Q&A WITH APPRAISER JOHN R. PAYNE

Have you ever been approached by someone convinced that something found in an attic or at a garage sale is surely priceless? Has a donor ever asked you to estimate the monetary value of an archive or book collection? Or have you ever needed to convince an administrator that a collection for sale is worth the asking price? If so, then chances are you found yourself in need of a professional appraiser. John R. Payne is director of the Austin-based appraisal firm, Payne Associates, and he has graciously agreed to answer some questions about the world of appraisal. See http://www.payne-associates.com/ for more information.

Q: How did you become an appraiser?
A: After graduating from TCU I joined the Peace Corps and served in Brazil for two years. After I had been there 6 months I realized that the thing I missed most were books. The more I studied I found that rare books were of greater interest than new books. Back in the US, I interviewed with a number of the leading rare book dealers in NY. Upon reflection, and more investigation, I decided upon becoming a rare books librarian. The next year I worked toward my graduate library degree at North Texas State University in Denton, and following graduation, was awarded a Lilly Fellowship to study rare books at the Lilly Library in Bloomington, Indiana. That year’s study provided the opportunity of working at The Harry Ransom Center [then known as the Humanities Research Center] at The University of Texas at Austin. I began my appraisal service in 1985 after having worked at the Ransom Center sixteen years in positions ranging from Bibliographical Research Associate to Acting Director. This experience gave me a unique background for valuing libraries and archives.

Q: What types of material do you appraise; do you have an area of specialty?
A: I appraise all forms of library materials but specifically, and mostly, rare books, manuscripts and archives.

Q: Do you work more with private collectors, auction houses, or repositories?
A: Most of my work is to determine the value of a book or archive for charitable donation or insurance purposes. I therefore work mostly with collectors or other creators of archives and also with institutional libraries, auction houses and rare booksellers. I get many referrals from libraries and corporations.
The Society of Southwest Archivists

The Society of Southwest Archivists is a professional organization established to stimulate and make available research in archival administration and records management; promote sound principles and standards for preserving and administering records; foster opportunities for the education and training of archivists, records managers, and custodians of private papers; strengthen relations with others in allied disciplines; and cooperate with organizations and institutions having mutual interests in the preservation and use of our recorded knowledge.

We invite you to join or extend your membership. All memberships run January through December. A membership form is included inside the back page. The form is also available online at: http://southwesternarchivists.org/HTML/Membership.htm.

Southwestern Archivist is the quarterly newsletter of the SSA. The editors give priority to submissions of news items about repositories in the SSA region and about the professional accomplishments of SSA members. Out-of-region submissions will be published as space is available. Short feature articles on topics and issues relating to current trends in archival enterprise are also welcome. Please query co-editor Katie Salzmann if you have any questions about the appropriateness of a proposed article.

Submission process: Please send all final submissions to one of the state liaisons listed below. The preferred submission format is a Word or rtf document attached via email. Articles should include a title as well as the author’s name and employing institution. The editors also encourage photographs or other illustrations relating to each submission. These should be sent as email attachments, with captions for each image included in the text of the e-mail or following the text of the article.

Please note that submission may be edited to conform to style conventions and available space. Because of space limitations, the editors reserve the right to omit submissions or hold them over for a future issue.

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Southwestern Archivist is free with membership in the Society of Southwest Archivists.

Basic memberships are $10 and sustaining memberships are $25 per year for individuals.

Institutional subscriptions available for $25.

Some back issues are available online in pdf format; select the Publications link at: http://southwesternarchivists.org

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SSA WEB SITE: http://southwestarchivists.org

The SSA Web page is maintained by Pati Threet at McNeese State University. Names of the executive board members, officers, and committee chairs are available online.

SSA LEADERSHIP BLOG: http://ssaleaders.blogspot.com/

The SSA Leadership Blog is a source for official news from the executive board and committee members.
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From the Editors . . . Resolve to Write

We all make the usual New Years resolutions of getting in shape, saving money, and spending more quality time with our families, but how about adding one more to the list - resolving to write more articles for Southwestern Archivist? Not only is it a way to hone your writing skills, but it’s a great way to showcase new collections, share information about trends and issues in archives, and keep connected with other SSAers. Resolving to write for Southwestern Archivist has one additional benefit – it’s easy to do! Here are some tips to help:

- Write something you would be interested in reading. When you’re chatting with friends or colleagues, and you find yourself telling them about a collection, an event, or a new procedure at work, there’s a good chance readers of Southwestern Archivist would also find it interesting.
- Don’t write in the first person. Translate your story into a third-person narrative.
- Keep the length from 275-600 words. Due to space consideration, we cannot publish articles significantly longer than 600 words. We are also reluctant to publish short, single paragraph news bits; priority will be given to full articles that meet the publication guidelines.
- Include a photo (or two). The newsletter is still a print publication, so images must be a minimum of 300 dpi, and in native image format (e.g. jpg, tif, etc). Do not forget to caption your images. Include the caption information in the body of your article text, and credit photographers when possible.

And finally, remember the deadlines of January 10, April 10, July 10, and October 10. Mark your calendars now so that you remember these deadlines. Don’t let 2010 pass you by without your having submitted an article to Southwestern Archivist!

FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Brenda S. McClurkin, CA • SSA President 2009-2010

Brrrrrr…. North Texas is in the grip of an Arctic chill as I write these words to you. No matter how cold it gets outside, our passion for our archival materials warms our heart, right? I hope that you all had a grand holiday season and are full of optimism (and energy!) for the New Year.

On October 26, 2009, the SSA Executive Board gathered at UT Arlington Library for its fall meeting and deliberated on a full day’s agenda. Exciting projects underway include the redesign of the SSA Web site and planning for the 2010 Santa Fe annual meeting. Committees are at work to update the bylaws, procedures manual and annual meeting manual. The Board also confirmed member preference for the current three day annual meeting format. A discussion of SSA finances encompassed a good portion of the day, and I want to share with you a frank discussion about our income and expenses.

SSA remains a healthy and vibrant organization with financial reserves. But like others in this time of economic uncertainty, SSA is experiencing reduced revenues. Our challenge in October was to grapple with a projected $9,000 2009-2010 budget deficit, and we were successful in reducing it to $2,000. The shortfall is primarily due to declining revenues, but we are experiencing increased costs as well. For income, SSA relies on dues, annual meeting income, proceeds from workshops, newsletter advertising, Slotto proceeds (goes directly to support scholarships), endowment interest, and Hollinger/Metal Edge support for the Distinguished Service Award. SSA dues, a bargain at $10, do not come close to covering the $30+ cost of an individual membership. In the past we have relied on members renewing at the $25 sustainer level. Although our membership has remained constant at about 517, those electing the sustainer membership classification have declined. Reliance on the proceeds of our annual meetings and professional development workshops puts a lot of pressure on the Local Arrangements and Professional Development Committees to turn a profit when they should...
From the President  
... continued

have the freedom to concentrate on the conference or workshop content, break even, and only turn money back to SSA if they can. The 2009 Shreveport annual meeting operated at a profit, but we had no income from professional development workshops. We are also experiencing declines in newsletter advertising and endowment income.

On the expense side, SSA has seen increased publication printing and postage costs. New in 2009-2010 is a trial project to support travel to board meetings initiated in February 2009 to attract officer and board member candidates from all parts of our six-state region. To be fiscally responsible, the Board has had to make some hard decisions to cut expenses. We want to maintain scholarships and services that we provide to our colleagues, so we have tried to trim expenses that will least impact benefits enjoyed by our membership. In an effort to reduce printing and postage costs, look for some features of Southwestern Archivist to migrate to the Web site, its return to 28-32 pages in size, and a choice for delivery in PDF or paper format; our biannual membership directory to be published solely on the Web site; and this year’s elections to be conducted primarily online. There will be no official SSA mixer at the 2010 SAA annual meeting in Washington, D.C. A budget line item previously available to fund professional development speakers has been eliminated – workshops will have to be self-sustaining. If not made up during the year, the projected $2,000 budget deficit will be funded by our reserve funds – our financial safety net. This information is not intended to alarm you, but to educate you about our financial circumstances and the Board’s efforts to confront the issue. You all should have received your dues renewal packets by now. If you have not done so, I hope that you will renew your SSA membership. If you can, consider renewing at the $25 sustainer level, making a scholarship contribution, or both. Regardless of which level you select, your continued SSA membership is critically important to keep our organization strong.

