Processing the Governor George W. Bush Central Correspondence has been a long and difficult process, interrupted and complicated by a three-year building renovation, more than seventy Public Information Act (PIA) requests, and other projects.

What is the Bush Central Correspondence? Simply put, it is 1000 cubic feet of letters sent to Governor George W. Bush by correspondents, expressing their opinions or asking for assistance. It accounts for half of the total Governor Bush records received by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC). Although all Texas governors’ records are owned by TSLAC, the Governor Bush records were originally housed at the George Bush Presidential Library and then temporarily transferred to TSLAC for preparing finding aids and providing timely access to the records. Processing was begun by archivist Sharon Severson in 2004 and continued by myself in 2005. Mostly dated from 1995 to 2000, the letters come from within the state of Texas and all over the world. Correspondents include the general public, corporations, organizations, legislators and other elected or appointed officials. The correspondence provides a fascinating window into the Texas government, political and social scene during the late 1990s. What political issues were Texans passionate about? How did people from other states and countries view Texas? And how did the Governor’s Office interact with Bush’s constituents?

The correspondence, usually including the initial letter, envelopes, drafts, additional notes and final response from the Governor’s Office, ranges from two to well over one hundred pages. From heart-breaking pleas for medical bill assistance and requests for a wedding greeting to simple opinion postcards and prisoners asking for pardons, the types of letters and subjects are vast. Some of the most bizarre requests include one from a constituent in prison asking the Governor for a pardon because he needed money from the sale of marijuana to feed pet alligators and another because the prisoner believed he was Jesus at the time he committed the crime. Many interesting non-paper items sent to the Governor – photographs, VHS videocassettes, and audiocassettes as well as artifacts such as t-shirts, shark teeth, buttons, and a baseball – are also preserved. The series contains familiar names such as Mitt Romney, Kenneth Lay, Karl Rove, University of Texas football coach Mack Brown, Chuck Norris and Dan Quayle. Of particular interest is a birthday card sent from former Supreme Court nominee, Harriet Miers.

Because of the sheer volume of daily correspondence, most of the replies...
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 at: http://southwestarchivists.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 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.

Arizona submissions
Joyce Martin
joyce.martin@asu.edu

Arkansas submissions
Diane Worrell
dfworrell@uark.edu

Louisiana submissions
Hans C. Rasmussen
hrasmuss@lsu.edu

New Mexico submissions
Felicia Lujan
felicia.lujan@state.nm.us

Oklahoma submissions
Misty D. Smith
misty.d.smith@okstate.edu

South Texas submissions
Nikki Lynn Thomas
nikki.thomas@utsa.edu

North Texas submissions
Ellen Niewyk
eniewyk@mail.smu.edu

Leadership Log submissions
Kate Blalack
kate.blalack@okstate.edu

Out-of-region submissions
Shelly Croteau
shelly.croteau@sos.mo.gov

Editors
Katie Salzmann salzmann@txstate.edu
Kris Toma kris.toma@txstate.edu

SSA WEB SITE: http://southwestarchivists.org
The SSA Web page is maintained by Pati Threatt 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: DUES ARE DUE, BUT WHAT DO THEY DO?

You have hopefully received your friendly dues reminder from Treasurer Mat Darby; and sprinkled throughout this issue of *Southwestern Archivist* you will find reminders that this is the time to renew your membership in SSA.

As with any organization, annual dues are one way that the Society is able to sustain quality workshops, conferences, and scholarships. They also provide the majority of support for this quarterly newsletter and make it possible for us to provide both print and electronic copies to the general membership.

Throughout the year, we encourage you to get involved by submitting news articles, feature stories, and leadership items for publication in the newsletter. These are all vital to our ability to offer a quality newsletter in which members can keep abreast of trends and issues and stay informed about what others are doing.

In February, we extend our plea to you to include renewing your dues with SSA so that we can continue to publish *Southwestern Archivist*, one of the key benefits of membership in the organization. Thank you!

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**For breaking SSA news, check the Web**

Check out the “News and Notices” section at [http://southwestarchivists.org/](http://southwestarchivists.org/) for the latest information related to SSA.

You can also become a fan of the SSA Facebook page at [http://www.facebook.com/southwestarchivists](http://www.facebook.com/southwestarchivists) and join in the conversation.

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**SOUTHWESTERN ARCHIVIST NEEDS YOU!**

Tell your colleagues about your acquisitions, projects, exhibits, or grants — submit your repository news 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).

We are seeking Spotlight articles that highlight repositories, individuals or collections that may be of particular interest to our members. Please contact Katie Salzmann at salzmann@txstate.edu to reserve space!
“A new year, new beginnings,” is something I have stated frequently since our annual meeting in Little Rock. As I write this column, a new calendar year has just started and the Society is moving towards completing its fortieth year and starting its fifth decade of existence. The Society of Southwest Archivists has grown and developed into a dynamic, thriving organization since its founding in 1972. It is an accomplishment in which the entire membership, past and present, shares and can take pride in having helped to achieve.

The Society was founded with certain objectives:
- to stimulate and make available the results of research in archival administration and records management;
- to promote the adoption of sound principles and standards for the preservation and administration of records;
- to promote opportunities for the education and training of archivists, records managers and custodians of private papers;
- to maintain and strengthen relations with others in allied disciplines;
- to cooperate with other professional organizations and institutions having mutual interests in the preservation and use of our recorded heritage.

Every year we diligently work to fulfill our founding objectives. Educational workshops are presented yearly. The professional growth and development of members and students is encouraged by the awarding of scholarships. We currently offer two scholarships targeted for students in archival, library or public history programs and two scholarships intended for the continuing education and professional development of members. Our newsletter provides members the opportunity to publish articles and publicize the achievements, activities and acquisitions of their institutions as well as their own professional accomplishments. The annual meeting offers educational sessions to help everyone stay abreast of the latest developments and provides opportunities to create and cultivate professional contacts and friendships.

This fall, a letter was sent to Laura Uglean, Chair of the Society of American Archivists’ Reappraisal and De-accessioning Team in support of accepting into the standard practices of the profession the “Guidelines for Reappraisal and Deaccessioning” proposed by the team. Recent activities have SSA reaching out to the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries and Museums to see how we can collaborate with one another in educational endeavors. In April we are holding a workshop on maps, “Maps: What Archivists Should Know” which will be held at the University of Texas at Arlington. Our annual meeting this May 23-26 in Phoenix is a joint meeting with the Conference of Inter-Mountain Archivists. The preliminary program and registration information is available on our Web site. While we are reaching out and collaborating with colleagues we continue to work at documenting and updating our operating procedures.

In this issue you will find the 2012 slate of candidates for election to office. I want to thank all those who have answered the Nominations Committee’s call to service. Service has its rewards and so does membership. If you have not yet renewed your membership, I urge you to do so. Enrich your archives experience! Join in the fun and camaraderie of the annual meeting as we celebrate forty years of SSA growth and accomplishments.

Support SSA Scholarships: Gather Your SLOTTO Items!

The year 2012 is upon us. It’s time for reflection, New Year’s resolutions and … SLOTTO! The annual meeting in May will be here before you know it and we need everyone to donate items so this year’s SLOTTO can be the best on record. It doesn’t matter what kind - wacky, crazy, zany, historical, goofy, somber, serious, cool – we want them. Contact scholarships committee chair Brian Collins for more information.

Brian Collins, CA
Texas/Dallas History Division, 7th floor
Dallas Public Library
1515 Young Street, Dallas, Texas 75201
(214) 671-8313
Brian.collins@dallaslibrary.org
Renew Your Dues Now!

Don’t miss the chance to vote in the upcoming election

It is time again to renew your Society of Southwest Archivists membership. If you do so now, you will continue to receive *Southwestern Archivist*, to register for the Annual Meeting at the member rate and take advantage of other member benefits like continuing education opportunities and scholarships. And, if you renew by March 1, you will be a member in good standing eligible to vote in the upcoming SSA election.

Please recall that the dues structure has changed as of the 2011 Annual Meeting. The current dues are:
- Individual Membership: $25.00
- Student/Retiree Membership: $15.00

You may pay your dues in one of two ways:
1. PayPal: Go to http://www.southwestarchivists.org/memberdir.html and click the appropriate membership button. You do not need a PayPal account to use this option, only a credit card. (Note that online payments are $26/$16 to cover PayPal’s transaction fees.)
2. Check: Mail a check in the appropriate amount made out to:
   Society of Southwest Archivists
   P.O. Box 301311
   Austin, TX 78703-0022

If you feel that your membership record/directory entry may be out-of-date, please feel free to contact Treasurer Mat Darby or Claire Jenkins, chair of the Membership Committee. An updated membership directory will be posted to the SSA Web site by mid-March.

