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FEATURE

100 Years of The Texas Collection at Baylor University

TALK OF THE REGION

Preventing the Erasure of African American History Through the Society of Southwest Archivists' State Partnerships and Outreach Committee

REPOSITORY NEWS

Hopi Kachina Dolls Still Have A Lot to Teach Us



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.

Annual Membership dues are \$25.00 for individuals, with a reduced rate of \$15.00 for students and retirees. Institutional membership ranges from \$50 - \$150.

More information about membership can be found at our website southwestarchivists.org



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FROM THE EDITOR



Dear colleagues,

It has been a scorching summer, but I hope you are finding ways to stay cool and well. By the number of article submissions, it is evident that you are staying plenty busy with projects, hopefully in comfortable, climate-controlled places. There was an overwhelming number of articles related to exhibits and newly processed collections. The Texas Collection at Baylor University (featured article, pg. 5) hits a momentous milestone – 100 years! Learn about how The Texas Collection was started in 1923 and how it continues to thrive as it enters its "second century of collecting."

Don't miss Norie Guthrie's Letter from the President (pg. 6) as she discusses the vision for the 2024 virtual Annual Meeting and the positive possibilities that a virtual meeting can provide.

This issue's Talk of the Region articles are on some noteworthy topics to consider. DeWayne Moore of Prairie View A&M University discusses how SSA's State Partnerships and Outreach Committee helped fund his research on preventing erasure of African American history at the American Association of State and Local History conference in 2021 (pg. 12). The SPOC Fund is an amazing opportunity for SSA members to assist them with presenting at outside conferences and professional meetings. More information about the SPOC Fund can be found on SSA's website. Also, check out a new mutual aid resource (pg. 15) and the TARO workshops (pg. 18) and updates (pg. 19). Dylan McDonald discusses why hybridity and inclusive annual meetings must be the standard practice of SSA (pg. 16).

In Repository News, Wittliff Collections intern Caden Summers describes the exciting process of examining Hopi Kachina Dolls using infrared spectroscopy (pg. 21). I'd like to take this moment to extend the invitation for intern and student worker submissions to *The Southwestern Archivist*. If your repository has student workers or interns assisting with anything from exciting projects to our never-ending backlogs, we'd love to hear about it. It can serve as a great opportunity and introduction to scholarship and publication. A link has been provided in the Publications Committee section (pg. 9) for more information on submission guidelines. Thank you to Katie Salzmann at The Wittliff for the excellent suggestion.

Take some time to read through the incredible articles in Repository News relating to the new collections and exhibits taking place across the southwest. Reading your submissions always revitalizes me when I get bogged down in the daily grind. It's always a good reminder of how our hard work and dedication in processing and curating pays off in some really incredibly ways.

Who knows when we'll finally get some relief from the heat, but here's to wishing you a pleasant fall!

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contact Editor at ssaeditor@southwestarchivists.org



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100 Years of The Texas Collection at Baylor University

Jeff Pirtle, Director of The Texas Collection, Baylor University



The 'heritage mark' above was created for the 100th anniversary.

In the June 9, 1923, Baylor *Lariat* student newspaper, an announcement was published about an upcoming 'Baylor Alumni Business Meeting' to take place on campus June 12. In small print, the agenda includes "Afternoon 3:30 – Presentation of Texas History Library – Gift of Dr. K. H. Aynesworth." However, the story behind the genesis of The Texas Collection at Baylor University is much richer than that small note.

My name is Jeff Pirtle, the Director of The Texas Collection, University Archives & W. R. Poage Legislative Library at Baylor. I began my role in July 2022, and greatly enjoy learning something new about our collection every day. When I first began my new job, I received the oral history interview transcript of Guy B. Harrison – the long-tenured Texas Collection Director who held the position from 1928-1969.

