

CINE MEXICANO AT UT'S BENSON LATIN AMERICAN COLLECTION

Submitted by Kelly Kerbow Hudson



The Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection at the University of Texas at Austin announces the opening of the Agrasánchez Collection of Mexican Cinema. This archival collection consists of 400 movie posters, 2,400 lobby

cards, and 8,000 still photographs of cine mexicano from 1931 through 1992. It also includes a number of additional materials such as flyers, broadsides, and VHS videos. All of the materials in the collection, excluding the videocassettes, are originals that were meant to promote the Mexican movies for which they were created. The items in the collection represent a wide variety of genres in the history of Mexican cinema: comedy, cabaret, cowboy and folklore, history and religion, melodrama, and action/adventure. Cine mexicano actors and actresses present in the Agrasánchez Collection include stars such as Cantinflas, Tin-Tan, Ninón Sevilla, Agustín Lara, Pedro Infante, Marga López, Jorge Negrete, Dolores del Río, María Félix, Santo, Blue Demon, and Mil Máscaras.

The material was originally collected by Rogelio Agrasánchez, Jr. of Harlingen, Texas, whose family was involved in the Mexican film industry. The collection will be of strong interest to scholars and fans of Mexican cinema alike. A finding aid to the Agrasánchez Collection of Mexican Cinema is available on the Texas Archival Resources Online (TARO) website at <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/>.

2007 ANNUAL MEETING TO INCLUDE MORE SESSIONS!

The format of SSA's annual meeting is expanding to incorporate an additional day of sessions.

Wednesday:

Pre-conference workshops

Thursday:

Sessions followed by a reception at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum. For a preview, visit <http://www.nationalcowboymuseum.org/>.

Friday:

Sessions followed by a reception at the Oklahoma State University History Center. Visit <http://www.okhc.us/>.

Saturday:

Business breakfast meeting, SLOTTO, tours.

For the latest information go to southwestarchivists.org/HTML/Meeting.htm.



INSIDE:	Discussion of upcoming vote regarding raising SSA membership dues	Pgs. 8-9
	NM Volunteers assemble most complete set of county newspapers	Pg. 10
	Hurricane Katrina recovery project success story	Pg. 24

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>.

Official address:
Treasurer
Society of Southwest Archivists
PO Box 700761
San Antonio, TX 78270

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SSA WEB PAGE:

<http://southwestarchivists.org>

The SSA web page is maintained by Gina Costello at Louisiana State University.

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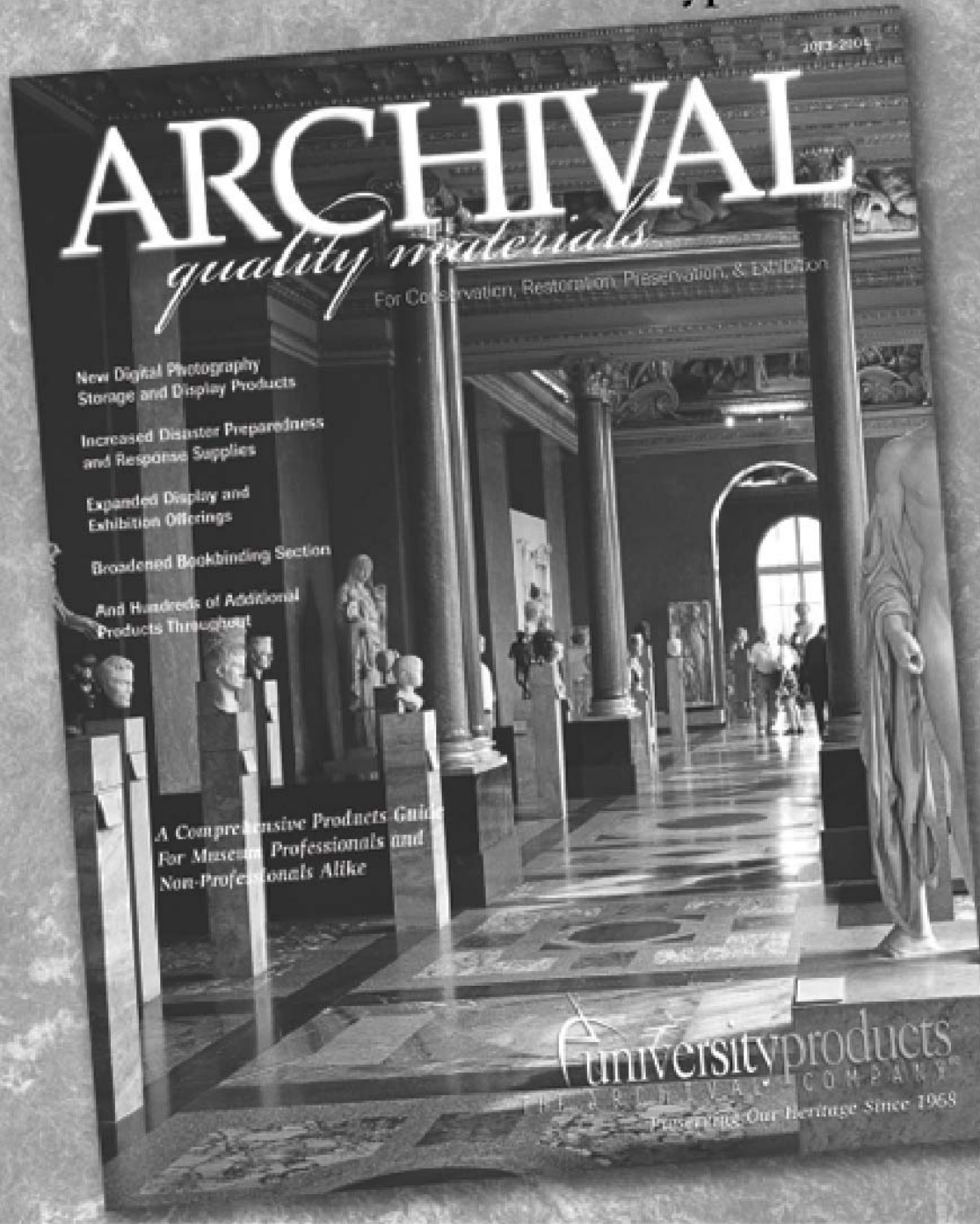
Annual Meeting Local Arrangements (2007, Oklahoma City, OK)

Annual Meeting Program
Annual Meeting Site Selection
Distinguished Service Award
Internet Outreach
Membership
Nominating

Professional Development
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Scholarships

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Deadlines for submissions are:

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

We accept advertising; rates are available upon request.

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)
713-348-6172 (fax)
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Send Arkansas submissions to:

Amanda Focke (see above)

Send Arizona submissions to:

Leslie Calmes
Center for Creative Photography
University of Arizona
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Tucson, AZ 85721-0103
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calmesl@ccp.library.arizona.edu

Send Louisiana submissions to:

Carol Bartels
Historic New Orleans Collection
533 Royal St.
New Orleans, LA 70130
504-523-4662 (phone)
504-598-7108 (fax)
Carol@hnoc.org

Send New Mexico submissions to:

Martha Shipman Andrews
Processing Archivist/Assistant Professor
Hobson-Huntsinger University Archives
New Mexico State University
Branson Library
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88003-8001
mandrews@lib.nmsu.edu

Send Oklahoma submissions to:

Ann Fuhrman
Oklahoma Higher Education Heritage Society
Oklahoma Historical Society
2100 North Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73105
405-522-5248 (phone)
405-522-5402 (fax)
acf444@juno.com

Send Texas submissions to:

South Texas:	North Texas:
Amanda Focke	Ellen Niewyk
(see information at left) SMU	
	Hamon Arts Library
	PO Box 750356
	Dallas, TX 75275
	214-768-1859 (phone)
	214-768-1800 (fax)
	eniewyk@mail.smu.edu

Send ALL leadership Log submissions to:

Carol Roark
Dallas Public Library
1515 Young Street
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SSA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES, SPRING 2007

Submitted by Sarah Canby Jackson, Professional Development Committee Chair

April 12, 2007 – “Building Digital Collections,” Baton Rouge, Louisiana, an SAA workshop co-sponsored by the SAA student chapter at LSU, SSA, LAMA, and the Louisiana State Archives. Further information concerning the course is available at <http://www.archivists.org/prof-education/workshop>. SSA members will receive a \$15.00 reduction in the tuition. Please use the code SSABDC07.

