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AUGUST 2005

VOLUME 28, ISSUE 3

EUDORA WELTY PAPERS DONATED TO LSU LIBRARIES' SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Submitted by Julie Tessier

The LSU Libraries' Special Collections is proud to become the new home of the Eudora Welty papers, a collection of Welty's private letters, through a gift from Michael D. Robinson, Senior Director of Development, LSU Foundation. Mr. Robinson is the nephew of John Robinson to whom most of the letters are addressed.

The collection, which spans the years 1951-1957, is a unique and valuable resource for Welty scholars, according to Brannon Costello, Louisiana State University assistant professor of English who specializes in southern literature. "Welty's relationship with John Robinson was one of the most significant of her life," he notes. "Not only did the two share a life-long friendship and a shorter, complicated romance, but they also shared a devotion to the craft of writing."

It should not surprise those who view the Eudora Welty Papers that as a result of Robinson and Welty's intimacy, these letters open a window into the writer's personal and professional life. The eclectic topics touched on in the papers include the theater, the cinema, artists, writers and Welty's mother. She mentions important writers such as Robert Penn Warren, William Faulkner, Leonard Wolf, Sidonie-Gabrielle Collet, Elizabeth Spencer and Elizabeth Bowen. She does not limit her remarks to writers, but also comments on public figures and politicians, including Mississippi governor Ross Barnett and evangelist Billy Graham.

Of particular interest to Welty scholars, according to Costello, are several letters chronicling her stay in Ireland with writer Elizabeth Bowen, another longtime friend. He notes, "We think of Welty as firmly rooted in Mississippi but in fact she was greatly affected by her stay in Ireland, and in her letters she is clearly distressed at the thought of leaving." For example, she writes, "I would have stayed in Ireland all my life —with trips—from —it not to it then." Good portions of her letters describe the landscape and atmosphere in great detail and lament the fact that she is unable to stay permanently.

Welty traveled widely and held various lecturing and teaching posts. Travel, escape and freedom are important themes in her work in the 1950's according to Costello. Through the letters, she shares with Robinson many of the feelings and first-hand experiences that she draws upon for much of the fiction collected in *The Bride of the Innisfallen* and *Other Stories*. (1955). She also mentions her own struggles with writing and writing projects she was working on at the time. The letters also record the role she played in Robinson's literary career, critiquing his work and continuously encouraging him.

Continued on pg 18

SSA Members!

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SSA mixer

at the annual SAA meeting!

August 17, 2005

7:30-9:00 p.m.

Historic New Orleans Collection

533 Royal Street

New Orleans, LA

See page 6 for more details

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The *Southwestern Archivist* is free with membership in the Society of Southwest Archivists. Membership is only \$10 per year for individuals with institutional subscriptions available for \$25. We invite you to join or extend your membership. A membership form is near the end of every issue.

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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 heritage.

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LEADERSHIP LOG

Compiled by Carol Roark, Dallas Public Library



Miguel Juarez began his new position as the Hispanic Studies Librarian at Cushing Memorial Library and Archives, Texas A&M University, on July 1st. He was formerly the Art and Photography Librarian at the University of Arizona Library/Center for Creative Photography. His duties include developing, managing and coordinating the Spanish language and Hispanic culture collections of the Texas A&M Libraries, including the materials at Cushing. Miguel, originally from El Paso, Texas, received his MLS at SUNY Buffalo in 1998. His publications include the book: *Colors on Desert Walls: the Murals of El Paso* (1997) and chapters in the following books: *The Power of Language/El poder de la palabra: Selected Papers from the Second REFORMA National Conference* (2001); *Diversity in Libraries: Academic Library Residency Programs* (2001); *Ordinary Women, Extraordinary Lives: American Women's History* (2000) and various articles in *Arts Documentation*, *the Bulletin of the Art Libraries Society of North America*.

SSA members **Brenda Gunn**, **Stephanie Malmros**, and **Evan Hocker** soon will be assuming different job duties at the Center for American History, the University of Texas at Austin. Effective September 1, Brenda will be the Assistant Director for Research and Collections, Stephanie will be Head of Archives and Manuscripts, and Evan will be the Registrar.

The Harris County Archives, Houston, Texas, is pleased to announce the addition in February 2005 of an assistant archivist, **AnnElise (Annie) Golden**. She received a BA in History and a Masters of Arts in Public History from California State University, Sacramento. Annie completed a two-year internship with the California State Archives and then worked as a project archivist with University of the Pacific in Stockton, California. She has also worked as a project archivist with the San Joaquin County Historical Society where she processed the Captain Charles M. Weber Family Papers. She is a member of SAA, SSA and AHA! (Archivists of the Houston Area).

Howard Margot, Research Manager at Notarial Archives in New Orleans, presented "Digital Space: A Place Where Preservation and Access Can Meet for a Price" at the 2005 Annual Meeting of the Society of Southwestern Archivists, held in May in Baton Rouge, LA.

Ann Wakefield, Archivist of Notarial Archives in New Orleans, will present "Keeping House: The Peculiar Treasures of the New Orleans Notarial Archives" at the 2005 Annual Meeting of the Society of American Archivists, to be held in August in New Orleans.

Carol Roark, Manager of the Texas/Dallas History & Archives Division at the Dallas Public Library, was recently elected to the board of the Friends of Libraries & Archives of Texas.

The Archivists of Congregations of Women Religious have invited **Dorothy Dawes**, O.P., Archivist for the Dominican Sisters Congregation of St. Mary in New Orleans, to speak at their business meeting on Wednesday, August 17 at 9 a.m. at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside. Sister Dawes will speak on the history of the Sisters in New Orleans. Her topic in the overview will be "From Isolation to Collaboration." The book *Religious Pioneers*, edited by Dawes and Nolan, has sold out most of its first printing. It now has an ISBN, and will be re-printed in paperback this year.

Cindy Smolovik, with the Southwest Region of the National Archives and Records Administration in Fort Worth, is now Vice President-President Elect of the Academy of Certified Archivists. She also has a long record of service with SSA, including several terms as secretary, unofficial Local Arrangements co-chair for the 2001 meeting in Dallas-Fort Worth, and on numerous annual conference program committees. Cindy received SSA's Distinguished Service Award in 2003, and we're sure that ACA will make good use of her many talents and boundless energy.

The staff of the History and Archives Division of the Arizona State Library consists of ten very individualistic individuals, four of whom provide current leadership roles in regional archives organizations. Division Director and Grand PooBah **Melanie Sturgeon** is the Vice-President of the Conference of Inter-Mountain Archivists (CIMA). Conservation Officer and Designated Luddite **Michael McColgin** is Vice-President/President-Elect of SSA. Archivist Extraordinaire (or so he says) **Jeff Malcomson** is the Editor of the *CIMA Newsletter*. Archivist and Stand-In for the Energizer Bunny **Wendi Goen** is on SSA's Program Committee and also on the Professional Development Committee.

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We encourage your comments, suggestions, and news articles. News items about repositories in the SSA region and about the professional accomplishments of SSA members wherever they reside are especially sought. Institutional submissions by SSA members from repositories outside of the SSA region will be published if space is available.

We prefer you to send all submissions electronically in the bodies of e-mail notes or as e-mail attachments. Lengthy or highly-formatted submissions can also be sent on disk in any Windows word processing format. Submissions sent as hard copy should be double-spaced in Times New Roman font to facilitate scanning. Faxed submissions are difficult to scan and will not ordinarily be accepted. Submissions may be edited to conform to style conventions and space limitations.

Deadlines are the 10th of April, July, October, and January. We accept advertising; rates are available on request. Personnel advertisements from members are published gratis.

In order to obtain and track submissions from all the states in the SSA region, we encourage you to work with the Publications Committee member in your state.

Please send out-of-region submissions to:

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calmesl@ccp.arizona.edu

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533 Royal St.

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Carol@hnoc.org

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Oklahoma Higher Education Heritage Society

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croark@dallaslibrary.org

VISITING SCHOLARS PROGRAM AT UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

The Carl Albert Congressional Research and Studies Center at the University of Oklahoma seeks applicants for its Visiting Scholars Program, which provides financial assistance to researchers working at the Center's archives. Awards of \$500-\$1000 are normally granted as reimbursement for travel and lodging.