In his oral history, Professor Harrison recalls The Texas Collection's origin. He explained how Dr. K. H. Aynesworth was an avid collector of all things Texas and spent considerable money acquiring historic manuscripts, broadsides, and rare books related to Texas history. As Dr. Aynesworth's collection grew, space to store the collection at his home became a source of tension with his wife, Maude. One day, when Dr. Aynesworth returned from work, he found Maude throwing volumes of his rare materials into a fire. He was told to either get rid of 'that Texas stuff' or she'd leave the house with the children! The next day, Dr. Aynesworth called Baylor's president with a donation offer.

Not long after that tumultuous event, the new 'Texas History Library' was utilized by Baylor professor Ms. Aleph Tanner to create the first college-level Texas History course, and Dr. K. H. Aynesworth continued to be a valuable contributor to the collection until his death in 1944. The collection has grown, flourished, and become a valuable part of Baylor Libraries.

The 100th anniversary of The Texas Collection has given us a great opportunity to re-tell these stories, re-ignite some of our programming and events,

amplify our collections to Baylor and surrounding communities, and celebrate past accomplishments. However, we won't be just congratulating ourselves on 100 years of survival. We'll be looking for ways to re-think how we approach teaching and learning with special collections, to partner with campus Faculty to utilize our resources, and host community-wide learning opportunities.



Carroll Library - home of The Texas Collection at Baylor University

Continued on page 11



FROM THE PRESIDENT



The last few years have provided a variety of challenges, but a wealth of opportunities for our organization. After the heartbreaking cancellation of the 2020 annual meeting in Denton, Baton Rouge, in 2021, SSA rose to the occasion and gave us a chance to share our knowledge and expand our numbers through our first virtual conference. At that time, it felt like we were turning a corner (We've got vaccines. Our next conference will be in-person. Everything's awesome!) Our enthusiasm was palpable.

The following year, for those able to attend, the Houston annual meeting helped us come together in-person. In the months leading up to it, we responded to an ever-changing environment to ensure safety. Ultimately, the meeting was not exactly like pre-pandemic times, but it was as close to normalcy as we could have in May 2022. We learned something new, we ate good food, and we socialized.

Like other library and archives organizations, we decided to try something new this year. April's meeting in Albuquerque was our first hybrid meeting. Even if you weren't able to shop in Old Town or eat at a different restaurant every day in Sawmill Market, you were able to enjoy the sessions and the plenary. If you were unable to attend virtually or in-person, you will be able to view the sessions on our YouTube channel. Overall, the meeting achieved its goal of providing more accessibility in its many forms and forged a new path for local arrangements committees to follow.

Although the decision was beyond our control, our 2024 meeting will be virtual. While there will be no host city for the meeting, the new local arrangements committee will have members from across the region. For those nervous about another static virtual meeting, the local arrangements and programming committees are working

hard to re-envision the annual meeting and how the virtual environment can provide possibilities rather than hindrances. They have already looked into a customizable platform, which will move us away from standard Zoom meetings and towards a better user experience for our members. The meeting will give us a chance to hear more from colleagues outside of our region, as well as will help us keep our environmental footprint smaller. It also could make extra funding available for future annual meetings. Being virtual will not negate our ability to come together to share our work and ideas and can offer us new avenues of connection and education.

As the organization moves forward and experiments with different formats, I'm looking forward to how these changes can trickle down to For those nervous about another static virtual meeting, the local arrangements and programming committees are working hard to re-envision the [2024] annual meeting and how the virtual environment can provide possibilities rather than hindrances.

future meetings. I'm excited for the spring meeting and hope that you are, too.