April 19 – 20, 2007 – E-Records Forum, J. J. Pickle Center, Austin, Texas. Cost \$150.00. For further information check the NAGARA website <http://www.nagara.org>.

April 23, 2007 – “Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACs),” Austin, Texas, an SAA workshop co-sponsored by SSA. Information concerning the course is available <http://www.archivists.org/prof-education/workshop>. SSA members will receive a \$25.00 reduction in the tuition. Please use the code SSAUTADACS.

May 29, 2007 – “Taking Archives to the Street: The Basics of Archives,” Oklahoma City, OK. More information to follow.

May 30 – June 2, 2007 – Society of Southwest Archivists Annual Meeting.

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Brenda Square

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Marlene Ware

Scholarship Committee

Betty Shankle
Dana Simmons

Do you want to run for office?

There is still time to get
your name on the ballot.

The deadline for nominations by petition is March 1, 2007.

Nominations by petition require a letter of acceptance or willingness to serve from the candidate, a petition signed by 20 dues-paying members asking to have the candidate’s name on the ballot, and a short biographical sketch of the candidate.

Nominations by petition should be
submitted to :

Nominating Committee
care of John H. Slate, CA
Dallas Municipal Archives
City of Dallas, 1500 Marilla Street, 5D South
Dallas, Tx. 75201
phone 214-670-5270

MISSIVE FROM MICHAEL MCCOLGIN, SSA PRESIDENT



SSA President Michael McColgin.
Photo courtesy of Shelly Kelly.

Two Four Six Eight Please oh Please Participate

All 600+ of you will soon elect a new President and Board members. Many of our committees need new leadership as well. If you think that people are standing in line for the honor of being on page one of our Membership Directory, you may need long-term counseling. In fact, most people refuse to serve. I finally accepted the nomination soon after surgery while taking some very good painkillers. At that time, I would have also agreed to stroll among vicious vipers, walk on the dividing lines of I-10, or eat my lady friend's outdoor cooking (aka crispy critters no matter their origin).

In the past, the cost of being in a leadership position has been a problem for some. The Board traditionally met at our annual meeting plus two more times during the year. The cost of air fares, lodging (sometimes) and meals made it impossible for many members to even consider accepting a nomination. Your current Board and Officers changed that by conducting much of our business via conference calls and email. It has worked well and has saved everyone time and money.

Please consider joining a committee, volunteering to head up a project or even sending emails to us when something really bothers you.

We need your ideas, your skills, and your enthusiasm. SSA is growing and on the move, so please join us.

SOCK AWAY THOSE SLOTTO ITEMS FOR THE MAY 2007 MEETING!

*Coffee cups? Cookbooks? Posters? Kooky white elephants?
Bring them to the annual meeting for SLOTTO fun at the Saturday morning breakfast meeting!*

Proceeds benefit SSA Scholarships.

For more information, contact:
Chair, 2007 Local Arrangements Committee
Kay Bost <kay.bost@okstate.edu>
Head, Special Collections and University Archives
Edmon Low Library, Room 204
Oklahoma State University
Stillwater, OK 74078-1071

For even more information, contact:
Co-chair, Scholarship Committee
Dick Dickerson <dickd@uh.edu>
University Archivist
114 University of Houston Libraries
Houston, Texas 77204-2000
713-743-5893

OPEN LETTER TO THE SSA MEMBERSHIP AGAINST RAISING DUES

On July 27, 2006, the SSA Executive Board met via teleconference where they unanimously approved a motion to recommend a dues increase of 150%. According to the SSA Constitution, our dues shall be established by a majority of those present and voting at the annual business meeting. The vote, which will be held in Oklahoma City on June 2, calls for dues to be raised to \$15 for students; \$25 for general membership; and \$40 for sustaining members.

The November 2006 *Southwestern Archivist* carried "A Fiscal Note from SSA Treasurer" in which it was stated that everyone should "think about the issue of raising dues." There are several claims made in that article that need to be addressed.

1. SSA is a non-profit professional organization. We exist to give free professional information and scholarships to our members. According to the Treasurer's report for December 1, 2006, we have total assets of \$65,621.65. We have \$32,458.83 cash assets. Our scholarships endowment has more than doubled from the original \$15,000 investment to over \$33,000.

2. Annual Meetings produce a modest income to SSA varying from \$2,000 to \$6,000 each year. One argument for raising dues is to remove any pressure from local arrangements to make a return from the meeting. It is expected that many small organizations return a modest income through their annual meetings. As a result, those members who support and attend our Annual Meetings contribute not only to their own networking/education opportunities, but also strengthen and support the organization.

3. Interest rates are on the rise. To our credit, we made it through the past five years with interest rates as low as <1% without necessitating a dues increase. Interest rates are now on the rise and as we continue to invest SLOTTTO and special gifts into our Endowment fund, we can expect the scholarship awards to be self-sustaining in several more years.

4. Newsletter expenses should be subsidized with advertising. Newsletter printing costs have increased over the past ten years while our advertising has decreased. In 1994 we had 19 advertisers in the newsletter. In the November 2006 issue we had 7. Can we sell more advertising or raise those rates to more evenly match the printing and mailing costs?

5. Trim unnecessary expenses. After printing the newsletter and membership directory and paying out scholarship money, SSA's largest expense is the SSA mixer held at the Society of American Archivists meeting. For the past four years the mixers have cost between \$1000 and \$1500 as hotel catering expenses increased. This seems a large expenditure for the small number of members who attend. If we really are in such dire financial straits, wouldn't this be an appropriate place to begin trimming. In July 2006, the board approved up to \$600 for the treasurer to hire a temporary worker to process incoming dues in 2007. Other routine expenses primarily cover postage, SSA workshops, and internet website provider fees.

In summary, the SSA Board will be asking the membership at the Oklahoma City breakfast meeting to approve a 150% dues increase from \$10/year to \$25/year while we have a total net worth of \$65,621.65 of that over \$32,000 is in available cash.

We, the undersigned, truly believe that before we, the membership, approve the largest dues increase in SSA history we should expect the officers and executive board to demonstrate the ways they have been proactive in searching for additional ways to off-set expenses. In May, we will vote against a membership dues increase to \$25.

*Shelly Henley Kelly, Robert Schaadt, Carol Roark, Cindy Smolovik, Kathie Bordelon, Sarah Canby Jackson,
Leon C. Miller, Bruce Turner, Laura Lyons McLemore, Paul Scott, Julie Holcomb, Kristine L. Toma,
Laine Sutherland, Kim Allen Scott, Dick Dickerson*

SSA BOARD COMMENTS ON PROPOSAL TO RAISE MEMBERSHIP DUES

As it enters its thirty-fifth year, the Society of Southwest Archivists (SSA) is an energetic organization vital to those practicing the archival profession in the southwest region of the country. The quarterly newsletter, a robust web site, and an informative and well-attended annual meeting are the staple offerings of SSA. Members also benefit from professional development activities that allow regional archivists opportunities both to learn from their colleagues as attendees or to share their experience as presenters. SSA awards three scholarships to promote professional development and recognizes service to the organization and the profession through the Distinguished Service Award and the Sister M. Claude Lane Award. The profession has also benefited in the region from SSA's community outreach program and, recently, from its disaster relief grants.

Due to thoughtful planning and responsible spending, SSA enjoys a stable financial position for a non-profit organization of its size and scope. It can boast that its bottom line has rarely – in fact, only once – been in the red and that its cash reserves now exceed \$27,000. The success and stability of SSA may cause some of the membership to question the current board's proposal to raise annual membership dues from \$10 for regular membership and \$25 for sustaining to \$10 for student membership, \$25 for regular, and \$40 for sustaining. The answer is twofold. The primary motivation for the proposal is that, while the bottom line of SSA is with rare exception in the black, the annual income from membership dues does not cover the operating costs. Profits from the annual meetings have been used toward balancing the bottom line, but these proceeds are an inconsistent source of funds. For example, over the past five years the profit has varied from \$1,000 to \$8,000. An ad hoc committee that studied SSA's finances in 2005-06 recommended that in the interest of increased financial stability, dues should be raised sufficiently to support the operating costs of the organization, to include the publication of the newsletter and other expenses. The board thus opted to propose due increases sufficient to avoid a series of proposals for small, incremental increases. It was felt that this move would also ensure that annual meeting attendees would benefit from the lowest possible registration fees because proceeds from the annual meetings would no longer be needed to balance the budget.