The Center's holdings include the papers of many former members of Congress, such as Robert S. Kerr, Fred Harris, and Speaker Carl Albert of Oklahoma; Helen Gahagan Douglas and Jeffery Cohelan of California; Sidney Clarke of Kansas; and Neil Gallagher of New Jersey. Besides the history of Congress, congressional leadership, national and Oklahoma politics, and election campaigns, the collections also document government policy affecting agriculture, Native Americans, energy, foreign affairs, the environment, the economy, and other areas. Topics that can be studied include the Great Depression, flood control, soil conservation, and tribal affairs. At least one collection provides insight on women in American politics. Most materials date from the 1920s to the 1970s, although there is one nineteenth century collection. The Center's collections are described on the web at <http://www.ou.edu/special/albertctr/archives/> and in the publication titled *A Guide to the Carl Albert Center Congressional Archives* (Norman, Okla.: The Carl Albert Center, 1995) by Judy Day, et al., available at many U. S. academic libraries. Additional information can be obtained from the Center.

The Visiting Scholars Program is open to any applicant. Emphasis is given to those pursuing postdoctoral research in history, political science, and other fields. Graduate students involved in research for publication, thesis, or dissertation are encouraged to apply. Interested undergraduates and lay researchers are also invited to apply. The Center evaluates each research proposal based upon its merits, and funding for a variety of topics is expected.

No standardized form is needed for application. Instead, a series of documents should be sent to the Center, including: (1) a description of the research proposal in fewer than 1000 words; (2) a personal vita; (3) an explanation of how the Center's resources will assist the researcher; (4) a budget proposal; and (5) a letter of reference from an established scholar in the discipline attesting to the significance of the research. Applications are accepted at any time.

For more information, please contact Archivist, Carl Albert Center, 630 Parrington Oval, Room 101, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK 73019. Telephone: (405) 325-5401. FAX: (405) 325-6419. E-mail: channe-man@ou.edu.

FALL CONFERENCE OPPORTUNITY: FROM CHAOS TO COMMON GROUND: CONNECTING ARCHIVISTS AND RECORDS MANAGERS

The Society of Rocky Mountain Archivists (SRMA) and the Northern Colorado Chapter of the Association of Records Managers and Administrators (ARMA) are co-sponsoring a Fall conference entitled, "From Chaos to Common Ground: Connecting Archivists and Records Managers."

The conference is scheduled for Oct. 26 and 27 in Denver, CO at the Executive Towers Hotel. The first day features Dr. Greg Hunter, CRM, CA, speaking on various topics relating to both archives and records managers. The second day features a speaker from the Northeast Document Conservation Center on preservation planning. The first day will also feature a vendor expo.

Registration will begin in mid-August. Please visit the SRMA website www.srmarchivist.org for registration information or contact Monte Kniffen at archives@redemptorists-denver.org for additional information.

Hope to see you there!

OCTOBER SEMINAR: DOCUMENT IMAGING AND ELECTRONIC RECORDS RETENTION

The Baton Rouge/Lafayette ARMA Chapter would like to announce its Fall Seminar on October 21 in Baton Rouge, LA. Debra Gearheart, CRM, FAI, Director of Records Management for the State of Michigan, will be leading a full-day seminar entitled, "Document Imaging and Electronic Records Retention."

Topics will cover the state of the document management industry, imaging case studies, electronic records retention issues, and Michigan's pilot project on managing electronic records.

For more information, visit our website at www.armabrlaf.org or contact Keith Sagona at (225) 219-3160.

EMPLOYMENT POSTINGS

**LSU LIBRARIES: SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
DIGITAL SERVICES LIBRARIAN**

The LSU Libraries Special Collections seeks an energetic and knowledgeable digital services librarian. Reporting to the Associate Dean of Special Collections, the Special Collections Digital Services Librarian will provide leadership for the development, design, deployment, support, and preservation of digital resources and services for Special Collections. Will serve at the reference desk and work to meet promotion and tenure requirements. In collaboration with the head of Public Services, the Special Collections Curators, the University Archivist, and Center directors, the individual will develop division policies and procedures designed to ensure the preservation of the division's digital resources; monitor trends in the digital arena and recommend divisional activities to anticipate developing needs; establish or maintain compliance with national standards relating to accessibility and preservation of digital information held in or created by Special Collections; and supervise the division's webmaster.

Qualifications required: Master's degree from an ALA-accredited program, a minimum of 1 year of experience working with digitization/digital projects; proven record of success working in a group environment; demonstrated competence in oral and written communication; experience with web-page creation; working knowledge of XML, HTML, and other web-related markup languages; experience with metadata management, specifically Dublin Core; working knowledge of a variety of image file formats and various popular software products; experience with OCR applications. Evidence of flexibility, dependability, and time management skills. Ability to meet promotion and tenure requirements. **Qualifications preferred:** Working knowledge of scripting languages; demonstrated ability to manage technical projects; relational database design and implementation; working knowledge of CONTENTdm software; grant writing experience; experience working in the academic library environment.

Salary and Benefits: \$35,000 per fiscal year minimum, dependent upon qualifications and experience; 12 month, tenure-track appointment; excellent benefits. See <http://www.lib.lsu.edu/lib/jobs/index.html> for application procedure.

**LSU LIBRARIES: SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
CATALOGER**

The LSU Libraries Special Collections seeks an experienced, energetic, cataloger. The Special Collections Cataloger will report to the Assistant Curator of Manuscripts. The individual serves as the original cataloger for non-book materials for the Special Collections; serves at the reference desk; participates in planning; supervises and trains staff. Works to meet promotion and tenure requirements. Will work with staff from all departments of Special Collections and review and revise the work of staff providing original cataloging of manuscripts, photographs,

oral histories and archives.

Qualifications required: ALA-accredited master's degree; minimum of one year of recent relevant experience in original cataloging of special collections materials; knowledge of standard cataloging tools and archival procedures; demonstrated competence in oral and written communication; evidence of flexibility, dependability, and time management skills; ability to meet tenure and promotion requirements.

Qualifications preferred: experience with the SIRSI online library system; experience processing manuscript collections; supervisory experience.

Salary and Benefits: \$35,000 per fiscal year minimum, dependent upon qualifications and experience; 12 month, tenure-track appointment; excellent benefits. See <http://www.lib.lsu.edu/lib/jobs/index.html> for application procedure.

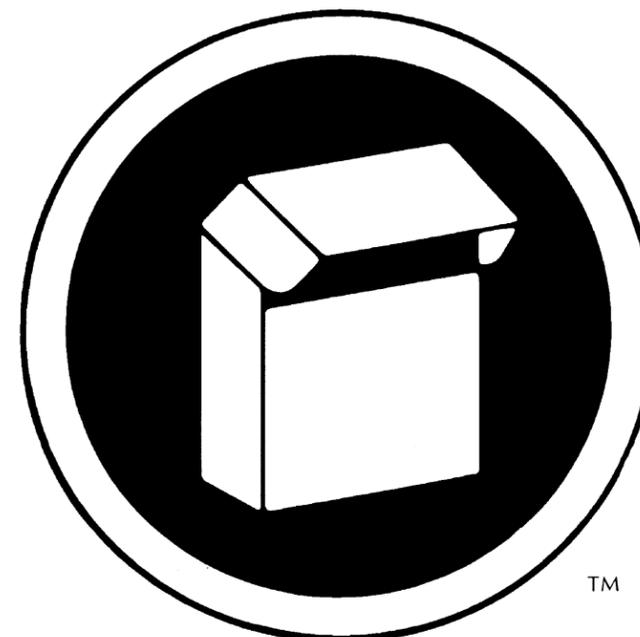
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CALL FOR NOMINATIONS – TAKE A POSITION!

Submitted by John Slate

The Society depends upon leadership and direction to be successful. Why run? SSA elective offices provide ample opportunities to meet other archivists, gain valuable experience, and earn the respect of your colleagues by serving in one of the following positions:

- Vice-President/President Elect (one-year term)
- Secretary (two-year term)
- Executive Board (two-year term, three positions)
- Nominating Committee (two-year term, one position)*
- Scholarship Committee (three-year term, one position)

If you are interested in any of the above, be sure to read the duties of each position in the Bylaws at <http://southwestarchivists.org/PDF/constandbylaws.pdf> or please contact a member of the Nominating Committee:

Chair, Mark Lambert, CA mlambert@stcl.edu
 Carol Bartels, CA carol@hnoc.org
 John H. Slate, CA jslate@ci.dallas.tx.us

The Nominating Committee is charged with identifying and helping draw up a slate of candidates for next year. It is our responsibility and promise to SSA to promote diversity and balanced representation from all the membership states.

Help shape the future of SSA!

*The structure of the Nominating Committee has been changed by the Executive Board to provide greater continuity from year to year. Instead of electing two new members each year, only one new member will be elected each year by the membership to serve a two year term. The individual serves as Chair of the Nominating Committee during the second year of their term. A third member of the Committee is appointed by the President.

