen as a test pilot project by the library for full digitization because of researcher interest, representation of underrepresented people in US history, and its manageable size.

Please visit our (newly designed!) web site to see this and several other online exhibits: <www.congregationallibrary.org/finding-aids/BrownCatharine0834>

Flywheel Zine Library Revitalization

Zinesters generally agree that the most distinguishing feature of a zine is that passion, rather than profit, guides the creation and dissemination of these independently published, frequently photocopied print items. Typewritten, collaged, handwritten, and drawn, creators of zines use the medium to gain an audience unavailable through mainstream publishing operations and to broadcast voices and ideas unlikely to take hold in the dominant culture. While the history of independent publishing can be traced practically to the beginning of publishing, zines as we know them took off with the advent of mimeograph and photocopying technologies. Rather than diminishing in the Digital Age, cultural analysts seem to agree that zines are enjoying another period of popularity as a welcome, personal, and tangible respite from an increasingly antisocial screen-bound world. While zine-loving communities have long cherished, curated, and accessed these artifacts in DIY zine libraries, academic archival collections have not wholly ignored the phenomenon. New England repositories collecting zines include Harvard's Schlesinger Library in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and Smith College's Sophia Smith Collection in Northampton, Massachusetts.

Still, the comfort level of the zine enthusiast is not always congruous with academic environments. Existing

far from institutional support, volunteers around the world help run any number of DIY zine libraries. New England counts among its zine libraries one of the world's largest zine collections, the 2005-founded Papercut Zine Library in Cambridge, Massachusetts, which circulates most of the 15,000 items in its holdings. A hundred miles west in Easthampton, Massachusetts, the Flywheel Arts Collective has spent years accumulating a browse-able assortment of zines, primarily accessed by attendees of its music and art shows in Easthampton's old town hall. Inspired by zine libraries like Papercut with cataloged, circulating collections, staff and regular hours, a small, driven cadre of zine library nerds now plot to breathe attention, life, and subject headings onto the shelves of several thousand unique print items. Punks, library school kids, and wannabe archivists connive to make this collection accessible in new and vibrant ways. Having developed a metadata schema for cataloging, recruitment is underway. Pioneer Valleyers with time and energy for a few hours to catalog, or for longer commitments of holding shifts and attending meetings, are encouraged to contact <zinelibrary@flywheelarts.org>.

IMLS Grant Awarded to American Textile History Museum

The Osborne Library of the American Textile History Museum in Lowell, Mass., has received a \$94,806 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (their "Museums for America" program) to catalogue insurance maps and a portion of the photograph collection. The library will accession and catalogue these items for the museum's database and OCLC's WorldCat database. Records will also be sent to the museum's online Chace Catalogue (<http://chace.athm.org>). The grant runs for two years, beginning August 1, 2012.

This is the third two-year grant awarded to the library by IMLS. Earlier grants covered a large portion of the library's trade literature collection including trade catalogues and trade cards, advertising, broadsides, and cloth labels (2008-2010) and paintings, prints and a portion of the photograph collection (2010-2012).

The current grant includes the processing of 2000 insurance maps, half of which are one-of-a-kind Barlow's Insurance Surveys published in New York between 1872 and 1896. Only about 3,000 Barlow maps are known to

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exist. Such maps were developed by insurance company underwriters to provide information about potential fire risks and are used by architectural historians, urban planners, engineers, preservationists, and renovators. The other half of the grant will help to catalogue photographs of workers, machinery, and mills.

Northeastern University Libraries, Archives, and Special Collections Department Preserves AARW

The Northeastern University Libraries, Archives, and Special Collections Department recently acquired the Asian American Resource Workshop (AARW) records. Incorporated in 1979, AARW empowers the Asian American community and offers services and programs to address their needs and to promote Asian American culture. AARW developed cultural, educational, and anti-violence (towards Asian Americans) programs, including the SafetyNet Violence Prevention Project. It also produced several videos and reports including "Through Strength and Struggle," a documentary on garment workers.

The collection, of nearly 60 linear feet, dates from ca. 1980 until 2011. The records document AARW's civil rights activism for Asian Americans, anti-violence efforts, creation of Asian American curriculum and educational resources, and promotion of Asian American artistic and cultural exhibitions, festivals, and workshops.

This collection continues Northeastern University Libraries' dedication to preserving the history of Boston's Chinese community. For a list of all the Department's special collections, see: <library.northeastern.edu/archives-special-collections/find-collections/by-subject-0>.

New Exhibit at Baker Library, Harvard Business School

Knowledge and Library Services announces the opening of *A Chronicle of the China Trade: The Records of Augustine Heard & Co., 1840-1877*, an exhibition and website organized by Baker Library Historical Collections. The exhibition will run through November 17, 2012 in the North Lobby, Baker Library, Bloomberg Center, Harvard Business School.