A secondary motivation for the proposals is that any excess proceeds could then support special projects and additional professional development, educational and outreach programs as well as enhancing the existing and successful grant and scholarship offerings either directly or through the endowment and cash reserve funds. In the months ahead, the board will codify rules regulating the use of these funds. Increased endowments and cash reserves will ensure steady future growth in educational programming, outreach efforts, scholarships, and grants while also safeguarding SSA against economic downturns. It is also hoped that at some point in the future, SSA could benefit from paid staff that would work to build membership rolls as well as administer its operations. The move toward increasing reserve funds is an essential step that the most successful non-profits take as their grass-root foundings come to fruition.

Most importantly, the current SSA board wishes to convey to the membership that this proposal does not hinge on any dire economic circumstance. If the increase does not pass, the board may consider some of the cost-saving measures recommended by its esteemed members and the ad hoc committee – such as delivering the newsletter on-line – or it may continue to balance the budget with proceeds from the annual meetings. The choice of how quickly SSA obtains its future financial and programming goals rests, of course, with its membership. Regardless of the vote's outcome, SSA will remain a viable organization dedicated to the service and support of regional archivists.

**Are you interested
in editing the
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VOLUNTEERS COLLABORATE TO ASSEMBLE MOST COMPLETE SET OF COUNTY NEWSPAPERS IN NEW MEXICO

Submitted by Randy Forrester, Grants Administrator, New Mexico Historical Records Advisory Board

In 1884, Charles Kusz, Jr., the Editor of *The Gringo and the Greaser* was hunting down stories about cattle rustling in Torrance County. He had a unique newspaper, with *The Gringo* being published in English and *The Greaser* being printed in Spanish. Like most New Mexicans, he had several jobs to help make ends meet. He handled the mail and operated a cattle ranch. The town folks felt he was getting a little too close to the truth of this rustling business. One morning they didn't pick up their mail for fear of their lives. The next day the editor was shot dead. The perpetrators of this crime were never found. And the publication run of *The Gringo and the Greaser* ended with eight issues.

Who would think that 121 years later a group of volunteers at the Moriarty Historical Society and Museum would be scurrying around for not only those eight issues of *The Gringo and The Greaser*, but every other newspaper published in Torrance County from 1883 to 1950? They had a lot of the newspapers -- stored in banana boxes. Some were at the museum and others in a board member's garage. They wanted to create the most complete collection of county newspapers in the state. In a matter of three years not only did they accomplish this; but they established a model program that could be replicated throughout the United States. Here's how they did it.

Moriarty is located 45 minutes east of Albuquerque and an hour south of Santa Fe. Its 1,765 residents dine at restaurants named Chubby's, El Comedor de Anaya, Bubba's and Rip Griffin's Truck Center. The Annual Pinto Bean Fiesta is their big community event. The median house value is \$84,400 and neighboring towns include Chilili, Tajique, Torreón and Tijeras. These folks on the llano estacado are used to working hard, whether for money or in volunteer endeavors.

In 2005 the Moriarty Historical Society and Museum submitted a grant application to the New Mexico Historical Records Advisory Board (NMHRAB), requesting assistance in microfilming an estimated 6,000 original Torrance County newspapers. They also wanted to preserve the original newspapers by re-housing them in archival storage containers.

Since none of the Society members had any formal archival training, they made a wise decision up front by requesting scholarship assistance from the NMHRAB for their board members and volunteers. They also wisely requested cross-training for a number of these individuals, so that in the event that someone left, got tired of the project, or passed away, someone else in the organization would have the knowledge to continue the project. Following are the training sessions attended by Society members in 2005-2006: Developing a Records Management Program, Arrangement and Description, Basic Photograph Preservation, Emergency Preparedness and Recovery and Creating Websites for Small Repositories.

Continued on pages 12-13.

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SAVE THE DATE! TEXAS HERITAGE DIGITIZATION HERITAGE INITIATIVE 2007 MEETING

Submitted by Danielle Plumer

The Texas Heritage Digitization (THDI) will hold its fourth annual meeting on Friday, February 23, 2007 at the University of Houston's M.D. Anderson Memorial Library in Houston, Texas. Many thanks to Dick Dickerson and the University of Houston Libraries for hosting this event. For maps and location information, see http://www.uh.edu/campus_map/buildings/L.html.

The theme for the meeting will be "Powerful Partnerships," and the keynote speaker will discuss ways in which institutions can improve their ability to contribute to and benefit from a variety of partner relationships. Breakout sessions are tentatively planned to address training, funding, and legal considerations for collaborative projects. There will also be a review with questions and answers about the THDI Standards and Best Practices document.

The cost for the meeting will be \$10, and lunch and refreshments will be provided. Registration will be available in January 2007. Watch for the announcement on Texas Heritage Online or on the THDI email list for registration information.

If you are making travel plans, the nearest airport in William P. Hobby Airport; see http://www.uh.edu/uhrmaps/map_airports.html#HOBBY for directions. The closest hotel is the Hilton University of Houston Hotel and Conference Center, across the street from the library. You may also want to look at:

- La Quinta Inns
- Choice Hotels
- Holiday Inn & InterContinental Hotel Group*
- Hilton & Doubletree Hotels*

*Use address 4800 Calhoun Rd., Houston, TX 77004-2610

We hope to see you in Houston!

THDI COLLECTIONS SURVEY

The Texas Heritage Digitization Initiative (THDI) is a cooperative project to identify, describe, digitize, preserve, and make broadly accessible special collections of history and culture held by libraries, archives, museums, historical societies, and other institutions in Texas.

The Texas State Library and Archives Commission has received a National Leadership Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services to provide support for THDI and to develop a search interface that will allow users to search for photographs, maps, audio recordings, documents, images, and other digitized resources relating to Texas history and culture. This interface (still in development) is available at <http://www.thdi.org>.

In order to help us add content to our search interface, we are gathering information about collections of Texas historical materials available online. We have set up a Collections Survey on SurveyMonkey at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=876693053015>. Please complete the survey so that we can include you in our search application!

If you have any questions, please contact:

Danielle Cunniff Plumer, Coordinator
Texas Heritage Digitization Initiative
Texas State Library and Archives Commission
512.463.5852 (phone) / 512.936.2306 (fax)
dplumer@tsl.state.tx.us

continued from page 10

It soon became evident that this project, with its incredibly detailed work, was going to be extremely time-consuming. The Society sent out word that volunteers were needed for this historical research project. The local residents heeded the call and started showing up to delve into this project.

The newspapers they were tracking down were the following:

Newspaper	Town	Publication Period
<i>Enterprise</i>	Encino	1918 to 1947
<i>Gringo & Greaser</i>	Manzano	1883 to 1884
<i>Independent</i>	Mountainair	1916 to 1920
<i>Independiente</i> (Spanish)	Mountainair	1934 to 1941
<i>Index</i>	Stanley	1908 to 1911
<i>Messenger</i>	Mountainair	1910 to 1911
<i>Messenger</i>	Moriarty	1907 to 1918
<i>Morning News</i>	Estancia	1911 to 1912
<i>News</i>	Estancia	1907 to 1911
<i>News Herald</i>	Estancia	1912 to 1950
<i>New Mexican Homeland</i>	McIntosh	1910 to 1911
<i>Progressive</i>	Mountainair	1941 to 1951
<i>Record</i>	Willard	1907 to 1933

As the volunteers dove into the work, they often became distracted by the history of their community that was coming back to life. They found that there had been a population boom before 1910 because the federal government had a policy giving homesteaders 160 acres, as long as they could build a house on it and fence it within five years.

“People came from everywhere. People thought they had died and gone to Heaven because everything was so green, until 1910 when everything dried up.” (*Mountain View Telegraph*, April 28, 2005)

When I conducted a site visit on January 19, 2006, I asked them if they had been able to work within the time frame as originally projected. They responded that they had, but it was a struggle and they had to burn the midnight oil a number of times.

I asked what they saw as the long-term benefits of this project. They responded:

“It broadens the circle of knowledge. It is an ongoing resource for genealogy. It saves the history of the valley, which is a ‘tough history.’ It provides a link with generations, which is additionally important because of the people who return to this area after having been gone for a number of years.”

They also noted that no extant model existed for the issue-level search capability of the newspapers that they had undertaken. They also confessed that they had underestimated the scope of the project and that, at times, the enormity of this project was overwhelming.

But, the project was now rolling and picking up local notoriety and appreciation. A lead editorial in the *Mountain View Telegraph* opined:

The Moriarty Historical Museum and its volunteers deserve accolades for taking on the ambitious job of microfilming more than 6,000 area newspapers that go back to the 19th century. It's a tremendous public service, as all of the microfilm will be available for viewing and copying at the museum in the Moriarty Civil Center at 201 Broadway.