Now on to other topics! The stage is all set for SSA’s joint session at the 2010 annual meeting of the Texas State Historical Association, slated for March 5 in Dallas. Titled Lady Bird, the Snake King and Mighty Clouds of Joy: Preserving our Audio-Visual Heritage, the session will feature Caroline Frick (Texas Archive of the Moving Image, Austin) talking about the Texas Film Round-up, Sarah Cunningham (LBJ Library, Austin) on preserving Lady Bird Johnson’s November 1963 audio diary, and Robert Darden (Baylor University, Waco) highlighting Baylor’s Black Gospel Music Restoration Project. It should be a lively session! Joint sessions, such as this long-standing collaboration with TSHA, are a great way to spread the good word about archives to lots of new faces. If you would like to pursue a SSA joint session at other professional meetings, let your SSA leadership know so that we can facilitate the process.

Members of the Local Arrangements, Annual Meeting Program, and Professional Development Committees, chaired by Melissa Salazar, John Slate, and Joel Minor respectively, have planned a stimulating 2010 annual meeting in one of the most historic and charming cities in the country – Santa Fe, New Mexico, for April 28 – May 1. Archives at the Crossroads is being held in conjunction with the 400th anniversary of the founding of Santa Fe. Please plan to come and participate in the various professional development workshops; hear noted author John Nichols at the plenary session; attend informative sessions; enjoy special events in Santa Fe museums; partake in the incredible Santa Fe culinary fare; and network with your colleagues. For further information on the annual meeting, see related articles in this newsletter, or visit the SSA Web site. By the way, SSA water bottles will be available in Santa Fe for purchase.

Because the 2010 annual meeting is being held in April, this is my last President’s column. It is indeed an honor to be the President of the SSA. I certainly appreciate your confidence in elevating me to this position. But I could not do this job alone and would like to thank all of the officers, chairs and members of committees, and others who all volunteer their time to take care of the routine SSA business. But the biggest thanks go to our members – it is because of you that SSA continues to be such a dynamic professional association.

As always, I look forward to hearing from you with any questions or concerns you may have. See you in Santa Fe!

Remember to bring your SLOTTO items to the Annual Meeting in Santa Fe!
SSA Goes Electronic for 2010 Elections
Ann Massman, CA
Chair, Nominating Committee

The SSA Nominating Committee announces this year’s slate of candidates plus the changeover to an electronic voting procedure for the upcoming election. A decision was recently made by the Nominating Committee and the SSA Executive Board that we will conduct the election using SurveyMonkey, allowing for paper ballot for those without email or to those who prefer paper. Many professional organizations, including other regional archives organizations, are considering or have already switched to electronic voting. Organizations that have already crossed over have found their election participation greatly increased and costs lowered. The Washington DC chapter of the Special Libraries Association, for example, successfully doubled their participation rate from approximately 20% to 40% of eligible voters in their first year. Many of us are already well-practiced as recipients of electronic surveys/voting, and know what a simple, quick method this can be to have our voices heard.

Security of the voting process is of course a concern to us, and electronic ballots will be accessible only through a link found in email delivered to current SSA members. [Please ensure that your email address is up-to-date when you update your membership, or contact Gerri Schaad, SchaadG@doaks.org, if you have questions.] SurveyMonkey encodes this link, allowing it to ensure votes are coming only from members’ email addresses and that members can only vote a single time. I will verify the ballots by member emails with the assistance of two other SSA members, in keeping with the SSA bylaws. Members who have not provided email addresses to SSA will have a paper ballot automatically mailed to them, and all members will have the option to request a paper ballot. We will cross-check that members sending us paper ballots will not have voted electronically.

Please watch for email from the Nominating Committee via SurveyMonkey by late February. This will contain further details and your link to your ballot. A separate email from me will go out alerting members that the SurveyMonkey email has been sent. Please feel free to contact me at massmann@unm.edu, (505) 277-8370, if you have questions, concerns, or information to share as we move SSA along into this aspect of the digital age.

For 2010’s election, SSA’s Nominating Committee has fielded a diverse group of candidates with a wealth of professional experience. The slate includes both long-time and new SSA members, archivists from a variety of institutions, and archivists from across the SSA region. The Nominating Committee, consisting of myself, Ellen Brown and Michelle Mears, would like to thank the candidates for their willingness to run for office. In this time of shrinking budgets and limited staffing, we are especially grateful to them for their ability to contribute to the continued well-being of our professional organization.

THE SLATE OF CANDIDATES FOR 2010/2011 OFFICES

VICE PRESIDENT (1 position):
- Carol Bartels
  Historic New Orleans Collection, New Orleans, LA
- Mike Strom
  Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX

SECRETARY (1 position):
- Katherine (Kay) Bost
  Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK
- Leslie Wagner
  Dallas Jewish Historical Society, Dallas, TX
- Christina Wolf
  Oklahoma City University, Oklahoma City, OK

EXECUTIVE BOARD (3 positions):
- Mat Darby
  University of Texas at Austin, TX
- Ryan S. Flahive
  Institute of American Indian Arts, NM
- Joel Minor
  Texas State University-San Marcos, TX
- Cary Osborne
  New Mexico State University, NM
- Terrance G. Shults
  University of Texas of the Permian Basin, TX
- Diane Worrell
  University of Arkansas, AR

NOMINATING COMMITTEE (1 position):
- Steve Hussman
  New Mexico State University, NM
- Jessica Nguyen
  Chesapeake Energy Corporation, OK
- Warren Stricker
  Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, TX

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE (1 position):
- Mike Aday
  University of Texas at Arlington, TX
- Penny Clark
  Lamar University, TX
- Trish Nugent
  Loyola University, LA
The historic trails that led to New Mexico—the Santa Fe, the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, and the Old Spanish Trail—were used not only by traders, hunters, and migrants, but also by those looking for a cure for what ailed them. The idea that there was a geographically desirable location for relief from illness was suggested by everything from “scientific climatology,” railroad promotions, and physicians’ advice to encouragement from fellow health-seekers. People from all states and many countries traveled to the Southwest searching for a cure.

Relief was being sought from many types of illness, imagined and real, but during the 19th century tuberculosis seemed to be the most common cause. New Mexico was one of the Southwest’s most popular destinations for those with pulmonary tuberculosis. High mountains with dry, clear, clean air and more sunshine than shade attracted thousands to the state. Some historians think as many as 25% of all Anglo migrants to the Southwest came seeking a healthier place.

The state benefited from this migration since many health-seekers stayed after they were “cured” and continued the professions they had followed at home. In addition, a new industry was developed, one that catered to the ill. Support services were introduced or expanded. Rooms were rented to the sick, boarding houses catered to “lungers,” and hospitals were dedicated to the disease. Newspapers such as the Valmora Sun and Albuquerque’s Health City Sun considered themselves to be official voices for the health-seekers. As the sanatorium movement swept across America, New Mexico built many places such as the Valmora Industrial Sanatorium to meet the needs of those with tuberculosis.

In 2010, the Society of Southwest Archivists will hold its annual conference in New Mexico, the meeting place for so many health seekers. Whether you are seeking some relief for yourself or looking to develop a healthier archives, Santa Fe is a choice destination. Here cultures have mingled for centuries and people have sought repose from the present in studying the past. Fly, drive, or come by rail and help us celebrate Santa Fe’s four hundred years of existence while we discuss “Archives at the Crossroads.” The Local Arrangements Committee will help you make the most of your visit to Santa Fe.

Dr. William Brown meeting patient bound for Valmora Industrial Sanatorium, Las Vegas, New Mexico, ca 1916. New Mexico Health Historical Collection, Health Sciences Library & Informatics Center, University of New Mexico.

Front page of the Valmora Sanatorium newspaper, December, 1935. New Mexico Health Historical Collection, Health Sciences Library & Informatics Center, University of New Mexico.

Preconference Workshop titles:
- Preservation of Photographic Materials
- Fund Raising 101: Success in Starting a Fund-Raising Program for Your Repository
- Caring for Native American Archival Collections in a Culturally Responsive Way
Santa Fe is the capital city of New Mexico and is the oldest capital in North America. At the heart of the city is the end of the famous Santa Fe Trail, a global business route since 1821, which covers over 1,000 miles through five states starting in Missouri. The trail, which became a National Historic Trail in 1987, stops in the Santa Fe Plaza, a place with an eclectic backdrop and living history. The Plaza is also home to the oldest consistently occupied public building in America, the Palace of the Governors. Santa Fe has a wealth of cultures and makes every effort to preserve its unique heritage. The history of the area is said to date back to at least 1050, when it was occupied originally by Pueblo Indians. Visits were made by explorers from the 1500s through the 1800s.

Today Santa Fe is well known as a mecca for art, history, and culinary enthusiasts. From theaters, museums, art galleries, festivals, and restaurants, there is never a shortage of interesting events. Many come to pursue the fashionable Santa Fe Style and are looking for an authentic experience. Travelers may enjoy stops by the “Miraculous Staircase” of the Loretto Chapel, the Chapel of San Miguel (the oldest church in Santa Fe), or the Saint Francis Cathedral. Others may prefer to hit the scenic highways and byways to visit the Northern and Southern Pueblos. For those who are a little more audacious, hiking in the dramatic Sangre de Cristo Mountains is an adventure in itself.