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The exhibition and web site examine the life and trajectory of Augustine Heard & Co., which reigned among the largest American trading houses in China in the mid nineteenth-century. The company was active from 1840 to 1877 under the direction of Augustine Heard and his nephews John, Augustine II, Albert, and George Heard.

The Heard family left behind an extensive chronicle of their experiences in China. In addition to a voluminous collection of extraordinarily descriptive letters and diaries, they took care to meticulously preserve the company's documents and journals—from partnership agreements and export lists to custom regulations and ship designs. The Heard papers, one of the largest collections of business records relating to the nineteenth-century China trade, present a look into momentous events concerning Sino-Western relations as well as the day-to-day activities of American traders in the treaty ports. A *Chronicle of the China Trade: The Records of Augustine Heard & Co., 1840-1877* examines the professional accounts and personal perspectives of the life and trajectory of a nineteenth-century firm that prospered at the height of the China trade.

Visit <www.library.hbs.edu/hc/heard> to learn more about Augustine Heard & Co. and the China trade, to find materials that could support further research, and to view some of the items featured in this exhibition.

OTHER NEWS

First NEA Social Gathering a Success!

A good time was had by all who came to the first NEA social gathering on July 16th! Held at Park Restaurant & Bar in Cambridge, Mass., about 16 NEA members, both newbies and veterans alike, came to chat with fellow archivists over beverages and snacks. We hope to make this the first in a series of casual get-togethers and look forward to the next one, which will be held before the Fall meeting at a location convenient to Simmons College. Stay tuned for details! ■



Members enjoyed the first NEA Social Gathering in Cambridge, MA. L to R: Jeremy Meserve, Amber DeAngelis, Stefanie Maclin, Casey Davis, and Jessica Tanny.

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It's Your Newsletter: Contribute!

The *NEA Newsletter* always needs news from your archives and other archives in New England, about NEA members, and about upcoming events. We also need people to write reviews, long articles, and session reports for NEA meetings. If you have any ideas for articles, etc., please contact an editor.

Archival Certification: *Validate your achievements, knowledge and skills*

The 2013 Certified Archivist examination will be held August 14 in Hartford, as well as Indianapolis, Las Vegas, New Orleans and Orlando -- and wherever 5 or more candidates wish to take it.

The 2013 application will be available January 1 on the Academy of Certified Archivists website: www.certifiedarchivists.org

For more information, contact the ACA office (aca@caphill.com or 518-694-8471).

The application deadline is May 15.





Profiles in Archival Careers, Mentoring, and Leadership

Lessons in Leadership

By Darla White

Melissa Mannon is an archivist and cultural heritage consultant in New Hampshire with over twenty years of experience in archives and libraries. She is the owner of ArchivesInfo, an archival consulting company that works to promote cultural awareness, curatorial practice, and preservation through teaching, writing, and social media. Melissa recently accepted a position as a high school librarian/information specialist, and agreed to share some of her thoughts with us on career paths, her use of social media, and mentoring in the archives. You can learn more about Melissa and ArchivesInfo at <www.archives-info.com>. This interview has been edited for clarity.

Will the transition to becoming a high school librarian be a big departure from your work as an archivist?

To me, archives are just part of the whole information field. If you look at our profession really broadly, it is really just about information. And that information is exciting is something that needs to be imparted to kids, so my job will be in part to give them a broad overview of information. I'll be challenging them to think about why they are doing this research and where information comes from. It doesn't just come from a database or Google, we need to dig a little deeper. My first information class will be a broad overview, but I plan to bring archives into it from the start and say: "Okay, these things that you are reading on Google came from someplace, let's find out where," and show them the broad range of resources. This first year is going to be very interesting as they learn what an archivist is and how I differ from librarians they may have dealt with previously.

What do you hope someone might learn from your career path?

That there are lots of opportunities in this field, and just because you didn't get into a position that you might have hoped for, you can still have a rewarding career. And

you don't have to go with what is traditional; there are lots of opportunities out there now. Take whatever you may be interested in and develop that niche. For example, it became clear to me a few years into my consulting business that I was thinking about community in ways that other people didn't seem to be. And I sort of created my business based on that niche. And when I look back now it seems like I was following a certain path, perhaps it was kind of a winding path, but there was always an outreach and community element to the work that I was interested in doing. As for consulting, I always have new ideas and I have been slowly and steadily progressing with the business..."Okay, I think I'm going to write an article, I think I'll start a blog, etc." Over time my reputation grew because I was doing all these things and sharing them in my community. So just don't give up if you have a vision and it makes sense. You may have to remold that vision as you go, but don't give it up.

How has the use of social media helped you in your career?