The PDC was excited to offer one virtual presentation "Found It Through The Grapevine: Formatting Social Media Content for Effective Outreach" by Matthew Peek on May 10th. To view the recording of this presentation please visit the Society of Southwest Archivists Youtube channel at https://www.youtube.com/@societyofsouthwestarchivis4940

The workshop offered attendees a holistic approach to the generation of archival social media programming to support archival organization's outreach efforts, beginning at the start of archival processing. As the Military Collection Archivist from 2014 to 2022, Peek managed two blogs and one Facebook account for the State Archives of North Carolina's two major war commemorations' outreach programs. He demonstrated how rethinking approaches to collection work and digitization materials selection can provide archivists time to facilitate greater social media content, lead to better collection and item descriptions, and result in better public and donor relations. Also, the workshop explored how to generate engaging content beyond the normal "this is what it is" collection social media posts common to many archives. Participants were led through a hands-on exercise related to post content creation to demonstrate the effect of various content approaches on users. The target audience was any archives, museum, or public history professional looking to get more engaged social media content. Technical requirements are a computer and web browser. No prerequisite knowledge or experience was needed.

The Professional Development Committee is still taking proposals for virtual workshops or virtual panel presentations, please visit <u>https://societyofsouthwestarchivists.wildapricot.org/Workshop-Proposals</u>.

The Professional Development Committee has spent time editing the committee's guidelines to reflect any changes that may have occurred during the course of the year, including logistical updates related to the 2023 Annual pre-conference workshops.

As always, we are open to hearing your ideas! Send us an email at <u>pdc@southwestarchivists.org</u>.

Membership

Blake Relle, Membership Committee Chair

The Membership Committee is happy to report that 5 people have joined our ranks since the last newsletter, giving SSA a current total of 503 active members.

Anyone wishing to participate in a committee can contact the Membership Chair at membership@southwestarchivists.org to help facilitate your involvement.





I hope everyone is staying cool this summer! The Site Selection Committee is now accepting proposals to host the 2026 Annual Meeting. If you are interested in submitting a proposal but not sure where to start, visit the <u>Annual Meeting page</u> on the SSA website. Don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or would like assistance in creating your proposal. Please direct all questions, and send your proposals, to <u>siteselection@southwestarchivists.org</u>.

Leadership Log Blake Relle, Leadership Log Liaison, Publications Committee



Mark Lambert, formerly Deputy Director for Archives and Records at the Texas General Land Office, has recently been promoted to Senior Deputy Director for Heritage, where he now has oversight over the Alamo and the Archives and Records Division of the GLO.

Have you recently been promoted? Have you changed employment? Accepted an award?

We want to acknowledge your accomplishments and service! Please email your submissions to Blake Relle, Leadership Log Liaison blakerellessa@gmail.com



The Publications Committee is still in need of a state liaison for Arkansas. If you are interested in this position and would like to learn more about the roles and responsibilities, please email ssaeditor@southwestarchivists.org.

If you have interns or student workers at your institutions, we welcome their article submissions to *The Southwest Archivist.* We'd love to hear about their experiences and projects from their perspective. We know how valuable scholarly engagement is in our field, and we hope to serve as a resource for interns and student workers as they grow in the profession. Please visit the newsletter page for submission guidelines.

It's never too early to be thinking about scholarship opportunities!

Abbie Weiser, Scholarships Committee

2024 SCHOLARSHIPS

It's never too early to start thinking about scholarship opportunities! Four SSA scholarships are available to assist with professional development, student expenses, and annual meeting attendance!

Applications open November 15, 2023

More information and applications are at

https://societyofsouthwestarchivists.wildapricot.org/Scholarships-Awards

2024 SSA Scholarship Committee

Abbie Weiser, University of New Mexico (Chair) Meagan May, University of North Texas (Vice-Chair) Melissa Gonzales, Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco, Immediate Past President Penny Clark, Lamar University, 2023 Hebert Scholarship Recipient Amanda Fisher, Baylor University

Have questions? Need assistance or accessibility intervention? Don't hesitate to email the SSA Scholarships Committee Chair, Abbie Weiser, at <u>scholarships@southwestarchivists.org</u>





I was delighted to receive the A. Otis Hebert, Jr. Continuing Education Scholarship which enabled me to attend the SSA Annual Meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico. I was so excited to hone my professional skills at the conference but faced many obstacles including a lost contact lens, a missed flight, lost luggage, and a broken cell phone. I finally overcame all of these issues and was enjoying a workshop on digitization of archival collections when I became ill. Although I missed the end of the workshop, I recovered and enjoyed and learned from the rest of the conference. I was particularly inspired by the TARO Brown Bag event. As my institution has benefited from being one of the institutions that has our archival inventories converted to EAD and uploaded to the web site, I came home inspired to fully utilize this great opportunity. My goal is to send ten inventories to TARO

by the end of summer. While that might seem like a modest achievement, for a small repository with limited staff this is a practical goal.