Mat Darby
Treasurer
msdarby@mail.utexas.edu

Claire Galloway Jenkins
Chair, Membership Committee
cjenkins@fwdioc.org

CANDIDATES FOR 2012 BALLOT

Warren Stricker, CA
Chair, Nominating Committee

The SSA Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the candidates for the 2012 election:

Vice-president/President-elect
- Susan Goodman Novick
- Danielle Cunniff Plumer

Secretary
- Jennifer Day

Executive Board (three positions)
- Penny Clark
- Melissa Gonzales
- Sarah Canby Jackson
- Claire Galloway Jenkins
- Bill Welge
- Dawn Youngblood

Nominating Committee (one position)
- Stephanie Bayless
- J.J. Compton
- B. Lynn Whitfield

Scholarship Committee (one position)
- Mike Aday
- Michelle Bogart
- Patrizia Nava

Candidates may be added to the ballot by petition, when signed by twenty current members and submitted at least ninety days prior to the annual meeting.

Voting will be conducted electronically again this year, with paper ballots to be distributed to those unable to vote online. Remember, only current members may participate in the election, so pay your dues if you want to vote!

Our sincere thanks go out to all of the candidates for their willingness to serve SSA.

Warren Stricker
Chair, Nominating Committee
wstricker@pphm.wtamu.edu

Time to Renew Your Membership!

Please remember to renew your dues by the end of February to remain on the membership rolls and be eligible to vote in the election this spring! SSA memberships run the calendar year (January - December).
The Professional Development Committee (PDC) is pleased to announce the following opportunities for our members this spring:

**Spring SSA Workshop**

“Maps: What Archivists Should Know” will be held on Friday, April 13, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Library Parlor (on the sixth floor) of the UT Arlington Central Library. **Ann Hodges** leads a top-notch team including Imre Demhardt, Endowed Chair for the History of Cartography at UT Arlington, Ben Huseman, Cartographic Archivist at Special Collections, and **Mark Lambert**, Deputy Commissioner for Archives and Records at the Texas General Land Office, who will talk about the history of maps, maps as objects and research resources, and the description, storage and preservation, and digitization of maps. A behind-the-scenes tour of UTA Special Collections will be included, as will a continental breakfast and lunch.

To register and pay the $50.00 registration fee via Paypal, please visit [http://southwestarchivists.org/mapwksp.html](http://southwestarchivists.org/mapwksp.html) and send contact information (name, institution, position) to Mat Darby at msdarby@austin.utexas.edu. To pay by check, please send registrant information (name, institution, position) and $50.00 registration fee to:

Society of Southwest Archivists
P.O. Box 301311
Austin, Texas 78703-0022

**Pre-Conference Workshops**

- “Legal Issues with Digital Archives” (SAA DAS)
  - Registration: $185 SAA member, $210 SSA or CIMA member, $235 non-member; Limited to 35 attendees. Attendees are asked to bring their own laptop.

  As of the newsletter deadline, the PDC is still finalizing instructors and titles for our slate of workshops. Be sure to check out the SSA Leadership Blog [http://ssaleaders.blogspot.com/](http://ssaleaders.blogspot.com/) or the SSA Web site for the latest information on the SSA Pre-Conference workshop schedule.

  Please contact Leslie Meyer via phone or email if you have any feedback for the PDC. We are here to serve the continuing education needs of our fellow SSA members!

  Leslie Meyer
  Chair, Professional Development Committee
  (432) 683-4403
  lmeyer@petroleummuseum.org

**CALL FOR PARTICIPATION:**

**Finding Aid Creation & Access Survey**

Are you curious how other repositories create and provide access to their finding aids? Does your system work - but you wonder if it’s time for a change? What might that change look like? What do other people do?

Participate in a 5 minute online survey to share your methods and then look forward to hearing the wide variety of results in a paper presented at our annual meeting in May 2012 and published online in Summer 2012.

Visit the survey at [http://tinyurl.com/7n3sk4f](http://tinyurl.com/7n3sk4f) by **March 15, 2012**

Survey questions include:

- When you write finding aids, what environment do you use? **Word processing? XML code in an editor? Software such as Archivists Toolkit or Archon? Other?**
- How do you share your finding aids with your users? **On-site access only? On your own website? In a finding aids consortium?**
- Do your finding aids appear in the national ArchiveGrid?
- If you share your finding aids with a state or regional consortium, how do you give them your files?
- If you post your finding aids on your own website, how does that happen?
- What do you like best about your system?
- What do you like least about your system?

Please participate in this survey as we can all learn from each other’s methods.

Amanda Focke
afocke@rice.edu

**Upcoming SAA Workshops in the SSA Region**

- March 8-9: Managing Electronic Records in Archives and Special Collections, College Station, TX
- March 15-16: Managing Electronic Records in Archives and Special Collections #1250, College Station, TX
- March 23: Encoded Archival Context - Corporate Bodies, Persons, and Families [New SAA Standard], Austin, TX
- April 24: Basic Electronic Records NAGARA E-Records Forum, Austin, TX

See SAA’s Continuing Education Calendar at [http://www2.archivists.org/](http://www2.archivists.org/) for more information.
The Society of Southwest Archivists (SSA) and the Conference of Inter-Mountain Archivists (CIMA) will host a joint Annual Meeting on May 23-26 in Mesa, Arizona at the Phoenix Marriott Mesa Hotel. When not attending sessions, you can enjoy the sun by the hotel pool, or check out the many entertaining and conveniently located attractions highlighted for you by the local arrangements committee. (See flyer included in your registration packet for details.)

Conference Sessions
The meeting sessions cover a wide range of timely topics including leadership, preservation of digital material, institutional repositories, collaborations and consortiaums (including the role of regional archival associations), and MPLP. Attendees will have an opportunity to exchange ideas with new professionals by attending a graduate student poster session. Stay tuned for more information regarding preconference workshops on Wednesday May 23rd.

Key Note Speaker
Dr. Matthew Whitaker, founder of the Arizona State University Center for the Study of Race and Democracy, will give the annual meeting’s plenary address Thursday May 24th from 8AM-9:30AM. Frequent NPR and PBS contributor, Dr. Whitaker focuses primarily on African-American and Civil Rights History in the United States. Dr. Whitaker’s article “Shooting Down Racism: Lincoln and Eleanor Ragsdale and Residential Desegregation in Phoenix, 1947-1953” was recently named one of the top ten articles of the decade by Journal of the West.

Reception
The SSA-CIMA annual meeting reception will be at the Mesa Arts Center on Thursday, May 24, 2012, from 6-8 pm. Ample delicious hors d’ouvre and dessert will be served, and there will be a cash bar.

Registration
To register for the 2012 SSA-CIMA Joint Annual Meeting please print and complete the registration form on the SSA annual meeting Web page at http://southwestarchivists.org/annualmeeting.html. Early bird registration fees are only $135. After May 4th the registration fee increases to $160.

Mail the completed form and a check made out to SSA/CIMA Joint Conference 2012 to:
c/o Doug Kupel, Conference Treasurer
P.O. Box 878
Phoenix, AZ 85001-0878

Local Attractions
The greater Phoenix metropolitan area boasts many cultural and recreational activities that are enjoyable for all ages, and offers everything from museums to golf courses to amusement parks. Papago Park is home to the Arizona Historical Society, the Desert Botanical Gardens, and the Phoenix Zoo. Downtown Phoenix features the Heard Museum, the Phoenix Art Museum, and Arizona’s major league baseball team the Arizona Diamondbacks. For those bringing their families (or those who are just kids at heart) the Arizona Museum for Youth and Mesa Golfland Sunsplash offer water rides, mini-golf, go carts, and much more. You can always extend your Arizona stay and visit one of the many national parks or monuments in the state!
The Program Committee for the SSA/CIMA Joint Meeting 2012 is happy to announce a fantastic and varied program. We look forward to seeing you in Phoenix, May 23-26, 2012!

Our theme, *Enriching the Archives Experience*, will be carried out by sessions on topics such as innovative access to finding aids and collections, perspectives on exhibits and outreach, digitization topics, student contributions to the field, and professional development as individual archivists and as archival organizations.

In addition to many intriguing presentations of papers and posters, the following highlights feature several panel discussions which invite you to join the conversation.

**Working Together: Strengthening the Archival Community**
This panel will discuss the role of regional archival associations and how they are working together. It will also examine how regional associations interact with the Society of American Archivists.