If great food is what tempts you, then try a snack at Tia Sofias, Bobcat Bite, El Parasol, Tiny’s, the Burrito Company, the Plaza Café, or La Casa Sena. Frito Pies offered at the Five and Dime General Store in the Plaza should not to be missed. And for a truly organic, health conscious experience visit the Santa Fe Farmers Market, the largest farmers market in New Mexico and one of the most recognized in the United States. Within walking distance from the Inn and Spa at Loretto, the conference hotel, the market is located in the Santa Fe Railyard, another locale not to pass up.

Artistic treats include the architectural legacy of Spanish Territorial and Pueblo-Style buildings. The city is required by law to preserve the traditional styles associated with adobe construction. Santa Fe County has over 180 places listed on the New Mexico State Register of Cultural Properties. The SSA Conference is offering three tours of some of these unique places. Saturday tours of Bandelier National Monument, the New Mexico Sampler, and Rancho de Las Golondrinas are remarkable destinations full of history and pay homage to New Mexico’s diversity. Signing up for one of these tours will enrich your visit.

In a 1955 publication, Kittridge A. Wing called Bandelier National Monument, a Cultural Property since 1971, a “picturesque canyon and mesa country of the Pajarito Plateau.” Wing writes that “the heart of the plateau includes and protects several of the largest of … ruins, in particular the unique cave and cliff dwellings in the canyon of the Rito de los Frijoles.”

Vendor Opportunities
Information for vendors, including sponsorship opportunities, is now posted on the SSA Annual Meeting Web site. Tell your favorite vendor!

Annual Meeting Wiki
The public wiki for SSA’s Annual Meeting is ready for your participation. Need a roommate? Need a ride? Check out the wiki discussion tab! http://ssarchivists.wikispaces.com/SantaFe
The main ruins of the monument include the Long House, a living quarter which included close to 300 rooms. Wing said that the shrine to the Stone Lions included “two life-size crouching mountain lion effigies carved side by side out of the soft bedrock.” The Pueblo Indians of the area were farmers, potters, artists, and basket makers. [Albert H. Schroeder Papers, Collection No. 1972-033, Serial No. 10731, Folder No. 705, NMSRCA]

The New Mexico Sampler includes a tour of Chimayo with a stop at the renowned El Santuario de Chimayo. This spiritual place, added to the State Register in 1968, exudes beauty and has been photographed and artistically rendered by many. Carlos Vierra was one artist who captured Santuario in his black and white photography. [Carlos Vierra Photograph Collection- Collection Level Descriptive Record, NMSRCA] Vierra is credited with creating the Santa Fe Art Colony. Chimayo is also home to the famous Ortega’s Weaving Shop. This shop is a self proclaimed “ultimate icon of the Southwest.” The shop Web site states that the weavers are “the product of nine generations of inventive weaving, perfected.”

Rancho de Las Golondrinas, “The Ranch of the Swallows,” was designated as a cultural property in 1971. The ranch dates back to the 1700s and was a major stop on the Camino Real or “The Royal Road,” that went from Mexico City to Santa Fe. The ranch staff still grows chili, apples, tomatoes, corn, and lavender. The site prides itself as a living history museum and hosts many festivals for students and visitors. Rancho de Las Golondrinas includes a historical mill and homes, ponds, gardens, a small church, and a gift shop. [New Mexico American Revolution Bicentennial Commission Records, Collection No. 1977-030, Folder No. 494, Serial No. 4442, NMSRCA]

A visit to Santa Fe promises to be inspirational and energizing. While nature, art, history, and excellent food radiate from the city, there are also several other notable destinations worth a visit. We look forward to seeing you!
Q: What do you like most about the field?
A: An unusual aspect of appraisal work is the personal contact I have with collectors and access to private spaces such as personal home libraries.

Q: What advice on selecting an appraiser would you give archivists?
A: Select someone with experience and knowledge about the property to be appraised. Membership in the three professional associations—The American Society of Appraisers, The Appraisers Association of America, and the International Society of Appraisers is an indicator of expertise, but membership in book organizations such as the Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America also qualify for appraising for charitable donation purposes.

Q: Can you describe one of the more unique appraisals you’ve conducted?
A: Among the more interesting appraisal assignments I have had are the literary archives of Joyce Carol Oates and Aldous Huxley. Also the archives formed by Andy Warhol, Helen Keller, Molly Ivins and General Chuck Yeager. Our largest assignment was the presidential papers and White House Library of President Richard Nixon—estimated at 45 million documents—a four year project.

Q: What do you think of Antiques Roadshow?
A: I think Antiques Roadshow does a wonderful job of bring people’s attention to the value and interest of their possessions. It also encourages collecting.
LOUISIANA HISTORICAL CENTER REOPENS
Submitted by Susan Tucker • Louisiana State Museum

For the seriously scholarly or just the chronically curious, the Louisiana Historical Center archives at the Old U.S. Mint in New Orleans offers incomparable treasures waiting to be found. Reopened to the public after a post-Katrina hiatus, the archives contain more than two miles of documents some dating to the 1500s – manuscripts, maps, pamphlets, posters, photographs, sheet music, yearbooks, scrapbooks, and newspapers.

The Louisiana colonial records comprise the heart of the manuscript collection. These handwritten criminal and civil proceedings of French Superior Council (1714-1769) and the Spanish Judiciary (1769-1803) chronicle the social, political and economic life of Louisiana’s early residents of all classes and races – indigenous peoples, African slaves and free people of color, European and American colonials. The general manuscript collection offers primary source materials from 1584 to the present. Highlights include the original Code Noir, signed in 1724 by Louis XV and promulgated at New Orleans and the John McDonogh papers (1813 to 1846). Other collections concern military history, medical history, politics, and civic affairs.

Cartographic holdings total 1,400 original maps from a richly illustrated view of the New World in 1584 to a guide to K&B drugstore locations in New Orleans in the 1960s. Several maps depict the Battle of New Orleans and Civil War campaigns.

Of special interest to genealogists are selected ship logs (1840 to the early 1900s), city directories (1805 to the present); cemetery records; and name files indexing the colonial records and other manuscript collections. In addition, the Historical Center has a number of collections of interest to culinary historians, such as menus dating from the 1840s to the present.

The center maintains an especially rich collection of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century newspapers. Here can be found selected issues of newspapers published in New Orleans from the early 1700s, such as Moniteur de la Louisiane (1795-1814), L’Ami des Lois (1814-1815), L’Abeille/The New Orleans Bee, 1827-1866, and other French-language newspapers. There are also rarities from world history, such as a first edition of Diderot’s Encyclopédie and a complete collection of original prints by James Gillray, the 18th Century English satirist.

For more information, to schedule an appointment, or to discuss a donation of historic documents to the Center’s archives, please call Susan Tucker, or Sarah-Elizabeth Gundlach at (504) 568.3658.

**Preservation Grant Received**
Press Release • Resource Center Dallas

Seeking to better preserve historic materials and artifacts of the North Texas GLBT community, Resource Center Dallas’ Phil Johnson Historic Archives & Research Library has received a Preservation Assessment Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). The grant will fund a preservation site survey to begin later this year.

The Library, a program of Resource Center Dallas, began in 1994 with the donation of the personal papers and artifacts of longtime local gay activist Phil Johnson. Since then, many North Texas organizations and individuals have also donated materials. Recently, these collections became easily accessible to researchers seeking primary source materials.

“Last year, the Library was fortunate to have two graduate students work on the Archives and begin recording and surveying our materials,” said Sandy Swan, librarian for the Phil Johnson Historic Archives and Research Library. “Through this initial survey, we concluded many of the materials needed protection from deterioration. This grant from the NEH will allow us to prioritize which materials are in most need of preservation and seek funds to do that.”

The Archives also hold the institutional records of Resource Center Dallas, which began in 1983 as the Foundation for Human Understanding. Holdings include not only personal and organizational papers and photographs, but also audiovisual materials including audiocassette and VHS video tapes; rare books and ephemera; digital materials; art works such as paintings and drawings; and, many cultural artifacts from GLBT and HIV/AIDS events, organizations, and businesses. The Library also includes the largest GLBT collection of books in North Texas and is open to the public.

**Time To Renew Your Dues!**
To keep your membership current, please renew your SSA dues before the end of February.
The newsletter of Commonwealth College, a radical labor college that operated from 1924 to 1940 in Mena, Arkansas, is the newest digital collection available on the Web site of the University of Arkansas Libraries’ special collections department.