It also makes the museum a newspaper headquarters for researchers, family members and the public at large.

Going into the second year of the project the Society hired a consultant to develop the inventory databases. She was a graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Art and had taken courses in museum methods and publishing. She had ten years of museum experience, the most recent of which had been at the Hearst Museum of Anthropology at the University of California, Berkeley, where she had facilitated projects that enabled community access to the Museum's collections. This recent immigrant to Torrance County would prove to be a godsend for the Society and this project.

The Society and consultant established a high and very detailed standard for the inventory databases. An Excel database at the item (issue)-level was created for each publication that allowed individuals to sort using the following criteria:

Title, Editor/Publisher, City, County, Time Period Published, Frequency, Language(s), Holding Institution, Format (Original Paper or Microfilm), Date of Publication, Volume #, Issue #, Notes

As the volunteers perused the newspapers, issue by issue, they compiled data from each issue, to include items such as family names, which were input and associated and linked to specific newspaper issues in the databases. An expanded search capacity will allow the volunteers to find microfiche of these newspapers for families to read and print.

This project was continuing to pick up steam and more volunteers started arriving at the Society. However, most of them were older residents and had never worked on a computer. Training these volunteers on computer operations and how to input data into the Excel spreadsheet, thus, became paramount. Not only did the Society train these volunteers, but they set up detailed computer use instructions for them, as well as new volunteers who became involved in the project.

After two years of working on this project, it was 90% complete. The Moriarty Historical Society and Museum submitted a third and final request for funding to the NMHRAB to complete the project. The NMHRAB approved this request and by February 2007 the Torrance County Newspaper Microfilming Project will likely be done. At the completion of the project the collection will consist of more than 9,000 pieces of microfiche and 6,010 original Torrance County newspapers dating from 1883 to 1950.

This project represents a model archival newspaper project that not only preserved these historic newspapers, but made them accessible to the public and researchers via incredibly detailed finding aids. It shows how a dedicated volunteer organization with a clear vision carried out an incredibly detailed archival project with good organization, training, use of volunteers, utilization of state project and scholarship funds and an appropriate and effective use of computer hardware and software. Many others in the United States could learn from the Moriarty Historical Society and Museum.

At the New Mexico Historical Records Advisory Board, we give them a tip of the hat for a job well-done, indeed.

If you're ever in central New Mexico, you may want to swing by and check out this project. The Moriarty Museum is open 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday. You'll be impressed.

19TH CENTURY PATIENT RECORDS, TOURO INFIRMARY, NEW ORLEANS

Submitted by Linda Epstein

Included in the founding records of Touro Infirmary are three volumes of 19th century patient records: the 1855 Admission Book, the 1869 Admission Book and the Records of Death (also known as The Death Book). With the earliest bound Board Minutes and Articles of Incorporation, these books form the core of our collection and are an untapped primary resource for researchers.

The 1855 Admission Book was lost when the hospital was closed between 1861 and 1869. The book was discovered in a closet at Tulane University Medical Center when they moved in 1933 to their then new location on Tulane Avenue. It was later returned to Touro Infirmary. The Death Book and the 1869 Admission Book were found in administrative offices at Touro Infirmary.

The 1855 Admission Book covers the years 1855 to 1860. It measures 22" x 14 ¾" and is covered in tooled brown leather. There are approximately 46 double-sided pages containing 1,580 individual admission records. The richly-textured pages are in extremely good condition with no obvious defects. Ledger columns include: Name of Patient, Place of Birth, Occupation, Last Place From, Residence in New Orleans, Date of Admission, Hour of Admission (not included in database), Date of Discharge, Date of Death, Age, Whose Account, Deposit (not included in database), Rate per Day, Malady, How Long Sick, Single or Married, No. of Ward (not included in database), Total No. Days, Amount and Remarks.

The 1869 Admission Book begins in 1869 and ends in 1891. It measures 16 ¾" x 12 ¾" and has 64 double-sided pages containing 5,465 individual admission records. Ledger columns for this volume are slightly different than the earlier admission book in that they exclude all financial information. The columns include: Name, Date of Admission, Nativity, Occupation, Residence (city, state or country), Place last From, Age, Color, Residence in N.O., Married or Single, Date of Death, Diagnosis, By Whom or Where Buried and Remarks.

The Death Book covers the years 1869 to 1916 and includes deaths listed in the 1869 Admission Book. The ledger measures 16 ¾" x 12 ¾" and has 64 double-sided pages containing 1,739 individual records. The columns are identical to those in the 1869 Admission Book.

While the pages of all the volumes were in good shape, the covers needed preservation. With a generous grant from the Jewish Federation of Lehigh Valley, Pennsylvania, the 1869 Admission Book and the Death Book were rebound in maroon leather and their pages encapsulated by Louisiana Binding Service. The 1855 Admission book was rebound in 1991 by the late Elise and Irwin King with a grant from the Touro Auxiliary.

Each ledger has its own Access database. The fields within each database are searchable, and in any combination, allowing the researcher to create unique queries tailored to their needs. Of particular interest is the ability to search by name, occupation and burial location. Descendants of slaves, doctoral candidates, genealogists and medical history professionals, have a hereto unknown primary resource at their disposal.

The databases can be viewed at Touro Infirmary Archives by appointment by calling (504) 897- 8090 or by email to kahnc@touro.com.

DE LANGE CONFERENCE TO LOOK AT LIBRARIES IN THE AGE OF DIGITAL INFORMATION

Press release

The traditional concept of a library has been rendered obsolescent by the unprecedented confluence of the Internet, changes in scholarly publication models, increasing alliances between the humanities and the sciences, and the rise of large-scale digital library projects. The old ways of organizing and preserving knowledge to transmit our cultural and intellectual heritage have converged with the most advanced technologies of science and engineering and research methodologies. Such rapid and overwhelming changes to a millennia-old tradition pose significant challenges not only to university research libraries but to every citizen. If the traditional library is undergoing a profound metamorphosis, it is not clear what new model will take its place. More information has been produced in the last several years than in the entire previous history of humanity, and most of this has been in digital format. Libraries are not storage places any more; they are less and less a place.

The critical issues now include: How can that information be efficiently accessed and used? How do we extract knowledge from such an abundance of often poorly organized information? How might these enormous digital resources affect our concept of identity, our privacy, and the way we conduct business in the new century? Insight from many disciplines and perspectives is requisite to begin to understand this phenomenon to identify ways to help chart a future course.



Rice University's 2007 De Lange Conference Aims to Describe How Knowledge Will Be Accessed, Discovered, and Disseminated in the Age of Digital Information

March 5-7, 2007

Rice University, Houston, TX

<http://www.delange.rice.edu/conferenceVI.cfm>

Also available online in Second Life, a virtual 3-D environment

www.secondlife.com

The De Lange 2007 Conference will examine the transformational influences these astonishing emerging libraries may entail. A planning committee, led by Rice University's Fondren Library and Computer and Information Technology Institute (CITI), now seeks a rich mix of subject specialists with unique perspectives who will enliven and enrich this exploration. The De Lange Conference will also have a historical perspective as well as be forward-looking and self-reflective; the conference will reveal that the emerging library is of enormous consequence and relevant to the rethinking of fundamental assumptions that structure our understanding of the world and facilitate new discovery.

AFRICAN AMERICAN COLLECTIONS NOW ONLINE VIA ODL

Submitted by Tally Fugate

Two major events regarding the African American experience in Oklahoma are now available to researchers in a more easily accessible format. The Oklahoma Department of Libraries (ODL) is announcing the Internet availability of its "Ada Lois Sipuel Case Collection" as well as its entire "Tulsa Race Riot Collection."

Accessed through Oklahoma Crossroads, a database of select digital collections housed at the ODL, the "Ada Lois Sipuel Case Collection" details the Oklahoma Supreme Court case regarding the first African American woman admitted to the all-white University of Oklahoma Law School in 1948. With the guidance of her attorneys, NAACP leader Thurgood Marshall and Oklahoma Amos T. Hall, she challenged the legal fiction of "separate but equal," opening higher education to African American students in Oklahoma and laying the foundation for the *Brown v. Board of Education* landmark decision by the United States Supreme Court.

This digital collection features 251 documents from *Sipuel v. Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma*, Oklahoma Civil Case No. 32756 and includes defendant and plaintiff briefs as well as a trial transcript which illustrates the discriminatory treatment Sipuel experienced. One of the most outstanding black women to have affected the course of American history, Internet links to other materials about Sipuel's life as a lawyer, civil rights activist, and educator are accessible.