**Truly, Madison-ly, Deeply:**
**Experiences at the Archives Leadership Institute**
The Archives Leadership Institute (ALI), an NHRPC grant-funded workshop held on the campus of the University of Wisconsin in Madison, is an important professional development opportunity for mid-career and emerging archival leaders. Setting the stage will be a presentation on the background and context for a leadership institute for the archives professional. Two ALI alumni will discuss the institute’s course content and effectiveness, as well as lessons learned from this engaging program. Plenty of time will be allotted for group discussion. Other ALI alumni and anyone considering applying are encouraged to attend.

**Six Years and Counting: The Evolution of More Product Less Process**
Don’t look now, but it’s been over five years since Greene/Meissner’s article “More Product, Less Process” appeared in *The American Archivist*. This session will focus on how various archives have implemented MPLP principles and to what degrees they have succeeded in shrinking backlogs and improving access. Since this topic always inspires interesting questions and great debate, we’ll keep the presentations short and leave plenty of time for discussion.

**If You Build it They Will Come: Consortial Finding Aid Sites Forum**
Join the panelists for a dynamic discussion of collaborative efforts to improve and enhance researchers’ access to EAD finding aids at the state, regional and national level via Texas Archival Resources Online, the Western Archival Network and the national ArchiveGrid which relies on these more local efforts and enhances their visibility.

Stay tuned for more program highlights coming in the May 2012 issue of *Southwestern Archivist*!
Everyone loves a party, and so do we! Please join us for our Ruby Reception on Friday, May 25th in the Starlight Room at the Marriott Phoenix Mesa as we celebrate 40 years of SSA. Mingle with old friends and make new ones while feasting on heavy hors d’oeuvres. A cash bar is planned. Look for the official time in the conference program.

We’d love to have a presentation at our Ruby Reception highlighting the people and moments of SSA THROUGHOUT THE YEARS, but we can’t do this without YOU!

SEND US YOUR MEMORABLE MOMENTS
If you’re reading this, you’re a member. Quick! What’s the first memory that comes to mind when you think of SSA? Open up an email to kellysh@uhcl.edu right now and send a memorable moment about SSA. Have more than one? That’s okay – send as many as you like. Whether it took place this year or fifteen or thirty years ago, we want to know something about SSA that really made an impression on you.

I’ll start: At my first SSA meeting in Waco, 1995, I was so shy and intimidated that I didn’t come down for the opening reception. When I tell that story now, no one believes me! The friends I made at that first meeting (and second) are some of my most treasured friends/mentors/colleagues today.

We have not had any response to our August request for memorable moments of SSA. I know there are some really great memorable moments out there; please send them. If you know a retired or former member of SSA, ask them to contribute also!

WE NEED PHOTOGRAPHS!
We are looking for photographs from early events, annual meetings, and specifically photographs of all our past-Presidents and DSA winners. If you served as President of SSA or if you have received the Distinguished Service Award, or if you have a photo of one of these individuals, please send us a photograph to use. Actually, if you have any interesting photographs of SSA-ers, please contact us for information about sending us a copy! In particular we need pictures from before 2000.

CONTRATULATIONS
Now is the time for local and state organizations to send in a congratulatory note. Or even better, use a smartphone or camcorder to take a short video clip of your local SSA members wishing us congratulations. We’ll use these in the Ruby Reception presentation.

FOUNDING MEMBERS
In August we printed a list of SSA Founding and Charter members. We still need contact information for those still with us.

SSA ARCHIVES
If you served as an officer or committee chair on the SSA Board, please make a special effort to turn over all SSA records to the SSA Archives at Baylor University, Waco, Texas for processing.

HONOR, EDUCATE, CELEBRATE
To submit your memorable moments, photographs, congratulatory notes/videos, contact information for founding members (see p. 10-11 of the August 2010 issue of Southwestern Archivist for the list of names), or to inquire about sending SSA records to the archives, please contact a member of the 40th anniversary ad-hoc committee:

The committee looks forward to receiving your SSA memories:
Kate Blalack • kate.blalack@okstate.edu
Michelle Bogart • michelle.bogart@nara.gov
Leslie Squeryes • squeryesl@ccp.library.arizona.edu
Jennifer Day • jday@okhistory.org
Michelle Riggs • mriggs@lsua.edu
Robert Schaadt • Schaadt@thevindicator.com
Gerrianne Schaad • gschaad@nationalcowboymuseum.org

Send your memorable moments to:
Shelly Kelly • Kellysh@uhcl.edu
To turn over SSA records to the archives, contact:
Ellen Brown • bek0428@gmail.com
Send updates about founding members to:
Cindy Smolovik. • cindy.smolovik@nara.gov
Ellen Brown • bek0428@gmail.com
From Yesterday’s World

- History
- Biography
- Autobiography

In Today’s World

- Standard services
  - CD/DVD in WAV or MP3 format
  - Cassette tape
  - Proofread - Three-step process

- Optional services
  - Research partial details
  - Index transcript

For Tomorrow’s World

- Libraries
- Museums
- Individuals
were prepared by the Correspondence/Constituent Services Office, a division of Governor Bush’s Press Office. Each letter was assigned a numeric code based on the date the letter was processed by the Governor’s Office staff and the overall number of letters processed on that date. For example, the 222nd letter processed on May 16, 1995 would receive the designation 9505160222. The letters were then filed roughly in chronological order by this number. Much of the correspondence was loose in boxes, lacking folders. Responses to common letter topics were robos, computer-generated form response letters, for topics producing a large volume of mail in the Governor’s Office. Some letters were designated “NRN” (no response necessary), usually items from correspondents who were not constituents, had written multiple letters on the same topic, or whose request was unintelligible. Rarely, some letters were forwarded to the Governor and stamped “GOVERNOR HAS SEEN” in red ink — most often when the correspondent was personally known to the Governor.

Not surprisingly, the collection has already received heavy use, and TSLAC has fielded numerous reference questions and PIA requests concerning the records. When a PIA or other reference question was received, all processing was stopped until a response could be given and information exempted from disclosure removed or redacted. Due to the existence of a correspondence tracking database and initial records surveys, project lead Tonia Wood and I have been able to make available responsive records for most requests.

The correspondence tracking system created by the Bush Correspondence Office staff has proven an invaluable,
but not infallible, resource. It contains a description of each letter with information such as the name and address of the correspondent and basic subject. The database generally only covers those letters addressed to the Governor himself and mirrors the correspondence records closely. Therefore, a correspondence item missing in the database is almost certainly missing in the paper records.

Initially, the correspondence received full level processing, reflecting standard TSLAC practice and responsive to high researcher interest in this collection. Post-it notes, newsprint, and thermo fax paper were copied onto acid-free paper. Photographs, oversize items, audio- and videocassettes, books, and stable artifacts were transferred to appropriate housing with a transfer sheet describing the item and giving the new location. Unstable or potentially unsafe artifacts (mainly food items and environmental hazards like a potential asbestos sample) were de-accessioned and destroyed with a note placed with the original letter detailing the item itself and the destruction date. Large envelopes sticking over the top of folders were removed. The item number of the first and last item of each piece of correspondence in a given folder was noted in the finding aid. Missing items were also noted and misfilings corrected whenever possible.

However, as time went on, we at TSLAC began to realize that full level processing of the Bush Correspondence was not sustainable. During the renovation of our repository, we had to reevaluate our projects. TSLAC’s records holdings had continued to increase and many other collections (often with far less internal organization) needed staff attention. Although a difficult decision, ultimately a move to minimal processing on the Bush collection was the only responsible choice. Accordingly, beginning with records dated September 1996, Bush correspondence was placed in folders without examining it first; the first and last item in each folder was noted in the finding aid; checking for missing letters or misfiles was eliminated; unstable paper was not copied; and cassettes and other large or unwieldy artifacts were placed in wallets alongside the folder containing the original correspondence. In the case of publications, the cover was photocopied and the item was transferred to other housing.

Minimal processing as applied to the Governor Bush records has not been without its drawbacks. Some information has been lost due to the lack of stabilization of unstable paper types — i.e., faxes faded to the point of illegibility, orphaned post-it notes, and letters torn by heavier items stapled to them. The separation of post-it notes that express the initial and possibly most candid staff response from their original correspondence items is probably the most damaging to the understanding of the functioning of the Governor’s Correspondence Services Office. Not noting missing correspondence items has sometimes furthered thorny questions about what exactly happened to a particular letter. Even at full level processing, we could not hope to account for every item of correspondence but minimal processing means no misfiles or clues to missing items will ever be uncovered unless brought to our attention by a researcher. We can never know with certainty what will or will not make a critical difference.