SSA MEMBERS**YOU ARE INVITED TO AN SSA MIXER
AT THE ANNUAL SAA MEETING!**

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2005
7:30-9:00 P.M.**

**HISTORIC NEW ORLEANS COLLECTION
533 ROYAL STREET**

For the first time since 1993, the Society of American Archivists returns to our region in mid August for its 69th annual meeting. New Orleans, host to the 1993 meeting, throws out the welcome mat once again—and so will SSA.

SSA will host a mixer for its members on Wednesday night, August 17 from 7:30-9:00 at the Historic New Orleans Collection, in the heart of the French Quarter. What better way to start the SAA meeting than with a reception in one of the French Quarter's historic mansions? After the reception, begin your explorations on Royal Street, the most beautiful street in the Quarter. Within easy walking distance of the meeting hotel, the HNOC is one block from Bourbon Street, two blocks from Jackson Square, and three blocks from the Mississippi River.

Come by and enjoy the company of colleagues and friends in the Quarter!

A. OTIS HEBERT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT REPORT

Submitted by Felicia Lujan, New Mexico State Records Center and Archives

This year the Society of Southwest Archivists Scholarship Committee selected a New Mexican as the recipient of the A. Otis Hebert, Jr. Scholarship Award. My name is Felicia Lujan and I am a senior archivist with the Archives and Historical Services Division of the New Mexico State Records Center and Archives. I am an archivist with a technical background, thus I have worked on several imaging projects. A major project that I recently completed was the imaging of the New Mexico Department of Education Photograph Collection. Using current standards, historical photographs of schools, teachers and students were scanned. The original scans were then saved as a master (archival) copy. From that master scan, access and thumbnail images were created.

The scholarship was used to attend a regular conference presented by the Northeast Document Conservation Center. This year marked the 10th anniversary of the School for Scanning, which was held in Boston, Massachusetts from June 1-3, 2005. This year's conference title was Building Good Digital Collections. There were more than 400 individuals that attended internationally. The conference was co-sponsored by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, New England Archivists, Online Computer Library Center (OCLC), Massachusetts Cultural Council, and the Massachusetts Archives.

The conference featured leading experts in digital library development. Speakers covered a wide variety of topics such as content selection for digitization projects, copyright issues, text and image digitization, audio and video digitization, metadata, as well as current preservation methods and standards for digital media. There was also exceptional institutional representation with speakers from the following institutions: Columbia University, Cornell University, Duke University, George Washington University, Getty Research Institute, Harvard University, Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Administration, New York University, Northeast Document Conservation Center, Rochester Institute of Technology, University of California, and WGBH Productions in Boston.

I found the keynote speaker to be the most interesting. The keynote speaker was Dr. David B. Liroff. Dr. Liroff is Vice President and Chief Technology Officer at the WGBH Educational Foundation in Boston. Currently, he is in charge of production services, engineering, information technology, telecommunications, digital asset management, and audience research. He is also responsible

for overseeing WGBH's transition to digital production and broadcasting. As an archivist with a technical background it was not surprising that Dr. Liroff stole the show in the midst of librarians, curators and other archivists. Not only was his presentation dynamic, but he was well versed in the newest technologies being utilized daily.

Dr. Liroff discussed blogs (short for web logs). A blog is a web page that serves as a publicly accessible personal journal for an individual. Blogs are being used to market everything under the sun by publishing user opinions online. He also covered Apple's ipod. The ipod is a small portable music player which works with a computer and special software. In addition to music, the ipods are now being used to introduce listeners to digital educational programming. It seemed that everyone in Boston was sporting an ipod. Dr. Liroff also talked about mp3 compression format (also called MPEG-3 or Motion Picture Expert Group Audio Layer 3). Presenters such as himself are incorporating mp3 into their presentations to make them more interesting.

Attending the conference was a great way for me to see that my agency is keeping up with the progression of knowledge in the world of technology. It was good to come back confident that our projects are not dragging behind, but leading. As a senior archivist, it is important for me to provide accurate consultation to those archivists still learning about digitization methods. Though the conference was a fine refresher, I was expecting more practice and less theory. It was also a bit difficult to attend a conference that was so large. I felt that smaller breakout sessions would have been useful in my learning process. All in all, it was a great experience. I would like to thank the committee for honoring me with this award. The scholarship was appreciated, and I am proud to have been selected.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON
SSA SCHOLARSHIPS**

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ARCHIVIST'S DAYBOOK

Compiled by Lee Miller

For more complete information, please visit
<http://southwestarchivists.org/HTML/daybook.htm>

Sept 6-7 "Creating and Maintaining Agency Business Information" will be offered by NARA in Fort Worth, TX. The program will discuss Federal records management requirements, how they are applied to agency records, and why they are important. The application of solutions to everyday challenges in managing Federal information will also be discussed. Cost \$300. For more information contact John Garza at: Email: ftworth.recmgmt@nara.gov; or Tel: 817-207-6316

Sept 17 Constitution Day; United States. Prior to the upholding by the US Supreme Court of the US Patriot Act in 2001, it was generally believed that the US Constitution protected the rights of US library and archives users by shielding library and archival use records from government search without a warrant. That is a constitutional protection United States citizens no longer have. See the American Library Association's "Resolution on the USA Patriot Act and Related Measures that Infringe on the Rights of Library Users."

Sept 24-27 "Preserving Our Past for Our Future" will be offered as the 10th Annual National Archives Workshop in Metairie, LA. For more information contact James Harding at: Tel: 504-382-9286 or Email: jhardingnola@cox.net

Oct 6-7 "Archival Perspectives in Digital Preservation" will be offered by the SAA in Richmond, VA. Drawing on a growing technical literature defining digital preservation requirements, the seminar explores how concepts such as integrity, authenticity, and trust are embedded in specific digital preservation development programs, including the work of OCLC/RLG, InterPARES, and selected European initiatives. Program runs from 9am-5pm. For more information and to register contact Solveig DeSutter, or Jodie Stauffer in the SAA Professional Education Department education@archivists.org; Tel: 312/922-0140.

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THE PRESIDENT'S SERIES

By Brenda Gunn, SSA President



Brenda Gunn, C.A.

Last year, during strategic planning sessions, SSA's leadership identified education as an area in which the organization should place more time and effort. Specifically, an ambitious goal emerged out of those planning discussions: to increase the educational and professional development offerings to our membership, outside of the annual meeting. In other words, continue to offer outstanding workshops at the annual meeting, such as the ones delivered in Baton Rouge in May. But, more specifically, develop our own "in-house" workshops, utilizing our region's talents, to bring relevant archival and records training to our membership in all six SSA states during the year between annual meetings.

When discussing this priority, board members and committee chairs shared ideas as to how to accomplish this goal. Working through State Historical Records Advisory Boards (SHRABs) was one intriguing idea that came up as a means to an end. Before the executive board had a chance to explore this idea further, the federal government released its budget and with it the news that the NHPRC, the parent funding entity for SHRABs, had received no funding.

Thinking beyond our own organization's potential plans for NHPRC funds, and considering the broader impact the loss of funding would mean to our region and to the nation, the executive board voted in May to make a statement in support of restoring funds for the NHPRC. (See the letter reprinted in this newsletter and on the SSA website.) Since 1976, our region has received over \$6 million in NHPRC funds that have gone to preserving and improving access to archival material, and establishing training programs for archivists and records custodians. The institutional and organizational recipients of these funds represent the gamut of repositories and types of documentation.

I'm proud that SSA has joined the Council of State Historical Records Coordinators, the Society of American Archivists, other regional archival organizations, as well as many individuals in expressing concern over NHPRC's funding situation and in requesting the reinstatement of funds for this invaluable program.

**BRENDA'S "THE PRESIDENT'S SERIES"
CONTINUES IN THE NEXT THREE ISSUES OF THE
SOUTHWESTERN ARCHIVIST**

COMMENTS? QUESTIONS?
CONTACT BRENDA AT BGUNN@MAIL.UTEXAS.EDU

ABOUT FACE: CHANGING THE WAY LOUISIANA CREOLE IS RESEARCHED

By Michelle Pichon, Creole Heritage Center

The Creole Heritage Center (CHC) is once again attempting to break new ground in the way Creole heritage, culture and genealogy is researched. The CHC is an organization dedicated to the preservation and celebration of the Creole culture. The Center is part of Northwestern State University located in Natchitoches, Louisiana and has been in operation for approximately seven years. The CHC is developing a proposal for a grant to the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) entitled *Creole Connections: An Online Archive about Louisiana Creoles*, a multi-media online educational and public central repository about Louisiana Creoles. This online archive resource will be available to both national and international audiences, including K-12 teachers and students, academics, researchers, and the general community. The foundation of the resource will be a searchable comprehensive e-archive with content composed of text, images, and audio and visual streamed media. It will also include an annotated catalog of print, archival, and web-based resources about Louisiana Creoles. The educational component for the K-12 users will include suggested lesson plans and engaging activities, integrating technology into humanities education.