The "Tulsa Race Riot Collection" details one of the darkest episodes in Oklahoma history. The 1921 Tulsa Race Riot constituted two days of violence that left an unconfirmed number of dead citizens and destroyed 35-square blocks of the prosperous Greenwood neighborhood, once known as the "Black Wall Street." The collection features 1,327 documents from various state government agencies, such as the governor's office and the attorney general's office, regarding the investigation into the Tulsa Race Riot. It also includes eye-witness testimony, police reports, telegrams, and trial transcripts. "An examination of several telegrams between the National Guard's office and the Tulsa police chief communicated events as they unfolded providing researchers with a vivid illustration of the night of May 31st," said archivist Tally Fugate.

Offering a broad interdisciplinary application the collection also includes documents about vice conditions, such as

prostitution, gambling, and illegal drink, in Tulsa during the early 1920s. Riot related state Supreme Court cases are listed and links to other Tulsa Race Riot materials found on the Internet are available. The race riot documents proved to be very beneficial to The Tulsa Race Riot Reconciliation Commission, a state-appointed investigatory commission assembled in 2001. "Due to the rarity of these collections and the tremendous interest in the materials it became very important to digitize them," said administrative archivist Gary Harrington.

Now the "Ada Lois Sipuel Case Collection" and the "Tulsa Race Riot Collection" allow Oklahomans state-wide greater access to these documents for anyone with a computer and Internet connection. Individuals can access the collection through Oklahoma Crossroads at www.crossroads.odl.state.ok.us. Crossroads offers additional digital collections currently under development and four completed virtual tours. For more information, please contact Tally Fugate at 405/522-3582, or email tfugate@oltn.odl.state.ok.us.

CENTENNIAL EXHIBIT CELEBRATES OKLAHOMA

Submitted by Carolyn G. Hanneman

The Carl Albert Congressional Research and Studies Center at the University of Oklahoma has created a traveling and online exhibit, "We Know We Belong to the Land—A Hundred Years of Oklahoma and the Congress." The online exhibit can be found at <http://www.ou.edu/special/albertctr/archives/exhibit/centennial.htm>. The traveling exhibit will go to libraries and historical societies around Oklahoma during the state's centennial year, 2007.

"SIX FEET OVER" EXHIBIT LOOKS AT BURIAL CULTURE IN NEW ORLEANS

Submitted by Florence M. Jumonville

"Six Feet Over: The Business and Customs of Burial in New Orleans." at Louisiana and Special Collections Department, Earl K. Long Library, University of New Orleans, contains photographs, drawings, ephemera, manuscripts, and other materials drawn from several collections, including Tharp-Sontheimer Funeral Homes (Mss 317), Jacob Schoen & Son (Mss 307), Weiblen Memorials (Mss 33), and the Telling-Grandon Scrapbook (Mss 128).

SELECTION COMMITTEE FOCUSES ON SMU AS POTENTIAL BUSH LIBRARY SITE

Press release

The George W. Bush Presidential Library Site Selection Committee has announced that it will enter into further discussions with Southern Methodist University in Dallas as the next phase of its process to choose a site for the library. SMU has proposed various site options on its main campus, five miles north of downtown Dallas.

“It is indeed an honor for SMU to have reached the next stage of the selection process,” said SMU President R. Gerald Turner. “In preserving and sharing historical documents and artifacts, the George W. Bush Presidential Library at SMU would be a tremendous resource for the study of presidential decision-making in this post 9-11 era. If selected as the site of this resource, SMU would welcome visitors, students of all ages, and scholars from throughout the world to its campus and to Dallas. We look forward to further discussions with the selection committee on the details of this historic project.”

SMU is a private institution with approximately 11,000 students. Its students come from all 50 states and nearly 90 foreign countries. Minority students make up about 21 percent of the student body. SMU is comprised of seven degree-granting schools - Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences, the School of Engineering, Meadows School of the Arts, Cox School of Business, and the School of Education and Human Development, all of which offer both undergraduate and graduate degrees; and the Perkins School of Theology and Dedman School of Law, which offer professional and graduate degrees. SMU through the years has established several special institutes in fields such as ethics, entrepreneurship, reading research and the energy industry.

“As a scholar of politics and history, I know that in our democratic society, it’s important to have presidential libraries to house the archives that will be used by generations of scholars to understand the times in which we live and to inform future policy debates,” said James F. Hollifield, professor and director of the Tower Center for Political Studies at SMU. “A presidential library can be a repository of archives from which we will learn and grow as a people.”

In addition to the main campus in Dallas, the University offers programs at SMU-in-Legacy in Plano, north of Dallas, and at a campus near Taos, New Mexico. The main campus consists of 86 buildings on 210 acres along the major thoroughfares of Mockingbird Lane and Hillcrest Avenue near U.S. Highway 75. SMU also owns several properties east of U.S. Highway 75 near the Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) light rail station.

“No matter what one’s political affiliation, the library would offer SMU students opportunities for a unique educational experience. At their doorstep would be valuable research materials and programs attracting national and world leaders,” said Carl Sewell, chair of SMU’s Board of Trustees. “SMU would become even more of a resource for learning, and the library would strengthen Dallas as an important global destination.”

SMU has a history of bringing national and world leaders to campus for lectures and other campus events. These have included former and sitting U.S. presidents, Supreme Court justices, ambassadors and heads of state. SMU has about 100,000 alumni worldwide, with about 40,000 located in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Among its distinguished graduates are Academy Award winner Kathy Bates and Nobel Laureate physicist James Cronin.

Founded in 1911 by what is now The United Methodist Church, SMU is nonsectarian in its teaching and committed to academic freedom.

HISTORIC BATON ROUGE: AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY BRINGS THE CITY'S STORY UP TO DATE

Submitted by Faye Phillips

The first history of Baton Rouge to be written in more than twenty-five years, *Historic Baton Rouge: An Illustrated History* is a handsome coffee-table photo book that contains a historical overview of the city's people and past. It starts with the first European explorers to meet those American Indians who had erected the storied "Red Stick" and continues through to the multinational crowds who live and work in today's bustling metropolis. The story contains tales of heroes and villains, never-ending challenges, enormous successes, and echoes of the lives of hundreds of thousands of people who have lived in Louisiana's capital city. Longtime residents will recall memories of times past, and newcomers will learn about the people and events who helped make Baton Rouge a special city. Both will see how the city's past resonates in its streets today.

The French lived in the area briefly, but it was the British who established a permanent settlement at Baton Rouge. Spain wrested control in 1779 and ruled the locale until 1810. Baton Rougeans became American citizens as of January 1, 1811. Steamboats soon dominated the riverway, expanding commerce and creating new opportunities for travel and economic development. Slaves continued to work in the town and surrounding plantations, contributing to the economy and the local culture.

The town's fortunes improved in 1846, when the state capital moved here from New Orleans. Secession, the Civil War, and Reconstruction were pivotal times, shaping the city's long-term prospects. The capital, moved to New Orleans during the war, returned in 1882, heralding a fresh start for the river city. While transportation in the form of railroads, followed by street cars, and later motor cars improved the quality of life and residents' abilities to move about, the people allowed segregation and Jim Crow to keep the city divided.

Educational opportunities at the K-12 levels for both black and white people, never a top priority, did not improve much before World War II. The universities, LSU starting in 1860 and Southern starting in Baton Rouge in 1914--provided schooling at a college level and social events for the community.

Over the years natural disasters and widespread illnesses, like yellow fever, took their toll on the city, but the population grew--especially after the founding of Standard Oil in Louisiana--and many prospered. Huey Long changed the face of the city and of LSU, for good and bad. Entertainment and shopping opportunities blossomed in the 1920s and 1930s. World War II provided new jobs after the Depression.

Though integration in Baton Rouge went fairly smoothly, in comparison to other southern cities of a similar size, the civil rights era was fraught with tensions and challenges. Local African Americans boycotted city buses in 1953, but the effort ended with the buses still segregated. Southern University students led the way in seeking lunch counter service at local stores in 1960. Relations between the races deteriorated, reaching their worst point in 1972, but in the end the struggle for civil rights succeeded: legal segregation ended.

In the 1970s and beyond the city transformed into what it is today, with the establishment of preservation societies, the proliferation of arts and culture, a focus on trees and green space, continuing struggles over education, downtown building programs, and ever-expanding suburbs. As the population of Baton Rouge boomed after Standard Oil's arrival in 1909 and again during World War II, it increased tremendously-- overnight--after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita struck Louisiana in 2005.