I was fascinated by seeing a conservation treatment for rolled documents at the Zimmerman Library at the University of New Mexico.



Karl and Wendy Ossoinig are vendors who have been at many SSA meetings. I met Wendy at the 2015 SSA conference and she has crafted over 100 beautiful for our collection of rare and valuable cookbooks.

100 Years of The Texas Collection at Baylor University (continued from page 5)



A series of 12 posters were created to publicize the milestone. The entire series can be viewed here: https://www.baylor.edu/library/index.php?id=987332

So far in 2023, The Texas Collection has hosted Baylor's Library Board of Advisors and hosted a panel discussion with Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) Director Gloria Meraz and Texas Library Association (TLA) President Mary Woodard, we've worked with our Digital Scholarship team to scan historic maps of Waco and the Baylor campus in a georeferencing project and hosted a discussion commemorating the 70th anniversary of the devastating 1953 Waco tornado. Upcoming events include a historic film showcase, another featured speaker, and a celebratory event at The Texas Collection around Baylor's annual homecoming weekend. We also created a dynamic exhibit featuring highlights of The Texas Collection, worked with our Marketing & Communications team to create stickers, t-shirts, pencils and posters, and selected the slogan 'Texas, Your Texas' as our theme. (William J. Marsh

donated the original hand-written composition of the state song 'Texas, Our Texas' to The Texas Collection as part of the Baylor Centennial in 1945.)



Ms. Aleph Tanner – first teacher of college-level Texas History class at Baylor

On June 13, 2023, The Texas Collection officially entered our second century of collecting, preserving, and making primary sources of Texas history available to the Baylor community and general public. As we move into the future, we will take the momentum of 2023 into 2024, and continue to explore how best to make our collections more visible and accessible.

For more information, please contact Jeff Pirtle at Jeff_Pirtle@baylor.edu, or call (254) 710-1268.



Dr. Kenneth Aynesworth – benefactor of The Texas Collection

Preventing the Erasure of African American History Through the Society of Southwest Archivists' State Partnerships and Outreach Committee *T. DeWayne Moore, Assistant Professor of History, Prairie View A&M University*



I'm an Assistant Professor of History at Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU), and I serve as the principal investigator for the <u>Digital PV Panther</u> <u>Project</u>, a National Endowment for the Humanities grant-funded initiative to digitize and disseminate the archival collections at PVAMU. I've published peer-reviewed articles in the Public Historian and

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Gore Research Center and the Center for Popular Music, I visited the archives at PVAMU's John B. Coleman Library. I wanted to incorporate primary sources into my courses from the manuscript collections at the first publicly supported Historically Black College & University (HBCU) in the state of Texas, which was built atop the former slave labor

UNC-Chapel Hill's Southern Cultures journal, and I recently published several essays with the **University Press** of Mississippi. In addition, I'm the Executive Director of the Mt. Zion Memorial Fund, a Mississippi non-profit dedicated to historic preservation, participatory memorialization,



Team members of the Digital PV Panther Project at PVAMU - (L to R) Lindsay Boknight, Allena Preston, Kasedi Eason, D'Asia Johnson, Caleb Brookins, Noah Jackson, and Kalayah Jammer

and the responsible practice of public history. Recently, I was honored to accept an invitation to serve on the Society of Southwest Archivist's State Partnerships and Outreach Committee, which gave me an award in 2021 to present my research at an academic conference, and I encourage other members of the SSA to attend the academic and professional meetings of allied professions to promote research in the archives.

