

“BORDERS AND BOUNDARIES: ARCHIVISTS DRAWING THE LINE”
 SSA ANNUAL MEETING, EL PASO, TEXAS, MAY 25-27, 2006

Submitted by Claudia Rivers, UTEP, Local Arrangements Chair



Camino Real Hotel in El Paso, 1928.
 Courtesy of El Paso Historical Society.

Make plans to spend Memorial Day weekend on the border in El Paso, Texas. The Local Arrangements Committee has prepared a fun-filled calendar of activities to complement the annual meeting program. The meeting will be held at the historic Camino Real Hotel with excellent room rates – just \$89 per night. You may not be able to watch the Mexican Revolution from the roof of the hotel as visitors did in the early twentieth century, but you will get to hear about the Mexican Revolution from an El Paso author, and you will be only blocks away from the international bridge.

To emphasize the international setting of this meeting, the opening reception on Thursday will be in Cd. Juárez at the beautiful Museo Histórico de Ciudad Juárez (at the Ex-Aduana, or old Customs House). Although you’ll need some form of photo identification, a passport isn’t necessary for re-entry. A local historic property will be available for those who don’t want to venture across the border.

On Friday, we will enjoy a progressive dinner reception at a number of beautiful venues in downtown El Paso. Sites include the renovated main branch of the El Paso Public Library as well as the newly renovated Plaza Theatre. Designed by architect W. Scott Dunne in the Spanish Colonial Revival style, the Plaza Theatre served as a vaudeville house and movie theater, quickly gaining a reputation as the “Showplace of the Southwest.” Its architectural extravagance represented the glamorous era of the 1930s motion-picture industry.

Tours on Saturday afternoon include adventures in the valleys surrounding El Paso. The Mission Trail tour will include visits to the renovated Socorro Mission church as well as the Ysleta and San Elizario missions. A tour of the Mesilla Valley in New Mexico will include a visit to the charming town of Mesilla and a tour and dinner at the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Museum.

The El Paso area has a lot to offer those who want to explore on their own. Carlsbad Caverns, White Sands, Cloudcroft, and Ruidoso are all easy driving distances away. El Paso is a good jumping-off spot for a trip to Chihuahua and the Copper Canyon, and new highways lead to the pottery center of Mata Ortiz and the border town of Columbus, New Mexico. Remember, El Paso is conveniently located half way between Houston and Los Angeles.

The annual meeting registration packet will be sent out in early March, and details on the program and pre-conference workshops will be posted on the annual meeting site on the SSA website in the coming weeks. Be sure to register early for the workshops, as space is limited.

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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 knowledge.

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

Membership is \$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, and can also be found on-line at <http://southwestarchivists.org/HTML/Membership.htm>.

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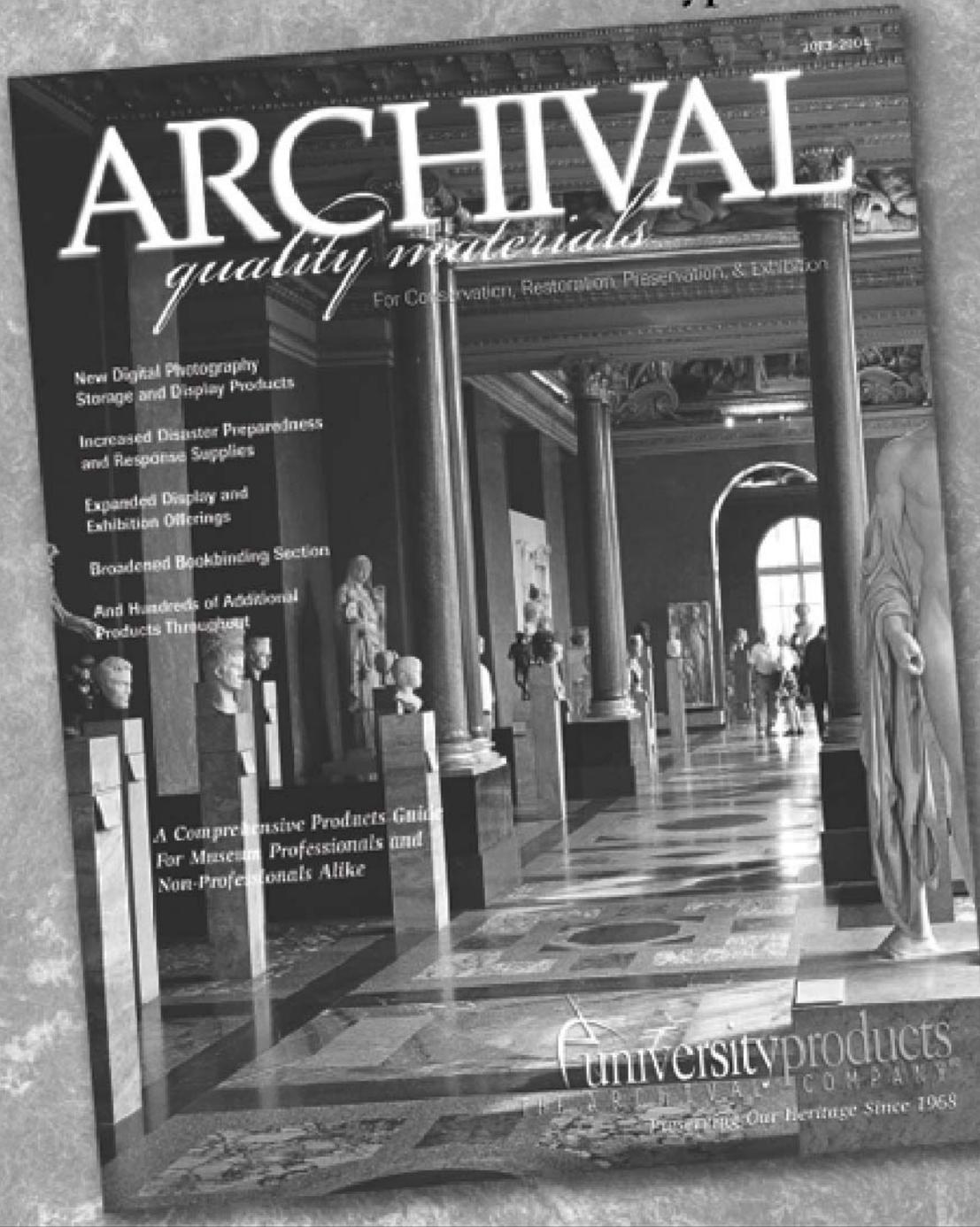
The SSA web page is maintained by Lee Miller at Tulane University.

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Deadlines for submissions are:

10th of April, July, October, and January.

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Employment postings from members are published gratis.

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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 welcome. Submissions by SSA members from repositories outside the SSA region will be published if space is available.

Please send submissions electronically or on disk. Submissions may be edited to conform to style conventions and space limitations.

Please send out-of-region submissions to:

Amanda York Focke
Editor, *Southwestern Archivist*
Rice University PO Box 1892
Fondren Library - MS44
Houston, TX 77251-1892
713-348-2124 (phone)
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afocke@rice.edu

Send Arkansas submissions to:

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Archives Office, John Brown University
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Siloam Springs, AR 72761
479-524-7207 (phone)
479-524-7335 (fax)
hcrain@jbu.edu

Send Arizona submissions to:

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University of Arizona
PO Box 210103
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520-621-9444 (fax)
calmesl@ccp.library.arizona.edu

Send Louisiana submissions to:

Carol Bartels
Historic New Orleans Collection
533 Royal St.
New Orleans, LA 70130
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504-598-7108 (fax)
Carol@hnoc.org

Send New Mexico submissions to:

Maura Kenny
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Box 30006 Dept. 3475
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mkenny@lib.nmsu.edu

Send Oklahoma submissions to:

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Send Texas submissions to:

South Texas:	North Texas:
Amanda Focke	Ellen Niewyk
(see information at left) SMU	
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	PO Box 750356
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	214-768-1859 (phone)
	214-768-1800 (fax)
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Send ALL leadership Log submissions to:

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Dallas Public Library
1515 Young Street
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Continued from cover page.

Finally, start thinking of Slotto items to bring to the meeting, as the Slotto Auction benefits the Society's scholarship funds.

If you have any questions, call Claudia Rivers or Susan Novick at the Special Collections Department at the University of Texas at El Paso Library, 915-747-5697 or email crivers@utep.edu or snovick@utep.edu.



Ciudad Juárez Customs House, site of the opening reception for the annual meeting. Postcard courtesy of the Gertrude Fitzgerald photographs, PH 025, Special Collections Dept., University of Texas at El Paso Library.