Historic Baton Rouge: An Illustrated History is published by the Historical Publishing Network for the Foundation for Historical Louisiana. Co-author Sylvia Rodriguez owns Sylverlining, LLC, an editorial consulting business in Baton Rouge, and serves as executive editor for Southern Illinois University Press. Co-author Faye Phillips is Associate Dean of Libraries at Louisiana State University.

TYRELL HISTORICAL LIBRARY REOPENS AFTER EXTENSIVE DAMAGE FROM HURRICANE KATRINA

By Jennifer Avilla, Beaumont *Enterprise*

The Tyrrell Historical Library pushed back its opening date multiple times since being closed for Hurricane Rita repairs. But Tuesday January 2 was the library's opening date - giving residents access to archives and unique books that have otherwise been inaccessible.

"It's been a challenge. We still have work to do, but we are excited to be back with our patrons and our volunteers," said Penny Clark, a library archivist. Employees started moving books and boxes back into the library around Thanksgiving, and it was non-stop cleaning and organizing to be ready for Tuesday's opening, Clark said.

"There is still work that can be done - boxes that need to be shuffled here and there," Clark said. "If you hadn't known anything had happened, I'm not sure you would see that it looks much different at all."

The library repairs, which included the roof, windows, louvers and interior as well as restoration of historic records, cost the city about \$400,000, according to The Enterprise archives.

For Howard Perkins, Lamar University student publications director, the library's reopening is more than welcome. On numerous occasions over the past 18 months, Perkins has been in need of information that was only available at the library.

"It's our chief genealogical and historical library here and our chief genealogical resource," Perkins said. "That has not been available to people, so that's a pretty crucial thing, and it's really good to see it open again because we'll be able to get to those resources."

Having the library closed inconvenienced many area residents, Clark said. "For the genealogy books, people had to drive to Houston, and a lot of them are in very limited quantities," she said.

And being back at the library is a relief to Clark - she can get back to the job she loves. "That's what I really enjoy is being able to help people," Clark said. "We have a real commitment to the history and a real commitment to the genealogy. It's been a shame that we haven't been able to help people."

WHAT'S COOKING IN NEW ORLEANS?: CULINARY TRADITIONS OF THE CRESCENT CITY, JANUARY 16 -JULY 7, 2007

Submitted by Mary Mees

On January 16, 2007, The Historic New Orleans Collection unveiled "What's Cooking in New Orleans?: Culinary Traditions of the Crescent City". The exhibition, which is free and open to the public, explores the influence food and dining has had on New Orleans's culture for 300 years. The interactive multimedia show will remain on view through July 7 in the Williams Gallery.

"What's Cooking in New Orleans?" serves as an appetizer to understanding the cuisine that defines the city. The eclectic display of cookbooks, menus, photographs, and other objects span the 18th through mid-20th centuries and introduce patrons to the cultural, economic, and social factors that shaped New Orleans cuisine, primarily Creole cuisine.

To further entice visitors, "What's Cooking in New Orleans?" also offers video clips, podcasts, an on-site recipe exchange, and weekly online recipes (<http://www.hnoc.org/recipe.php>). Two documentaries, *We Live to Eat: New Orleans's Love Affair with Food* and *A Common Pot, Creole Cooking on the Cane River*, both by New Orleans filmmaker Kevin McCaffery, will be on view as part of the exhibition.



TEXAS A&M, MONTERREY TEC LIBRARIES RECEIVE COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH GRANT

Press release

Cushing Memorial Library and Archives of Texas A&M and the Biblioteca Cervantina of Monterrey Tec University have been awarded a \$24,000 Collaborative Research Grant to pursue a project titled “Retrieval and Interpretation of Shared Cultural Memory from the New Spain Collections.”

Headed by Nancy Joe Dyer, Department of Hispanic Studies, Gregory Cuellar, Cushing Library, and Blanca Lopez de Mariscal from Monterrey Tec University, this project will bring faculty and students from both institutions together to catalogue and explore themes and research topics found in the early printed rare book collections.

“Cushing Library contains many titles on the historical and religious experience of colonial Mexican society, making it an excellent place for students conducting research in this area,” commented Cuellar. “An emerging challenge for both institutions is providing online reference services that can support various programs in the humanities. This project helps meet this challenge, while at the same time provides skills in archives to local and international students.”

The Grant was awarded through a partnership of Texas A&M and CONACyT (Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología). The Collaborative Research Grant Program encourages inter-institutional research and graduate student education. Projects in science, technology and scholarship, funded by the program, will have a direct impact on industry and government while encouraging cooperation between scholars and scientists from Mexico and Texas.

SHARE YOUR EXPERTISE!

The SSA Professional Development Committee has created a Speakers Database and is seeking information on those experienced individuals in our region who are willing to share their expertise with others by teaching a half-day or full-day workshop on a topic of their choice.

By gathering the information regarding the level of expertise available among our membership, the Professional Development Committee will be better able to utilize our members talents and promote education within our region.

We invite our members to consider these questions before submitting their names:

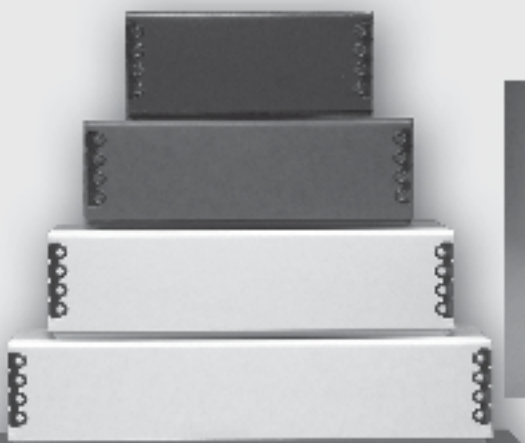
- What is your area of expertise/strength?
- Could you present a half-day or full-day workshop on that topic?
- Have you already presented a workshop on that topic? If yes, where and when?
- Are you an experienced presenter? If yes, would you be willing to conduct a “train the trainer” style workshop to help lesser-experienced archivists feel comfortable developing their own workshops?

Submitting your name to this database does not require that you teach a workshop, nor does it guarantee that you will be asked to teach a workshop. It will be used for information gathering for the Professional Development committee to refer to as they plan future pre-conference workshops and mid-winter workshops throughout our region.

If you would like to include your name on the Professional Development database, please contact Shelly Kelly at kellysh@uhcl.edu. Questions? Call her at 281-283-3936.

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MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS HOUSTON ARCHIVES AWARDED PROCESSING GRANT

Press release

The Museum Of Fine Arts, Houston (MFAH) Archives is the recent recipient of a three year grant awarded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC). The NHPRC fully awarded the MFAH Archives proposal, providing \$101,995 in funds for the processing of 402 linear feet of archival holdings. The MFAH will match funds for the project, which focuses on facilitating access to its archival materials through arrangement, description and the placement of finding aids on the MFAH Web site. Measures to preserve the documents are also being undertaken.

In October, the Project Archivist position was filled by Kathryn Jones. Jones is a recent graduate of the School of Library and Information Science at the University of North Texas. Her past experience has included two internships with the rare book collection of the MFAH's European decorative arts wing, Rienzi. She is a member of the Society of American Archivists, the American Library Association, the Texas Library Association and the Archivists of the Houston Area.

As the year draws to an end, the first objective of the grant project - the processing of the records of current museum director, Peter C. Marzio - is concluding. These records have been the primary focus of the project due to Marzio's instrumental role in the emergence of the MFAH as a predominant force on the U.S. art landscape and in the early museum archives movement in the U.S. during the late 1970's and 1980's.

Other materials selected for this project are institutional records and collections of personal papers that illustrate the museum's unique and important role in the cultural life of Houston and Texas. They are of significant historical interest to the art community as well as to students of museum studies, education, history, architecture, design, urban development, landscape design, philanthropy, and women and ethnic studies.

Among the archives to be processed and catalogued during the grant period are the estate papers of Texas philanthropist, Miss Ima Hogg, who donated Bayou Bend Collection and Gardens to the MFAH in 1957. Also included in the project are the drawings and correspondence of designer Sally Walsh, the first Houstonian to enter Interior Design's Hall of Fame.

Also slated for the project are the museum's exhibition files that, according to MFAH Archives director, Lorraine A. Stuart, generate some of the greatest and most consistent research interest among the archival holdings. Other institutional records are those of the MFAH education department, which oversees one of the most widely acclaimed museum educational programs in the country.