With Twitter I've been able to make many connections. When I got this new job one of the first things I did was find out who on Twitter is a high school librarian and a mover and shaker. Twitter has helped me find mentors for this aspect of my profession and has been a powerful tool for me. I met a woman through Twitter who brought together a group of other big social media people, and now we meet in person, once a month in Newburyport. We are all experts in our various fields and we have become each other's support system, and work to support each other personally and professionally. None of them knew what an archivist was initially, but now they come to me with questions and I go to them with questions. Having their feedback has really helped me think outside the box and given me the confidence to say "I'm not a normal archivist, and that is okay, this is who I am." So facilitating connections is a good example of how social media can serve your career.

How has this group of mentors, your support system, changed the way you do things?

One of the things that I did on their suggestion was to start making videos of myself. I jumped right in and made a bunch of videos describing what I do, which I put on YouTube. This was a great experience, as it showed me that I could make a video, and I learned not to worry about what people think of me. And they got attention; there were people who reached out to me because of those videos. I discovered that some people like to learn about you with your business card, some people like your web site, and some people really want to see you talking and moving. You have just got to try it. And if it doesn't work, then you back up and try something else.

Are there other mentors that made a difference in your life?

I don't think there is always one person; instead there have been a lot of people who have influenced me in different ways and at different times. I have been influenced by people in libraries, museums, and archives, I have marketers from my Twitter group looking over my shoulder, and am engaging new mentors from the education field. I also work with a professional organizer, I run a business with her, and she has always been a great influence on me. However, there were also times in my life, college, grad school, fresh out of grad school in my first job, where I had just a few strong mentors who really steered me in the right direction. I don't think I had enough experience at the time and so I really relied on support and mentoring from individuals. Now I can seek out the person I need. With these early mentors, probably the best thing they did for me was to set examples and they let me make mistakes. I remember one of my former library directors who helped me smooth over a new policy with a difficult patron. He backed me up, supported my policy, but also challenged me to think about how to handle that interaction better next time. I really admired that he supported me with that patron, but also used it as a moment to guide me too. ■

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for more information about becoming a member of NEA.

New Members - Kristine Reinhard

Student

Amie Jones

Megan Elizabeth Campbell
Simmons College

Marita Beth Klements

Caitlin Christian-Lamb
Nichols House Museum

Robin Lowell
Portland Public Library

Wynter Lee Giddings
Simmons College

Courtney Allison Marenna

Peter Higgins
Simmons College

Maggie McNeely
Brandeis University

Aaron Gilead Noll
UMass Boston

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Shelley Barber
Boston College

Jamie Kingman Rice
Maine Historical Society

Danielle Boulay
MIT Lincoln Laboratory

Robert Schuyler Selden

Pat Bowmaster

Susan Swasta
Vermont State Archives

Casey Davis
WGBH

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Museum of Science

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Eva Garcelon-Hart
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NEA 2012 Annual Business Meeting

March 24, 2012, Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT

Call to Order

Nova Seals called the meeting to order and welcomed conference attendees to the annual business meeting.

NEA Announcements

Jessica Sedgwick announced that starting with the Fall 2012 meeting NEA will be offering a discount for unemployed members on meeting registration.

Daniel McCormack mentioned that the Board approved the proposal to create roundtables within NEA. Roundtables will serve as self-governing autonomous structures and are expected to operate more freely than NEA committees do. Roundtables will be led by a three-person steering committee along with a chair person or liaison and can be composed of a minimum of 20 members. They will have their own bylaws which will be approved by the Board. Dan stated that roundtables are not intended to substitute for participation in NEA.

Nova Seals took a moment to talk about NEA accomplishments of the last year including the development of online membership renewal. Other current projects include beta testing online registration systems.

Nova Seals recognized Diane Yount for her 20 years of service as print coordinator. She also recognized Valerie Gillispie, Suzy Taraba, and the staff of Wesleyan for putting together and hosting the conference. She thanked Jessica Tanny for having her committee put on an excellent program.

Approval of 2011 Annual Business Meeting Minutes

The Annual Business Meeting minutes of April 2, 2011 were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Maria Bernier presented the NEA's financial report for FY 2011. Overall, NEA's financial status is in good condition. She explained that there was an excess of \$7,255. Maria thanked Jane Ward for her hard work with vendors who

contributed highly to the good financial standing.

Presentation of Hale Award Winner

Ellen Doon announced the winner of the Hale Award for 2012. Heidi Benedict of Roger Williams University will use the award to attend the NEDCC Digital Directions Conference in June 2012.

Announcement of Election Results

Elizabeth Slomba reported the results of the election. Vice President and President Elect: Alyssa Pacy, Secretary: Silvia Mejia, and Representative-at-Large: Colin Lukens.