SSA PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

Submitted by Mike Strom and Wendi Goen, Professional Development Committee

Basic Electronic Records

An SAA workshop, Basic Electronic Records, has been scheduled for May 25, 2006.

Early registration fees are \$185 for SAA Members and \$235 for Non Members (on or before 4/25/2006).

SSA members will receive a \$25 discount off the non member rate by entering "SSABER05" in the promotional code space on the online registration form.

For information about the workshop, please visit SAA's web site: <http://www.archivists.org/prof-education/workshop-detail.asp?id=1665>

Exhibits: From Blah to Bodacious II

Do people pass by your exhibits without noticing your exciting beige color scheme and the evenly-spaced rectangles that cover all available space?

Do they leave talking about your displays or the price of stale bread?

Marian Shepherd and Joel Ayala, exhibit designers for the Arizona State Capitol Museum in Phoenix, will share their expertise on creating exhibits that entice, educate and excite. Learn how to use color, shapes and space to create exhibits that demand attention.

EL PASO PROGRAM PREVIEW

Submitted by Michael McColgin, SSA Vice President and Annual Meeting Program Chair

The program at the SSA Annual Meeting in El Paso promises to be exceptional, even for SSA which traditionally has great sessions. If you have a blinding flash of an idea after reading the following topics, contact someone on the Program Committee at that moment. It may not be too late to get your session on the program.

We are pleased to announce that our plenary speaker will be Reynolds Cahoon, newly appointed Senior Adviser of Electronic Records at NARA. Cahoon has been the agency's CIO for the past 10 years and will now be promoting and educating other agencies about using electronic records. According to the Allen Weinstein, Archivist of the United States, Cahoon will emphasize the importance of building records management functions into the design of agency business systems.

The Program Committee has lassoed the following sessions, among others:

- When to Say Whoa! Learn to create and maintain a focused collection policy.
 - We Were There. Join SSAers as they tell of their trials during Katrina and Rita.
 - Disaster Recovery Vendors. Join representatives of three national salvage companies as they discuss their roles after the hurricanes.
 - Lone Arrangers and Websites. Learn how to create eye-grabbing but inexpensive websites.
 - Starting from Scratch. Get ideas on establishing an archives from the ground up.
 - Outreach and Inreach. Use what ya got to promote your collections.
- ♪And the beat goes on...

GIFT ITEMS NEEDED FOR SLOTTO!

All proceeds support SSA Scholarships.

Bring items unique to your area such as artwork, museum gift books, t-shirts, posters, and memorabilia to be auctioned at Saturday morning business meeting, at the annual meeting in El Paso.

Some say it's the highlight of the meeting! Join in on the fun!

For more information, contact:

Tara Zachary Laver
SSA Scholarships Chair
tzachar@lsu.edu

THE PRESIDENT'S SERIES

Submitted by Brenda Gunn, SSA President

Certainly by now you know about the SSA-SAA Emergency Disaster Assistance Grant Fund, set up by SSA and SAA to address the stabilization and recovery needs of archival repositories that were directly affected by Hurricane Katrina. Soon after establishing the fund, Hurricane Rita struck, and we added that affected area to the fund's target audience. What you may not know is the particulars of activity. As of December 2005, the fund has received \$42,653.00 in contributions and dispersed \$19,500.00 to institutions in New Orleans and Texas. The review committee, consisting of Shelly Henley Kelly, Robert Schaadt, Kathlene Ferris, Carol Roark, and Bruce Turner, has an average of 4.5 days turnaround on these applications. When we started this fund, we made a commitment to get the money to those who needed it quickly, and we have.

The recipients of grant funds include the following (all New Orleans area unless specified): New Orleans Notarial Archives; Louisiana State Museum; Newcomb Archives at Tulane; Washington Area Museum Foundation; Tyrrell Historical Library (Beaumont, Texas); Earl Long Library of the University of New Orleans; Sisters of St. Joseph of Medaille; Archives of the Archdiocese of New Orleans; Archives of the Dominican Sisters, Cabra; Sisters Servants of Mary; and Jackson Barracks Military Library.

SSA and SAA both contributed \$5000 each in seed money toward this effort. I'm proud of the executive board for committing this money to this cause, oh so close to home. Through the careful financial stewardship of previous SSA leadership, we were in a financial position to assist our members and our region in a time of need.

Wanting to continue that tradition of good stewardship, I've created an ad-hoc finance committee to look at SSA's finances, particularly whether it is time to increase dues to cover operating expenses, such as the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter and fees for the internet service provider for our website. (The \$5000 for the grant fund came from invested funds and were not part of money used to pay for the cost of doing business.) The ad-hoc committee will make recommendations for the board to consider at the February board meeting.

**SSA CALL FOR MEMBERSHIP DUES &
CORRECTIONS TO CONTACT INFORMATION FOR MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY**

- **Annual membership dues of \$10 run on the calendar year**
- **SSA membership Directory to be published in May 2006**

Please send dues & any Contact Information Updates to:

**Ms. Gerri Schaad
SSA Treasurer
PO Box 700761
San Antonio, TX 78270**

Please also consider making a tax deductible donation to:

- **SSA Scholarship programs. Checks for any amount are welcome – just make a note it is for “scholarships”. Visit <http://southwestarchivists.org/HTML/Scholarships.htm> for more information.**
- **SSA-SAA Emergency Disaster Assistance Grant Fund. More information about the Hurricane Relief Fund is available at: <https://www.archivists.org/katrina/contribute.asp>.**

POST HURRICANE STATUS OF SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL LIBRARY

Submitted by Linda K. Gill

After years of threats and near-misses Southwest Louisiana was struck on September 24, 2005 by the worst hurricane since Hurricane Audrey devastated Cameron Parish on June 27, 1957. Cameron Parish was again devastated by Hurricane Rita but this time the inland parishes, including Calcasieu, were also battered. Hurricane force winds and tornadoes felled trees and damaged buildings and homes that had withstood many previous storms.

Before Hurricane Rita struck the people of Calcasieu Parish had been assisting Hurricane Katrina evacuees. Assistance came from individuals, local government, and church, community and non-profit organizations. On Monday, August 29, evacuees began coming into the Carnegie Memorial Building to use computers. Two branches of the Calcasieu Parish Public Library share the first floor of the building which is located two blocks from the evacuation center set up in the Lake Charles Civic Center. Carnegie Memorial Library is a circulating library, and Southwest Louisiana Genealogical and Historical Library is a reference and research library only. Initially, restrictions were relaxed in the genealogical and historical library to allow Hurricane Katrina evacuees to access the Internet from computers dedicated to genealogical and historical research. On Tuesday afternoon six computer workstations were set up in the meeting room of the Carnegie Memorial Building for evacuees seeking information about family members and friends, the status of their homes or neighborhoods, and resources available to them. Overflow users continued to use computers in the Carnegie and Southwest Louisiana Genealogical and Historical branches. Within a week more workstations and a printer were added. Library employees from throughout the parish library system assisted evacuees with the computer usage, provided hyperlinks and information about other resources, and volunteered to assist in other areas as well.

Traffic in every branch increased. Patron registration for 8/29/2005 through 9/15/2005 was 2,127. Registration for the same time period in 2004 was 670. Registered Internet only users increased from 70 to 1,356 and registered temporary borrowers went from 2 to 79. By Tuesday, September 20, traffic had slowed down enough to close the meeting room computer bank. The sincere appreciation of the Katrina evacuees was touching, and many of us told them that it could as easily have been us. Little did we know that two days later we would become evacuees, also!

On Monday, September 19, Jeffrey A. Rippel, Library Director of the Calcasieu Parish Public Library, notified the branches to prepare for the possibility of Hurricane Rita hitting the Cameron Parish coastline. Internal emergency preparedness routines were initiated. All facilities were closed at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, September 21 and employees completed closure procedures such as backing up and bagging computers, moving furniture, etc. Preparations to protect the contents of the Southwest Louisiana Genealogical and Historical Library were completed by the two staff members on duty and employees from Collection and Computing Services, located on the second floor of the Carnegie Memorial Library building. Loretta Gharst, Associate Librarian for Collection and Computing Services, told the branch manager, Shirley Burwell that the branch's collection was priority because it had taken so many years to develop and contained irreplaceable resources. Genealogy staff moved everything from the tops of the stacks, tables, and vertical file cabinets to the protection of the microfilm room. The stacks were covered with plastic sheeting and computers were backed up, unplugged and "bagged."