Nevertheless, there is no doubt that processing such a large collection has been enormously accelerated by minimal processing. Due to the ever growing volume of government records in the modern era, we cannot afford to spend the time traditional processing necessitates with just one series. There would be too many other record groups receiving no processing at all, leaving us faced with an ever more unmanageable backlog. After all, the Bush Central Correspondence is only one series (albeit the largest) in the records of only one Texas governor. All the correspondence is now in labeled folders and the finding aid completed, making the letters much easier to locate and retrieve. Also, all the Central Correspondence series has now received some stabilization through complete foldering and the judicious use of wallets. Finally, once the finding aid is made available publicly in late January 2012 through Texas Archival Resources Online, more researchers will become aware of the collection and find that they can use it quite easily. It is planned that the Bush records will be housed at the George W. Bush Presidential Library at Southern Methodist University and TSLAC archivists will rest easy knowing that we provided the best processing possible to this significant collection.

Future Supreme Court nominee Harriet Miers sends Governor Bush a memorable belated birthday card.
The University of Arkansas Libraries’ Special Collections Department recently launched a digital collection documenting the life and career of famed Arkansas cartoonist, George Fisher. Fisher’s legendary work has become an integral part of the history of Arkansas.

Titled *Drawing Distinctions: The Life and Work of American Cartoonist George Fisher*, the collection includes samples of his professional work, memorabilia, photographs, scrapbooks, and correspondence to friends and family with quirky illustrations. The collection begins with his first cartoon strip “Fisky Limps” created by an eight-year-old Fisher, to his final cartoons for the *Arkansas Times*. A chronology of Fisher’s life and a bibliography of his published work are also contained in the digital library. The collection is available on the University Libraries’ Web site.

Fisher had a vast output of work for his more than five decades as an artist, and his cartoons addressed everything from state and national politics and veteran’s affairs, to Arkansas folk music and the environmental policies of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He created numerous caricatures of public figures, including one of Hillary Clinton as Wonder Woman.

Special Collections Department Head Tom W. Dillard said, “George Fisher was a remarkable man, an astute observer of Arkansas, and a cartoonist whose work has had a dramatic impact on the state over a long period of time. His papers are a veritable goldmine of documentation about Arkansas. I expect generations of Arkansans to come to know Fisher and his incredible cartoons through this manuscript collection.”

Fisher’s papers were donated to the University Libraries shortly before his death, and a generous donation from Kathryn and Tommy May and Simmons First National Bank made the digitization project possible.

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**Recent Acquisition Highlights Contributions to Scientific Research**

Submitted by Mark Shelstad • University of Texas at San Antonio

The family of Thomas Baker Slick Jr., founder of the Texas Biomedical Research Institute and other science organizations in San Antonio, has donated his papers to the UTSA Libraries Special Collections.

Slick, the son of legendary oilman Tom Slick Sr., used his inheritance to support activities in a variety of fields, including scientific research, oil drilling, cattle breeding, and exploration. He established five research institutions, including the Texas Biomedical Research institute, the Mind Science Foundation, and the Human Progress Foundation. Slick was also co-inventor of the lift-slab method of building construction and wrote two books on world peace. The papers are available to scholars and researchers interested in the origins of the biomedical and scientific enterprise in San Antonio and South Texas, the oil and gas industry, the history of the research institutions that Slick established, along with his varied other interests. Visit [http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/utsa/00302/utsa-00302.html](http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/utsa/00302/utsa-00302.html) to see the full finding aid.
The Southwest Collections/Special Collections Library at Texas Tech University recently made available the collection of Dr. Tetsuya Theodore “Ted” Fujita. Dr. Fujita (1920-1998) was a world-renowned meteorological researcher whose work changed the way that people viewed and dealt with severe storms, in particular tornadoes and hurricanes. The collection, entitled “The T. Theodore Fujita Collection, 1896-2003,” encompasses over one hundred boxes of photographs, articles, published and unpublished reports, conference proceedings, charts, graphs, slides, film, correspondence, maps, and other research materials from his five-decade career. The finding aid for the collection is available online through Texas Archival Resources Online (TARO) at http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/browse/browse_tech1.html, as well as through the Southwest Collection/ Special Collection Archives Web site at http://swco.ttu.edu/

Ted Fujita was born in Kitakyushu, Japan. After receiving his doctorate from Tokyo University in 1950, he began a career as an associate professor at the Kyushu Institute of Technology. In 1953, he began teaching at the University of Chicago where he served as a professor until his death in 1998. At the University of Chicago he focused his research on meteorology, especially severe weather, such as tornadoes, hurricanes, and microbursts in the United States and internationally.

Fujita, an observationalist working well before the era of digital recording devices and DOPPLER radar, pioneered new techniques for documenting severe storms, including aerial photography and the use of satellite radar images and film. He is famous for creating the Fujita Scale, or F-scale, for assessing tornadic intensity based on a storm’s wind speed and the amount of damage that it caused. To properly define this scale, Fujita methodically documented physical damage, loss of life, and the social effects of tornadoes and hurricanes on communities. He also theorized multiple vortex tornadoes before they were captured on film. Much of this research was performed as part of nationally prominent projects that Dr. Fujita led, participated in, or supported, such as the Satellite and Mesometeorology Research Project (SMRP), the National Severe Storms Project (N SSP), and the creation of the Wind Science and Engineering Research Center at Texas Tech University. This research not only led to changes in building codes and improved early detection methods, but also attracted the interest of government agencies including NASA, the United States Navy, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Private institutions such as the Climatological Consulting Corporation also sought Fujita’s expertise during their investigations of legal and financial claims in the wake of severe storms.

The most notable materials in the collection pertain to 1974’s Super Outbreak of tornadoes. The incident was the second largest tornado outbreak on record for a twenty-four hour period, producing one hundred forty-eight tornadoes occurring in thirteen states in the Midwest, South, the Eastern seaboard, and the Canadian province of Ontario. The Super Outbreak’s death toll of three hundred was not exceeded until the recent April, 2011 outbreak. This portion of the collection consists of hundreds of photographs, several boxes of research material and publications, and a variety of maps, charts, and other documentation created by Fujita in the Outbreak’s aftermath.

The Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library plans to digitize portions of the collection in the future. Interested researchers are invited to contact Dr. Monte Monroe, Southwest Collection Archivist, at (806) 742-3749, or our Reference Archivists at Randy.Vance@ttu.edu or Nicci.Hester@ttu.edu.

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**2012 Western Archives Institute**

The 26th annual Western Archives Institute will be held at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, July 8 – 20, 2012. The Western Archives Institute is an intensive, two-week program that provides integrated instruction in basic archival practices to individuals with a variety of backgrounds, including those whose jobs require a fundamental understanding of archival skills, but who have little or no previous archives education; those who have expanding responsibility for archival materials; those who are practicing archivists but have not received formal instruction; and those who demonstrate a commitment to an archival career.

The application deadline for the 2012 Western Archives Institute is March 30, 2012. For additional program information, see http://www.calarchivists.org/WAI. The application package is available on the California State Archives web site at http://www.sos.ca.gov/archives/wai/, and on the Society of California Archivists web site at http://www.calarchivists.org/WAI.
The Arizona Historical Society/Tucson Library and Archives received a $3,120 grant from the Arizona Historical Records Advisory Board for the preservation and digitization of 450 lantern slides created circa 1890-1920 by Grand Canyon pioneer and tourism visionary William Wallace Bass. The slides, including those Bass used in lectures to promote Arizona and the Grand Canyon as he traveled throughout the country, are currently stored in four wooden boxes crafted by Bass himself. While some images exist as single, glass plates, most are sandwiched together in sets of two, secured with black tape on the outer edges. Many are hand-tinted.

Using the AHRAB grant funding, the slides will be professionally cleaned, digitally scanned and re-housed in archival quality enclosures and boxes. A photographic imaging consultant will be hired to clean the slides and create digital scans of them. An intern will be hired to re-house the slides, upload the digital surrogate to the library and archives Web site and create metadata for each image.

At the end of the project, these historically valuable images of the Grand Canyon and Northern Arizona will be preserved according to National Archives and Records Administration standards and the images will be made searchable and accessible to researchers worldwide on the library and archives online catalog LISTA at http://lista.azhist.arizona.edu/.