Subjects covered in the museum's institutional records include the Economic Summit of Industrialized Nations in 1990; the 1987 landmark exhibition, Hispanic Art in the United States: Thirty Contemporary Painters and Sculptors; Isamu Noguchi's design for the museum's Lillie and Hugh Roy Cullen Sculpture Garden, completed in 1986; the ongoing Jack Yates Magnet School Photography program; the Masterson collections of Worcester porcelain and David Webb jewelry; and the 1995 installation of American sculpture at the White House.

This recent award is the second grant the MFAH has received from the NHPRC. The first grant, in the amount of \$94,000, provided the original seed money for the establishment of the museum archives in 1984.

One of the oldest art museum archives in the country, the MFAH's Archives consists of 2,500 linear feet of institutional records and manuscript collections spanning more than 100 years. The department also operates the institutional records management program, which oversees an additional 1,000 linear feet of temporary records. It serves as the official repository for the records of the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston and the Art Libraries Society of North America's Texas-Mexico Chapter and houses a micrographic copy of the Texas Art Project, a segment of the Archives of American Art compiled by the Smithsonian Institution. Through a Web-based database, the Archives provides unparalleled access to extensive and detailed information on the MFAH's exhibition history. Its holdings have been a valuable source in the compilation of local and regional histories, Houston architectural surveys, catalogues raisonn  and other monographs.

COLLABORATION BRINGS FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM EXHIBIT OF ICONIC IMAGES TO TEXAS

Submitted by Mary Burke



Mother and baby of family on the road, Tulelake, Siskiyou County, California.
Photo by Dorothea Lange, September 1939

“This Great Nation Will Endure”: Photographs of the Great Depression Exhibition opens February 2, 2007 at Tarrant County College, Northeast Campus, Fort Worth, Texas.

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum, National Archives and Records Administration – Southwest Region, and Tarrant County College, Northeast Campus will present this photographic exhibition of over 150 images of America taken between 1935 and 1942 by great photographers of the Farm Security Administration, including Dorothea Lange, Walker Evans, Ben Shahn, Jack Delano, Arthur Rothstein, Gordon Parks, Carl Mydans, Russell Lee, Marion Post Wolcott and John Vachon.

The exhibition was created by the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum in Hyde Park, New York. The photographs are drawn from the massive Farm Security Administration photography collection at the Library of Congress. Their work includes some of the most familiar and powerful images of the nation to emerge from those difficult years. Many have reached iconic status in American culture.

Opening in the Center Corner Room of the Student Center Building on the Tarrant County College, Northeast Campus, Thursday, February 1, 2007, “This Great Nation Will Endure” will include FSA photographs from every region of the nation. It will be one of the largest and richest exhibitions of FSA black-and-white photography brought to Texas.

A soundtrack consisting of FSA audio recordings of folk music sung by migrant workers will fill part of the exhibit space. The exhibit will also include a specially-commissioned short documentary film that explores the work of several of the most prominent FSA photographers.

A New Deal agency created by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, the FSA sought to help American farmers and farm laborers who were confronting economic depression and natural disaster, including the ecological disaster known as the Dust Bowl. The agency was connected to the Department of Agriculture, led by Secretary of Agriculture, Henry A. Wallace.

The FSA created a remarkably diverse record of life in America during the 1930s and early 1940s - including images of hardship, endurance, hope, recovery, migration, recreation, and community life.

“This Great Nation Will Endure: Photographs of the Great Depression” runs through March 9, 2007. Free guided tours, both onsite and via distance learning, will be led by staff and volunteers of NARA – Southwest Region and TCC, Northeast Campus. TCC will offer lectures and a film series in conjunction with the exhibition. For information, please contact Mary Burke, Southwest Region Education Specialist at mary.burke@nara.gov.

KATRINA RECOVERY PROJECT

Submitted by Bro. Ed Loch, S.M., Archivist of the Archdiocese of San Antonio

In 1997 the Vatican sent out an envelope addressed « Director of the Historic and Artistic Patrimony of the Catholic Church of San Antonio » At that time I made light of my new title which certainly expanded the role of Archivist for the Archdiocese of San Antonio. Among the documents in the archives are inventories of the Spanish missions. When there would be a change of pastors, an inventory would be made of the church goods. I had no idea then, that nine years later I would be involved in such a project.



St. Ann's, Empire, LA
Photo courtesy of Bro. Ed Loch.

Katrina swept in from the Gulf of Mexico battering the coast of Mississippi and Louisiana and went up the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet canal, like a shotgun blast, breaking levees, flooding huge areas rapidly. There was no preparation for such an event, even though the weather service accurately predicted the course of the storm. A document on population shifts in the USA released on December 22, 2006, showed Louisiana had a drop in population of 280,000. More than just population, the hurricane impacted archives and other cultural institutions. Dr. Charles Nolan stayed throughout the storm with the Archdiocesan archives housed in the Old Ursuline Convent in the French Quarter. This is the highest ground in the area. The archives

survived intact. The individual parish church archives did not fare as well. Many received water damage and were submerged for days. These were recovered, frozen and shipped to Baton Rouge (LSU) where a major project of drying and recovering these records was undertaken under the direction of Mrs. Lee Leumas, archivist for the diocese of Baton Rouge and Dr. Nolan.

Eleven months after the storm, at the next meeting of the Association of Catholic Diocesan Archivists at Mundelein Illinois, the members voted funds for a project to help in the recovery of items that had been damaged by the storm. Since the sacramental books were already fairly well taken care of, this meant first of all getting an intellectual control of what was still out there. Churches had been inundated. Their congregations fled and for the most part not returned. There had been some looting. The diocesan authorities hired contractors to secure the buildings. So it was decided that an inventory had to be made, first of the churches which were to be bulldozed, then those that would be mothballed and finally the other churches which were in various stages of recovery.

A call was put out for volunteers from archivists belonging to the organization. Six were picked besides the team already in New Orleans and Baton Rouge. These were Brian Fahey of Charleston, David Gray of San Diego, Peggy O'Toole of Chicago, Jim Neal of Phoenix, Robert Johnson-Lally of Boston and myself. One condition was that each had to have permission from their bishop to do this and the bishop had to agree to continue their salary for that week. All of their expenses would be taken care of, except for personal items such as souvenirs.

The mission then was to assist the archdiocesan archives in completing the inventory and recovery of the sacred objects in the parishes that were permanently or temporarily closed after the hurricane and to prepare a written and pictorial report on the process.

The scope included six churches which were permanently closed and twenty which were temporarily closed due to the destruction of the hurricane Katrina. Most of these churches received severe water and/or wind damage. Many face an uncertain future until it can be determined if the surrounding neighborhoods can return to some sort of stability.



Jim Neal, Chuck Nolan and Bro. Ed Loch
inside ruined church at Burrus, LA.
Photo courtesy of Bro. Ed Loch.

Thus the tasks at hand were to: document the condition of the church building(s) exterior and interior, make an inventory of the church's sacred moveable objects, transfer the moveable sacred objects to designated storage areas, inventory the immovable sacred objects, interview the pastor and some of the people if possible, and finally to write a written report for each of the churches. Each team was supplied with a digital camera, inventory sheets, masks, gloves and other equipment.

The team began to assemble on the afternoon of Sunday, November 5. There was a brief meeting at the archives building. The next morning was filled with more orientation and meetings at the New Orleans Archdiocesan Chancery. After lunch the entire group went to St. Rafael's church which had been flooded and then cleaned. It was secured and became one of the storage sites for the items. Each group took a different part of this large church and began inventorying the goods. This continued until it became too dark inside to see. There was no electricity. The next two days we broke into three teams and began visiting individual churches, doing our work efficiently. Part of Wednesday afternoon was reserved for writing reports.

On Friday November 9, different individual churches were visited. Team three went south of the city of New Orleans, along the right bank of the Mississippi down to the mouth of the delta. About half way down is St. Patrick's in Port Sulpher. Even 15 months later, other than a few refineries that have been rebuilt, everything is totally destroyed. Here at Port Sulpher, the people were trapped in the church made of concrete and brick, by a storm surge that went over the levee which was 30 feet high and flooded the area, pouring water through the broken stained glass windows. The people fled to the choir loft where they were for several days in darkness with water lapping at their feet. After being rescued, the people took charge and began their own recovery effort. They went to the churches in Empire, Diamond, Burrus and Venice and saved whatever they could transport and brought it back to St. Patrick's.