Commonwealth College was one of the nation’s most famous and longest lived experiments in communal living and radical labor education. The newsletter, titled the “Commonwealth Fortnightly,” is available free of charge at http://libinfo.uark.edu/specialcollections/commonwealth/fortnightly.asp.

Labor colleges, an outgrowth of the noncommunist left-wing labor movement, flourished in the 1920s and 1930s, an era rich in educational experimentation. Socialists Kate Richards O’Hare, Frank O’Hare, and William E. Zeuch, founded Commonwealth in 1923 near Leesville, Louisiana. The college moved to Arkansas in 1924. “Commoners,” as students and staff were known, carved a campus and farm out of the wilderness 13 miles west of Mena.

Commonwealth’s leaders believed that a different type of education for the new industrial class would bring about a series of social changes that would transform American capitalism into a utopian cooperative commonwealth. The college offered a liberal education curriculum, taught from a labor perspective.

Faculty members were unpaid and expected to participate in the communal work required to contribute toward the school’s self-sufficiency. Students labored four hours per day in return for their subsistence and education. Commonwealth gave no grades and conferred no degrees, but it offered a rich intellectual life. Although the small staff and student body were diverse and cosmopolitan, there were no African Americans. The school’s most famous alumnus was Orval E. Faubus, a six-term Arkansas Governor, whose previous attendance at the school became a campaign issue in 1954.

The newsletter documents the school’s social activities, curriculum information, lectures, plays, cooperative living projects, and community relations efforts, along with satirical pieces, labor union news, letters from prominent supporters, including Eugene Debs, and essays and commentaries on social issues and current events.

In 1926 the American Legion’s State Convention accused Commonwealth College of Bolshevism, Communism, and “free love.” Although an investigation by FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover cleared the college of these charges, Commonwealth College continued to be associated with Communism in popular opinion.

Despite the college’s tireless efforts to maintain good relations with the local community, Commonwealth never gained the acceptance of its conservative rural Arkansas neighbors. A 1931 student-staff revolt resulted in a leadership change which moved the college toward aggressive labor activity, including a close affiliation with the Southern Tenant Farmers’ Union in eastern Arkansas. The Great Depression radicalized staff and students, who were prominent in the establishment of a new Arkansas Socialist Party in 1932. The party nominated Clay Fulks, an instructor at the school, for governor in 1932. These events generated negative publicity throughout the nation, resulting in renewed charges of atheism, free love, and Communism. The school closed in 1940.
A native of Wichita, Kansas, William E. Cooper became a “mover and shaker” in the Dallas, Texas, aviation and business communities following WWII. The addition of the William E. Cooper Papers to the General Aviation Collection housed in Special Collection Department, McDermott Library, The University of Texas at Dallas provides research material documenting several significant aviation milestones.

These milestones include the service record of the Boeing B-29 Superfortress in WWII, the controversy surrounding the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum’s plans to exhibit the *Enola Gay* following its restoration in 1995, the 20th Air Force Association, the development and growth of Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport, and special events held in Dallas honoring General James H. Doolittle during the mid-1990s.

Of particular significance to the researcher is Cooper’s thorough study of B-29s which crashed during WWII while serving in the Pacific. His research manuscript provides an analysis of the reason why each B-29 crashed; and, additionally, the fate of each of the crew members of these B-29s.

As reflected in his papers, Cooper was actively involved in the “Enola Gay Controversy” in 1994-1995. The controversy erupted among WWII veterans and the American public when, following restoration of the B-29 *Enola Gay*, which dropped the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan, the leadership of the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum engaged in “revisionist history” as they prepared the exhibit depicting the role of this historic aircraft and the use of the atomic bomb. Their exhibit narrative failed to focus on the historic role of the B-29 and the use of atomic weapons as assets which saved many lives – both U.S. and Japanese – by negating the need to invade Japan and shortening WWII.

Cooper, the 20th Air Force Association, and likeminded citizens prevailed in correction of the exhibit narrative.

Included in the materials related to events honoring General Doolittle, the researcher will find materials pertaining to the establishment of the Doolittle archives in the HAC at The University of Texas at Dallas.

The William E. Cooper Papers fill 13.18 linear feet and consist of documents, records, manuscripts, photographs, and a few of Cooper’s personal artifacts, all essentially preserved in their original order. A finding aid is available.

For more information about the William E. Cooper Papers, please contact Paul Oelkrug, Coordinator for Special Collections, at (972) 883-2553, e-mail oelkrug@utdallas.edu.
In conjunction with a course in the Master of Arts in Heritage Resources Program at Northwestern State University of Louisiana, I had an opportunity to participate in a practicum in archival studies at Noel Memorial Library, Louisiana State University-Shreveport, supervised by Head Archivist, Dr. Laura McLemore, CA. I jumped at it, no questions asked. This would be a new direction in my studies, and it would afford me the opportunity to learn about heritage resources from a new perspective.

I was excited to find a collection related to medicine. It was the collected works of a medical research assistant, Elizabeth Lieber Fox, who devoted her life to the study of the Marfan Syndrome. Fox lost her eleven-year-old daughter to this disease at a time when doctors knew very little about it. She devoted the remainder of her life to learning every-thing she could about Marfan’s and making what she learned available to the medical community and the public at large. To this end, she published a number of books, chief among which is a bibliography of over three thousand citations related to the Marfan Syndrome and associated diseases. It is regarded as the definitive “go to” source for professionals as well as laymen. Her contribution to this effort is known around the world, and she is respected by the medical community and patients and their families alike.

Admittedly, I was more than a bit overwhelmed at first. One and a half bookcases, each six feet tall, lined with boxes filled to overflow with Mrs. Fox’s prolific notes and bibliographies, years of personal and business letters, family memorabilia, photographs, and copies of articles. The list goes on – and on!

How, I asked myself, am I going to make sense of all of this? I had worked for several years in a library, but that experience had not prepared me for archival work. This was a whole new ball game, so, Dr. McLemore assigned readings from a couple of books on arranging and describing archives and manuscripts. After we discussed this material, a staff member showed me around – the accession files, indexes, archival supplies, and the stacks. She graciously offered to answer questions and help me any time I needed it. Prayers were answered!

What I learned that first week was that processing this collection was going to be a long, methodical job. I began by scanning everything in every box to get a grasp of just what was there. Immediately, though, patterns in the collection became apparent, and I found myself thinking in terms of organizational series and sub-series. Perhaps I could find an order to this proliferation of information after all!

The next couple of weeks taught me that my outline for arrangement of this collection was subject to change. The deeper I delved into the boxes, the more I realized that the arrangement must be flexible enough to allow for new additions to a series and that the series must fall within an overarching theme of description. The arrangement had to tell the story of Fox’s adventure in life, work, family, and academics. Above all, this story must be easy for the public to access and understand.

A couple of months have passed now, and I continue to refolder, relabel, and weed out extraneous material from this collection, but HOW I am going to rearrange it is becoming clear. As I near the end of this phase of the job, series and sub-series are becoming well-defined under the umbrella of the creator’s original purpose and motivation for this body of work.

Moving into the final stages of preparation prior to writing the description of this collection, I find I am working a little faster than I did at first. The anxiety I experienced those first few weeks has dissipated. I am now anxious to see the collection reorganized and described in a way that presents it in the best possible format and in a manner that the public can use to their best advantage.

Any new experience is an adventure in and of itself, and my time in the LSU-S Archives has been an adventure on several levels. First of all, in the quiet of this department, fascinating books, photographs, recordings, and records of all kinds speak loudly to those processing the collections on a daily basis. The conservation and preservation of such materials reveals a completely different aspect of heritage resources, which I would not have completely understood if it were not for this practicum. I have always been aware of the importance of paper collections, but I appreciate the efforts of archivists now more than ever. This is tedious work, but what a privilege it is to look back at history in the way an archivist does. Archivists are a dedicated group of individuals who take their job seriously, and their legacy of orderly historical collections contributes greatly to the public’s understanding of where we as a civilization have been and possibly where we are headed.

As I near the end of this practicum and the processing of my first collection, I am grateful to have had this adventure. There is a deceptive quiet in the archives, but the reading is amazing! If nothing else, I have learned that by plowing through, persevering, staying the course or whatever one wants to call it, there is “light at the end of the tunnel.”
In the beginning, there was stuff... today, there is more than ever and we help you preserve your collection better in less space, more efficiently and for less. Our trained team will assess your requirements and develop designs that meet your goals and budget. When approved, we build an implementation plan to quickly and efficiently enhance your collection storage areas.

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Librarians, archivists and museum professionals across Texas are participating in a new initiative and training series entitled, “Train to Share: Interoperability Training for Cultural Heritage Institutions.” The training is supported by a $536,000 Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian grant and coordinated through the Texas Heritage Digitization Initiative (THDI). The Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC), along with its strategic partners, the University of North Texas Libraries, and Amigos Library Services, provides training and support for librarians and other cultural heritage professionals creating metadata for digital projects related to Texas history. By creating metadata with interoperable standards, these rare and unique heritage materials will be easier for users to access—now and in the future.