Remember to bring your wild and wonderful SLOTTTO donations to the Annual Meeting!
As a part of its highly competitive “Digitizing Historical Records” grants program, the National Historical Publications and Records Commission recently awarded a $144,120 Digitizing Historical Records grant to Texas Tech University. The award will support a three-year project to digitize approximately 250,000 pages of Orderly Departure Program application files of the Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association collection documenting the immigration experience of thousands of Vietnamese who migrated to the United States following the end of the Vietnam War.

Texas Tech University is home to the Vietnam Center and Archive (VNCA), founded in late 1989 to collect and preserve the documentary evidence of the Vietnam War, including the post-war experiences of the participants. A key component of the Archives is the Families of Vietnamese Political Prisoners Association (FVPPA) Collection which contains 157 linear feet of material documenting their 1977-1999 campaign to advocate the release of Vietnamese political prisoners from re-education camps in Vietnam. In an attempt to provide means for safe and legal emigration from Vietnam, the United Nations created the Orderly Departure Program in 1979. Through this program, the United States accepted over 500,000 Vietnamese refugees before it ended in 1994.

In addition to these refugees, thousands more U.S. allies, employees and dissidents were imprisoned in relocation camps. The FVPPA assisted former Vietnamese political prisoners and their families in applying through the Orderly Departure Program by completing forms and ensuring they possessed all necessary documentation. The FVPPA also raised public and political awareness of the plight of Vietnamese political prisoners.

Over 157 linear feet of records document the work of the organization. These records provide primary sources on the lasting effects of the Vietnam War on the United States’ former Vietnamese allies and employees, the horrific conditions of reeducation camps, and their impact on Vietnamese and Vietnamese-American families.

After receiving the FVPPA Collection in 2005, the VNCA utilized NHPRC grant funding to hire staff to process and perform preservation treatment on the collection, which was opened to researchers in May 2008. Researchers from across the United States and around the world have accessed the collection, and the majority of patrons are Vietnamese Americans, overseas Vietnamese, or Vietnamese looking for their own or a loved one’s ODP application. U.S. veterans searching for their Vietnamese counterpart or friend’s ODP application comprise the second largest group of patrons using the collection. Other researchers include students from Texas Tech and other universities, journalists, and lawyers working on refugee and asylum cases.

While materials from the collection have been featured in special exhibitions and news stories, its most profound value may well have been demonstrated when it helped reunite two friends separated by events of the Vietnam War in 1968. After 42 years of searching, Professor Tuyen Nguyen of Toronto, Canada was finally able to find clues in the ODP applications as to the whereabouts of his friend and former classmate in Saigon, Mr. Pham Quang Minh. The collection’s documents have also proved pivotal in political asylum cases. Using the collection’s records, Captain Tran Van Sang, a former Vietnamese reeducation camp prisoner, was able to obtain political asylum in the United States.

By digitizing this collection, the VNCA will be able to extend access to these important records through the Internet. In addition to its onsite collection at the University’s home in Lubbock, the VNCA established the Virtual Vietnam Archive in 2001 to place all of its non-copyrighted materials online. Currently, the online archives includes over 500,000 items, consisting of more than 3.3 million pages.

The series contains personal information about Vietnamese applying to immigrate to the United States, but the VNCA advertised heavily in the Vietnamese American community asking people to notify the Archives if their name appears in the files and they want access to their materials restricted. Though VNCA received no requests for restrictions, this policy remains in effect and digital materials will be restricted upon the request of the applicant or their family.

Since the Virtual Vietnam Archives first became available to the public, over 10 million searches have been conducted. Usage is currently averaging approximately 300,000 searches and 80,000 downloads per month, continuing an upward trend in use.

For more information on the Vietnam Center Archives at Texas Tech, please visit http://www.vietnam.ttu.edu/.
If you find yourself planning a project relating to Arkansas history, whether it’s an article, book, exhibit, Web site, or film, where do you turn? The Arkansas History Commission, the state archives, has over 4000 manuscript collections regarding Arkansas, its people and its history, the largest collection of historic Arkansas manuscripts available anywhere. Over 900 of these manuscript collections have searchable finding aids available on the commission’s Web site (www.ark-ives.com); 500 of those finding aids were uploaded in just the past year, and more are continually being added. These full-text searchable collection guides were created using the Archivists’ Toolkit, an open-source archival data-management system which allows archives, historical societies and other repositories of historical materials to quickly and easily create and upload EAD finding aids to the Web.

Manuscript collections at the History Commission consist primarily of personal and professional papers of individuals, and records of religious, educational, business, patriotic, social, and civic organizations in Arkansas. Also contained in the archives’ collections of manuscripts are state records, federal records, and governors’ papers. Original manuscripts, collections on microfilm, and other photographic copies are included.

A simple manuscript search in the Catalog of Arkansas Resources and Archival Treasures (CARAT) at the History Commission’s Web site can yield rich results to any researcher, including such materials as: the David Owen Dodd papers, which includes the boy martyr of the Confederacy’s personal correspondence and materials from his trial; muster rolls of Arkansas Confederate soldiers; the personal and business correspondence of early Little Rock land speculator and U.S. Senator Chester Ashley; records of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution; Masonic records; Confederate Governor Harris Flanagin’s correspondence and business papers; and the organizational records of the Women’s Emergency Committee. These are but a few of the materials one can find at the Arkansas History Commission. Visit our Web site at www.ark-ives.com, email us at state.archives@arkansas.gov, or contact our archivists by phone at (501) 682-6900.

As of January 2012, the Glenn Shirley Western Americana Collection has been fully processed and will now be accessible by researchers in its entirety. Born and raised in Stillwater, Oklahoma, Glenn Shirley served as a law enforcement officer in Oklahoma for most of his life but was a prolific author of true crime and Western short stories, articles and books. Through his writing, he combined his love of the West with his abiding interests in law and criminology. After fifty years of writing and collecting, Glenn Shirley appropriated the house across the street from his own to convert it into his personal office and research repository. In 2006, the Donald C. & Elizabeth M. Dickinson Research Center at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum acquired the Glenn D. Shirley Western Americana Collection, and the staff proceeded to box and transfer the contents of Shirley’s personal repository to the Museum.

Measuring in at 500 cubic feet, the collection is composed roughly of 6100 Western books, dime novels, pulp fiction titles and pulp fiction weeklies; 1570 song sheets and song books; over 10,000 movie posters, lobby cards, photographs and audio-visual recordings; correspondence; and ephemera all dealing with Mr. Shirley’s interest in Western Americana. Mr. Shirley acquired some of the materials as a hobby, but most were obtained during his research process. One of the larger series documents notorious criminals and crime cases west of the Mississippi, which was recently used by police officers and FBI agents to solve a cold case. Many genealogists have discovered information about their families using the crime case series, and in some circumstances, this is the only documentation they have regarding their relatives. In addition to building a sizeable reference library, Mr. Shirley was also successful in acquiring the archival materials for notable Western figures such as Buckskin Joe, who performed with Pawnee Bill’s Wild West Show, as well as Otto Gray and Billy McGinty who both participated in Buffalo Bill’s Wild West Show, all of which document the daily life of a wild west show performer and manager.

The finding aid for the collection is available at: http://www.nationalcowboymuseum.org/research/cms/.
One of the newest online collections featured on the Arizona Memory Project is *This Day In Arizona History* which offers daily entries of memorable moments in our state’s history spanning Arizona’s Territorial Days to the late 20th century. This collection, created by Arizona Historical Society Southern Division Library and Archives archivist Christine Seliga and collections librarian Alexandria Caster, is designed to complement 2012’s year-long celebrations of 100 years of Arizona statehood. This digital collection shows the breadth of state history from the political to the personal, noting the births and deaths of the famous and the infamous, the building of key Arizona landmarks, and the twists and turns of government, the economy, science and technology and society. The impact of Arizona’s growth, the Great Depression, two World Wars and social revolutions in the mid-20th century can be seen throughout the collection. Also included are smaller (but just as telling) moments in history such as local dairy price wars, the trial use of camels in the desert, and Girl Scout cookie sales. The 366 images corresponding to each day’s event come from the more than 750,000 images in the Arizona Historical Society’s photographic collections.

*This Day in Arizona History* can be viewed at:


A $7,500 Texas Bar Foundation grant will pay for a scanning and online cataloging project that will enable researchers with a few mouse clicks to trace Texas court rules changes over the past three decades.

The grant, to the Office of Court Administration, will finance digital scanning of 10 years’ of paper records since 1982, indexing those records and later records for which digital copies exist, and providing online searching through all.