Elizabeth recognized the members who also ran: Jane Ward, Marta Crilly, Patrick Collins. Nova thanked Elizabeth Slomba for her efforts of the last few years as vice-president, president, and immediate past-president of NEA.

Remarks from Incoming President

In her presentation entitled *Open Archives Sharing Historical Authority in a User Centered World* Ms. Roberts shared her thoughts on three trends that she sees the archives field is headed in and talked about the role that archivists, archives, and NEA should play in the future.

The first trend she sees is crowd sourcing and encouraged proactively seeking to engage twenty-first century learners who become stake holders in our institutions through this curatorial participation. The second trend she sees is the managing of born digital materials. She talked about the critical need to disseminate workable processes so even those at small institutions can preserve and provide access to born digital materials in a sustainable way, as well as the significant role archivists should play in digital preservation. The third trend was collaboration beyond creating a participatory culture with scholarly researchers and other users of our collections. She expressed the opportunity to develop multi-institutional solutions to challenges.

Ms. Roberts closed by saying that this is a tremendous time of opportunity and challenge and she is confident that we, as archivists, can and will fulfill our purpose to collect, preserve and provide access to cultural heritage in a meaningful and ethical way in the future.

Adjournment

The Annual Business Meeting adjourned at 1:05 pm. ■

STUDENT WRITING PRIZE

Life Spans: Queer Archives

by Adrienne Marie Naylor

Widely publicized riots against police repression in New York City's gay and drag bars in 1969 heralded the beginning of a cultural shift toward queer¹ acceptance in the West. Following the 1969 Stonewall Rebellion, gay men, lesbians, and people on the transgender spectrum engaged in more public community building and more fierce organizing for their rights and dignity. Grasping for a base from which to fight, curious queers searching for positive or accurate stories of their silenced and criminalized predecessors often found they had to weave the accounts themselves from fragmented records and hesitant elders. Seekers included academic historians and archivists, as well as dedicated nonprofessionals who collected any and all materials they could find evincing the existence of their people. Canada's post-Stonewall gay communities were no different; Toronto's pro-liberation newspaper *The Body Politic* began printing in 1971. Their records formed the core of Toronto's Canadian Gay Archives' collection, first consciously collected and made available in 1973. By the time the Canadian Gay Archives published its fourth issue of *The Gay Archivist* in 1981, it could list sixty queer archives and history projects in the English-speaking world.²

Across the country, and indeed the globe, many collections of materials documenting sexual and gender minorities sprang from individual collecting tendencies; for personal and social reasons, self-proclaimed "pack rats" acquired and saved materials shedding light on queer individuals and communities. Some collectors, eager to share, opened their home collections to the interested public. Thus New York City's Lesbian Herstory Archives, Louisville's Kentucky Gay and Lesbian Library and Archives, and Chicago's New Alexandria Lesbian Library were not unique in their geneses in private residences in 1974, 1982, and 1974 respectively. The latter renamed itself the Sexual Minorities Archives in 1992 and relocated to Northampton, Massachusetts, where it continues to operate as such at its keeper's private residence.

"I feel like you have to have an activist mentality," History Project volunteer Andrew Elder posited about operating a queer memory institution.³ A professional archivist by day at the University of Massachusetts Boston's Healey Library, he voluntarily applies his energy and skills to sustain Boston's History Project, founded in 1980, as a living community resource. Though emerging from a younger generation than his colleagues and predecessors who created scores of queer archives, libraries, and museums in the wake of Stonewall, Elder recognizes activism as an immutable factor in maintaining an independent queer memory project.

Activist collectors and curators played a crucial part in preserving queer history; for decades after the Stonewall Rebellion, traditional repositories of historical materials in the US forbade queer artifacts from their collections, or inaccurately described such items in their existing collections. Institutional and personal prejudice against people with same-sex attractions and/or non-normative gender presentations exerted itself against queer history and queer historians. Historians, biographers, and anthropologists who uncovered queer stories, relationships, and traditions suppressed the information, whether of their own volition or under pressure from their departments and publishers. Queer historians brave enough to be "out" in the academy and to craft queer histories not only met squeamishness, hostility and a lack of support from their institutions and colleagues, but uncooperative archivists and archival institutions, as described above.⁴