“Train to Share” supports ten teams consisting of cultural heritage professionals from thirty different organizations collaborating on specific digital projects preserving Texas heritage. For many of these professionals, it is the first time they have worked with others outside of their own organizations on a large-scale project.

Staff at THDI set up the workshops in different locations across the state in order to train these professionals on creating metadata that is consistent and interoperable. Workshops are adapted from the Library of Congress’s Series, “The Digital Library Environment,” which provides instruction on the interoperability measures of digitization projects and the principles of sharable metadata developed through a project previously funded by IMLS.

While classes are created specifically for “Train to Share” participants, the benefit for Texans is that they are open to anyone interested in taking the classes. In these lean economic times, the price is very affordable at $250 for a two-day workshop. The entire training program consists of five workshops. THDI staff has seen a great deal of interest in the training sessions from a diverse cross-section of professionals in government agencies, archives, libraries, historical societies, and museums. Organizations with rich collections of photos, historical documents, or archives should register for training today.

The five face-to-face workshops are: 1) Digital Project Planning and Management Basics, 2) Digital Library Systems and Applications, 3) Metadata Standards and Crosswalks, 4) Controlled Vocabulary and Thesaurus Design, and 5) Advanced Topics. Registration is currently open for the third and fourth classes in the series through Amigos Library Services at www.amigos.org. Upcoming classes will be offered in El Paso, Lubbock, Houston, Dallas, San Antonio, and Abilene. Each of the classes will be offered again through Amigos Library Services over the next three years with an online version of each of the workshops emerging by 2011.

Claudia Rivers, Head of Special Collections at The University of Texas at El Paso Library, examines a rare document printed during the Mexican Revolution.

Professionals from The University of Texas at Brownsville attend a “Train to Share” workshop on metadata at The University of Texas at El Paso. Raquel Estrada, Acquisitions Library, Millagro Hernandez, Events and Exhibits Coordinator, and John Hawthorne, Assistant Director for the Oliveira Library.

The Texas Heritage Digitization Initiative promotes collaboration among Texas institutions by establishing common standards, sharing best practices, and facilitating cooperative funding to provide online access to cultural heritage resources that benefit learners. THDI has its own search application, Texas Heritage Online, at www.texasheritageonline.org and supports similar initiatives statewide. For more information on the IMLS-funded grant project, “Train to Share,” see www.thdi.org or www.tsl.state.tx.us/thdi. For questions, please contact Karen Frizzell, Training and Outreach Coordinator at karen.frizzell@tsl.state.tx.us or (512) 936-0270.
In January The Historic New Orleans Collection (THNOC) launched a new version of its online catalogue, which offers users three new ways to search the institution’s holdings.

The “quick search” searches a defined set of fields for a single term. The “advanced search” form allows the use of Boolean operators and multiple fields for searching, and the third option allows users to search by collection theme (a hierarchy of the topics on which THNOC is actively building its holdings). Results are divided into the categories of “Bibliographic works,” “Manuscript and Special Collections,” and “Artworks and Artifacts.” From there, researchers can sort results by title, artist/maker, date, accession number or by image. Currently more than 17,000 images are available to researchers through the new online catalogue, and that number will grow over time.

The new online catalogue is generated from the MINT collections management system by MINISIS Inc. MINT is an integrated library archive and museum collections management system that The Historic New Orleans Collection helped to develop.

Visit http://hnoc.minisisinc.com/thnoc/index.htm to experience The Collection’s new online catalogue and to learn more about the institution and its holdings.

With the assistance of two interns, the staff at Tulane University’s Louisiana Research Collection (LaRC) has processed several new collections documenting the medical, sports, and political history and culture of greater New Orleans and Louisiana.

The Cancer Crusaders records (Manuscripts Collection 965) run from 1978-1998. Cancer Crusaders, a New Orleans-based volunteer group, is a significant fundraiser for local cancer awareness and research. The records of the Louisiana Urological Society (Manuscripts Collection 1061) are from 1950-2006, and document the history of this society, which originally included Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas in its membership. Acquired in 2009, the papers of New Orleans area businessman Maurice Stern (Manuscripts Collection 999) were also processed this fall. Stern was the owner of the American Basketball Association team the New Orleans Buccaneers.

Processing of the papers of John Wyeth “Jock” Scott, II also began this autumn (Manuscripts Collection 998). Jock Scott was a member of the Louisiana House of Representatives (District 26, Rapides Parish) from 1976-1988. He also ran for Congress twice, in 1985 and in 2004. Scott, who received his BA from Tulane University, was also active in helping LSU-Alexandria become a four year degree granting school. Processing of Scott’s papers is expected to be completed by the end of spring 2010. The papers run from the 1960s through the 2000s, and include personal papers and material related to Scott’s political career. The already processed portions of the collection (from his first three terms as State Representative) are available to the public.

Finding aids for these collections and others can be found at specialcollections.tulane.edu/archon.
The MFAH has been awarded a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission to plan the implementation of an electronic records archive. Over the next two years, grant funding in the amount of $47,820 will allow MFAH Archives and Information Technology to collaboratively explore emerging technologies for the preservation of electronic records. Supported by this grant, the MFAH plans to establish and document methods for electronic records preservation, in pursuit of a system that will be sustainable for museums and other smaller archival institutions.

As the first fine art museum to receive an Electronic Records grant from the NHPRC, the MFAH counts Mount Holyoke College, Hawaii State Archives, and Michigan State University among its current counterparts as recipient of funds in this category. Past recipients include Tufts University; Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine; University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; Emory University; Michigan State University; and the state archives of California, Georgia, Wyoming, Maine and Missouri. The MFAH is among 32 awardees in 7 categories and across 20 states and the District of Columbia, totaling $2.9 million in archives project recommendations awarded by the NHPRC this year for digitizing historical records, electronic records preservation, and historical documentary editions. Project categories recognized this year include Publishing Historical Records: Colonial and Early National Period, Publishing: Editing Fellowships, and Professional Development, and recipients of various awards include the Massachusetts Historical Society, New York State Education Department, and George Washington University.

Archivist David Ferriero is the Chairman of the Commission (celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2009), which includes representatives from all three branches of the Federal government as well as the leading archival and historical professional associations. The NHPRC is the grant-making arm of the National Archives. It is the sole federal funding agency whose only focus is the documentary heritage of the United States. Established in 1934, the NHPRC awards grants for preserving, publishing, and providing access to vital historical documents.
The collected works of nineteenth century Louisiana French writer Sidonie de la Houssaye and accompanying materials such as correspondence, a scrapbook, and newspaper clippings about her life and writings are now available as a digital collection in the Louisiana Digital Library (http://www.louisianadigitallibrary.org). The Sidonie de la Houssaye Papers, which are housed at the Louisiana State University Special Collections Library, consist of twenty-two volumes of handwritten stories and poems in French. Also digitized for the online collection was the Emma T. Stafford Sidonie de la Houssaye Collection. Both manuscript collections are a part of the Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections at Hill Memorial Library.

The volumes were microfilmed in the 1990s, and the LSU Libraries Digital Services Department digitized the six microfilm reels using a roll film scanner. The collection was selected for digitization in order to meet patron demand. De la Houssaye’s popularity with French studies scholars has increased in recent years, as evidenced by multiple requests from across the world for reproductions from her collection. The digital collection will greatly increase the accessibility of her works.

Sidonie de la Houssaye was born Hélène Perret on August 17, 1820, and raised on Bellevue Plantation near Franklin, Louisiana. She was primarily self-educated with only a few months of formal schooling at a nearby convent. De la Houssaye began a school in the Franklin area and also worked as the postmistress. She wrote stories and poetry primarily for her eight grandchildren whom she raised after her daughter died young.

De la Houssaye wrote short stories and novelettes set primarily in St. Mary and St. Martin parishes, areas between Lafayette and New Orleans, about plantation life, manners of the Creoles and their attitudes toward Acadians and Americans. The stories are of interest for their rendition of Cajun and Negro French dialects. The story plots are simple, designed to appeal to plantation women and convent educated girls. She also wrote morality tales for the education and character training of her eight grandchildren. She wrote in French only to encourage her grandchildren to maintain the dialect and be cognizant of their Creole heritage.

De la Houssaye sold at least three of her stories to the popular American author and New Orleans native George Washington Cable for his book, Strange True Stories of Louisiana. Letters from de la Houssaye to Cable during their six year correspondence are available in the George Washington Cable Papers at Tulane University.