Creole Connections will become a centralized digitized repository for the current multi-media collection of the CHC, newly produced documentary clips of presentations, celebrations, and oral histories from past projects of the CHC together with identified resources at other physical and web-based locations. These will include, but are not limited to, currently available research, reprints of articles, presentations, scholarship, maps, original documents, public and private manuscripts, and oral history documentations. The content will include items in English, French, Spanish, and the Créole dialect. *Creole Connections* will be designed for ease of use and access by the cross-section of users, with accessibility standards met, and for continual expansion of the online archive multi-media material content. Through the use of innovative technology, a multi-media historical record of the Louisiana Creoles, past and present, will become available for all.

Currently, there is no definitive comprehensive repository, collection, archive, or scholarship to consult about Louisiana Creoles. The vast resources about Louisiana Creoles reside in archives and repositories in Louisiana, France, Spain, and scattered nationwide in collections of various universities, institutions, and private collections. While *Creole Connections* is not designed to be a sole resource, it will offer a comprehensive selection and a wide range of multi-media content in one easily searchable e-archive about the history and culture of Louisiana Creoles, reflecting a facet of the diverse heritage of America.

On June 1, 2004, a meeting was held with representatives from across the state and the country to offer feedback on this project. Those who attended the meeting included professors of history, anthropology, business, and education; computer programmers, researchers, librarians, archivists, and cultural center agents; representatives from the NCPTT, Cane River National Heritage Area, Louisiana Voices, the Louisiana Regional Folklife Program, Creole West Productions, LOUIS, and the CHC. Many helpful comments and suggestions were made at the meeting. One of the most reiterated and important observations was that there are many very specialized, very technical aspects of this project, from computer programming to cataloging to educational criteria, that must be addressed. It will be very important to find qualified people who are specialists in their field and familiar with the subject matter. Another concern that was felt by all is that this is a very big and involved project. It was suggested that the website be developed in stages to ensure quality and accuracy.

As a result of this meeting, the CHC and the *Creole Connections* project team have laid down plans to continue with the planning for this project. Regional meetings will be conducted to further identify direction and resources and to facilitate development of the final project team. Funding prospects also need to be investigated to support the consultation and planning phase. The CHC will work with the CIS Department of Northwestern State University College of Business as well as with outside computer programmers to address technology needs that will coincide with the LOUIS system. The deadline to submit this grant proposal to NEH is October 1, 2005. There is much work to be done, but the creation of a resource such as this will be well worth it.

such as grant writing and reference others were longer. We spent two days on arrangement and description, the morning sessions were lectures and the afternoon workshops. During the afternoon sessions the class was divided into 9 groups of 4 and we were provided with 6 archival boxes of records and asked to survey the material and write a finding aid. We were required to draft a proposed finding aid which had to include a series description, records span date, scope and content note and arrangement statements. The first workshop was a struggle for everyone but by the second we all did well and felt confident. The class was also fortunate to have a preservation lecture by the well known author and preservation expert Mary Lynn Ritzenthaler who still works at Archives II and refuses to talk about retirement. Mary Rephlo the MAI director is herself an Archivist and was a real asset to our learning experience and comfort in the classroom.

As we attended more workshops and lectures I began to realize that some of the archival procedures and principals differed from our own here at the State Records Center and Archives and from the Society of American Archivist (SAA). For example, both NARA and the LC forbid the use of cotton gloves in handling documents. They feel that the tighter grip required while wearing gloves is more detrimental to the document than the natural oils found on the surface of human hands. These agencies require everyone to wash their hands thoroughly before handling textual materials. Gloves are still required while handling maps or photographs. Additionally, NARA and the LC will release for research unprocessed collections even though there is a risk in losing physical control of the collection. Both agencies feel that it is better to allow research than to close off resources that may never become available. Both agencies, especially the LC accession more documents than they are able to process. Another area of divergence is more a difference in semantics than function. NARA does not use the term sub-series or sub-sub-series in their descriptive process. In *Arranging and Describing Archives and Manuscripts* by Fredric M. Miller, a work published by SAA, Mr. Miller states that "subsets of files are "nested" in a larger set. Sub-series almost always derive their existence from the way they are physically embedded in the larger series structure. Original order in such situations means physical file order". For example, a series "Financial records" may be arranged alphabetically with a sub-series listed under the letter "T" as a chronologically arranged set of tax returns. NARA in a finding aid would describe the tax returns on the folder level. NARA's descriptive hierarchy lists Record Group first then series, folder and lastly item.

The MAI experience was for me much more than attending the class but included the excitement of the NARA I building. NARA II is in College Park, Maryland.

I frequented the well appointed and highly polished hallways of this building where part of the records of our government are stored or at least the 3% that are retained from the 430 governmental agencies that make up the country's administrative bureaucracy. I could not resist the temptation to look at all the old maps and documents so attractively displayed on the hallway and conference room walls. Maintenance workers were everywhere working on the electrical system, or repainting walls or simply replacing light bulbs. All the furnishings appeared new and impressive. The marble floors were highly polished and well maintained. The microfilm room housed massive cabinets full of film and the finding aids were displayed with record groups represented by different colored paper. For example, the finding aids dealing with Indian issues were lavender. The microfilm room itself was huge and routinely handles 60 patrons a day during the summer.

The class was allowed our own viewing of the Charters of Freedom in the rotunda of NARA I before it was opened to the public for the day. The Charters of Freedom include the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. We were also given a tour of the new temporary display "Records of the People" which included interactive computer programs provided by Dell. This technique allows the patron to choose an area of presentation on a computer screen based on an individual's own area of interest.

While walking around Washington, I strolled amongst the grandeur of mountains and canyons of massive white marble structures that house our country's agencies and museums. The Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Justice Department, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Labor, Justice Department, Smithsonian Museums, the Library of Congress, the White House and Capital were all housed in majestic structures that transmit subconsciously the power and might of America. I found myself stealing moments from class time and surveying a map of the Capital and estimating how much time it would take to get to the new Smithsonian Museum of the American Indian or the National Gallery and back during lunch or after the class was over for the day. It was impossible to see everything I wanted to see. As the time approached for the class to end I felt an excitement about returning home to Santa Fe and at the same time a revitalization of my feeling about this great country we live in and how fortunate we are to live here.

PRESERVATION ASSISTANCE GRANT ALLOWS NEW MEXICO STATE ARCHIVES STAFF TO ATTEND TRAINING

Submitted by Barry Drucker and Daphne Arnaiz-DeLeon

In December of 2003 the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) awarded the New Mexico State Records Center and Archives (NMSRCA) a Preservation Assistance (PA) Grant of \$4,670.00 for the period January 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005. PA Grants support the preservation of humanities collections through collection assessments, the purchase of archival quality supplies, and staff attendance at preservation training sessions. The NMSRCA used the award to send two staff members to nationally renowned training sessions for the preservation of historical records. The workshops attended were *Preserving Photographs in a Digital World* held August 20-25, 2004 in Rochester, New York and the *Modern Archives Institute* held June 6-17, 2005 in Washington, D.C.

Knowledge gained at these training sessions will be used by staff to further enhance the preservation procedures already in existence at the NMSRCA to ensure the preservation of New Mexico's public permanent records for future generations of researchers.

Preserving Photographs in a Digital World Daphne Arnaiz-DeLeon, Archives and Historical Services Division Director

Attending the one week course sponsored by the Image Permanence Institute and the George Eastman House Museum was eye-opening. I was able to see and touch prints produced from photographic processes that I had only read about in James M. Reilly's *Care and Identification of 19th Century Photographic Prints*: salted prints, matte collodion prints, glossy collodion prints, etc: and observe how some of these prints were made. Staff at the George Eastman House Museum study and continue to use 19th century photographic processes and equipment. Activities included the preparation of wet plate collodion glass plates and the production of an ambrotype of all the workshop participants. Instead of backing the negative image with a dark colored glass, this image was printed on paper with a dark red background.

The week long class was replete with lectures and hands-on activities in the George Eastman House Museum's conservation laboratories that served to allow participants an opportunity to use their new found knowledge. The first three days were centered on the traditional photographic processes, identification, and

deterioration. The subsequent days dealt with the evolution of digital technology and its impact on photography and the preservation of photographs.