No single moment marks the academy's reversal in values, and even engaged witnesses and participants in the changing times cannot easily summarize the abrupt reversal in academia that saw prestigious archival institutions shift from spurning queer materials to sparring for them. Twenty years after the Stonewall Rebellion, the Society of American Archivists approved the establishment of the Lesbian and Gay Archives Roundtable, which LAGAR reported to its constituencies with a degree of surprise.⁵ No doubt augmenting its case for official SAA sanction, LAGAR's early founders, members, and sub-

scribers held positions at impressive research institutions, including Ivy League university libraries and prestigious private associations. In the 1980s and 1990s, various newsletters from LAGAR and other organizations trumpeting victories for the legitimacy of queer scholarship attributed institutional blessings to “out” queers in academia and archives, demonstrating and documenting queer contributions and value to their colleagues, students, and superiors. History Project’s Andrew Elder agreed that rather than the academy taking purely principled strides toward inclusion, “It really is more about the people involved.” Looking over old LAGAR newsletters showing subscribers in many of North America’s most prestigious research institutions, Elder laughed, “We are everywhere!”⁶

In 2001, the University of Louisville’s Ekstrom Library welcomed the Kentucky Gay and Lesbian Library and Archives, reported as one of the world’s top five largest collections of queer material. Its activist founder, ex-Catholic army veteran David Williams, found the University’s acceptance “extremely heartening.” Started in his home residence in 1982, by the turn of the century the bulk of the books, newspapers, and periodicals became so literally weighty that his floors sagged under their heft.⁷ With rare, valuable, and irreplaceable materials stored so precariously, Williams sent a cry for help to internet news site Gay Today’s email listserv. A Louisville librarian saw it and brought the collection’s plight to archivists’ attention at the University. Williams welcomed professional attention to the collection at a university research library, especially enthused by the possibility for expanded researcher access and more thorough reference services than he could ever provide out of his apartment.⁸

Due to the informal and home-based nature of so many queer archives, even extensive research might not yield a definite number of queer archives that have emerged and submerged over the decades. In archivist Aimee Brown’s essay examining queer archives as an activist endeavor, she identifies major issues facing such undertakings: funding, space for storage and access, adequate staffing, and preservation. Acknowledging that similar issues routinely plague institutionally supported archives as well, Brown emphasizes that independent projects do not enjoy the same access to resources.⁹ Without institutional advantages, scores of queer archives have ceased independent operations. Particularly since

the academy has opened its arms to queer materials, more may do so in the future.

Among the more explicitly anti-academic collections, mutually inspired by the Sexual Minorities Archives, the Lesbian Herstory Archives’ principles mandate a residential home environment and bar concessions to academia. Whereas other archives projects kept by a couple or an individual found the attendant costs and responsibilities overwhelming, the amount of community investment the Lesbian Herstory Archives attracts, both locally and internationally, through donations of money, materials, and volunteer labor, practically guarantees that it will never need to consider alternate arrangements. Using supporter donations, the Archives moved out of its founders’ old apartment in the early 1990s and into a three-story brownstone building in the Park Slope neighborhood of Brooklyn. As of 2011, they are fundraising to buy another building nearby to accommodate its perpetual growth.

When LAGAR reported Ekstrom’s acquisition of the Kentucky Gay and Lesbian Library and Archives, it noted, “Controversy continues to arise within the gay and lesbian community over whether to donate lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender materials to libraries or archives or to try to retain the materials within the community itself.”¹⁰ Activist and academic collections may exchange hostilities, but friendly partnerships can and occasionally do exist between independent and academic archives. Still, volunteer staffers of activist collections experience and demonstrate value in maintaining independent and collaborative enterprises, finding that queer activism and queer archiving are mutually reinforcing phenomena. In 1977, James Fraser of the Canadian Gay Archives proclaimed a truth broadly applicable for activist collections when he wrote, “The Archives itself is a part of the movement whose story it attempts to preserve.”¹¹

By the 1980s, queer archives and memory projects were not an end in themselves, neither did they address their existence as a phenomenon; their participants all struggled to uncover, document, and share the fact that queer people exist, have always existed, and contribute to their respective communities and societies in every generation. Archivists of the queer boisterously cried out to historians to assemble queer histories, to include the queer in examinations of other topics, and to spread awareness of the vitality and presence of queer people

everywhere, synchronically and diachronically. While the world all too frequently remains legally, socially, and culturally inhospitable to people whose attractions and gender presentations deviate from prescribed norms, the global North is still an exponentially kinder environment for queers than it was a few short decades ago.

Despite the shift toward academic professionalization, History Project's Andrew Elder maintains that archiving the queer requires "an activist mentality." The academy can no longer ignore wholesale the existence of queer records, but institutions like the History Project, the Sexual Minorities Archives, and the Lesbian Herstory Archives evince the continued need for independent queer operations. As resources, sites of social interaction, and sources of inspiration, such projects can survive the decades with volunteered labor and creative energy, surviving entirely because of and for the communities they serve. Activist archivists are honored by publications based on their materials, but perhaps more so by the personal journeys that uncredentialed seekers traverse in their collections. Steven G. Fullwood, founder and curator of the Black Gay and Lesbian Archives in Harlem, recognized himself in a young lesbian visitor whose "beautiful brown face lit up like sunshine" when presented with historical documentation of Black queerness.¹²