These records will include transcriptions of Supreme Court Advisory Committee meetings since 1985 when court reporters began recording meetings of the Court’s so-called rules committee. From those transcripts and other meeting materials, indexed to specific rules changes, researchers will be able to trace rules histories by computer that now require perusing thousands of paper pages.

“This work will enable lawyers or anyone interested in how court rules changed over time to find that, and to find it quickly,” said Tiffany Shropshire, the Court’s archivist, who will be in charge of the project.

The online resource will be available on the Supreme Court Web site. For more information, see the full text of the Texas Supreme Court Advisory at http://www.supreme.courts.state.tx.us/advisories/12.09.11_SCAC_grant.htm.
The Tarrant County College District (TCCD) Records Management and Archives department is pleased to announce the formation of the District Archives and Special Collections program. The purpose of the District Archives is to collect and preserve TCCD’s institutional records of permanent and historical value. Once records are retired to the archives they are duly processed and made readily available for research.

Current holdings include some early institutional records, such as founding documents and records of the political campaign to create the college district, and some of the first business and administrative records. We also have records from each of the five campuses and some major departments, as well as an extensive photographic record of campus life from the late 1960s to the present.

The Heritage Room was founded in 1975, inspired by the interest in history generated by the approaching Bicentennial. Northeast county local history societies and Tarrant County history enthusiasts approached officials of the Northeast Campus with the idea of establishing a center on the campus for the collection and preservation of documents and artifacts relating to Tarrant County history – specifically...
to the history of Northeast Tarrant County.

The Heritage Room special collections contain records and artifacts relating to the early settlement of Tarrant County, family histories, business and institutional histories, local newspapers, and the history of the Tarrant County College District. These records include information on African American History, Native American history, aviation history in Tarrant County and Texas, and Texas history in general. The most interesting collections are the Local history Manuscript Collection, the Mogor Collection, the Tarrant County Sheriff’s Department Collection, and an extensive collection of photographs.

The Local History Manuscript Collection consist approximately 2,500 documents, manuscripts, genealogies and family histories, and miscellaneous records relating to the institutions and communities of Tarrant County and Northeast Tarrant County in particular.

The Al Mogor Collection is a collection of ethnographic objects. Dr. Mogor began his career with TCCD in 1970, where he taught sociology and anthropology for over 30 years. Dr. Mogor traveled extensively throughout Africa, Asia, South America and the South Pacific. During his travels he photographed local tribes and collected artifacts from 25 countries. He routinely used these photographs and artifacts in his classes to teach students. Dr. Mogor considered the preservation of the folkways and histories of indigenous peoples his avocation. When Dr. Mogor died in 2002, his family donated his collection to TCCD. The Mogor collection consists of 588 artifacts from 25 countries, as well an extensive collection of photographs and color slides documenting his travels.

The Tarrant County Sheriff’s Department records date from 1893 to 1904. Each volume consists of about 400 pages with wanted posters, post cards, handwritten notices, and clippings relating to criminals from Texas and across the nation. These volumes are of course fascinating and curious, but they also provide a marvelous tool for researchers interested in criminology, sociology, and the social and political history of the late 19th century.

Finally, the photograph collection is comprised of approximately 2500 images dating from the late 19 century through the 1970s, that relate namely to the history of Northeast Tarrant County life. Most notable are photographs of the Texas Sesquicentennial Wagon Train.

The District Archives will accomplish two primary goals. First, it will provide a means to collect and preserve the College’s institutional records of permanent and historical value. These records include: founding documents, records of the political campaign to create the District, administrative records; records of the history of each campus; departmental records; campus publications such as the Collegian, College Annuals, literary magazines, catalogs and student guides; records of student and faculty associations; and an ever growing collection of photographs. As required by state law and institutional policy, the College’s records preserve the collective memory of TCCD and will remain readily available for research to students, faculty, staff, and the public.

The Heritage Room Special Collections welcomes all researchers interested in Tarrant County history. Students, genealogist, and academic historians will find our collections useful. Recognized first and foremost as a teaching collection, these local history materials will continue to serve our students and faculty. The collections will support research in history, anthropology, sociology, art and art history, photography and the history of photography. The collections cover a spectrum of local cultural history including: African American, Hispanic, women’s history and the history of immigrant communities in North Texas – a subject we hope to expand.
Salon-de-Provence, a city of over 42,000 inhabitants in southern France, has been a crossroads for centuries as well as the center of the olive oil trade in Provence. It was controlled by the archbishops of Arles until 1404, when the municipality was given the right to elect trustees, who had the task of ensuring the defense of the city, enforcing its liberties and franchises, managing and maintaining communal property and buildings, and collecting and distributing taxes. Salon is celebrated as the home of the 16th-century cosmologist and seer, Nostradamus, who began to write his prophetic verses there in 1554. At the same time, another noted Salonais, civil engineer Adam de Crappone, began the design and construction of an irrigation canal bearing his name. The canal diverted water from the Durance River to Salon and the arid plains of Provence, leading to the construction of flour and olive oil mills. In the 19th century, oil and soap merchants built factories and played an active role in the social and cultural life of the city. Today, Salon is well known as the location of the Ecole de l’Air (French Air Force Academy) at the Salon-de-Provence Air Base.

The Archives Municipales of Salon-de-Provence are housed on the third floor of the Hôtel de Ville (city hall), with a lovely view of the rooftops of Salon’s historic center. The Archives’ oldest record, a writ allowing for hunting rights, dates from 1275. Other notable documents include 16th-century maps drawn by Adam de Crappone; a daily register of names of those who died from the plague in Salon from May 1631 to January 1632; and a certificate of health enabling people to enter the city in 1720.

Les Deliberations de Conseil (city council minutes, series BB), ranging from 1528 until today, provide interesting information about the political and social life of Salon. Before the French Revolution, council election results show that nobles were often elected as treasurer, a role enabling them to advance funds for the city. The minutes of October 20, 1789 begin with the Déclaration des droits de l’Homme et du Citoyen (Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen), a fundamental document of the French Revolution, which had been adopted on August 26, 1789. At its meeting on October 27, 1850, the council decided to commission a statue in honor of Adam de Crappone and ask for subscriptions from neighboring towns; the fountain still stands today in front of Salon’s Hôtel de Ville.

Particularly interesting are the city council minutes from 1944 to 1951, which were illustrated by the council’s clerk, Jean Lauzière. Born in 1894 in a village near Nîmes, he served in World War I and received the Croix de Guerre for wounds he received in 1917. Lauzière began working as a clerk-typist for the city of Salon-de-Provence in 1937, and his first illustration embellishes the minutes of February 18, 1944. These color sketches provide his impression on the news of the day. The sketches before the invasion of southern France on August 15 and Salon’s liberation on August 22 are somber and muted. But after August 22, his sketches are full of patriotic fervor, with the tri-color flag and Marianne serving as symbols of a free France. As Salon recovered from World War II, Lauzière’s sketches become more satirical, often showing the pains of reconstruction.

The designs were indeed unique. As Françoise Pelé, the director of the Salon Archives Municipales states, “In fact, these drawings are an innovation of Jean Lauzière; no one had done this before him, and no one did so after! I think at first he wanted to imitate the “initials” of medieval manuscripts, and he was carried away by his imagination and the news!”

Madame Pelé and her staff treasure Lauzière’s illustrations and they enjoy showing them to visitors. Indeed, reading city council minutes can be fun!
In spite of difficult economic times, the New Mexico Historical Records Advisory Board (NMHRAB) awarded $45,000 in grants to nine governmental and nonprofit organizations throughout New Mexico for FY 2012. These funds were made available through the New Mexico Legislature and the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC).

The advantages of setting goals and priorities were borne out this funding cycle. The NMHRAB not only reached organizations in New Mexico’s rural areas but recruited several new applicants as well as local and tribal governments. Sixty-seven percent of grants were awarded to entities in underserved communities. Fifty-five percent of awards were given to local governments and were first-time grant recipients. Following is an alphabetical listing of the FY 2012 funding recipients, a summary of their projects, and the State House and Senate Districts of these locales.