Perhaps the most significant moment was when the facilitator for one of the laboratory sessions on digital technology produced a copy of an oversize map that was digitally captured and printed. It was beautiful in its faithfulness to the original. The facilitator, a former employee of the George Eastman House Museum who worked in the photograph duplication section, said that this was the first instance where the digital capabilities surpassed the darkroom. We all realized that digital photography could not be avoided. In the foreseeable future repositories will be accessioning digital photographs without an analog original.

Modern Archives Institute Barry Drucker, Archivist

I recently attended the Modern Archives Institute (MAI) in Washington, DC this past June 5-14. This two week program is presented jointly by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) and Library of Congress (LC). The purpose of this twice a year program is to introduce the archives profession to the session participants. The highly qualified instructors presented class sessions on archival theory and practice and provided tours of various units within the facilities located in Washington, DC, College Park, Maryland, and the Library of Congress.

The 36 class participants in my session came from various backgrounds and origins. They represented a variety of archival repositories large and small, public and private. Most of the class had previous experience in archives while others were new in the field. One student came from Lebanon and another from Guam. Only two students were from west of the Mississippi River while the vast majority came from the South. The participants included two nuns and an economist from the Federal Reserve.

The MAI provided instruction in the following areas: appraisal and acquisition, arrangement and description, reference and access, preservation, records management, grant writing, public programs, ethics, archives and the law, electronic records, and archival management. Some areas of instruction involved more time and detail than others. The daily schedule was never the same. Some lectures were only an hour

EMBRY-RIDDLE AERONAUTICAL UNIVERSITY CREATES AVIATION ARCHIVES

Submitted by Jennifer Roberts



Aeronautical Science student and ASASA student employee Cody Bias creating box inventories for the David Holladay collection. Photo courtesy of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

In early 2004, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University was awarded a significant grant by the U.S. Department of Education for the creation of an aviation archives. The Congressional Award activities began July 1, 2004 and will continue through 2006/2007. The grant will serve to enhance the learning of all students, faculty and staff by creating both a physical repository for records and manuscripts and an electronic portal that facilitates access to information relating to aviation safety and aviation security.

The Aviation Safety and Security Archives (ASASA) has been established as part of the library on the Prescott, Arizona campus of Embry-Riddle. Documents and other unprocessed collections that were spread over the campus have been gathered together into a 1500 square foot temporary building and efforts are underway to identify and obtain additional collections that fit our acquisitions policy.

ASASA presently consists of approximately 400 linear feet of material, half of which has been inventoried. The five collections currently in the archives are donations from prominent individuals in the aviation safety field: David Stanley Hall, David Holladay, Charles Mercer, C.O. Miller, and S. Harry Robertson. The types of records in these collections include case files from aircraft accident investigations, flight manuals, reports and proceedings from aviation safety conferences, and more than 15,000 photographs.

Much processing and digitizing remains, but work has begun to make collection descriptions and scanned items available to the ERAU community and the wider public on the ASASA website <http://archives.pr.erau.edu>.

Jennifer Roberts is the project archivist, and Denise Vickers is the assistant and aviation research specialist. The project is co-directed by Sarah Thomas, Director of Library and Media Services and David Hall of the Chancellor's Office. Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, the world's largest, fully accredited university specializing in aviation and aerospace, offers more than 30 degree programs in its colleges of Arts and Sciences, Aviation, Business, and Engineering. Residential campuses are in Prescott, AZ, and Daytona Beach, FL and the Extended Campus educates students at more than 130 centers in the United States, Canada, Europe, and the Middle East.

For more information about this project, please contact Jenn Roberts at (928) 777-3907 or rober21f@erau.edu.



S. Harry Robertson Collection, Photo # 00228. Wreckage of a Piper Navajo crash that occurred in Anthony, KS in 1977. Photo courtesy of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

SSA BOARD ENGAGES IN STRATEGIC PLANNING

Submitted by Shelly Kelly, Immediate Past President



Board members and committee chairs ponder the current and future needs of SSA. Photo by Shelly Kelly.

In 1975-76, the four-year old Society of Southwest Archivists consisted of 190 members in five states paying \$2 dues. The board created an ad-hoc committee on goals and objectives to develop a report outlining potential activities that the fledgling society could adopt. Many of the suggestions made by this committee have since come to fruition and are easily recognizable today: the Publications Committee, the Professional Development Committee, the Professional & Public Affairs Committee, pre-conference workshops, the membership directory, and the Guide to Manuscript and Archives Repositories in the Southwest.

Twenty-nine years later, the Society of Southwest Archivists consists of 614 members in six states paying \$10 dues (\$25 sustaining). The SSA board decided to once again turn an introspective eye towards our activities. In October 2004 the board met in Liberty, Texas for a strategic planning session facilitated by Ron Klinger, Training and Development Specialist at the University of Houston-Clear Lake. Mr. Klinger led a series of exercises directed at answering three questions: Who are our customers? What is our purpose? How are we currently doing this?

The board brainstormed in small groups before coming together to answer the questions and articulate ideas. This exercise yielded some excellent (specific) suggestions, which were then organized into the following major categories: Education, Outreach, Advocacy, Board, Communication, Sense of Community, and Networking. Each board member, including committee chairs, were asked to consider the ideas and list their top three priorities before the next planning meeting in January.

In January 2005, the board met in Arlington, Texas. From the data gathered in October, the top three priorities emerged as follows: 1) Education: create or offer more or new hands-on workshops in all states, possibly co-sponsored with other organizations, held outside the annual meeting, several times a year; 2) Board: increase the number of active members inside each committee; 3) Sense of Community: reinvigorate or develop increased participation from under-represented states.

From intense discussion about these three priorities, two specific goals emerged with a list of objectives & strategies.

Goal #1: Increase participation within SSA by 5% from the current rate:

- Identify current rate of participation
- Communicate SSA participation needs
- Examine and evaluate the role of the board
- Examine and evaluate the role of the committees

Goal #2: Increase educational opportunities outside the annual meeting:

- Develop a roster of available workshop topics
- Develop our own SSA workshops to be taught by SSA members
- Investigate partnerships with other groups (Amigos, SAA)
- Increase sponsorship of workshops
- Offer at least one SSA workshop beyond the annual meeting in a different state each year
- Identify target audience

Continued on next page

A*CENSUS SURVEY UPDATE

Submitted by Elizabeth Dow

With responses from more than 5,000 participants to "slice and dice," the work of the A*CENSUS project coordinators continues.

A*CENSUS (Archival Census and Education Needs Survey in the U.S.), the largest and most comprehensive census ever undertaken for the archives profession, is sponsored by the Society of American Archivists and funded by the Institute for Museum and Library Services. The survey was developed by a Working Group comprising representatives from 12 national and regional archival organizations as well as archival educators and representatives of diverse communities.

The survey was conducted in May and June 2004 and preliminary reports from the A*CENSUS consultants began appearing that summer.

Since then, six consultants have worked on special reports in five key areas: graduate education (Elizabeth Yakel and Jeannette Bastian), continuing education (Nancy Zimmelman), diversity (Brenda Banks), leadership (Susan Davis), and certification (Anne Diffendal). Vicki Walch, A*CENSUS Principal Research Consultant, will prepare an overview of all the data, focusing on variations by region, type of employer, gender, age, and association memberships. A final report is scheduled for late 2005.

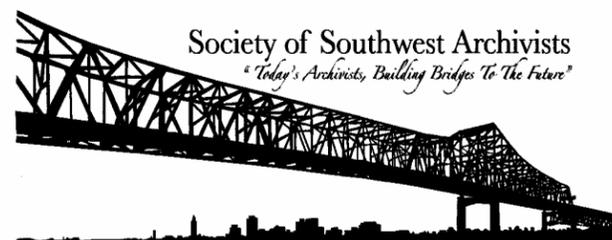
Two sessions at the Society of American Archivists' Annual Meeting in New Orleans in August will be devoted to A*CENSUS results. "A Sense of A*CENSUS," on Friday, August 19, at 2:15 pm, will feature an overview of findings by the consultants. "A*CENSUS: Where Do We Go From Here?" on Friday at 3:45 pm is a 1.5-hour "incubator" session in which the audience will participate with facilitators to discuss the survey results and make recommendations for future action.

Project staff members have prepared a "public use" version of the dataset designed to prevent inadvertent disclosure of personal information about individuals. It is available through the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research at the University of Michigan.