Although not widely celebrated during her lifetime, Sidonie de la Houssaye was later recognized as a Louisiana French writer of distinction in Les Ecrits de Langue Française en Louisiane au XIX Siècle. Her works have been the subject of two dissertations completed at LSU, “A Critical Study of the Life and Writings of Sidonie de la Houssaye with Special Emphasis on the Unpublished Works (1966)” by Joseph John Perret and “Liminality in Gender, Race, and Nation in Les Quarteronnes de la Nouvelle-Orléans by Sidonie de la Houssaye (2006)” by Christine Koch Harris.

The microfilmed collection was digitized at the LSU Libraries using a nextScan Eclipse roll film scanner. Items in the collections which had not been previously microfilmed were digitized with a Digibook planetary scanner. Staff conducted post production editing of the scans and renamed and organized them all by individual work. The 65 stories and poems were uploaded by chapter and page into CONTENTdm digital library software. The resulting digital collection is now available on the Louisiana Digital Library at http://www.louisianadigitallibrary.org/ cdm4/index_p120701coll19.php?CISOROOT=../p120701coll19.
University History is Focus of New Digital Collections
Submitted by Barry Cowan • Louisiana State University

The LSU Libraries Special Collections has recently added the University Archives Digital Collections http://www.lib.lsu.edu/special/archives/digital/ to the LOUISiana Digital Library. Consisting of the University Archives Photograph Collection and the University Archives Printed Materials Collection, these materials provide a rich look into LSU’s past. Items include photographs of buildings, the campuses, students and student life, athletic teams, bands, faculty and administrators, clubs, classes, and laboratories. Also included are printed materials such as programs from anniversaries and commemorative events, promotional brochures, campus maps and plans, sheet music, and a seismogram. Additional items will be added over time.

The University Archives Photograph Collection currently consists of approximately 670 images dating from 1862 through 1972, focusing primarily on the period from 1885 to 1925. These include photographs depicting athletics (football, baseball, tennis, track and field, fencing, basketball, and playing fields) from 1894 to 1972; classes, classrooms, and laboratories (biology, bookkeeping, chemistry, entomology, zoology, veterinary science, English, drafting, civil engineering) from circa 1890 to 1936; graduating classes from 1871 to 1906; individual students and student groups from 1862 to 1918; faculty and administrators from 1862 to 1916; the Audubon Sugar School from 1887 to 1907; cadet life (drill, cadet bands, rifle and artillery firing) from 1890 to 1916; and the buildings and grounds of the downtown campus from 1887 to 1925.

Currently consisting of twenty items, the University Archives Printed Materials Collection includes programs commemorating campus events from LSU’s “semi-centennial” (fiftieth anniversary) in 1910, the dedication of the present campus in 1926, the fiftieth anniversary of coeducation at LSU (1956), Centennial events in 1959-1960, and April 30th at LSU: A Bicentennial Convocation Observing the 50th Anniversary of the Dedication of the Present Campus in 1976. Also included are maps of the downtown campus from 1895 to 1908, maps of Williams Plantation (the land that became LSU’s present campus) from 1920 and University property in 1940, plans of the quadrangle from 1936 and 1975, a planimetric (horizontal features only without regard for topography) map of campus created in 1958, and a topographical survey of the Mississippi River created by the LSU Department of Civil Engineering in 1909. Other items include sheet music entitled L.S.U. Semi-Centennial Waltz composed for LSU’s fiftieth anniversary in 1910, promotional brochures entitled Louisiana State University Views and Activities 1936 and This Is LSU (1959), and a seismogram registering ground movement on October 8, 1988 caused by the cheering crowd after LSU’s game-winning touchdown against Auburn in the “earthquake game” in Tiger Stadium.

The photographs can be searched by keyword, topics, colleges and departments or campus buildings. The printed materials are searchable by keyword.

For more information about the University Archives, contact Barry Cowan, Assistant University Archivist, at bcowan@lsu.edu or (225) 578-6943.

LSU cadets, as students at the all-male university were called, were required to wear uniforms and conform to military discipline. This studio image was created circa 1890.
**February 2010**

**News Briefs**

**Remember to pay your dues by February 28, 2010**

All SSA memberships run the calendar year, so to stay current please pay your dues by the end of February.

Electronic delivery of *Southwestern Archivist* is available in lieu of the paper version. To select the PDF delivery option on your renewal form, answer “yes” to the question “Do you want to receive the newsletter in an electronic format?”

**SLOTTO 2010**

Before leaving for Santa Fe, check your repository for those weird and wonderful items that make SLOTTO so much fun! Items collected are raffled off at the annual meeting, with all proceeds benefiting SSA scholarship funds.

SLOTTO tickets will be sold at the meeting in the days, hours, and minutes prior to the annual business meeting. Support your colleagues by contributing to SSA scholarships - bring your SLOTTO items with you to Santa Fe and buy plenty of tickets to increase your chances of winning something amazing!

**SAA Offers Continuing Education from your Desktop**

If you missed live presentations of SAA’s topical Web seminars, they’re now available Online On Demand! Access the Education Calendar under the Education and Events menu on the home page and register to gain access for two months.

SAA also offers a number of ePublications that are available online free of charge. See http://www.archivists.org/publications/epubs/ for a list of available titles.
The National Historical Publications and Records Commission awarded six grants in the Spring of 2009 for historical records projects in the Southwestern United States. These grants represent a range of processing projects along with the new State and National Archival Partnership (SNAP) program. The following organizations received awards:

**Archives: Basic Processing**

American Choral Directors Association  
Oklahoma City, OK  $27,125  
To support the establishment of an archives documenting choral music history. Founded in 1959, the Association has a collection of 800 linear feet of records documenting the history of choral associations across the United States.

University of Texas  
Austin, TX  $69,310  
To support a two-year project to improve access to backlogged collections of the Center for American History’s Research and Collections division, including the Walter Cronkite papers, the Vietnam Veterans Archive, the records of the Nuclear Control Institute, and the World War I and World War II Soldiers’ Collections.

**Archives: Detailed Processing**

University of New Mexico Regents  
Albuquerque, NM  $50,175  
To support, on behalf of the Center for Southwest Research, an 18-month project to arrange and describe 350 linear feet of records and papers from LaDonna Harris and the organization she founded in 1970, Americans for Indian Opportunity. Harris served on the National Women’s Advisory Council of the War on Poverty and the National Council on Indian Opportunity.

**SNAP Grants**

Arizona State Historical Records Advisory Board  $39,208  
To support a statewide Archival Summit, four Archives 101 workshops, and 8-10 regrants to organizations across the state.

New Mexico Commission of Public Records  $70,000  
To support a regrants program of at least 21 grants to local government, educational institutions, historical societies, community libraries, and museums throughout the state.

Oklahoma Department of Libraries  $70,000  
To support a Summit Meeting, two digitization workshops for archivists, and a regrants program for at least 10 archival projects in the state.

New rounds of grant opportunities in Basic and Detailed processing should be available next Spring, with a deadline of October 2010. The next SNAP application deadline is March 4, 2010.

Also watch the NHPRC Web site (www.archives.gov/nhprc) for announcements regarding conference calls for possible applicants for Digitizing Historical Records and Electronic Records projects. New grant announcements will be available in early December 2009.

Sign up for NHPRC News, a bi-monthly e-newsletter by sending an e-mail to keith.donohue@nara.gov with the subject line of “NHPRC News Subscribe.”
On February 16, 2010, the AHC will open a new exhibit, *Relief, Recovery & Progress: The Great Depression and the New Deal in Austin*. This exhibit will explore 1930s Austin, how the Depression had a lasting impact on our community, and what lessons can be learned as the country grapples with the current economic woes.

The economic recession gripping the United States today has many eerie similarities to the Great Depression. Each coincided or began with a precipitous moment: the 1929 Stock Market crash “began” the Great Depression and the mortgage crisis was the defining moment of the current recession. Both began during a Republican Administration (Hoover, Bush) that would be replaced by a Democratic Administration in the next Presidential election (Roosevelt, Obama). Both incoming Democratic administrations addressed the economy with massive federal spending initiatives (New Deal legislation, American Recovery & Reinvestment Act). These apparent similarities between that time and ours seem to pose the question “How did Austin survive the Great Depression?”

Not only did Austin survive the Depression, in some ways it can be said that Austin came out ahead. Austin was able to take advantage of the New Deal dollars flowing out of Washington DC. In fact, Austin received more federal dollars for unemployment relief and public works than any other Texas city. This influx of dollars resulted in many lasting and iconic changes to Austin and its built environment. The “alphabet soup” agencies such as the CCC and the WPA that grew out of Roosevelt’s New Deal became a bulwark against a slide into more dire circumstances. The buildings and bridges, dams and domiciles, streets and signature improvements accomplished during those years became critical to Austin’s continued flourishing.