The people gave us descriptions of the items and where each came from. The church was overflowing with saved statues and other objects. In the afternoon, the team visited the other ruined churches,

described and photographed them and returned to St. Patrick's to do more inventory but the time had run out. The camera was full of six hundred pictures and was low on power. It was time to head back to the city. There are at least two more groups coming, in the next few months to continue the work. St. Patrick's will be at the top of the list.

Saturday was designated for the wrap-up with individual interviews, small group discussions and finally the full group. The written reports were finished and accepted.

The archdiocesan staff had been inventorying and transferring to secure storage the sacred items from these parishes. The task, however, was enormous and much remained to be completed. This is where the team came in. All the sacred objects had to be removed, cleaned, inventoried in order to insure proper care, storage and provenance of the objects. Existing structures needed to be photographed and described to document the extent of the destruction as well as to make a record of immovable objects such as stained glass windows.

The main objective of increasing the database of Church goods was achieved. More than a thousand items were described and photographed. The description list was modified to make its use easier for future groups which may not have the church background that we had. This database will make it easier to return the goods to the congregation if and when the parish is reactivated. If several churches are combined, the people will be able to choose items so they will feel more comfortable in their new setting.

The six of us have become apostles to spread the word of the need of a database of the artistic and cultural patrimony of the church. A few other dioceses like Cincinnati have already undertaken such a program and have produced their own software.

We also realized that a workable disaster plan must be designed. Lack of communication was the main problem. No one was able to communicate with others, area code 504 was useless. Today all the leading officials have a different area code. Policies are being written to cover major problems caused by wind, fire and flood. These are being shared among the participants and hopefully with other dioceses so that the artistic and cultural patrimony can be preserved.

VISITING SCHOLARS PROGRAM AT THE 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 World Wide 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) 325-5835. FAX: (405) 325-6419. E-mail: channeman@ou.edu.

SAA'S KEGAN AWARD SUBCOMMITTEE SEEKS NOMINATIONS

The Philip M. Hamer and Elizabeth Hamer Kegan Award Subcommittee of the Society of American Archivists seeks nominations for the 2007 award. This award, given annually by SAA, recognizes an archivist, editor, group of individuals, or institution that has increased public awareness of a specific body of documents through compilation, transcription, exhibition, or public presentation of archives or manuscript materials for education, instructional, or other public purpose. More information about the award is available at <http://www.archivists.org/governance/handbook/section12-hamer.asp>

To be considered for the award, all nominations must be postmarked no later than February 28, 2007. For the subcommittee to understand the entirety of the nominee's project, please submit all relevant supporting materials. Examples of supporting materials include books, copies of websites, exhibit information, press coverage and more. To submit a nomination, download a nomination form using the link on the Award website listed above and return it to SAA at the following address:

Co-chairs, Awards Committee, Society of American Archivists, 527 S. Wells St., 5th Floor, Chicago, IL 60607-3922

A list of winners is posted on the SAA website.

If you have questions and for additional information, please feel free to contact the Hamer Kegan Subcommittee chair, John Hyslop jhyslop@queenslibrary.org, or the SAA Awards Committee co-chairs, Brenda Gunn bgunn@mail.utexas.edu or Deborah Skaggs deborah.skaggs@ironmountain.com.

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EMPLOYMENT POSTINGS

Lamar University is advertising for a University Archivist. Review of applications will begin on March 1, 2007. Please visit the Lamar University Website at <http://www.lamar.edu> <<http://www.lamar.edu>> for further details about the position.

WORKSHOPS

The Ark-La-Tex Chapter of ARMA is preparing a Disaster Preparedness Seminar for April 12, 2007, in Longview, TX. Watch <http://www.arklatexarma.org/index.htm> for more information.

IN MEMORIUM

Dr. John Albert Witmer, former archivist at Dallas Theological Seminary (DTS), died January 5, 2007 in Dallas at the age of 86. John Witmer was a scholar throughout his life, studying at Wheaton College (A.B. 1942 and A.M. 1946), Dallas Theological Seminary (Th.M. 1946 and Th.D. 1953), East Texas State University (MSLS 1969) and the University of Texas at Arlington (Certificate of Archival Administration 1988). Throughout his life, Dr. Witmer wrote numerous articles for many Christian magazines, and in 1998 wrote a book titled *Immanuel: Jesus Christ, Cornerstone of Our Faith*. He served at Dallas Theological Seminary (DTS) for over fifty years in various capacities, including theology professor (1947-1990) and library director (1964-1986). During his tenure as librarian, the library was enlarged and remodeled, and in 1984 the library began a conversion from Union Classification to the Library of Congress system. Dr. Witmer ended his career at DTS as the first archivist for the school. He served as archivist from 1987 to 1999, and although he was only employed ten hours per week, he diligently collected and started organizing early records of the seminary and papers of people connected with it.

DUES ARE DUE!

If you haven't paid your 2007 membership dues, this will be your last newsletter and you won't receive a ballot to vote in the upcoming election. Renew now! Not sure if you're up to date, check with Treasurer Gerri Schaad, Gerrianne.Schaad@utsa.edu.

CORRECTION

In the November 2007 issue, the article highlighting the papers of author Jim Sagel at the Benson Latin American Collection was incorrectly attributed to Christian Kelleher, Head Archivist at the Benson Latin American Collection. The article was written by Anna Nogar, Ph.D. Candidate, Colonial Spanish Literature. Our sincere apologies for the error.

SAA SEEKS NOMINATIONS FOR THE HAROLD T. PINKETT MINORITY STUDENT AWARD

Nominations are due no later than February 28, 2007. The Harold T. Pinkett Minority Student Award recognizes minority undergraduate and graduate students, such as those of African, Asian, Hispanic, or Native American descent, who, through scholastic and personal achievement, manifest an interest in becoming professional archivists and active members of SAA.

To be eligible, minority students, with preference given to full-time students, must possess a minimum scholastic grade point average of 3.5 while enrolled in a graduate program focusing on archival management during the academic year preceding the date the award is given. For more information and nomination forms please see: http://www.archivists.org/saagroups/aac/Awards_Pinkett.htm

LEADERSHIP LOG

Compiled by Carol Roark

In March 2007, Mark Lambert will become the Rare Books Librarian at the University of Texas School of Law Tarlton Law Library, Austin, Texas. He previously was the Special Collections Librarian at the Fred Parks Law Library, South Texas College of Law, Houston, Texas.

Patricia A. Nugent's article "Battlefields, Tools, and Targets: Archives and Armed Conflict," has been selected as the recipient of the 2005 David B. Gracy II Award by the editors of the journal, *Provenance*. The award is accompanied by a \$200 prize and recognizes a superior contribution to the journal. Patricia Nugent is Special Collections Librarian/Archivist at Loyola University New Orleans. Her research interests include the fate of archives in both the War on Terror and in post-Katrina New Orleans.

Kristy Sorensen has been named the new archivist and records manager for the Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. She comes to the Seminary from the Archives of American Mathematics at the Center for American History on The University of Texas at Austin campus.

ARCHIVISTS' DAYBOOK

Compiled by Lee Miller, Tulane University.

Full version on-line at <http://southwestarchivists.org/HTML/2007.htm>

March 1 Application deadline for Academy of Certified Archivists Travel Assistance Awards. For the recipients of the award, the ACA will waive the \$50 exam application fee plus support up to \$200 in related travel expenses to and from the candidate's closest exam site. <http://www.certifiedarchivists.org/>

March 15 "Legal Aspects of Photography Rights, Archive Management, and Permissions" is offered by the Society of American Archivists in Atlanta, Georgia.

April 5 Deadline for applications for the "Save America's Treasures" program. The grants are administered by the National Park Service, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts. Grants are available for preservation and/or conservation work on nationally significant intellectual and cultural artifacts and nationally significant historic structures and sites, including collections, documents, monuments, works of art, historic districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects. The program was founded in 1998 by First Lady Hilary Rodham Clinton. <http://www.saveameericastreasures.org/>

April 23 "Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACS)" is offered by the Society of American Archivists in Austin, Texas. <http://www.archivists.org/prof-education/workshop-detail.asp?id=2038>

May 1 The MayDay Project of the Society of American Archivists is a collaborative campaign to improve professionals' readiness to respond to disaster. The MayDay project encourages all records and archives professionals to do something on May 1st of each year to help ensure that they are prepared to respond to a disaster. <http://www.archivists.org/>

May 1 Deadline to apply for Fulbright Awards for distinguished Fulbright chairs in Western Europe and Canada. <http://www.iie.org/cies/>

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