Several preliminary reports are now available on the SAA Web site at <http://www.archivists.org/a-census/index.asp>. These include:

- **A First Look at A*CENSUS Results** (Preliminary Report #1, August 10, 2004), with summary data related to gender, age, and type of position held.
- **Salary Data from the A*CENSUS Survey** (Preliminary Report #2, December 10, 2004), which provides mean ages and salaries by state and region, age, gender, year in which respondents started their first archival jobs, types of employer, and type of position.
- **A*CENSUS Survey Questions**, which serves as a reference for users of the data.
- **Background and Technical Notes**, which provides information that is important to understanding the survey process and interpreting the data. It describes who participated in the process, the project timetable, development of the mailing list, the response rate, and details on how results are being calculated for specific questions.
- **Analysis of Responses from Archival Association Members** provides, for most of the archival associations in the United States, the number of members on the mailing lists supplied to the A*CENSUS project, the number of individuals who indicated that they were members of the associations, and a response rate calculated from these figures.

Questions? Contact Jodie Stauffer, A*CENSUS Project Assistant, Society of American Archivists, at 312-922-0140 or acensus@archivists.org.



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Continued from previous page

A third planning meeting was held in Baton Rouge, May 2005. Officers and executive board members began actively working on goal #1, although strategies for each objective still needed to be identified and developed. It was decided that goal #2 would be addressed during the 2005-2006 year.

For Goal #1 it was determined that the 2004 rate of participation was 30% attendance at the San Antonio annual meeting, 10% attendance for workshops, 6% submitted an article or notice for the newsletter and only 5% actively join committees. The attendance for annual meetings holds steady, and hopefully SSA can increase members interest in attending future workshops, submitting news for the quarterly newsletter and signing up to participate on committees.

In order to identify areas for increased participation within the organization, the board must first examine and evaluate the role of the board and the effectiveness of the committees. In order to do this a small ad hoc committee has been formed to thoroughly review the Policies & Procedures Manual. This manual was created in 1990 by Robert Martin, and was revised by Claudia Rivers and Cindy Smolovik in 1995. The manual is a living document that needs review and possibly revision every three to five years.

The Board and Committee Chairs will continue to develop goals that we hope will enhance the professional development of SSA Members. This past year's Executive Board and committee chairs have put in many hours working on developing some specific goals for the Society. They have done this as volunteers, often at their own expense. I would like to thank each one of them for their dedication and service to the organization during this long year. I look forward to seeing the results of our planning - especially the development of the education goal with SSA. If anyone has any questions or suggestions, please contact SSA president Brenda Gunn.



Meeting facilitator Ron Klingler helps board members sort out SSA priorities. Photo by Shelly Kelly.

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN 2004-2005

During the May 26, 2005 Executive Board meeting in Baton Rouge, two significant changes were enacted. First the board examined the mission and results of the Professional & Public Affairs Committee. This committee was established to monitor issues and activities of governments and other entities and make recommendations to the Executive Board for appropriate action by the Society as a whole, or individual members. After discussion, which included how much this activity is done by others, and the advent of e-mail and its role in facilitating the quick spread of information, the board heard a motion to sunset this committee. The motion was approved. In the future, if there is a need, this committee can be revived.

The other issue concerns the structure of the Nominating Committee. At the May 26, 2005 board meeting, the board voted to change the structure of the Nominating Committee to more closely follow other committee appointment structures. Previously two members were elected to serve a one-year term on the committee, with the chair appointed by the President. The new structure allows for two members to be elected, for staggered years, to two-year terms. The reasoning behind this change is that having two members elected to simply work on the committee doesn't encourage the members to later serve on the board. By serving a two-year term, the member can first get to know the routine of the committee and then serve on the board as the committee chair. It allows that person a better opportunity to get to know more people, and hopefully they will then be more likely to step up and serve again in another role. The appointment of the 3rd member allows the President to add an experienced member to the committee, but not in the role of chair.

AT LAST!! HARRIS COUNTY ARCHIVES OPENS IN TEXAS

Submitted by Sarah Canby Jackson



Officially opening the Harris County Archives are: Ray Miller, former television news reporter and currently employed by Commissioner Steve Radack, Paul Scott, Records Manager for Harris County, Harris County Judge Robert Eckles, Harris County District Clerk Charles Bacarisse, Harris County Archivist Sarah Canby Jackson, and J. E. "Mac" McCain, former Building Superintendent and currently employed by Commissioner El Franco Lee. Photo courtesy of Harris County Archives.

The Harris County Archives, Houston, Texas, officially opened on Tuesday, April 19, 2005, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony hosted by County Judge Robert Eckels and the Harris County Commissioners. Over 150 guests attended the ceremony and enjoyed exhibits of county records, archival processes, and preservation techniques. Slide shows demonstrated the evolution of the archives from an empty space to a functioning, professional facility.

Approved as a component of the Records Management Program by the County Commissioners in November 2002, the Harris County Archives preserves, protects, and provides access to those records of enduring value that document the government of Harris County and its citizens. The Harris County Archives is the only county archives that functions as a part of a records management program in Texas. Records currently housed in the archives include Records of the Assessor and Collector of Taxes (1895-1997); Auditor's Records (1875 - 1987); Treasurer's Records (1867 - 1974); JP Records (1846 - 1966) including Civil and Criminal Dockets, Forcible Detainers and Inquest Records; Welfare Case Files (most stripped) (1921 - 1981) including WPA Applications (1936 - 1938); Medical Examiner's Inquests and Views (1957 - 1995); scrapbooks of

county officials and departments (1943 - 1991); Bayland Orphan Home Records (1867 - 1948); and the audio / visual records of Commissioner Jim Fonteno. The archives does not house the records of the County Clerk or the District Clerk.

Staffed by Sarah Canby Jackson, CA, archivist, and Annie Golden, assistant archivist, the Harris County Archives is now open to researchers on a regular basis. To make an appointment for research or to contact the archives please call 713-368-7640 or email archives@co.harris.tx.us.

RITA CROCKER CLEMENTS PAPERS AVAILABLE FOR RESEARCH AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Submitted by Charles Schultz

Texas A&M University's Clements Archivist, Charles R. Schultz, has recently completed a 329 page finding aid for the papers of Mrs. Rita Crocker Clements, wife of Governor William P. Clements, Jr. and prominent long time active member of the Republican Party at the local Dallas area, Texas, and national levels. The papers document her long and active role in the activities of the party from her entry into politics when she rang doorbells for Dwight Eisenhower's campaign for the presidency through the end of Governor Clements' second term in 1992. Although she really became active in the early 1950s and discontinued political activity in 1992, her collection contains materials as early as 1932 and continue to 2001.

The finding aid can be viewed at the Texas A&M University Libraries website at <http://library.tamu.edu>. There select collections from the menu near the top of the page and then click on Special Collections and Archives and select Modern Politics. Finally click on Rita Crocker Clements Papers and choose any one of the several series.

Continued from previous page

MARC According to DACS: Archival Cataloging to the New Descriptive Standard (REVISED)

October 20-21, 2005 - Houston (Clear Lake), Texas

Alfred R. Neumann Library, University of Houston-Clear Lake

Do you currently create or anticipate creating cataloging records for your archival collections? Then you won't want to miss this extensive 2-day review of the revision of SAA's Archival Cataloging as a Component of Description (ACCD) - enhanced by the addition of information about the relationship with the new descriptive standard *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*, full MARC 21 coding, and a subject analysis and authority work as they apply to archival cataloging.

This workshop includes lecture, hands-on, and discussion components. Based on examples, provided by the workshop leaders and by participants, you'll leave the workshop feeling competent in constructing MARC 21 records in your own environment.

***Workshop fee includes the new SAA publication *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*.**

Who should attend? Anyone who currently creates or anticipates creating MARC 21 or MARC-style cataloging records for their archival collections.

*Members of SSA and AHA will receive a \$25 discount off the non member rate by entering "SSAAHA" in the promotional code box on the registration forms. For more information and to register please access the education calendar at http://www.archivists.org/prof-education/seasonal_schedule.asp and click on your program. Questions? Email us at education@archivists.org or call SAA at 312-922-0140.

GRINGOS IN MEXICO: AMERICAN WRITERS & PHOTOGRAPHERS SOUTH OF THE BORDER
TEXAS STATE EXHIBIT GREET'S AUSTIN AIRPORT VISITORS
THROUGH AUG. 29, 2005
Excerpted from press release



Travelers passing through the Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (ABIA) are getting another good look at the cultural treasures housed at the Southwestern Writers Collection and Wittliff Gallery at Texas State University-San Marcos. *Gringos in Mexico* gives Austin airport visitors a view of ten American authors and photographers who have journeyed south of the border in search of insight and inspiration.