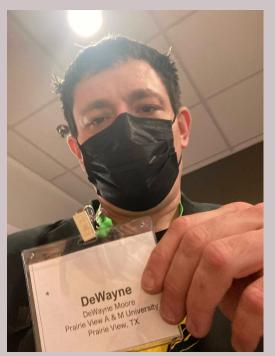
In the summer of 2020, the chair of the History program at Prairie View A&M University hired me to work as a History Lecturer I, and I moved to Texas. Having earned an MA in Archival & Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University, where I received an assistantship to work at the Albert referred to the erasure of African American history.

clearly than ever what it

meant when scholars

The Special Collections & Archives Department on the fifth floor of PVAMU's John B. Coleman Library demonstrated the negative impact of racial segregation. The amount of violence in the absence of resources and processed collections revealed—as much as the unmarked graves of slaves on campus—what never existed: an autonomous space carved out by the descendants of slaves that sits outside the clutches of a terrorizing state apparatus. Racial segregation was about resource hoarding, as historian Jeanne Theoharris argues, and desegregation must be about an equitable re-distribution of resources. Thus, I decided to acquire the resources we needed through grants, and I submitted proposals worth more Continued on page 13 **Preventing the Erasure of African American History Through the Society of Southwest Archivists' State Partnerships and Outreach Committee** (Continued from page 12)





Dr. DeWayne Moore with his badge after signing in at the AASLH conference in Little Rock, Arkansas in September 2021.

than \$600,000 over the next six months to the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Texas State Library & Archives Commission, the Social Science Research Council, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, Humanities Texas, and the Summerlee Foundation.

I sought out all funding sources on the federal, state, and private level, and I worked hard to establish a foundation of successful grants on which we could build in the future. I also submitted proposals to academic conferences so that I could network with other public historians, learn about the cutting-edge technologies used in museum exhibitions, and raise the profile of my institution. I wanted to develop relationships with archivists and other history professionals, particularly those interested in doing their part to redress the legacy of slavery and segregation in the archives.

In the summer of 2021, I organized a panel with several of my colleagues that focused on "Redressing The Legacy of Slavery and Segregation," and we

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submitted a proposal to the American Association of State and Local History (AASLH) & American Museum Association (AMA), which combined their annual meetings to take place in Little Rock, Arkansas in September. Once our proposal was accepted, my colleagues and I had to acquire funding to present at the conference. Thus, I started looking for grant opportunities in our region, because the PVAMU archives was not the only institution on campus lacking resources.

While conducting literature review online about archival studies, particularly those addressing the antiquated ethics of neutrality, I located issues of The Southwestern Archivist, the official publication of the Society of Southwest Archivists (SSA), which had a very useful website with professional development and funding opportunities. In 2015, the SSA decided to set aside \$5,000 each year to establish the Community Outreach Fund (COF) to support outreach events or programs that promote archives to the general public. And, in 2021, the SSA decided to set aside \$3,000 each year to establish the State Partnerships and Outreach Fund (SPOF), which intended to offset the costs (registration and/or travel and lodging) of presenting at academic and professional meetings of allied professions (i.e. history, genealogy, museum studies, etc.).

The SPOF sounded like a perfect opportunity for our panel presentation at the AASLH conference, but it was only available to members. Thus, I immediately purchased an individual membership to the SSA, and I submitted a proposal requesting \$500 to support the costs of travel to Arkansas. In no time, I received a very glowing letter of acceptance from the SSA, and the chair of the SPOF committee mailed a check for the full amount. Whereas other grant programs have very strict rules about reporting, the SPOF made it very easy to accept the award as well as dispense with the funds, which indeed reduced the costs of presenting at the AASLH conference.