Grants were awarded to the following:
- Acequia Madre House, a non-profit organization, was awarded funds to re-house 204 linear feet of materials.
- The Arthur Johnson Memorial Library was awarded funds to catalog, preserve, and provide access to the Victor Grant Photograph Collection.
- The Aztec Museum was awarded funds to process and digitize the Henry Jackson Collection.
- The City of Deming was awarded funds to digitize and convert to microfilm 40,218 pages of city minutes, proclamations, ordinances, memorials and cemetery records.
- The City of Las Cruces received funds to microfilm at least 127,500 pages of city resolutions.
- El Rancho de Las Golondrinas received funds to evaluate documents for digitization, scan 1,500-2,300 documents, process 2,000-2,500 photographs, and develop a plan for improving access to digital photographs.
- The Hidalgo County Clerk’s Office was awarded funds to microfilm and digitize 23 bound books of real estate, marriage, and other county records for the period 1810-1920.
- Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo received funds to microfilm, digitize and re-house in archival containers 12 linear feet of Tribal member land assignment documents for the period 1934-2011, and to develop and implement a records management plan for the Tribal Realty Office.
- San Miguel Del Bado Land Grant is the first land grant association ever funded by the NMHRAB. It received funds to fully document, create genealogy charts and digital files for at least 75% of the heirs of the San Miguel del Bado Land Grant.

The NMHRAB’s regrant program is regarded as a national model by the NHPRC. The Board consistently carries out its mission to preserve New Mexico’s historical records and make them accessible to the public and accomplishes a great deal of work with relatively small grant amounts.

The Board has issued its call for FY 2013 funding proposals and the deadline for these applications is February 10, 2012. The funding guidelines and application form can be found on the Board’s Web site at www.nmcr.state.nm.us. For additional information, please contact Randy Forrester, Grants Administrator, at (505) 476-7936 or randy.forrester@state.nm.us.

Remember to pay your 2012 dues!
There is now a PayPal option if you prefer to pay online:
http://southwestarchivists.org/memberdir.html

Archival Certification: Validate your achievements, knowledge and skills

The 2012 Certified Archivist examination will be held August 8 in Boston, Minneapolis, Raleigh, San Diego, and Vancouver (BC) -- and wherever 5 or more candidates wish to take it.

For the 2012 application or more information, go to
www.certifiedarchivists.org
or
contact the Academy of Certified Archivists
(aca@caphill.com or 518-694-8471).

Digital files for at least 75% of the heirs of the San Miguel del Bado Land Grant.
Collaboration Yields Digital Data Recovery

Submitted by Zach Vowell, CA • The University of Texas at Austin

The Briscoe Center for American History is pleased to announce that it has recovered data from four large magnetic data tapes from the Denise Schmandt-Besserat Papers, with the help of the Living Computer Museum, a venture based in Seattle and funded by Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen. The tapes contain digital data related to Schmandt-Besserat’s work as an archaeologist and historian of writing. The data represents transcriptions of minute details obtained during Schmandt-Besserat’s field work examining tokens, symbol-based antecedents to the written word. These details, originally written on hundreds of note cards, will no doubt prove more valuable to future researchers in a digital environment.

The story behind the tapes, and the recovery of their data, makes this news even more exciting. In the late 1970s, Schmandt-Besserat (a self-confessed reluctant computer user) hired a student assistant to transcribe her field work notes at the University of Texas’ Computation Center. The assistant likely used one of the Computation Center’s CDC or DEC mainframe computers to record the notes onto the data tapes. The Computation Center stored the tapes for a period of time and then transferred to Schmandt-Besserat’s office. The professor, in turn, included them in her donation to the Briscoe Center in 1992.

The Briscoe Center then stored the tapes in its stacks, secure and climate-controlled yet far away from any machine that might read them.

Nearly twenty years later, in the Spring 2011 edition of Pat Galloway’s “Problems in the Permanent Retention of Electronic Records” course at UT’s School of Information, the Briscoe Center challenged a student group to migrate the data from the tapes to a modern storage environment. Dr. Galloway and the students, Javier Ruedas, Mark Firmin, and Meredith Bush, launched a search for any place that might maintain a mainframe computer capable of reading and (hopefully) migrating the tapes’ data. February, March, April, and finally May came and went, and the students had still not found a suitable machine.

In the meantime, the students researched Schmandt-Besserat’s paper files, and narrowed down the possible operating systems capable of interpreting the data once it was migrated. This research also helped Dr. Galloway locate the Living Computer Museum. The museum’s goal, according to its Web site, is “to breathe life back into our machines,” which include DEC and PDP computers that would support the operating systems the students specified. The museum’s Senior Curator Rich Alderson expressed enthusiasm in helping the Briscoe Center, as his academic background was in historical linguistics, a field similar to Schmandt-Besserat’s. Furthermore, another of the museum’s employees, Ian King, had been recently accepted into the University of Washington’s Ph.D. program in information science.

At the end of the summer, the Briscoe Center shipped five tapes to the museum, where Mr. Alderson and the museum staff attempted to produces tape images. Much like a disk image, a tape image represents a bit-for-bit copy of the contents of the tape as well as the manner in which the data is structured, stored, and organized on the tape. In early December, the Briscoe Center received word from the museum that they had successfully imaged four of the tapes, with the fifth tape being too fragile to migrate.

Now that the museum has rescued the data for the Briscoe Center, the next task remains to make sense of it. This is fitting: in many ways, the forensic work involved in interpreting the tape images will mirror the work Schmandt-Besserat performed as she deciphered tokens from thousands of years ago.

Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives Grant Program

The Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) is now accepting proposals for the 2012 cycle of the Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives grant program. Information about the program and links to the online application and guidelines are available at http://www.clir.org/hiddencollections/index.html. Deadline for submitting proposals: Friday, March 16.
February 2012

Texas City 100 Years (1911-2011) Online Exhibition
Submitted by Rebecca Snow • Moore Memorial Public Library

To celebrate the 100-year anniversary of Texas City, Moore Memorial Public Library created a permanent online historical exhibit about Texas City’s history, which was launched in September of 2010. This exhibit was created by the staff of Moore Memorial Public Library over a two-year time period. To develop the articles, staff used print resources from our collection, archives and vertical file (including some materials that were donated to the library by community members), authoritative sources available through the Internet, and materials borrowed through interlibrary loan from other institutions.

Texas City, a city on the Gulf Coast, has a unique history. What was originally a group of small farming settlements gave way in 1893 to a planned community envisioned by a group of investors as becoming a commercial and industrial port city. Throughout the next century, the city grew as leading industrial organizations took advantage of Texas City’s deepening harbor and expanding port facilities to build their factories and warehouses here.

Texas City gained unwanted fame as the site of the worst domestic industrial accident in our country’s history, the 1947 Texas City Disaster which occurred when two ships holding ammonium nitrate fertilizer blew up in the harbor, causing an estimated 500-600 deaths and substantial property damage.

While Texas City is well-known for its industry, the interests of its citizens in their recreation and quality of life can be attested to by the popularity of the Texas City Dike, a man-made landmark extending three miles into the Gulf waters which offers swimming and unique fishing opportunities. Numerous parks, birding trails, a museum, and historic preservation sites are other points of interest that Texas City has to offer.

The 100 years online exhibit is arranged chronologically, with a listing of contents so that visitors may view particular times and subjects as desired. The site includes a photo gallery of more than 240 pictures, which span the city’s history.

The exhibit will be a permanent historical record, and will be expanded as new materials and information become available to us. We are excited about this project and look forward to continuing it as a comprehensive “work in progress”. To view the exhibit, please go to the library’s Web site at http://www.texascity-library.org/ and click on the heading “Local History”.

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Southwestern University’s Special Collections is using FromThePage (www.fromthepage.com) to invite the public to collaboratively transcribe and annotate a diary. Zenas W. Matthews recorded the diary during his service as a private in the War of 1846 with Mexico. Matthews served under Captain Christopher B. Acklin’s Company B of Colonel John C. Hays’ First Texas Mounted Riflemen.

The diary (http://fromthepage.com/ZenasMatthews) begins with mention of leaving to join General Taylor’s army on the Rio Grande and includes descriptions of the Siege of Monterrey and the taking of the Bishop’s Palace. Also included are Matthews’ service papers: 1846 honorable discharge signed by C. B. Acklin and Col. John C. Hays; 1849 letter certifying that Matthews served and was honorably discharged, signed by John C. Hays; and 1887 Declaration for Service Pension.

Although Matthews wrote in English, the writing is small and spelling is eccentric - as was usual then. The diary itself is only about 10 by 16 centimeters and the ink has bled through the pages, which are written on both sides. All of this makes for difficult reading. Thus our public transcription project opens the diary to a broad audience, including young people who would find the script challenging.

A link from Southwestern’s library catalog record (http://tinyurl.com/chgxw2p) invites users to participate in the project. Transcribers can also leave notes and help build an index of people and places, thus adding value and content to the transcription. An enthusiastic volunteer who is active in the San Jacinto Descendants organizations has already single-handedly transcribed the diary, adding valuable commentary and notes as well as indexing. Future users can create additional notes, commentary, and indexing, thus building on community knowledge.