The line-up of Pulitzer Prize winners and stellar notables places particular emphasis on Texans, who share a common history and border with Mexico: J. Frank Dobie, Cormac McCarthy, John Graves, Elithe Hamilton Kirkland, Katherine Anne Porter, Dick J. Reavis, Sam Shepard, Bud Shrake, and Bill Wittliff. Also included is award-winning photographer Keith Carter, whose major work is collected by the Wittliff Gallery of Southwestern & Mexican Photography, counterpart to the Southwestern Writers Collection.

The exhibits books, photographs, personal artifacts, manuscripts, unpublished memoirs, and journal entries reveal the range of perceptions these artists have held about Mexico, which, like their experiences, are as varied as the country itself. Exhibit highlights include a bronze head of Katherine Anne Porter by renowned sculptor Glenna Goodacre and Porters recipe for Mole Poblano, a page from Dobies Saltillo Diary, kept during his 1932-1933 journeys through Mexico, and raw manuscript material from Shepard's *Cruising Paradise*.

For more about the archives, exhibits, and events at the Southwestern Writers Collection and Wittliff Gallery of Southwestern & Mexican Photography, call 512-245-2313, or visit www.library.txstate.edu/spec-coll.

SAA EDUCATION PROGRAMS COMING TO TEXAS

Co-sponsored by SSA

Exciting new opportunities await SSA members this fall. SAA is offering three of their educational programs in Texas. Even if you are not an SAA member, you can receive a special SSA member discount of \$25 off the non-member rate when you sign up for one of these three classes.

Encoded Archival Description

October 10-11, 2005 – Dallas, TX

Central University Libraries at Southern Methodist University

Here is the workshop that gives you the instruction and practice you need to bridge the digital divide. Get acquainted with the language of SGML and XML and practice with XMetal authoring software. This workshop covers the most up-to-date EAD version! Copies of the *EAD Tag Library* and *EAD Application Guidelines* are included in your workshop fees.

Upon completing this workshop you'll have:

- Encoded your finding aids using Encoded Archival Description;
- Received an overview of Standard Generalized Markup Language (SGML) and Extensible Markup Language (XML);
- Examined the structure of EAD (the SAA-endorsed standard for archival finding aids on the Web);
- Marked up a finding aid using XMetal Software;
- Explored style sheets and implementation strategies;
- Applied EAD to your own finding aids;

Who should attend? Archivists and others who are charged with exploring and/or implementing EAD at their institution - or want to enhance their resume. Basic computer skills are required.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACs)

October 17, 2005 – College Station, TX

Cushing Memorial Library at Texas A&M

Want practical strategies for implementing DACs? This is the introductory workshop for you!

Following practical consideration of the key concepts and descriptive elements in *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*, the new U.S. standard, you'll explore strategies for incorporating this standard into workflows for accessioning, arrangement, and description. Through discussions and hands-on work with a variety of case studies, you'll focus on application of DACs rules and concepts to repository processes and print-based descriptive outputs. This workshop does not address outputting a DACs-based description to MARC21 or EAD, but provides the basic preparation for workshops focused on those output standards.

Upon completion of this workshop you'll be able to:

- Apply the rules to formulate the content of descriptive elements for a minimal standardized description;
- Understand the different application of DACs in single- and multi-level descriptive outputs;
- Integrate DACs into basic repository processes such as accessioning, arrangement, and description;
- Articulate how integration of a content standard into basic repository processes facilitates reuse of information in a variety of outputs.

Workshop fee includes the new SAA publication *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*.

Who should attend? Anyone whose work includes accessioning, arranging and describing, or supervising employees who do that work.

Continued on next page

**National Archives
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The use of mobile systems at the time of construction saved 1,000,000 square feet and allowed NARA to meet budget goals.

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- Utilizes 692,572 square feet
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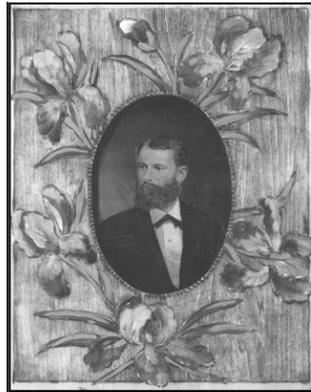


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ROCKING ON THE RED : LSU-SHREVEPORT ACQUIRES THE WOODRUFF PAPERS

Submitted by Laura McLemore



Lt. Eugene A. Woodruff. Photo courtesy of LSUS Archives and Special Collections.

The story of the last clearing of the Red River raft is one of heroism and tragedy. It began with a provision in the River and Harbor Act of July 11, 1870, for a survey of Cypress Bayou and a provision in the River and Harbor Act of March 3, 1871, for a survey of the Red River, including the raft area and Tone's Bayou below Shreveport, which was siphoning water out of the Red River. The responsibility for the project was given to Capt. C. W. Howell of the New Orleans District Corps of Engineers, who directed Lt. Eugene A. Woodruff to conduct the survey. Based on Woodruff's preliminary survey report, Congress appropriated funds for removal of the raft and improvement of surrounding waterways in 1873. The Woodruff raft removal effort was completed on schedule and under budget. Unlike Shreve's earlier effort, the improvements he achieved were permanent, but Lt. Woodruff did not live to see them.

Woodruff arrived in town from the raft to re-provision late in the summer of 1873, which was the occasion of the great yellow fever epidemic in Shreveport. Instead of returning to the raft, Woodruff joined the newly formed local chapter of the Howard Association to fight yellow fever. He was appointed to patrol the streets, identify yellow fever victims, and maintain civil order. Within two weeks he fell victim to the disease himself and died.

Woodruff's sacrifice was particularly poignant because many believed that the removal of the raft caused the epidemic by releasing all kinds of malarial poisons along the river. Upon Lt. Woodruff's death, his brother, George, was put in charge of the raft removal operations and saw the project to completion in December of 1873.

The personal papers of Eugene and George Woodruff came to the LSUS Archives and Special Collections in January 2005 from family descendants, Dr. Herbert Jones of Jessup, Iowa, and Mrs. Caroline Foster of Ft. Pierce, Florida. This acquisition represents the culmination of a two-year effort by LSUS Archives staff to secure the donation. The collection includes family correspondence and correspondence between the two Woodruffs and Capt. Howell regarding removal of the raft in 1873. It also contains weekly log books detailing daily progress on removal of the raft, logs and reports from captains of the crane boats, financial records, supply orders, and three hand drawn maps.

The papers are an important addition to Woodruff's official report and accompanying photographs by R. B. Talfor documenting the project, already housed at LSUS and among the Archives' most frequently requested materials. The Woodruff Papers are currently in process and should be open to researchers by the end of summer 2005.



Raft on the Red River. Photo courtesy of LSUS Archives and Special Collections.

SSA ANNUAL MEETING – BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA, MAY 2005

Photographs by Gerri Schaad



Saturday morning business meeting attendees prepare for SLOTTO fun! Traci Drummond, Tim Blevins, Kristy Sorensen, Stephanie Malmros, Ann Furmann, an unidentified SSA member and Christina Wolf.



A fine evening was spent at the Rural Life Museum, complete with dining al fresco, Louisiana style! Bon temps!



Cindy Smolovik, Shelly Kelly and Amanda Focke relax on a log while touring Rural Life Museum grounds.

NEXT SSA ANNUAL MEETING—EL PASO, TX

MAY 2006

TEXAS DIGITAL LIBRARY ESTABLISHED

Excerpted from press release

Rice University Libraries, University of Houston Libraries, University of Texas Libraries, Texas A & M Libraries, and Texas Tech University Libraries have entered into an agreement to establish the Texas Digital Library.

The Texas Digital Library seeks to assemble and provide for the benefit of society the combined technological advances and cultural and creative resources of these major research university systems in Texas. While headquartered at the University of Texas Libraries, University of Texas at Austin, the Texas Digital Library will operate in close cooperation with the other four campuses in Texas, all of which are members of the Association of Research Libraries.

By leveraging the resources of these major research university systems, the Texas Digital Library will offer a cost-effective venue for the assembly and delivery of information that will benefit a variety of communities, including K-12 students and their parents, university researchers and the corporations interacting with universities.

This effort will reduce costly redundancies in licensing fees, digitization and access facilities, equipment, staff and operations through centralized licensing and delivery of information resources.

The web site will be launched later this year and will feature more specific details on content, as well as information on the variety of cooperative initiatives planned.

SHAPED BY WATER—PHOTOGRAPHS BY CAROL AND DAVID FARMER ON EXHIBIT AT SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY

Press release

An exhibition of large format black & white landscape photographs by Carol and David Farmer will open September 30th 2005 in the Hawn Gallery, Hamon Arts Library, at Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX. Ranging from grand views in the American West to quiet, intimate scenes along streams in the Texas Hill Country, all of the images are of landscapes carved and scoured by water. They remind us that in the west water, our most critical natural resource, has profoundly shaped our environment for millions of years.