Because a sound decision was made for the library to close on Wednesday, employees had the opportunity to go home and prepare for evacuation. Two weeks later Genealogy Staff began returning home. On October 6 Linda Gill exited from I-10 onto Ryan Street and with apprehension drove toward the Carnegie Building. The banner celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Carnegie Library's presence in Lake Charles had blown off the front of the building and lay crumpled on the porch. Wind-blown dirt pitted the windows. Limbs lay strewn along the street. Without entering the library everything inside was presumed to be all right since no windows were broken. On Monday, October 10, the genealogy staff reported to work and was pleased to find that there was no major damage and that the collections were intact. The library building suffered very little damage in comparison to so many other businesses and homes. Even the large live oak tree lost only a branch or two. The treasures of the library — obituary files, microfilm and books were all safe.

THE EFFECTS OF KATRINA ON THE NOTARIAL ARCHIVES

Submitted by Ann Wakefield, Archivist

Along with shattered windows and basement flooding, the effects of Hurricane Katrina also scattered administration and staff while posing stiff challenges for the Notarial Archives in New Orleans. Current records – rescued from a flooded basement – remain in a temporary location. Historical records, which escaped storm damage, are housed in a building still under repair. Staff members – who were paid throughout their evacuation – are rebuilding their homes and lives in a broken city. Nine employees did not return to the Archives. Some found homes, schools and jobs in their cities of evacuation. A couple of them returned to the city but not to the Archives. The filing office reopened to the public on October 10, and the research center on January 9. For the Notarial Archives, rescue was difficult, recovery was just as hard, and rebuilding remains cloaked in uncertainties yet, oddly, full of hope.

The high-rise commercial office building at 1340 Poydras Street that houses Notarial Archives Research Center sustained very heavy damage on August 29. Most of its windows were shattered, leaving stacks and conservation areas open to wind and rain. Rooftop mechanical systems were damaged beyond repair, and looting opened the ground floor lobby to the streets for about a week. The situation was even worse across the street, where 60,000 volumes of notarial records and the agency's sole revenue source – the filing office – were located in the basement of the Courthouse and were certain to receive the same flooding as the Superdome, just down the street. On that first day, from a Houston hotel room, we established contact with Munters, with whom we had a prior arrangement. Munters committed to gathering the personnel, pumps, generators, and vehicles to move in to the city to assess and rescue. All they needed was official permission to gain access past the checkpoints, and we could not provide it. Stranded New Orleanians were being rescued and only life-saving expeditions were allowed. Frantic calls to Baton Rouge to can access to New Orleans came up empty. In desperation, Custodian of Notarial Records Stephen Bruno made WWL radio and the Times-Picayune aware of the need to rescue the documents. News reports appeared on September 5, and by the next day we were in.

The potential loss was enormous. The research center houses 5,000 original 19th century architectural drawings in a genre that exists nowhere else in the world. If they were lost, they would be gone from the face of the Earth. The filing office houses all modern real estate transactions in New Orleans. Their loss would cause economic chaos.

Rescue

Research Manager Howard Margot (traveling from Lafayette, LA with a pair of hip-high waders), Deputy Custodian Jerry Mouton (living out of his car in the driveway of his flooded home in Metairie), and a Munters representative met up at a parking lot in Metairie and drove into New Orleans on September 6. They found about 6 inches of water in the basement, enough to soak the notarial volumes on the bottom shelves. The decision was made to remove all volumes from the basement, freeze the 2,400 volumes that were flooded and ship them to Chicago for treatment, and place the remaining volumes on 18 climate-controlled trucks until a stable location could be found. The pumping and packing out would take about a week (with teams of temporary workers) to accomplish.

The research center fared better. The smashed windows allowed air to circulate through the stacks, reducing the mold threat. Assessment showed that the moisture levels of the materials were acceptable. Stabilization by boarding up the windows and pumping in dehumidifying air was achieved by September 12. Plat cabinets and compact shelving survived Katrina's wind and rains and protected archival materials inside. Glass, insulation, and debris had to be cleared from the tracks before the shelves could be moved, but thankfully the motorized shelving systems survived intact. The implementation of stabilization was delayed when the building's corporate management sought to restrict access out of safety and liability concerns, but the Custodian managed to negotiate access in time.

Continued on following page.

Continued from previous page

The courthouse records remained in climate-controlled semis parked on Loyola Avenue and Poydras Streets for about three weeks, while a new set of frantic calls to Baton Rouge in search of a stable building again came up empty. Again, pleas from the Custodian through the news media brought the situation to the attention of the public, and the head of Louisiana Homeland Security secured a temporary home in a ballroom of the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. The semis drove right through the giant doors, and lines of temporary workers unloaded the boxes of books, beginning on October 1. Notified to report to work, staff began arriving from all parts of the country on October 4, many of them still without their own homes. Some \$94,000 worth of new shelving was installed. Meanwhile, electricity and air conditioning had returned to the research center. Cost of rescue was significant. The courthouse operations, including moving to the Convention Center, came to about \$1 million. Stabilizing the research center cost about \$65,000.

Recovery

The Convention Center of the Notarial Archives, along with companion offices of the Recorder of Mortgages and the Register of Conveyances, opened to the public on October 10, although records were still in boxes and shelves were being installed. While operations were hardly seamless, the general public could begin to replace their lost documents. And title abstractors could begin their work to move local property sales and refinancings forward.

It took longer to open the research center to the public, due to the condition of 1340 Poydras St. and the shortage of staff. Most of the research center staff were helping out at the Convention Center triaging, cleaning, arranging, and shelving records. Falling glass and clean-up operations created enough hazards for the building's management to prohibit the general public from entering until around Christmas. Enough staff returned to the research center to open it to the public on January 9.

Rebuilding

At this writing, there continues to be uncertainty in the future location of the Notarial Archives filing office. The documents are secure, and that is the most important fact. The Convention Center location is only temporary and the filing office needs a new home, preferably one that is not in a basement. There is also talk in New Orleans of combining some local government functions, and it will be interesting to see how that affects the Notarial Archives. Meanwhile, the agency is moving ahead with a major digitization project that was advertised right before Katrina hit and re-advertised in November. It is hoped that when the fluid world that is post-Katrina New Orleans finally settles into focus, that Notarial Archives will have a home that is above ground at the very minimum.

CONNECTIONS BETWEEN NEW ORLEANS AND HAITI CELEBRATED AT HISTORIC NEW ORLEANS COLLECTION

Submitted by Elsa Schneider

The Historic New Orleans Collection announces a year-long celebration of the connections between Louisiana and St. Domingue (Haiti). Featuring a symposium on February 4th, a ground breaking exhibition opening March 14th, an exhibition catalogue, lectures, and educational activities, the year's programming promises to enthrall both residents and tourists.

For more information and reservations, please call (504) 598-7171 or visit our website at www.hnoc.org

LOUISIANA STATE ARCHIVES' RECORDS MANAGEMENT SECTION ASSISTS IN KATRINA RECOVERY

Submitted by Florent Hardy, Jr., Ph.D.

Since Katrina and Rita struck Louisiana, the Records Management Section has been assisting numerous state and local agencies in the salvage, preservation and recreation of their records. The program responded to hundreds of phone calls from agencies, the public and service providers ranging from how to obtain records from other sources to requests for advice on how (or where) to proceed in their given situation. The program has been tracking over 500 local and state agencies in the area damaged by Katrina and over 475 local and state agencies in the area damaged by Rita.

In addition, the program worked closely with the National Archives representatives in Fort Worth and Maryland keeping them informed on developing records related situations and in the efforts to help salvage records from the Orleans Parish Criminal Clerk of Court, Coroner and District Attorney's offices, which like many buildings in New Orleans had over five feet of flood water for well over a month. The program also assisted the State's Vital Records Registry communicate information to the parish Clerks of Court about changes in the procedures for issuing replacement birth cards and certificates. The program has also been asked (and has begun) to speak to various governmental associations about the importance of disaster planning and lessons learned from the unprecedented 2005 Hurricane Season.

SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH OF MEDAILLE FIND A NEW HOME FOR ARCHIVES

Submitted by Sister Jane Aucoin, csj

The Archives of the Southern Region of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Medaille now has a new home in Baton Rouge. The flooding that followed hurricane Katrina and the standing water that persisted on the first floor of our buildings at 1200 Mirabeau Avenue in New Orleans left that floor completely ruined. Providentially, all the archival materials were housed on the second floor, so there was no damage to the collection. However, funds are not available to remodel the damaged portions of the buildings, so the collections have now moved to a new and safer location at 8676 Goodwood Blvd #107.