Ben Brumfield, who has a day job in the technology industry, originally created FromThePage’s software in order for his family to jointly transcribe a family diary. At his Web site Ben describes FromThePage as free software that allows volunteers to transcribe handwritten documents online. It’s easy to index and annotate subjects within a text using a simple, wiki-like markup. Users can discuss difficult writing or obscure words within a page to refine their transcription. The resulting text is hosted on the Web, making documents easy to read and search.

Other users include The San Diego Museum of Natural History, which is transcribing the field notes of herpetologist Lawrence Klauber (http://fromthepage.bpoc.org/).

Southwestern’s Special Collections hopes to add more manuscript items to the project in the future.

Glas-Sandeman Collection Documents Glasite/Church History
Submitted by J.J. Compton • Oklahoma Christian University

For more than two decades, Dr. Lynn McMillon, Distinguished Professor of Bible at Oklahoma Christian University, has researched and collected items of historical significance related to the Scottish “Glasites.” Through his research, Dr. McMillon has made numerous visits to Glasite congregations both in the United States and in Great Britain. He has collected rare and unique artifacts of Glasite worship, including early edition books, hymnals, and other writings, including but not limited to a collection of 314 handwritten exhortations by the Scottish sect’s last “preacher”. These have been preserved and are now available for further research. Many of these items are now on display in the Restoration History Collection main research room, located on the second floor of the Tom & Ada Beam Library. Dr. McMillon’s donation of the John Glas-Robert Sandeman collection brings further distinction to the Beam Library’s Restoration History Collection. For more information on the Dr. Lynn McMillon Glas-Sandeman collection or other collections housed in the Restoration History Collection please contact Chris Rosser, Theological Librarian, at chris.rosser@oc.edu or J.J. Compton, University Archivist, at jj.compton@oc.edu.
Awarded an Archives Basics Grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) in 2009, staff at the Briscoe Center for American History (BCAH) have been hard at work since September 2009 on a two-year endeavor to increase the visibility and use of Briscoe Center archival material by uncovering 1,500 “hidden collections.”

The Briscoe Center’s collecting strengths are varied and extensive, with the first donation dating back to 1893. Over the course of 115 years, archival material stemming from that first donation has grown into an 80,000 linear feet collection that reflects a variety of evolving descriptive standards, including indexes, printed finding aids, published guides, MARC records, and EAD finding aids. At the outset of the “History Revealed” project a mere 20% of the Briscoe Center’s collections were represented by MARC records on OCLC (Online Computer Library Center) or by EAD finding aids on the Texas Archival Resources Online (TARO, http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/index.html) Web site, while nearly 4,500 remained “hidden,” with documentation of their existence and contents available only in the Briscoe Center Reading Room or through a mediated exchange with the Briscoe Center’s Public Service staff. In many cases, the Center’s hidden collections had no records at all in a public venue.

The purpose of the “History Revealed” project is to survey archival materials hidden in the BCAH backlog and to create collection-level MARC and EAD records for 1,500 of these hidden collections. Using the PACSCL Consortial Survey database as a model, BCAH staff initially completed a comprehensive collection survey in order to identify hidden collections and to gather information which would help with writing of the new descriptions. This survey also helped to identify additional collection needs and priorities. With information gleaned from the survey, staff developed a priority list consisting of 1,500 collections, from which staff began creating collection-level narrative descriptions. As the project wraps up this month, researchers now have access to information for over 1,600 previously-hidden BCAH collections on the Internet via EAD records on TARO and MARC records through OCLC and the University of Texas Libraries’ online catalog.

Of particular note during this 150th anniversary of the Civil War, the “History Revealed” project at Briscoe Center has shed light on over two hundred collections, or several thousand documents, illuminating the experiences of soldiers and civilians during the Civil War. Including correspondence, diaries, reminiscences, muster rolls, financial records, scrapbooks, and military orders, the collections paint a telling picture of the activities of Confederate and Union armies, the political and social repercussions of the war, and daily life in the 1860s. Collections such as the Francis H. Nash Diary, the Jacob R. Cressinger Papers, and the Joshua K. Callaway Papers provide eyewitness accounts of conditions within regiments as well as various military engagements, including the battles of Vicksburg, Chattanooga, Chickamauga, and Missionary Ridge. Other notable collections like the Pritchard Von David Papers contain an official copy of Robert E. Lee’s surrender at Appotamox, while the Nathaniel Wych and Malcolm Kenmore Hunter Family Papers chronicle the effect of the war on family life. Additionally, the Fleming W. Thompson Letters yield a vivid account of
the Battle of Gettysburg, and the papers of Sam Houston, Jr. contain a remarkable sketch of a battle scene.

Although the project has unearthed collections illuminating both Union and Confederate sentiments and perceptions of the war, the breadth of the Briscoe Center’s holdings represent Texas and the South more generally. Beyond portraying military life, the activities of the armies, and the toll of the war, these uncovered collections underscore the ways in which the Civil War fundamentally changed life in Texas and the South. Papers such as those of Charles Smith Hovey contain materials relating to Reconstruction and the changing economic climate in the South, while others shed light on the evolution of race and gender relations. As the bloodiest conflict in United States history, the Civil War is constantly being studied and researched, especially in light of the recent sesquicentennial of its inception. NHRPC has made it possible for the Briscoe Center to make important collections available that continue to shed light on the conflict that drastically changed the American political and social landscape.

To learn more about the Briscoe Center’s History Revealed project, visit the project Web site, which includes a comprehensive listing of all collections newly uncovered by the History Revealed project, with links to their EAD records, as well as interim project reports, at www.cah.utexas.edu/projects/nhprc/index.php.

Written two weeks after the Battle of Gettysburg, this letter from Fleming W. Thompson, a soldier enlisted in Company B of the 11th Alabama Infantry Regiment during the Civil War, to his mother and sister describes the battle in vivid detail as well as the aftermath. Addressed to his mother and sister, Thompson mentions the taxing march from Fredericksburg to Gettysburg and the losses sustained by his brigade. From the Fleming W. Thompson Letters.
Chris Brown, CA, Archivist at Centenary College of Louisiana, has recently published an article entitled, “Three Fifteen and His Squares: Shreveport’s David Blunson,” in the 2011 issue of The Jazz Archivist.

Tom Dillard, Head of the University of Arkansas Libraries’ Special Collections Department retired in January, 2012. Dillard is a well-known Arkansas historian and archivist who began working in the field of Arkansas history in 1977 when he was appointed the first historian on the staff of the Arkansas State Parks. He became head of Special Collections at the University of Arkansas in 2004.

Linda K. Gill has been promoted to Branch Manager of the Southwest Louisiana Genealogical and Historical Library Branch of the Calcasieu Parish (LA) Public Library. Linda has been employed by the library since May, 2000.

Melissa Gonzales, CA, has accepted the position of Archivist for University, Labor and Political Collections, beginning February 1st at The University of Texas at Arlington’s Special Collections. She will manage collections pertaining to Texas labor history, Texas political history, and The University of Texas at Arlington Archives. Prior to accepting this position, Gonzales served as the Processing Archivist for the Donald C. & Elizabeth M. Dickinson Research Center at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum and as the Goliad County Archivist.

Timothy G. Nutt, CA, Manuscripts and Rare Books Librarian and Assistant Head of the Special Collections Department at the University of Arkansas Libraries, received the Distinguished Faculty Award from the University of Arkansas Honors College. The award recognizes faculty members who go above and beyond their regular duties to mentor Honors College students.

Danielle Plumer has joined the Applied Research Laboratories at The University of Texas at Austin as an Information Analyst on a federally-funded text mining and categorization project. She left the Texas State Library and Archives Commission in November 2011, after the Texas Heritage Online program was eliminated due to budget cuts.

Richard D. Quartaroli retired from Northern Arizona University Cline Library Special Collections and Archives on July 1st and was awarded the status of The Special Collections Librarian Emeritus.

Joshua Youngblood has been appointed Outreach Services Librarian at The University of Arkansas Libraries’ Special Collections Department. Youngblood came to the University of Arkansas from the Florida Memory Project, a project of the State Archives of Florida.

Alvin Regensberg retired as a bureau chief at the New Mexico State Records Center and Archives effective New Year’s Eve 2011. Among his many accomplishments, Al played a key role in helping the SRCA staff begin the arduous task of digitizing and categorizing the millions of documents housed in the Archives.
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