Carol studied photography with Charlie DeBus at SMU after retiring from a career in international consulting, while David turned to large format black & white images after retiring as director of DeGolyer Library at SMU and

taking 35mm. photographs most of his life. The Farmers have also studied with John Sexton.

"Large format photography has opened a new way of life for us, a life imbued with passion for a process that repeatedly leads us back to the real world we love," the Farmers said. "We walk quietly into landscapes that inspire us to make photographs and allow us to experience the natural world more deeply and intensely than ever before. We wait for the gift of light, and when it comes, we make images. In sharing our work we hope to communicate the beauty of a land too often judged insufficiently 'useful' by those who champion its 'development.'"

Exhibition dates: September 30-November 20, 2005**Gallery Hours:** Monday-Saturday, 9am - 5pm and Sunday, 1 pm-5 pm*Continued from cover page*

Welty was born April 13, 1909 in Jackson, Mississippi. She attended Mississippi State College for Women in Columbus from 1925-1927. She transferred to the University of Wisconsin in 1927, where she became an English major and began studying English Literature. In 1929 she received her Bachelor of Arts degree and moved on to graduate school at Columbia University's Graduate School of Business studying advertising. She won most of the major literary prizes during her career, including the Pulitzer Prize and the French Legion d'Honneur.

"Welty's achievement is unsurpassed in American fiction: her work combines keen, often startling insights about human nature and about the social forces that shape individuals with an equally startling tenderness and compassion for even the most reprehensible of her characters," says Costello. Costello has written several pieces discussing Welty's work. His latest is "Playing Lady and Imitating Aristocrats: Race, Class and Money in Eudora Welty's Delta Wedding and The Ponder Heart," *The Southern Quarterly* 42.3 (2004):21-54.

The collection is currently being cataloged and will be available to researchers soon. Anyone interested in accessing the letters should contact Tara Z. Laver, Assistant Curator for Manuscripts at 225-578-6546.

DR. ROBERT S. MARTIN COMPLETES TERM AS DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES

Press release



Dr. Robert S. Martin has completed his four-year term as Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Dr. Martin was nominated by the President of the United States to be Director of IMLS in June 2001; the U.S. Senate subsequently confirmed his nomination by unanimous consent. During his tenure, IMLS has awarded 4,704 grants to America's museums and libraries totaling more than \$899 million.

A librarian, archivist, educator, and administrator, Dr. Martin was Professor and Interim Director of the School of Library and Information Studies at Texas Women's University (TWU) prior to his appointment at IMLS. From 1995 to 1999, he was Director and Librarian of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission. Dr. Martin will return to work at the Denton campus of TWU on September 1, 2006 where he has been named the Lillian Bradshaw Endowed Chair in Library Science.

Since Dr. Martin assumed the directorship of IMLS, the agency's budget has increased from \$232,321,000 to \$280,564,000. In addition, in September 2003, President George W. Bush signed the Museum and Library Services Act of 2003 reauthorizing the agency through 2009. The legislation received bi-partisan support from Congress and enthusiastic backing from the library and museum communities.

"I have been extremely fortunate to have had the opportunity to serve IMLS during a period of extraordinary support for libraries and museums from both the Administration and Congress," said Dr. Martin. "Fundamental in the success of our efforts at IMLS, of course, has been the outstanding work that so many libraries and museum professionals do in simply serving their communities. Every day they demonstrate the undeniable value of libraries and museums through the resources and services they provide to the American people. My heartfelt gratitude goes to the Administration, particularly our First Lady and First Librarian Laura Bush, the Congress, and the library and museum communities."

Under Dr. Martin's leadership, IMLS launched a new multi-million dollar grant program (over \$22 million in FY 2005) to recruit and educate the next generation of librarians. Since First Lady Laura Bush announced the President would support the recruitment initiative in 2002 to offset a looming national shortage of library professionals due to retirement, IMLS has funded 1,537 master's degree students, 119 doctoral students, 660 pre-professional students, and 378 continuing education students. Dr. Martin also co-hosted with Mrs. Bush two seminal White House conferences, one on school libraries and the other on libraries, museums, and lifelong learning.

IMLS has continued and strengthened its commitment to research during Dr. Martin's tenure. True Needs, True Partners, a 2001 study of museums' work with schools, found that America's museums spend more than \$1 billion annually and provide more than 18 million instructional hours every year on K-12 education. In 2002, IMLS published the first-ever report on the Status of Technology and Digitization in the Nation's Museums and Libraries. And, published this June, the Museum Data Collection Report and Analysis, provides the most up-to-date research of data collection practices in the nation's museums. Dr. Martin's emphasis on accounting for results and measuring impact has led IMLS to promote outcomes-based evaluation among its grantees and develop a series of user-friendly tools and aids to prospective grantees, including an online project planning tutorial.

IMLS has taken a leadership role under Dr. Martin's leadership in identifying best practices for the creation, management, and preservation of digital resources, and in disseminating these practices throughout the library, archives, and museum communities. Since 2000, IMLS has sponsored an annual Web-Wise conference to share the latest research and newest inventions in digital technology.

NOTARIAL ARCHIVES IN NEW ORLEANS WORKING HARD AT IMPROVING ACCESS

Submitted by Ann Wakefield

The Notarial Archives in New Orleans has placed Robinson's *Atlas of the City of New Orleans*, Louisiana online at the following URL: <http://www.notarialarchives.org/robinson/index.htm>. The atlas, published in 1883 in New York, is a frequently used research tool that contains 30 plates of New Orleans streets, buildings, landmarks, and old-style municipal addresses. Online access is a benefit secondary to the original intention, which was to produce a surrogate copy of the atlas. The original plates are retired from active use.

The Notarial Archives in New Orleans is conducting a pilot summer-intern project involving graduate students from the University of Louisiana higher education system. Indexing French records this summer is Patty GuteKunst, a graduate student in public history and European history at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Giovana Giarelli, a candidate for master's degrees in history and education, is indexing Spanish Colonial records. Research Manager Howard Margot is coordinating the project.

LOUISIANA STATE ARCHIVES COMPLETES RENOVATION

Submitted by Dr. Florent Hardy, Jr., PhD

Visitors to the Louisiana State Archives will undoubtedly recognize the many changes which have occurred to the facility and grounds over the past two years. Renovation of the building, which opened in 1987, began two years ago and the project's final phase, the landscaping of the newly constructed plaza in the front of the facility, was recently completed. The renovation included the installation of a new HVAC system among other various other improvements.

Since the Research Library's opening in September 2004, it has offered a web version of the Louisiana Multimedia Archives, a computer-based archival system that allows for the storage and rapid recall of thousands of hours of film and video footage relevant to Louisiana culture. The Conservation Laboratory is also presently reformatting the nitrate negatives found in the John Gasquet Collection, constructing containers for Act Books from the Rebel Archives Collection, and reattaching the spines of the recently received Orleans Parish Criminal Court Ledger Books.

UTSA ARCHIVES PROCESSES CYNDI TAYLOR KRIER PAPERS

Submitted by Traci Drummond

The University of Texas at San Antonio Archives staff is processing the papers of Cyndi Taylor Krier, former Texas Senator and Bexar County Judge, and current Regent for the University of Texas system. Consisting of personal and campaign materials, and files related to her work as a senator and county judge, the 400-cubic foot collection is being processed by the archivists, library assistants and interns working at the Archives this summer.

Because of the collection's size and our former reluctance to tackle this project, we were pleased and inspired by several recent SSA events. Staff attended the spring workshop held in Austin on "Recruiting, Utilizing, and Nurturing Volunteers in Archives," which gave us some good ideas for keeping interns busy.

We also received guidance from the SSA 2005 Annual Meeting session on "Political Papers: Processing and Outreach for Political Papers." Further inspiration came from the suggestion to look at Mark A. Greene's "Appraisal of Congressional Papers at the Minnesota Historical Society: A Case Study." The article is providing guidelines that will allow us to appraise the collection for its most historically relevant materials.

Megan Robida, Anthropology intern, is arranging and describing the campaign and Senate materials. Kirsi Ritosalmi-Kisner and Javier Garza, Library Assistants, are assisting with appraisal of Krier's working files as well as processing. Paul Washington, summer intern, is working with the constituent files and correspondence. Heather Brunts and Meagan Brunts, also summer interns, are doing preservation work and refolding materials.

The UTSA Archives will have the collection processed by the end of July and hopes to have the finding aid available on the Texas Archival Resources Online site by the end of August. For further information, please contact Traci Drummond at Traci.Drummond@UTSA.edu or Archives@utsa.edu.

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