Such a move could not have been accomplished without a generous grant from SAA/SSA and manual help from devoted volunteers who traveled three times weekly from Baton Rouge to New Orleans during an entire month to pack the materials in preparation for the move. Unpacking took less than two weeks, and yielded, among other things, 265 pounds of corrugated cardboard, which, when brought to a recycling company earned exactly \$1.95!

FRAZER MEMORIAL LIBRARY IN LAKE CHARLES, LOUISIANA REMAINS CLOSED

Submitted by Pati Threatt

McNeese State University's Frazer Memorial Library remains closed due to the effects of Hurricane Rita. The Library's roof was damaged and the top floor suffered water damage. The ensuing power outage caused mold to develop on several floors. The top floor of the Library housed the Government Documents Department where a large group of materials were destroyed. The Government Documents Librarian is working to replace most of the damaged materials.

University and State officials have allowed the Library staff to make short trips into the building to survey the damage. To date, no archives or rare books have been damaged. A remediation firm has begun repairing and cleaning the building and should complete their work by February 2006.

EARL K. LONG LIBRARY, UNIV. OF NEW ORLEANS ESCAPES MAJOR DAMAGE

Submitted by Florence M. Jumonville, Ph.D.

The Long Library fortunately escaped the flooding that inundated much of the surrounding area in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Damage affecting the interior of the building was largely limited to broken windows in Circulation and a study area, and a roof leak that permitted water to drip the width of the largest storage area for special collections. Storage containers consequently became damp and moldy, but the contents of the containers were unharmed.

A generous and much-appreciated grant from the SSA/SAA Emergency Disaster Assistance Fund will enable the library to replace the damaged containers.

GROUND BREAKING HELD FOR THE NARA-SW REGION NEW FEDERAL RECORDS CENTER BUILDING

By Kent Carter, Regional Administrator for NARA-SW Region



Federal Records Center Building design.
Courtesy of NARA-SW Region.

The National Archives and Records Administration – Southwest Region held a ground-breaking ceremony, on October 27, 2005 for a new records center building. The ceremony was held at the new site in the Carter Industrial Park in South Fort Worth.

The ceremony was attended by approximately 110 guests, including NARA staff from College Park, Maryland, and local staff, as well as invited guests representing the developer – K/H Lakewood, LLC of Kansas City, Missouri, subcontractors, and even some NARA-SW retirees. Remarks were made by various officials including NARA management and Erik With, District Director of the Office of Michael C.

Burgess, M.D., Representative for the 26th Congressional District of Texas, and Kathleen Hicks, City Councilwoman, 8th District for the City of Fort Worth.

The new facility will be 204,529 square feet and house nearly 1 million cubic feet (boxes) of records for the approximately 100 Federal agencies in our four-state region. The building will accommodate over 50 NARA staff members and contractors and will include a research room for the public to review judicial records from the Federal courts in the region. NARA and K/H Lakewood, LLC., the developer for the site, have entered into a 20-year lease.

The new records center will replace Building One on the Federal Depot on nearby Felix Street. NARA will continue to operate two bays in Building Nine which contain an additional 440,000 cubic feet. The combined capacity of the current and new facilities will be approximately 1.4 million cubic feet (boxes) of records.

Once completed, the new center will store records for the various agencies in the region, including the regional U.S. District / Bankruptcy Courts, the Internal Revenue Service, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA-Johnson Space Center), the Department of Energy, the Department of Navy, and the Department of Homeland Security.

The new center will include facilities for the storage and servicing of electronic records. A document scanning room will be a prominent feature of the building, and an additional electronic records storage unit is also planned.

The new Records Center is an exciting new step for NARA as we move to modernize the facilities that house these very important records. We are moving to a modern, efficient, purpose-built facility designed to meet the standards of the 21st century.

DOES YOUR REPOSITORY HAVE NEWS TO SHARE WITH SSA?

LET US HEAR FROM YOU!

SEE PAGE 4 FOR CONTACT INFORMATION.

SOUTHEAST ARCHIVES EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE TO CONTINUE

Submitted by Elizabeth H. Dow

In November 2005, five universities signed on to continue the Southeast Archives Education Collaborative (SAEC), thus ensuring the future of the course-sharing initiative established by Elizabeth Dow at Louisiana State University (LSU). The participants include three schools of library and information science--LSU, Indiana University (IU), and the University of Kentucky (UK)--and two history departments--Auburn University (AU), Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU).

The Letter of Agreement each partner signed incorporates a set of Guiding Principles which will continue the SAEC beyond its grant funding. The SAEC came into existence in October, 2002, when Dow received an IMLS grant for just under half a million dollars to initiate the program as an experiment.

The original partners, AU, LSU, UK, and the University of South Carolina, established the protocols that will continue into the future. South Carolina found itself unable to continue beyond the spring of 2005. IU and MTSU quickly filled the void.

Under the agreement, each school offers one class per academic year to the collaborative partners and, in return, receives the classes offered by the other schools. SAEC classes address advanced topics in archives management and are limited to 35 students each. The partnership uses compressed video delivered via Internet 2 to conduct the classes live, in real time. Each student enrolls at his or her home institution, pays home campus tuition, and receives credit from the home school.

The fall 2005 classes included "A-V Archives" from UK, taught by Deidre Scaggs, and "Advanced Appraisal" from AU, taught by Joseph Turrini. The spring 2006 classes include "Electronic Records Management," taught by Phil Bantin at IU, and "Electronic Description of Archival Materials," taught by Elizabeth Dow at LSU.

Each school offers its own "Archives 101"--a foundation course. To ensure that all students taking the advanced classes bring similar backgrounds to the SAEC classes, the Archives 101 instructors regularly meet for weekend sessions with an instructional designer to "harmonize" the educational objectives and units of study for the foundation course.

As expected, the SAEC has substantially deepened the archives education students at partner schools can attain. Students have consistently rated it as a highly valuable opportunity which greatly enhances their ability to find a job in an archival institution.

While students acknowledge that distance education has its drawbacks, they believe the benefits substantially outweigh the short-comings. They also report that the compressed video format, which allows verbal and sight interaction among the connected sites, provides a more thoughtful and richer educational experience than the Web-based classes they have taken.

For more information, see: slis.lsu.edu/saec/saec.html

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS LIBRARIES HOST FOLKLORE CONFERENCE

Submitted by Ethel C. Simpson

Special Collections at the University of Arkansas Libraries held a conference November 11 and 12 entitled "A Collector in Her Own Right: Reassessing Mary Celestia Parler's Contribution to Ozark Folklore." Parler was the head of the University of Arkansas Folklore Research project until her retirement in 1975. The Mary Celestia Parler folk song collection comprises 3,640 songs recorded on tape, chiefly in the Arkansas Ozarks, between 1949 and 1965. The goal of the conference was to stimulate interest in Parler and in the collection and to begin discussions of ways and means of preserving and disseminating the songs in digital formats.

Sessions included a talk by Robert Cochran, director of the Center for Arkansas and Regional Studies about Parler's role as a collector; a biographical sketch by Rachel Reynolds, folklorist for the West Plains, Missouri, Council for the Arts, a reminiscence by Linda and Buford Suffridge, who were in Parler's folklore class, and a screening of a television program broadcast in 1954 that depicted Parler's encounters with several prominent folk singers of the time in her quest for a rare version of an old ballad.

Tom Dillard, head of Special Collections, and Ethel Simpson, emeritus archivist, coordinated the activities, which were held on the Fayetteville campus of the University.

HISPANICS AT TEXAS A&M: CELEBRATING 130 YEARS, 1876-2006 TO OPEN MARCH 2006

Submitted by Rebecca Hankins

Hispanics have long been a part of the rich history and traditions of Texas A&M University. In March of 2006, Cushing Memorial Library and Archives will honor their presence by opening a major exhibit dedicated to Hispanics at A&M: their experiences, contributions, and influences as important Aggie family members. Three years in the making, the exhibit, *Hispanics at Texas A&M: Celebrating 130 Years, 1876-2006* will open with a reception on March 7, 2006 and will be on display in the Wendler Gallery on the second floor of Cushing Library for one year.

Drawn primarily from the University archives, this exhibit follows two other significant exhibits devoted to the diversity of A&M's history: *In Fulfillment of a Dream: African-Americans at Texas A&M University* and *Intended for All: 125 Years of Women at Texas A&M University*. Both of these exhibits are still available virtually through Cushing Library's online exhibits < <http://library.tamu.edu/onlinex> >.

A virtual exhibit of Hispanics at Texas A&M will also open in late spring of 2006.