Experiencing the impact of the 1930s on our city may leave us wondering what Austin will be like when our current economic troubles also pass into history.

Using images, documents and media culled from various collections at the Center, including the WPA Texas District 9 Records, *Relief, Recovery & Progress* provides a vivid look at Depression era Austin and explores the long lasting legacy that decade had on central Texas, such as the construction of the Tom Miller, Mansfield, Buchanan, and Inks Dams and creation of the LCRA. Oral history clips, including Senator Ralph Yarbrough’s recollections, and video of dramatic readings from the Travis County Slave Narratives will give voice to the documents and images. The exhibit will be in the lobby and Grand Hallway at the AHC and will run through July 11, 2010.

In partnership with our friends group, the Austin History Center Association (AHCA), the Center will offer a series of programs related to the exhibit (all free and open to the public).

- On March 11, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm, we will host the official opening reception for the exhibit at the Center. University of Texas professor H. W. Brands, author of the 2009 Pulitzer Prize finalist *Traitor to His Class: The Privileged Life and Radical Presidency of Franklin Delano Roosevelt*, will be the featured speaker and place the exhibit in a national context.
- On April 10, 10:00am – 12:00 pm, we will present a walking tour of Depression era architecture near the AHC, including our own 1933 Italian Renaissance building (which has some Art Deco stylings) where the tour will start. The tour will cover 6 buildings built in the 1930s, some with New Deal money, and architectural historians will regale the tour with stories of each.
- On May 8, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm, the AHCA will present a program, “Music of the Great Depression,” at the Sweet Home Baptist Church (1725 W. 11th St, Austin). John Wheat, audio archivist at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, will speak about the Lomax project, funded in part by the WPA, to document American folk and roots music. Following his speech, the Church choir and singer/songwriter Guy Forsythe will entertain the crowd with songs from the 1930s.

For questions about the exhibit or the programs, contact the Austin History Center at ahc_reference@ci.austin.tx.us or call us at (512) 974-7480.

On June 11, 1936, President Roosevelt paid a 15-minute visit to Austin for the groundbreaking for the Texas Memorial Museum, which was funded by a myriad of federal sources for the 1936 Texas Centennial celebrations.

Image # PICA 25665
Photograph by Neal Douglass
On Wednesday 10 March 2010, the Louisiana Library Association will hold a pre-conference program on Hurricane Preparedness & Response. Staff from the Information Use Management & Policy Institute at Florida State University will provide an overview and introduction to the Hurricane Preparedness and Response Web site at http://hurricanes.ii.fsu.edu/. They will also discuss the development and importance of the public library service roles which public librarians can use as models to develop specific services in preparing for and responding to hurricanes and other emergencies. There will also be a panel discussion lead by Lyrasis members Marlee Givens, MaryEllin Santiago and Alix Bentrud, State Librarian Rebeca Hamilton, Dr. Michelynn McKnight and Archivist Michelle Riggs. The cost of the workshop is $30.00 for Non-LLA members and seating is limited to 50 attendees.

Tarleton State University recently updated the Charles W. Stenholm Congressional papers Web site by adding box lists to the Web page. The papers are still unprocessed; however, the lists do make the papers searchable for researchers. Work is beginning on creating a box list of the second accession of Stenholm’s papers (170+ boxes). The two accessions will be combined as the papers are processed. Access the box lists by clicking on the Collections Inventories link on the homepage of the Charles W. Stenholm Congressional papers site: http://www.tarleton.edu/~archive/stenholm/.

The Charles W. Stenholm Congressional papers document Congressman Stenholm’s 26-year career in the United States House of Representatives. The papers consist of 359 boxes (448.75 ft.).

SSA Committee news is available on the Leadership Blog. Don’t miss out - subscribe now and receive information as it becomes available!

http://ssaleaders.blogspot.com/
The Bossier Parish Library Historical Center in Bossier City, Louisiana, invites you to search its online collection database. The BPLHC collects objects, records and manuscripts concerning the history and culture of Bossier Parish. To search the database, go to http://bossier.pastperfect-online.com. To learn about some of the treasures housed in the Historical Center, please visit the BlogSpot at http://bpl-hc.blogspot.com. Information about current exhibits, a rear Reconstruction-era lithograph poster in the collection and projects that are underway can be seen at the BlogSpot.

The Archives of the Institute of American Indian Arts is proud to announce that it has been awarded $5,946.00 of support from the We the People initiative of the National Endowment of the Humanities in December. The grant will support the purchasing of appropriate supplies to re-house the 200 cubic foot backlog of IAIA Record Groups by May of 2011. The Archives is indebted to the NEH for their support of their project and the preservation of our materials. For more information please email Ryan S. Flahive at rflahive@iaia.edu or visit the We the People Web site at http://www.wethepeople.gov.

Archival Haiku Collection: Read Today
More than 50 haiku written by archivists about the profession are captured in this clever collection. Haiku—a Japanese poetry form using five syllables, seven syllables, five syllables—was a featured segment in the “Archives After Hours: The Light, Literary, and Lascivious Side of Archives” session at Sustainable Archives: AUSTIN 2009. The session explored the many ideas and interests of archivists that expand far beyond the walls of traditional archival thought. Read the collection today; it is available in PDF format at http://www.archivists.org/news/ArchivalHaiku-1209.asp.

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The University of Texas at San Antonio Libraries have appointed two new professionals to the team overseeing the University’s rapidly growing archives and special collections. Juli McLoone, Special Collections Librarian, and Sean Heyliger, University Archivist, assumed their roles during the fall 2009 semester.

McLoone and Heyliger will be responsible for the development, organization and preservation of the university’s rare and unique primary source materials, which include rare books, manuscripts, official records, personal papers, maps and other items of historical significance. The collections specialize in the people, history, art, life and literature of San Antonio and South Texas, as well as the history of the university itself.

“The work that Juli and Sean are doing directly supports UTSA’s assent to Tier One research university status,” says Dr. Krisellen Maloney, dean of libraries. “Most major research universities have extensive research centers with unique primary source materials. Though UTSA is a young university, our institutional strategic plan provides us with a solid framework for enhancing our scholarly resources on South Texas. We need to continue to build our collections so our faculty, students and visiting scholars have access to important historical materials about our region, whether in person or online.”

McLoone joins UTSA from the University of Iowa, where she served as the Robert A. and Ruth Bywater Olson Fellow for their Special Collections Department. A specialist in rare books and resource digitization and a member of Phi Beta Kappa, McLoone holds Master’s degrees in Anthropology and Library/Information Science, both from the University of Iowa.

Heyliger comes to UTSA from the San Antonio Municipal Archives where he was the assistant archivist. Prior to his role with the city, Heyliger served as an archival assistant for the Archives of American Mathematics, Center for American History in Austin, TX. Heyliger holds a Master’s degree in American Studies from the University of Wyoming, and a Master’s degree in Library Information Science from the University of Texas at Austin.

“Sean and Juli’s roles are critical for advancing scholarly research and education at the university and beyond,” says Mark Shelstad, head of UTSA’s archives and special collections. “They, together with Manuscripts Curator Nikki Lynn Thomas, will help us to build a collection of distinction, increase access to the materials, and work to preserve them for generations to come.”

Robert Eldridge Seller Fellowship
The Missouri State Archives announces a research opportunity for qualified applicants interested in the study of judicial records held by the Missouri State Archives in Jefferson City and/or its St. Louis branch. The Seiler Fellowship will be awarded to an established scholar or qualified doctoral candidate to study any series of court records held by the Missouri State Archives.

SCMHS Internship
The Missouri State Archives announces two internship opportunities for qualified advanced undergraduate or graduate students interested in working with the Supreme Court of Missouri case files. These are summer internships.

African American History Internship
The Missouri State Archives invites applications from graduate or advanced undergraduate students who are interested in working with the many collections of primary source material related to African American history in Missouri held by the Archives. Applicants must either attend a Missouri college or university or be a Missouri resident.

For more information about each opportunity, please visit the News & Events section of the Missouri Secretary of State Web site at http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/. Initial review of applications will begin March 1, 2010.
A decade ago, when Fort Worth’s Beth-El Congregation moved from an inner-city synagogue to a new building, more than forty decorative stained-glass window panes were salvaged and stored in the Temple Archives. A sampling of these works of art is the focus of a luminous display in the congregation’s Hall of Remembrance.

The old stained-glass windows at the downtown synagogue contained circular medallions, each filled with a painting of a Jewish ritual object. The windows included depictions of an 18th-century Scroll of Esther, a German Passover plate illustrating a holiday song, and the image of a pair of hands performing a priestly blessing. The painted glass was handcrafted in 1947 in a Dallas art studio. The sanctuary’s overall designer was Erno Fabry.