For decades, queer memory projects have spread the message to gender non-conforming people and people with same-sex attractions that they have a history, that they are important, that their history is important, and that they, too, can make history. Independent archives are particularly essential for people who, for whichever confluence of reasons, may not be comfortable approaching an academic library to find history relevant to their lives and needs. Despite the cultural and legal changes that make life easier for queer people in the U.S. and Canada, independent queer archives serve evolving sets of purposes and constituents. Queer archives that survive and thrive over the decades demonstrate co-evolution with their constituents' needs and promise to remain relevant forces within their communities. ■

Queer, Questioning, Two-Spirit, Pansexual, Polyamorous, Asexual, and Allies) are unwieldy, specifically include groups who voice objections to their inclusion, and include groups outside early activists' scope.

- 2 *The Gay Archivist: Newsletter of the Canadian Gay Archives*, No. 4, September 1981 <http://www.clga.ca/aboutus/LGArchivist/v4.htm> (accessed 19 November 2011).
- 3 In conversation at the History Project's Back Bay headquarters, 26 October 2011.
- 4 Post-Stonewall works of queer history emitted more from queer and activist publishing operations than from academic or mainstream commercial publishers.
- 5 *Lesbian and Gay Archives Roundtable*, Vol. 1, #1, May 1989. http://www2.archivists.org/sites/all/files/LAGARnewsletterv1n1_0.doc (accessed 19 November 2011).
- 6 In conversation at the History Project, 9 November 2011.
- 7 "Kentucky Archives Acquired by University of Louisville," *Gay Today*, n.d., circa 2001. <http://www.gaytoday.com/garchive/world/033001wo.htm> (accessed 19 November 2011).
- 8 "To the Vault: New Accessions," *Society of American Archivists Lesbian and Gay Archivists Roundtable Newsletter*, #21, August 2001. Copy held at The History Project. Full text available online at <http://www2.archivists.org/groups/lesbian-and-gay-archives-roundtable-lagar/lagar-newsletter-no-21-august-2001> (accessed 19 November 2011).
- 9 Aimee Brown, "How Queer 'Pack Rats' and Activist Archivists Saved our History: An Overview of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) Archives, 1970-2008," in *Serving LGBTIQ Library and Archives Users: Essays on Outreach, Service, Collections and Access*, ed. Ellen Greenblatt (Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland & Company, Inc., 2011), 124.
- 10 "To the Vault: New Accessions," *Society of American Archivists Lesbian and Gay Archivists Roundtable Newsletter*, #21, August 2001 <http://www2.archivists.org/groups/lesbian-and-gay-archives-roundtable-lagar/lagar-newsletter-no-21-august-2001> (accessed 19 November 2011).
- 11 Quoted in Aimee Brown, 123.
- 12 Steven G. Fullwood, "Always Queer, Always Here: Creating the Black Gay and Lesbian Archive in the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture," in *Community Archives: the Shaping of Memory*, ed. Jeannette A. Bastian and Ben Alexander (London: Facet Publishing, 2009), 235.

1 I use *queer* as an all-inclusive term for people whose attractions and gender presentations deviate from those the dominant culture prescribes. Acronyms like LGBTTIQ2SPAA (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Transexual, Intersex,

Internet Tidbits

- Susan Martin

SNAC, or the Social Networks and Archival Context Project (<http://socialarchive.iath.virginia.edu/>), is an impressive and ambitious new resource, a collaboration of the University of Virginia's Institute for Advanced Technology in the Humanities, the UC Berkeley School of Information, and the California Digital Library. SNAC has been developed as an "access system" to help scholars locate distributed historical records. According to the project website, "SNAC aims to not only make the records more easily discovered and accessed but also, and at the same time, build an unprecedented resource that provides access to the socio-historical contexts (which includes people, families, and corporate bodies) in which the records were created."

Although the project is ongoing, users can get a sense of the final product by clicking on "Prototype" under "Navigation links" or by going to <http://socialarchive.iath.virginia.edu/xtf/search>. The prototype interface is straightforward and very easy to use. Browse by name, occupation, or subject; use the search box; or just select a featured record to retrieve a biographical history, subject headings, a list of institutions holding related papers, and other information. For example, the record for Susan B. Anthony includes a timeline of her life and links to related occupations and subjects, such as "reformers," "suffragists," "slavery," "temperance," and "women's rights." On the right side of the page are collapsible menus indicating archival collections of Anthony's papers, collections referencing Anthony, people and corporate bodies with whom she corresponded or was associated and related resources in WorldCat.