For more information, please contact Miguel Juarez, Curator of Hispanic Studies Collections < mjuarez@lib-gw.tamu.edu > at 979-845-1951.

DALLAS SPIRIT: 150 YEARS OF CITY GOVERNMENT

Submitted by Brian Collins



The Texas/Dallas History Division of the Dallas Public Library and the Dallas Municipal Archives and Records Center are combining resources to present an exhibit on the 150th anniversary of city government in Dallas. The sesquicentennial exhibit will highlight the different departments and officials that have played a vital role in the city's rich and varied history; city plans and projects that have shaped its growth and development; prominent city buildings and facilities; oddball ordinances and laws; and city firsts.

The exhibit will be displayed in the lobby of Dallas City Hall as well as the 7th floor reading room of the Dallas Public Library from February 1 through March 31. For questions, please call 214-670-1435.

Dallas City Hall image courtesy of Dallas Municipal Archives and Records Center.

LONG ARM OF THE ARCHIVES: LSUS ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS REACHES OUT

Submitted by Laura McLemore

One of LSU-Shreveport Archives and Special Collections' strategic objectives for 2004-2005 was to expand and redirect its outreach program. Archives staff took a three-pronged approach to achieving their goal. Their strategy included specific programs, events, and web resources targeting three audiences: LSUS students and faculty, alumni, and the general public.

To encourage student research, LSUS Archives and Special Collections established an annual historical essay competition endowed by Shreveport architect and preservationist, William B. Wiener, Jr. As a result of Mr. Wiener's generosity, students have substantial incentive to participate. Entrants must write on a topic related to local history using, but not limited to, LSUS Archives. An independent panel will judge the essays, and the two winning essays will be submitted for publication and/or published on the Archives' website.

Targeting faculty and alumni, Archives and Special Collections hosted the first annual LSUS Authors reception in the fall of 2005. The event was aimed at increasing awareness of Archives among faculty members and encouraging alumni who publish to donate an autographed copy of their work to Special Collections. Archives staff prepared a display of faculty and alumni publications in the library and held an afternoon reception for the authors. The event was enthusiastically attended, and a bibliography of all the publications submitted for 2004-2005 was distributed in print and posted to the Archives and Special Collections website.

To expand access to the Archives for the general public, as well as students and faculty, LSUS Archives and Special Collections introduced a new look for its webpage at www.lsus.edu/library/Archives.htm. The new website, still a work in progress, offers resources to students and teachers, news about Archives-related events and publications, new links in the collection guide, and a contact form, which has increased reference requests significantly. Through PayPal, the website has also become a more effect marketing tool for LSUS Archives and Special Collections' most recent publication, *Photo by Grabill* (2003).

LSUS Archives and Special Collections' efforts to expand outreach in 2005 incorporated the ideas of all staff members and volunteers. By creatively utilizing existing resources, the Archives was able reach out to new audiences and reconnect with old ones in 2005.

HAMON ARTS LIBRARY AT SMU EXHIBITS SKETCHES OF THE FILM "GIANT"

Submitted by Sam Ratcliffe



In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the release of what has been termed "the national film of Texas," the Hawn Gallery of the Hamon Arts Library is hosting the exhibition, "On Location:

Sketches of the film *Giant* by Ed Bearden."

Before shooting *Giant*, director George Stevens asked Dallas artist and SMU art professor Ed Bearden to draw the film's storyboards. These pen-and-ink portraits were enlarged and displayed on the set as a guide to makeup and costume crews. The collaboration between director and artist had been arranged by their mutual friend, John Rosenfield, veteran arts critic of the *Dallas Morning News*. During the filming of *Giant*, Bearden and his wife, Fran, accompanied John and Claire Rosenfield to Marfa and the exhibition will include photographs documenting that visit as well as a selection of pencil drawings executed by Bearden on location.

SMU's DeGolyer and Hamon Arts libraries are loaning items for the exhibition, such as transcripts of interviews with members of the film's cast, Rock Hudson, Jane Withers, and Earl Holliman. These interviews were conducted by SMU history professor Dr. Ron Davis for DeGolyer Library's Oral History Collection on the Performing Arts, now named in Davis' honor.

Exhibition dates: January 27-April 28, 2006

Find more about *Giant* – including photos from the set, John Rosenfield's Southwest Review article on the making of the film, and more of Ed Bearden's storyboards – at smu.edu/giant.

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ARKANSAS HISTORY COMMISSION ACQUIRES REGIONAL ARCHIVES

Submitted by Jane M. Hooker, Archivist

On October 1, 2005, the Arkansas History Commission and State Archives acquired the Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives (SARA) in Washington, Arkansas. SARA was founded in 1978 as a project of the Hempstead County Historical Society with assistance from the Arkansas History Commission and State Archives, Old Washington Historic State Park, and the Pioneer Washington Restoration Foundation. Its mission is to serve the twelve counties in southwest Arkansas formed from the original Hempstead County: Columbia, Hempstead, Howard, Lafayette, Little River, Miller, Nevada, Ouachita, Pike, Polk, Sevier, and Union. In 1980, the SARA became an independent entity governed by a board of directors composed of two representatives from each of the twelve counties.

A ceremony transferring SARA to the Arkansas History Commission and State Archives and celebrating its twenty-seven year history was held on October 29, 2005. Among the speakers were Louis Stubbs, SARA Board Member & Master of Ceremonies; Mary Medearis, SARA's first director; John L. Ferguson, former director of the Arkansas History Commission; Mildred Smith, SARA founder & Board Member; Parker Westbrook, Pioneer Washington Restoration Foundation; Richard Davies, Arkansas Department of Parks & Tourism Executive Director; Wendy Richter, Director, Arkansas History Commission. SARA's new director, Peggy Lloyd, and Administrative Assistant, Gail Martin represented the Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives. Ms. Medearis and Dr. Ferguson, assisted by Dr. Richter and Ms. Lloyd, cut a ribbon symbolizing the opening of the state's first regional archives. The day's activities also included four workshops given by the History Commission staff, and SARA's Third Annual Genealogy Fair. All events were held in the restored 1914 Schoolhouse at Old Washington Historic State Park.

One of the oldest existing state agencies, the Arkansas History Commission was created by the General Assembly in 1905. Inspired and guided during its early years by John Hugh Reynolds, the Commission is the official archives of the state, responsible for collecting and preserving the source materials of the history of Arkansas.

Dallas T. Herndon, the first director, was employed in 1911 and served for forty-two years. During most of his tenure, the offices and archives were located in the present State Capitol. In 1951, when the Old State House was restored, the History Commission was moved into a part of the west wing of that building. Under Herndon's successor, Ted R. Worley, a three-story annex was added to the west wing. Dr. John L. Ferguson became director of the History Commission in 1960 and served through April 2005. Wendy Richter became director in May 2005.

The agency continues the tradition of organizing and maintaining the state and local history of Arkansas by collecting manuscript materials, census records, military records, family histories, and various county, state and federal records. The History Commission, which in 1971 became part of the Department of Parks and Tourism, moved to its present quarters at the One Capitol Mall Building in Little Rock, Arkansas in 1979. The web address is <www.ark-ives.com>.

The Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives is a resource center for historical research, dedicated to the purpose of collecting and preserving primary source materials that bring together the unique history of Southwest Arkansas. SARA actively collects and documents life in the twelve counties. These materials include letters, journals, maps, scrapbooks, family histories, photographs, pamphlets, newspaper files, manuscript collections, sheet music, town histories, court records, census records, cemetery records, early post office records, Civil War documents, and a library of rare books relating to the area. The Archives also has hundreds of histories and genealogies of families and individuals who lived in Southwest Arkansas.

Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives is located in the former Washington Elementary School, 201 Highway 195 South, Washington, Arkansas, 71862, adjacent to Old Washington Historic State Park. Contact SARA at (870) 983-2633, on the internet at <www.southwestarchives.com>, or email at <online@southwestarchives.com>.

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ANNUAL E- RECORDS FORUM
APRIL 27-28, 2006
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This annual conference features nationally recognized speakers on current topics in records management focusing on the challenges of the digital age.

This year's conference is in the planning stages. Possible topics this year include an update on NARA's Electronic Records Archives (ERA) by a representative from Lockheed Martin, which will be designing the system; Los Alamos National Laboratory's search engine based on searching concepts instead of just key words; Outsourcing IT projects, Disaster planning and recovery for electronic records, NARA's Records Management Application pilot; and more.

A complete program will be posted to <www.nagara.org> soon.