In April of 2000, several months before the congregation vacated its old synagogue, artisans removed the stained-glass discs, replacing each with an opaque circle of glass. A congregant built protective cases for these fragile works of art, which are only now, a decade later, seeing the light of day.

Saving the window panes was a task that required a great deal of lobbying. The Building Committee initially approved removing only those panes that would be reused in the new premises. A dozen panes, depicting each of the Twelve Tribes of Israel, were incorporated into the design of the new building. Glass nameplates identifying congregants of old who contributed for the original stained glass were also removed and mounted along a wall decorated with plaques. But another forty stained-glass medallions, which graced the sanctuary and the stairwells, would have been abandoned had not preservationists within the congregation relentlessly argued, cajoled, educated, and convinced the membership they were worth saving. The old synagogue, at 207 W. Broadway Avenue, has been sold several times and remains vacant.

The exhibit, Stained-Glass from Beth-El’s Past, will be on display for the next year or two. It was researched and arranged by archivist Hollace Weiner and archival assistants Rosanne Margolis and Barbara Rosenthal. Dr. Bruce Weiner installed the lighting, which adds a spiritual feel to the display.

Beth-El Congregation, 4900 Briarhaven Rd., Fort Worth, is open to the public Monday thru Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm and for Friday-evening services. For worship times, check the Web site, www.bethelfw.org, or call ahead to (817) 332-7141.

Southwestern Archivist Needs You!

Tell your colleagues about your acquisitions, projects, exhibits, or grants — submit your repository news and leadership log information by April 10th. Photographs (300dpi in a native image format) are highly encouraged. Be sure to provide the caption and/or credit information that you want to accompany the image(s).

Help maintain the quality of this newsletter by submitting repository news articles with photographs.
- One column (1/2 page) = 275 words with a photograph or two
- Two columns (1 full page) = 600 words with a photograph or two

Because of space limitations, we regret that we are unable to publish articles that are significantly longer than 600 words. Authors are encouraged to read the Call for Submissions that is sent to members via e-mail about 10 days prior to the deadline. Priority will be given to articles that meet the stated guidelines, that are accompanied by photographs with captions, and are submitted by the stated deadline (see p.4 of every issue).
The Corpus Christi Public Libraries held a wonderful reception on October 4, 2009, to commemorate the opening of their library system one hundred years ago. The country’s most renowned librarian and keynote speaker, Laura Bush, acknowledged the difficult origins and accomplishments of this institution, while discussing the importance of a public library. Mrs. Bush closed her visit by reading to a group of children from her book, *Read All About It!* and gifted each student with a signed copy.

The library in Corpus Christi emerged from an organization of young women, the La Retama club, which formed in 1905 through the urgings of The Woman’s Monday Club. This club held social events, but their main focus was the edification of its members. Soon they realized the need for a library and with the words “A cultivated mind is the guardian genius of democracy” once uttered by Mirabeau Buonaparte Lamar, president of the Republic of Texas, as their inspiration, the women undertook the huge task of building a library. The club raised money by; producing a play; holding a peanut hunt; auctions, selling ice cream; candy; cakes; and lemonade; fixing meals; hosting a series of Chautauqua meetings; concerts, and held a book shower.

Finally on May 4, 1909 the La Retama Club invited Corpus Christi citizens to their newly established library, with thirty-five chairs, several tables, and a collection of 500 catalogued volumes. The early years were rough and Dr. Perry Lovenskiold came to their rescue by foregoing his rent payment. In 1914 the club had enough money to engage the library’s first paid librarian, Miss Marie von Blucher.

In 1916 a fire broke out in the building and firemen threw some of the water logged books out the window, until the La Retama club president climbed up the firemen’s ladder and put a stop to this. Volunteers soon arrived with baskets and the ladies placed their beloved books in these containers and carried them down the ladder. The members than strung rope and hung the books to dry, carefully adjusting the pages to prevent sticking. After nursing these materials back to useable condition, the hurricane of 1916 blew into town. This storm broke building windows and once again water drenched the collection. By 1917 the La Retama Club once again opened the library. The next couple of years were relatively free of catastrophe, but that soon changed with the storm of the century for the Corpus Christi library. The September 14, 1919, hurricane completely devastated much of the city and the library. Since there were several oil tankers in the area, the books were not only covered with water and mud, but now also saturated with oil. To save some of the books, members sponged each book with ammonia and water.

With the opening of the port on September 14, 1926, the city gained an increase in population and money. With the urging of club members, the city assumed the maintenance of the La Retama library. Club members still volunteered to repair books, raised money for new books, and sat on the library board. Finally by October 11, 1937 the library relocated to the W.W. Jones building, where it remained for the next eighteen years. To make checking books more convenient, the city added a bookmobile service by 1945 and in 1962 the city opened its first branch library, Parkdale (presently known as Neyland) and a few years later the Greenwood branch. Another hurricane, Celia, would take its toll on the books, but the city undaunted, opened several more branches; Padre-Staples in 1974, but closed this branch in 1978; Flour Bluff (presently known as Harte) in 1977; Northwest in 1982, and the Clotilde P. Garcia in 2009. The La Retama (Central Library), moved to their new building in 1986 and the library system contains over 400,000 books, with an extensive Web site containing close to 30,000 images, several manuscripts, and over seventy-five audio clips. It also has a variety of finding guides for some of its special collections. The Friends of the Library funded the beginning of a project to archive the institution’s records. The collection consists of manuscripts, letters, minutes, scrapbooks, newspaper clippings, slides, photographs, video recordings and tapes. The library archive occupies over fifty linear feet and should have its finding guide online in the near future. The La Retama Club records have also been archived and their records can be found at http:www.cclibraries.com. The existence of the Corpus Christi Public Libraries has been tested and it has weathered many storms and hopefully it will continue to grow and prosper throughout the next century.
From Yesterday’s World

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- Autobiography

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For Tomorrow’s World

- Libraries
- Museums
- Individuals
**HOW TO: EDIT A WIKI**

By Pati Threatt • McNeese State University

The SSA Unofficial Wiki [http://ssarchivists.wikispaces.com] offers members a way to post job announcements, educational opportunities, news, general notices, and anything else that might be of use to fellow SSA-ers. Anyone can edit this wiki, so if you have something to say to the SSA, please add it to an existing page or start a discussion. To get started, just click on “join” to register for a Wikispaces account.

The wiki features Web pages, a discussion section, RSS feeds, and space for the individual states to communicate internally. It’s very simple to use - just like editing a Word document. If you’re new to wikis, there is a short “Getting Started” page with instructions and links to additional help sites. If you’re hesitant or unsure of editing the wiki, this is a great opportunity to become more familiar with this new tool in the comfort of the SSA community.

SSA created the wiki as a way for members to communicate informally and quickly. You don’t need anyone’s permission to edit the pages or start a discussion. You won’t break the wiki. Come join the discussion. Everyone is welcome.

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**LEADERSHIP LOG**

Compiled by Kate Blalack

**Penny Clark** was named Lamar University Archivist on July 15, 2009. Her work includes not only the University Archives, but also Lamar University’s Special Collections. Some highlights of these collections include: a cookbook collection with a volume dating back to the year 1500; extensive collections on the “Big Thicket” of Texas; and holdings on World War II including the papers of Leif Oistad who served as one of the forerunner of the CIA in the 1940s.

Clark was also named to the Board of Directors of the “Visionaries in Preservation Program (VIP)” in Beaumont, TX. This program is sponsored by the Texas Historical Commission (THC) and works to coordinate community historic preservation efforts within the State of Texas.

**Peggy Carter**, Archivist at the Prescott Memorial Library of Louisiana Tech University, recently gave a presentation on the Chautauqua Movement.

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**REPORT YOUR ARCHIVAL LEADERSHIP ACTIVITY**

The Leadership Log is designed to keep SSA members informed about colleagues’ publications, presentations, promotions, or other noteworthy activities.

Submit your news to kate.blalack@okstate.edu.

Names of SSA members appear in **bold** type.

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Want to connect with SSA members? • Have a position to post? • Looking for career opportunities?

Participate in the SSA wiki!

You are cordially invited …

SSA membership is open to everyone interested in archival work. Whether archivist, librarian, conservator, genealogist, or concerned citizen, we welcome your participation in promoting the preservation and use of archives.

☐ Mr. ☐ Ms. ☐ Dr. ☐ Sr. ☐ Br. ☐ Fr. ☐ Other ________________

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N.B.: SSA’s membership year is the calendar year.

☐ SSA’s committees offer many ways to become more involved in our society and in the life of the archival profession. Please let us know of any committees or project in which you might be interested and we will be happy to contact you with more information.

☐ Annual Meeting ☐ Internet Outreach ☐ Membership ☐ Nominating

☐ Professional Development ☐ Publications ☐ Scholarships ☐ Site Selection

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