I particularly like this use of tabs and collapsible menus to keep the SNAC interface clean and the information manageable. As more and more institutions contribute source data, the project could very quickly become

unwieldy and overwhelming, and this layout, designed with the built-in potential for growth, will help to alleviate that problem. The biographical histories are also a terrific feature, as are the many hyperlinks, not only to search results in SNAC and WorldCat, but to catalog records and finding aids at participating repositories around the world.

The Social Networks and Archival Context Project uses the Society of American Archivists' EAC-CPF (Encoded Archival Context-Corporate Bodies, Persons, and Families) encoding standard. The website contains a lot of detailed documentation on the project itself, including team members, contributing institutions, grant proposals, timelines, standards, software, and project updates. SNAC is funded by grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. ■



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Reviews

Wosh, Peter J., ed. *Waldo Gifford Leland and the Origins of the American Archival Profession*. Chicago: Society of American Archivists, 2011. 398 pages. \$44.95 (members); \$62.95 (non-members). ISBN 1-931666-40-7

-- Orson Kingsley, University Archivist, Bridgewater State University

"I have sometimes been called an archivist, but I wish to make it clear that I have no claims to that honorable title." These words were said with shocking modesty by the notable archival figure Waldo Gifford Leland at the unveiling of his portrait in 1957 at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. The irony hidden in this statement, found in the beginning pages of the book *Waldo Gifford Leland and the Origins of the American Archival Profession*, becomes quite startling once the reader discovers that not only did the National Archives hold a great debt towards Leland for its own creation and existence, but also the man who did not consider himself worthy of the title "archivist" was largely responsible for laying down nearly the entire foundation of the modern archival profession in the United States.

Peter J. Wosh, director of the Archives and Public History graduate program at New York University, has done the archival field a great service with the book, *Waldo Gifford Leland and the Origins of the American Archival Profession*. Wosh edited and wrote the engaging introduction of this book that explains with intimate detail how the archival bug bit Leland at a relatively young age, and how he went on to dedicate the majority of his life to professionalizing and pushing the field forward. The main portion of the book is made up of the numerous ground breaking papers and lectures written by the notable archival figure Waldo Gifford Leland.

Leland's lengthy list of achievements includes the creation of the first guide to federal records in 1904; assembling the first Conference of Archivists in 1909; decades of lobbying for a national archives beginning long before its eventual creation in 1934; and perhaps most importantly, dragging an amateur profession at the turn of the twentieth century out of the hands of the untrained and into the grasp of trained professionals who run the field of archives today

with theory and practice that were virtually non-existent prior to Leland's involvement. In other words, Leland, through his years of studying international standards on archival theory and practice, helped to create the finding aid of protocol that archivists study, follow, and practice to this day.

Wosh's introduction, along with the rest of the book of Leland's writings, will be of benefit to any archivist, either trying to get into the field or already in the field. Many of the practices archivists rely on and stress today, such as provenance, preservation concerns, historical awareness, encouragement of primary source use by students, and even interdisciplinary collaboration, were all issues that Leland articulated in the early days of the archival profession in the United States.

Leland's exemplary career shows again and again that though the archival field is largely viewed as being detail oriented, having the vision and foresight to see the bigger picture take shape over the horizon may be the most important trait one may possess.

Cook, Terry, ed. *Controlling the Past: Documenting Society and Institutions - Essays in Honor of Helen Willa Samuels*. Chicago: Society of American Archivists, 2011. 442 pages. \$39.95 (members); \$56.00 (non-members). ISBN: 1-93166-36-9

-- Aliza Allen Leventhal, MLIS Candidate, Simmons College

Controlling the Past: Documenting Society and Institutions is an in-depth reflection of the broad impact Helen Samuels has had on the archival community's thinking, articulation of values, and practices. This is an inclusive text that addresses Samuels' role in the discussions about the theoretical and practical components of appraisal, diverse medium types, records management, and the many layers of "being archival." Complementing the range of topics was the mixture of writing styles that included many variations along the spectrum from theoretical and anecdotal, such as David Bearman's chapter "Structural Formalisms in Documentation: Reflecting Function and Supporting Meaning" and Verne Harris' "Ethics and the Archive: An Incessant Movement of Recontextualization," respectively. Each chapter connected Samuels' thinking

and practices with the revolutionary tone of the archival community's current conversations. This collection of essays provides valuable insight into the earlier conversations that have led to our profession's current climate, an issue that Francis X. Blouin Jr. thoroughly discusses in his chapter: "The Evolution of Archival Practice and the History-Archival Divide."