Sponsored by:

National Archives and Records Administration – Southwest Region

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Society of Southwest Archivists

University of Texas School of Information

National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators

INDOFF AD TO GO HERE

BENSON LIBRARY AT UT AUSTIN OPENS VALLARTA PAPERS

Submitted by Kelly Kerbow Hudson



Courtesy of Benson Latin American Library.

The Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection at the University of Texas at Austin announces the opening of the Ignacio L. Vallarta Papers. This archival collection contains thousands of letters, reports, and various printed materials of the prominent 19th century Mexican jurist and politician. Vallarta is associated with the Reform movement of 1850s Mexico. He played a key role in the country's legal, constitutional, and governmental matters during the latter half of the 19th century. He is also remembered as a skilled orator, and his writings about economic issues influenced this pivotal period in Mexican history.

Ignacio Luis Vallarta was born in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico in 1830. In 1854 he received his law degree from the Universidad de Guadalajara. Vallarta began his political career the next year when he became the private secretary for Jalisco Governor Santos Degollado.

In 1856 Vallarta was elected deputy to the Congreso Constituyente and took an active role in writing the Mexican Constitution of 1857. He was made secretary in 1858 for his cousin Pedro Ogazón, who was Governor of Jalisco.

Appointed as Mexico's Secretary of State in 1861, he was briefly part of President Benito Juárez's cabinet. He was elected governor of Jalisco in 1871 and served until 1875. During his term as governor, he established the state's prison system, founded the School of Agriculture, and started the state newspaper of Jalisco.

Following Vallarta's governorship, President Porfirio Díaz named him Secretary of State and then Secretary of Foreign Affairs. He served in Díaz's cabinet until 1878 and left a legacy of strengthening Mexico's international relations, especially with the United States.

In 1878 Vallarta was elected president of Mexico's Supreme Court of Justice. He presided over the nation's highest court for five years as a strong constitutionalist and became famous for his votos as he worked to interpret strictly the constitution of 1857.

Vallarta retired from public life in 1882 upon leaving the Supreme Court of Justice. He continued to practice law privately and give legal advice until his death in Mexico City on December 31, 1893.

Continued on following page.

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The bulk of the Ignacio L. Vallarta Papers at the Benson Latin American Collection consists of correspondence. This includes professional and private letters written between Vallarta and other political figures and associates who were relevant to his role in the Mexican government or to his career. The majority of this correspondence dates from the 1870s and 1880s, during the time when Vallarta was governor of Jalisco, Secretary of Foreign Relations, President of Mexico's Supreme Court of Justice, and later, a privately practicing attorney and legal consultant.

Roughly one third of the correspondence focuses on political affairs in Jalisco state. Another third relates to Mexican national and international politics, especially the quest for U.S. recognition of the Porfirio Díaz regime and Texas-Mexico border problems. The rest of the letters pertain to Vallarta's private law practice. Important figures among the correspondents include Porfirio Díaz, Juan E. Hernández y Dávalos, Benito Juárez, Sebastián Lerdo de Tejada, Pedro Ogazón, and Vicente Riva Palacio.

The collection also includes a smaller amount of other materials that belonged to Vallarta, including notes, clippings, account books, financial documents, reports, announcements, declarations, drafts of constitutional acts and articles, and a painting.

A sub-fonds called the Alejandro Vallarta Papers contains personal papers of Ignacio L. Vallarta's son. It consists of school-related materials from Alejandro's childhood and a biography written in the later years of his life. Alejandro titled this work *De mi vida* and included in it correspondence, photographs, and artifacts from the Vallarta family.

The total collection measures just over 9 linear feet in extent. A finding aid to the Ignacio L. Vallarta Papers is available on the Texas Archival Resources Online (TARO) website at <<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/>>.

The Vallarta Papers were originally brought to the U.S. in the mid-20th century by Vallarta's grandson, and were purchased by the Laredo National Bank in 2001 for deposit at the University of Texas at Austin. This collection is an important complement to another archive, the Archivo Ignacio L. Vallarta at the Banco de México in Mexico City. That collection was acquired in 1956 from the Vallarta family and consists of 85 boxes with documents dated from 1776-1940. The collection at the Banco de México was organized and described by Vallarta's son Alejandro, and the Supreme Court of Mexico published Alejandro Vallarta's elaborate *Catálogo del Archivo* in 1990 as *La Suprema Corte de Justicia a principios del porfirismo, 1877-1882* (Mexico City, 1990).

The Vallarta papers will be valuable to scholars studying 19th century Mexican history and politics. They are a significant addition to the archives at the Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection, one of the premier research facilities for the study of Latin America and Latinos in the United States.

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DOCUMENT RESTORATION SAVES VITAL RECORDS WHEN WATER-DAMAGED

Submitted by Thomas McGuire, National Catastrophe Operations Manager and Document Recovery Manager, Munters Moisture Control Services

Most building managers are aware that water intrusion of any magnitude, resulting from a burst pipe, leaky roof or broken windows to a flood or hurricane, can be disastrous. Water can cause structural damage and mold growth, disrupt operations, displace tenants and negatively impact income.

However, one of the greatest threats of water infiltration into a building often is overlooked – the potentially irreparable damage to paper documents and microfiche, film and diskette files that become wet, soaked or soiled. Such materials also can be damaged by smoke during a fire.

Despite the hope and promise of a paperless workplace, espoused when computers became prevalent, the truth is there is more paper produced and stored than ever before. In addition to what is kept in individual offices and stored in boxes and cabinets of companies, vast amounts of paper, logs, records, journals and books are kept in storage facilities, which also may be subjected to water infiltration or fire.

Unless vital information is duplicated electronically, much of it, such as medical records, legal documents and financial information, may be irreplaceable. In fact, most of the paper that is retained serves as a backup to ensure against failure of computer data storage.

Plan for Fast Response

Time is an enemy to successful document recovery. Any delay in the decision to dry the materials can result in permanent loss. Inks can break down, making the text illegible. Dirt and grime can penetrate the paper. Mold and mildew will grow quickly on water-soaked documents. Drying techniques must be employed as soon as possible to eliminate the moisture fungi use as a food source to grow. Otherwise, the microbiological contamination, and the associated objectionable odors, will continue, making restoration unlikely.

The best insurance against catastrophic loss of vital documents is to be prepared in advance of a disaster. Having a written Disaster Recovery Plan (DRP) can limit the extent of damage by defining and prioritizing the recovery steps. Including a document recovery section in the overall DRP will detail essential steps and include contact sources for recovery.

The recovery process to dry and clean documents begins with two initial steps:

- **Freezing.** In order to halt deterioration, it is essential that documents be frozen within 48 hours. Usually, freezer-equipped truck trailers or freezer warehouses are used for this stage. The frozen materials can be stored until the professional drying procedure begins.
- **Inventory and Sorting.** While the documents are frozen, decisions can be made regarding which to dry and clean and which to discard; work can begin to prune unwanted materials. Loose documents and files stored in cabinets are packed into boxes, labeled to identify contents.

The next phase, drying, requires the technical expertise and equipment of a proven service provider. Munters, for example, saves more than a million documents each year. Operating from regional offices throughout the United States and Canada, representatives can be at a disaster site within four hours and, in many cases, drying can begin the same day.

Continued on page 24

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Continued from page 22

The Drying Procedure

Depending upon the type and extent of damage, and the materials, different treatments may be recommended. There are two primary methods used to dry documents – desiccant drying and vacuum freeze-drying. A brief explanation will illustrate the purpose and applications of each:

- **Desiccant Drying.** The frozen documents are removed from the packing cases and placed on racks and shelves in a large, vault-like 6,000 square-foot room. Applying desiccant dehumidification, the room atmosphere is maintained at about 68°F and 12% humidity. Desiccants attract moisture molecules directly from the air and release them into an exhaust air stream. Desiccants can attract and hold from 10 to more than 10,000 percent of their dry weight in water vapor. The essential characteristic of desiccants is low surface vapor pressure. A cool, dry desiccant can attract moisture from the air because its surface vapor pressure is low. When the desiccant becomes wet and hot, creating high surface vapor pressure, it will give off vapor to the surrounding air. Vapor moves from the air to the desiccant and back again depending on the vapor pressure differences. Desiccant dehumidifiers use the changing vapor pressures to dry air continuously in a repeating cycle. In so doing, the continually moving dry air created in the drying room removes the moisture from the documents. Depending on the amount of moisture and documents being dried, the process can take from one to seven days to complete.

- **Vacuum Freeze-Drying.** This method is used in cases where the documents may tend to warp or distort during desiccant drying, such as books or journals, although files and papers can be dried as well using this method. In such cases, it is important to save not only the paper, but also the integrity of the binding. The materials are placed in an airtight chamber into which negative vacuum pressure is induced. As a function of physics, moisture in the documents turns into a gaseous state. The gas is expelled from the chamber, where it is condensed into liquid, which is aborted. As a result, the documents go from the frozen state to being dry without ever becoming re-liquefied.

Cleaning

After drying of documents is completed, they are cleaned before they are assembled into new boxes, re-labeled according to the inventory and delivered to the owner.

Cleaning removes any dirt or grime and, more importantly, fungi spores. Trained staff clean each document using materials such as sponges and scrub pads, while avoiding the application of liquid solutions that would reactivate the moisture in the materials. In cases when they deal with mold spores, individuals wear personal protection equipment and follow standard procedures for spore removal, including the use of High Efficiency Particulate Arrestor (HEPA) vacuum systems.

Cleaning also is accomplished on non-paper materials that are not first dried, such as film, microfiche, x-rays and audio and videotape.

On-Site Drying Option

In some cases, disaster-affected entities require that documents be dried at their site. Confidential files, information needed on a regular basis or legal requirements all may dictate that situation. In such cases, an on-site drying facility is established on site.

In one such case, two million gallons of water from a burst pipe poured into a huge basement storage area at the Ontario government record center near Toronto, submerging many record containers. Others, partially submerged, wicked water up into the documents.

Continued on following page

Following emergency procedures in a disaster plan, staff quickly arranged for standing water to be pumped out and damaged documents packed and placed in a freezer warehouse.

Officials then sought proposals for recovery. Damaged documents included historical and business records. The goal was to use the fastest methods to make critical documents usable and to save as many others as possible.

Munters Moisture Control Services (MCS) was selected as the document recovery provider. To save time, logistics and shipping costs, MCS established an 11,000 square-foot processing center in a rented building a short distance from the freezer warehouse. The space was prepared by sealing air leaks and creating a climate controlled environment by using portable industrial desiccant dehumidifiers.

The first work area was a thawing room, where frozen documents were identified, categorized, labeled and logged into a computerized inventory control system. Real time data was shared with the government's computers to provide tracking of materials as they moved through the system. In the second area, moisture was removed from the documents in a drying chamber.

At the same time, non-paper items, including X-rays and computer disks, which are not suitable to the freeze-drying process, were salvaged by desiccant drying.

MCS had 35 people handling documents in two shifts six days a week. They processed 3,000 cartons of materials without losing a single document. Every document recovered was legible and usable.

John Barton, manager, Conservation and Reproduction, Archives of Ontario, said the project may have been the largest document restoration effort ever made following a single water damage event. He also said it was one of the most complicated.

Again, as illustrated in this example, restoration of documents can be assured. It requires advance planning, a Disaster Recovery Plan that includes document recovery procedures and contact information for the recovery service provider and quick action to freeze damaged materials according to the plan.

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LOCKSS LAUNCHES COMMUNITY INITIATIVE TO PRESERVE SCHOLARLY CONTENT

Press release

A group of publishers, librarians, and learned societies have launched an initiative employing the LOCKSS (Lots of Copies Keep Stuff Safe) technology to support a “large dark archive” that serves as a failsafe repository for published scholarly content. The initiative, Controlled LOCKSS (CLOCKSS), aims to provide assurance to the research community that a disaster, which would prevent the delivery of content, will not obstruct access to journal content.

CLOCKSS content or the “orphaned content” would only become available after a “trigger” event, such as the material was no longer available from the publisher. In these situations, a joint advisory board, representing societies, publishers and libraries, will begin the process to determine if the content is orphaned and whether it should be made publicly available. The board ensures that content is controlled but that no one person or sector has authority over orphaned digital materials in the system.

“Our community needs to ensure that when content becomes orphaned there is a process through which it becomes publicly accessible,” said Vicky Reich, Director LOCKSS Program, Stanford University Libraries. “The CLOCKSS project offers an alternative solution to archiving and its strength lies in the fact that it has been founded by publishers and librarians - and will remain collectively managed.”

CLOCKSS provides additional functionality to the LOCKSS system, which is widely known in the scholarly communications world as a technology for ensuring the integrity of digital content, and is used as part of preservation strategies for electronic journals to which libraries subscribe. CLOCKSS also differs from LOCKSS in that participating libraries will archive both subscribed and non-subscribed journals, with the ultimate goal of archiving all of the journals of participating publishers.

“As more scholars rely upon access to electronic journals, it has become critical to explore ways to ensure long-term availability of journal content,” says Karen Wittenborg, University Librarian, University of Virginia. “This collaborative initiative addresses the uncertainty that librarians have confronted in the digital environment and shows promise of offering a real solution for long-term preservation.”

The initial two-year pilot will include at least five research libraries, and several commercial and society publishers. During this time, publishers and libraries will continue to work closely to collect and analyze data and develop a proposal for a full-scale archiving model.

As part of a longer-term strategy to permanently preserve published work, CLOCKSS will report the findings to the wider community and begin the dialogue about a global infrastructure to ensure preservation of all past, present, and future scholarly content.

Participating Members

- Publishers – American Medical Association, American Physiological Society, Blackwell Publishing, Nature Publishing Group, Oxford University Press, SAGE Publications, Springer, Taylor and Francis, John Wiley & Sons, Inc. In addition, Elsevier is participating in all discussions and is sharing in financial support.
- Libraries - University of Edinburgh, Indiana University, New York Public Library, Rice University, Stanford University, University of Virginia

For more information, visit <<http://www.lockss.org/clockss>>.

VISITING SCHOLARS PROGRAM AT UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA SEEKS APPLICANTS

Submitted by Carolyn Hanneman

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 World Wide Web at <<http://www.ou.edu/special/albertctr/archives/>>.

The program is open to any applicant. Emphasis is given to those pursuing postdoctoral research in history, political science, and other fields. Graduate students and interested undergraduates and lay researchers are encouraged to apply. Funding for a variety of topics is expected.

To apply, please send: (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, contact Archivist, Carl Albert Center, 630 Parrington Oval, Room 101, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK 73019. Telephone: (405) 325-5835. FAX: (405) 325-6419. E-mail: <channeman@ou.edu>.

CUSHING LIBRARY TO HOST DONNE SYMPOSIUM IN APRIL 2006

Submitted by Rebecca Hankins

On April 6 and 7, 2006, the Cushing Memorial Library & Archives will host a two-day symposium on the life and works of 17th-century English metaphysical poet, John Donne. Featuring Donne scholars from around the nation and Canada, the symposium will be accompanied by an exhibit featuring the recently acquired collection of early Donne editions as well as contemporary editions of books which would have been found in Donne's personal library.

SAA'S NEW WORKSHOP "MANAGING LITERARY MANUSCRIPTS: IDENTIFICATION, ARRANGEMENT, AND DESCRIPTION" TO BE OFFERED AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS, MARCH 13, 2006

Archival control practices for literary collections range from calendaring individual letters chronologically to creating hierarchical series organized by literary genre.

This workshop covers the identification of literary manuscripts notebook ideas, drafts, galleys and page proofs to blue lines examines options for how these collections should be arranged and described. Hands-on exercises are designed to identify various states of literary manuscripts and to provide ample time for discussion of arrangement options in developing a processing plan. The day's work fosters an appreciation of literary research methods and an understanding of literary manuscripts as evidence of the creative process.

Continuing Education Units (CEUs): .75
ACA Archival Recertification Credits: 5

REGISTRATION FEES:

Early bird (on or before 2/13/2006):
SAA Member \$185; Nonmember \$235
Regular (after 2/13/2006):
SAA Member \$225; Nonmember \$275

To register online: <<http://www.archivists.org/prof-education/workshop-detail.asp?id=1663>>

LEADERSHIP LOG

Compiled by Carol Roark

Melissa Walker, an archivist at the George Bush Presidential Library since 2000, has been promoted to Supervisory Archivist at the William J. Clinton Presidential Library in Little Rock.

Kathie Bordelon prepared a paper on the history of John McNeese in Texas and Louisiana to present to a joint meeting of the Caroline County Historical Society and the Federalsburg Historical Society in Federalsburg, Maryland. McNeese, for whom McNeese State University was named, settled in Menard County Texas after the Civil War and then moved on to Southwest Louisiana where he served as an educator for many years. Kathie was not able to travel to Maryland to present the paper due to the restrictions imposed on the University by the consequences of Hurricane Rita. However, her paper was presented to the group by Laura McNeese Bishop, McNeese's granddaughter.

Julie Holcomb, Director of the Pearce Collections Museum and Navarro College Archivist, passed her doctoral comprehensive exams in history at the University of Texas at Arlington.