While there are many great individual thinkers that can articulate those thoughts well, the overwhelming takeaway from this text is that no great thinker works alone and collaboration is of the utmost importance for progress to be made, including the creation of this text. Helen Samuels is credited for introducing key words and phrases to the archival discourse, such as "documentation strategy" and borrowing from George Orwell's text *1984*, to discuss "controlling the past;" but what appears to be her most significant impact on the archival community is her championing for collaboration throughout the profession, as well as outside. Samuels' capacity to predict the future trends of archives and archivists' work is remarkable, particularly in the provocative ways she approached topics. *Controlling the Past* continues Samuels' legacy, serving as a catalyst for new conversations to emerge and continue within a new context. ■

Photos Needed For the NEA 40th Anniversary Celebration

Please send us photos you've taken of past NEA events, workshops, and gatherings for the newsletter. We will publish as many as we can in the four 2013 newsletters.



Email a digital file, JPEG or TIFF, 400 dpi or better to Judy Farrar <jfarrar@umassd.edu> or Sally Barkan <sally.barkan@gmail.com>.

People

Kari R. Smith joined the MIT Institute Archives and Special Collections as the Digital Archivist in December 2011. Most recently Kari served as Head, Visual Resources Collections & Media Services in the Department of History of Art at the University of Michigan. Currently she is also Project Manager and Senior Instructor for the Digital Preservation Management Workshop series developed originally at Cornell and presented since 2003.

Camille Torres began as Project Archivist for the Chomsky Collection in the MIT Institute Archives and Special Collections in July 2012. Camille is a recent graduate of Simmons College, where she was co-chair of the student chapter of the Society of American Archivists. ■

NEA's Diversity Task Force

In the 2010 Strategic Plan, the board and membership of the New England Archivists formally recognized the importance of diversity and inclusion to the relevance and growth of the organization. Toward that end, NEA appointed a Diversity Task Force to identify key diversity- and inclusion-related issues facing the organization and to develop practical strategies for addressing them.

The mission of the Diversity Task Force is to work in collaboration with the NEA leadership and membership to explore and promote opportunities for greater diversity and inclusion within the organization in the effort to ensure its long-term growth and success. Additionally, the Task Force and its members will serve as facilitators in creating a safe space and forum for discussing issues related to diversity and inclusion, while also respecting the foundational values of NEA as expressed in its mission statement.

For more information, or to join the task force, go to <www.newenglandarchivists.org/diversity/diversity.html>.

Calendar of Events



Press releases and other announcements should be sent to Heather Cristiano at <Heather_Cristiano@hms.harvard.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.

October, 2012. October is American Archives Month — an opportunity to raise awareness about the value of archives and archivists. See <www2.archivists.org/initiatives/american-archives-month> to get involved.

October 26, 2012. “Understanding Our Past; Re-envisioning Our Future”, Maine Archives and Museums’ Annual Conference at the University of Maine, Orono, Collins Center for the Arts. For details visit <www.mainemuseums.org/conference2012>.

November 2-3, 2012. NEA Fall Meeting at Simmons College, Boston, MA. For registration and info, please visit <www.newenglandarchivists.org/meetings/meetings.html>.

December 4-7, 2012. The Association of Moving Image Archivists Annual Conference in Seattle, WA. See <<http://www.amianet.org/events/events.php>> for details.

January 20–24, 2013. ALA Midwinter Meeting in Dallas, TX. See <www.alamidwinter.org/> for details.

April 10-13, 2013. Association of College & Research Libraries’ Annual Meeting in Indianapolis, IN. Submit proposals or register early at <<http://conference.acrl.org/>>. ■

Membership Survey Available

Results from this year’s Membership Survey are now available on the NEA web site through a link on the “About Us” page:

<<http://www.newenglandarchivists.org/about-us/about-us.html>>

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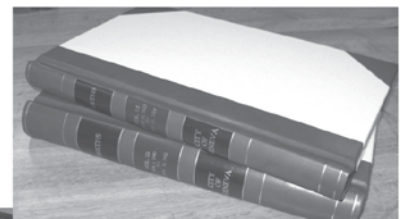
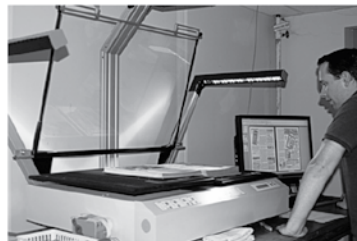


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Future United States Senator John Culver carries football in Harvard vs. Brown game at Harvard Stadium, November 14, 1953

John Chester Culver, Harvard College Class of 1954, played fullback for the Crimson from 1951 to 1953 alongside teammate (and future Senate colleague) Edward M. Kennedy. Culver graduated from Harvard Law School in 1962, and was elected to the United States House of Representatives from Iowa in 1964 and to the Senate in 1974. Harvard University Archives Photograph Collection: Subjects, ca. 1850-2004. HUPSF Football (491). This photograph is one of over 10,000 photographs included in the Harvard University Archives Photograph Collection: Subjects, ca. 1850-2004.

Photo courtesy of Harvard University Archives