Mary Hayes has joined the staff of the Pearce Collections at Navarro College as a Processing Archivist.

Mary Linn Wernet's article entitled "The United States Senator Overton Collection and the History It Holds Relating to the Control of Floods in the Alluvial Valley of the Mississippi, 1936-1948" was published in the Fall 2005 issue of Louisiana History.

Robert Spindler, University Archivist and administrator of Archives and Special Collections at the Arizona State University Libraries, gave the keynote address at the 2005 Electronic Records Fellowship Symposium sponsored by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, a division of the National Archives and Records Administration. Spindler's presentation, entitled "In Search of Strategic Direction: Digital Preservation Advocacy in Higher Education", reviewed four efforts to facilitate selection and long term preservation of electronic records and other digital products at Arizona State University.

Christine Marin, Associate Archivist in the Department of Archives and Special Collections, University Libraries, at Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona, has successfully defended her dissertation, "Always A Struggle: Mexican Americans in Miami, Arizona, 1909-1951" and received the PH.D. in History at ASU's Commencement on Dec. 15, 2005. She also presented a paper, "The Miami (Arizona) High School 'Vandals' and 'Los Conquistadores': Mexican Americans Court Success in the 1950s" at the 2005 Annual Meeting of the American Society for Ethnohistory in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Sister Dorothy Dawes, archivist for the Dominican Sisters Congregation of St. Mary in New Orleans and co-founder of the Religious Community Archivists of Greater New Orleans, gave a presentation on the women in religious congregations in New Orleans for the annual meeting of Archivists for Congregations of Women Religious (ACWR) on August 17, 2005. Her talk utilized excerpts from the book *Religious Pioneers*, which Sr. Dawes co-edited with Charles Nolan, archivist for the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

Marie Windell retired at the beginning of 2006 after more than twenty-five years at the Earl K. Long Library, University of New Orleans. Mrs. Windell was hired to bring order to the nineteenth-century case files of the Supreme Court of Louisiana but, over the years, she assisted hundreds of students, scholars, and other researchers in using the collection. Her retirement is much regretted by those who relied on her individualized assistance.

Mrs. Windell obtained grant funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities to microfilm the antebellum case files and directed the project. A member of the Academy of Certified Archivists, she presented papers at the Missouri Valley History Conference and at conferences of the Society of Southwest Archivists, the Society of American Archivists, the Consortium on Revolutionary History, the Southern Historical Association, the Louisiana Historical Association, and other organizations. Mrs. Windell contributed chapters to *In Search of Fundamental Law: Louisiana's Constitutions, 1812-1874* and *Historic U.S. Court Cases, 1690-1990: An Encyclopedia*. In 1993 she traveled to China as a member of a delegation of archivists. Prior to her employment at UNO, Mrs. Windell was head of reference and research at the Hagley Library in Wilmington, Delaware. She currently resides in Plattsburg, Missouri, where she evacuated prior to Hurricane Katrina.

Continued from previous page.

Tara Z. Laver, Assistant Curator for Manuscripts for Louisiana State University Libraries Special Collections, has published two articles: "Where Duty Shall Call: The Baton Rouge Civil War Letters of William H. Whitney" in the Fall 2005 issue of Louisiana History, and "Do a Good Deed: Deeds of Gift for Manuscript Collections" in the Fall 2005 issue of Louisiana Libraries.

Miguel Juarez, MLS, Assistant Professor and Curator of Hispanic/Latino Studies Collections at Texas A&M presented a paper titled "A Visual Memoir in a Time of Change," as part of the Aggie Latino Alliance Seminar (ALAS) on December 7, 2005. ALAS is a new seminar offered at Texas A&M University (TAMU) beginning Fall 2005. The focus of the seminar is to promote the research of TAMU Latino scholars and TAMU scholars who are working on research involving Latinos. The seminar is an alliance between three Latino groups who will co-sponsor the monthly event: the Mexican-American Latino Faculty Association (MALFA), Mexican-American Latino Research Center (MALRC), and Professional Hispanic Network (PHN). The seminar series includes interdepartmental and intercollegiate research topics and networking opportunities.

New Staff at Arizona State Archives:

Linda Colwell, Electronic Records Archivist, holds a brand new position for the Arizona State Library. Her past experience includes being a System Administrator for BioImmune and Walgreens HCP and a Training NCO and Information Assurance Specialist with the Arizona Air National Guard. She is currently working on her Master's degree at the University of Arizona School for Information Resources and Library Science.

Jessie Mercer comes to Arizona fresh from the cold hills of western Massachusetts with a B.A. in History from Smith College where she specialized in Julio-Claudian Rome. The Arizona State Archives holds the largest collection of Arizona newspapers in the state, and Jessie is in charge of that section. In her free time, she enjoys camping, volunteering at animal shelters and photography.

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR THE FIFTH ANNUAL BOOK HISTORY WORKSHOP AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY, MAY 21-26, 2006

Taking place in the Cushing Memorial Library and Archives at Texas A&M University, this five-day workshop provides an intensive, hands-on introduction to the history of books and printing with an emphasis on hand press era printing and its allied technologies - typesetting, papermaking, bookbinding, illustration, and ink-making. The combination of labs with seminars will provide students with practical experience as well as a broad historical survey of the field. Students will have the opportunity to cast type in a hand mould, set lines of type, impose formes, make paper, produce relief and intaglio illustrations and print on a replica common press.

The workshop is intended for librarians, archivists, students, teachers, book collectors and private individuals who work in areas related to or who have an interest in book history. Past workshops have also included a series of evening lectures by scholars active in the field of book history.

To register, find out more, or see photographs from previous workshops, go to: <http://library.tamu.edu/bookhistory>.

GRANTS AWARDED TO SSA MEMBER REPOSITORIES

University of Oklahoma, Norman was awarded a NEH Preservation/Access Projects grant in the amount of \$5,000.

Project Director: Cindy Rosenthal

We the People Project Title: Preservation and Access Assessment for the Congressional Archives

Description: A preservation and access assessment of the Carl Albert Center's Congressional Archives that date from 1850 to 2002.

Report submitted by: Carolyn Hanneman

Stephen F. Austin State University and the Ralph W. Steen Library

1. The Stephen F. Austin State University and the Ralph W. Steen Library were recently awarded a prestigious Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) <<http://www.imls.gov>> grant. The Texas Tides Digital Learning Consortium project (Texas Tides) will serve as a model for building successful learning communities of public schools, universities, and memory institutions.

The impetus of the Texas Tides project is primarily increased access for educators, students and other researchers to east Texas related primary resources with an emphasis on history, science, and multicultural material. Over the next three years, IMLS funding will allow the project Website <<http://tides.sfasu.edu>> to expand to include:

- Primary resources translated into English and Spanish;
- Science and Math related curriculum material;
- Integrated or co-curricular lesson plans for K-12 teachers;
- Virtual Field Trips;
- Imaged primary resources dating through the 20th century.

The Texas Tides Website has been selected for inclusion on the National Endowment for the Humanities' EDSITEMent Website <<http://edsitement.neh.gov>> as one of the best online resources for education in the humanities.

2. Rachel Galan, Director of the East Texas Research Center at Stephen F. Austin State University was awarded a grant from the University of Houston's Recovering the U.S. Hispanic Heritage Project to locate, preserve and provide access to Nacogdoches' Spanish Catholic Archives.

This project will allow researchers an opportunity to gain access to Spanish religious documents that have never before been accessible to the general public. These documents will help fill a void in the documentation of this cultural group in the eastern Texas region.

Reports submitted by: Rachel Galan.

For more information, please contact Rachel Galan, Project Manager at <rgalan@sfasu.edu> or 936-468-1590.

East Texas Research Center at Stephen F. Austin State University

Linda Reynolds, Assistant Director of the Center, recently completed the Quilting Stories of East Texas (QSET) project <<http://tides.sfasu.edu/qset/index.htm>>. The QSET project was funded by the Quilters Guild of Dallas for the purpose of finding, surveying and documenting quilts in eastern Texas from the Gulf of Mexico north to the Red River and east of the Trinity River. The project Website provides access to the stories and quilts of over 100 East Texas quilters.

For more information, please contact Linda Reynolds, Project Manager at <lreynolds@sfasu.edu> or 936-468-1562.

Correction from November 2005 issue:

The article on pg. 29, "A Study of the Spanish Speaking People of Texas: 1949 - Photographs by Russell Lee" was attributed erroneously to Beth Dodd. Linda Peterson was the author of that article. Apologies from the Editor.



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