The maximum award amount from the SPOF is \$600, Continued on page 14 **Preventing the Erasure of African American History Through the Society of Southwest Archivists' State Partnerships and Outreach Committee** (Continued from page 13)





Dr. Brian Mitchell, the Director of Research at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum in Springfield, Illinois, explains his research during our panel discussion on "Redressing the Legacy of Slavery & Segregation" at the AASLH conference in Little Rock, Arkansas in September 2021.

but I managed to acquire \$1,000 to support our travel from the Mellon Center for Faculty Excellence at PVAMU, and I wanted to make sure the SSA had enough funding to support several other applicants. Thus, I only requested \$500, which left \$2,500 for other applicants. At the time, however, I did not know that the SSA had not received any other applications in 2021. In fact, the SSA has not received any additional applications for funding through the SPOF since my award, and I am writing this piece to promote the SPOF.

At the AASLH conference, I connected with several public historians who have since agreed to donate their services in-kind on matching grants, which allowed us to acquire additional funding to process and digitize the collections in the PVAMU archives. We have rehoused and processed the manuscript collections of more than 30 former professors and administrators who worked at PVAMU. We have also created finding

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aids for each of the collections and digitized them. We recently finished rehousing and processing over 100 linear feet of documents in the Cooperative Extension and Home Demonstration Collection, which details the activities of the Cooperative Extension Service to improve the lives of African Americans in Texas from the 1920s to the 1970s. You can read more about our work on our website for the Digital PV Panther Project at www.pvpantherproject.com, which allows us to update sponsors on our progress and promote transparency in the field. We are always looking to build new relationships, and we need much more help in the future to prevent the erasure of African American history at PVAMU. I want to thank the SSA for funding our efforts to build relationships in 2021, and I encourage other members to take advantage of this opportunity. We do not want the \$3,000 set aside for this fund to go to waste in the future. For more information on the SPOC fund, visit the SSA website. Applications or inquiries can be emailed to spoc@southwestarchivists.org



The conference attendees for our panel discussion on "Redressing the Legacy of Slavery & Segregation" at the AASLH conference in Little Rock, Arkansas in September 2021.



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We're happy to announce that a new resource, "Mutual Aid at Work" is now available online at https://sites.google.com/view/mutualaidatwork/ and in a PDF version you can download from the About Us/How to Use This Resource section.

"Mutual Aid at Work" provides organizers with a resource to form their own mutual aid networks in the Library, Archive, and Museum (LAM) community, brings awareness to existing mutual aid groups and efforts to support LAM workers, and provides possible pathways organizers may take. It includes relevant examples from the workplace and challenges organizers to interrogate what they define as their community.

A group from the <u>Archival Workers Collective</u> and the <u>Digital Library Federation's Labor Working Group</u> coalesced around their mutual aid activities during 2020-2021 in the midst of the global COVID-19 pandemic. Since that time, additional collaborators have contributed to the shared desire to motivate LAM workers in the United States to create informed mutual aid networks as a foundation for connecting with and organizing colleagues to take collective action. The contributors hope that these mutual aid networks will communally address issues of precarious employment and limited access to critical resources highlighted by, but not originating from, the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a living resource, suggested revisions, additional examples and exercises, and recommended resources may be sent to archival-workers-collective[at]googlegroups.com. The contributors also encourage those using this resource to re-interpret and re-purpose it to suit their needs in whatever way makes sense and provides immediate relief, comfort and security. Both the website and the PDF version of the text are available under the Creative Commons license.

Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0).

In solidarity, from our many contributors, including Lauren Goodley, Katharina Hering, Mary Kidd, Carli V. Lowe, Caitlin Rizzo, Sandy Rodriguez, Lydia Tang, Jennifer Wachtel, Amy Wickner, and Karly Wildenhaus.



A Perspective: Why Hybrid and Inclusive Annual Meetings Must Be SSA's Standard Practice Dylan McDonald, CA, New Mexico State University Library





A fully hybrid and inclusive annual meeting should be the standard practice of the Society of Southwest Archivists (SSA) following the success of April's meeting in Albuquerque. The benefits of gathering together, learning from one another, and sharing our archival problem-solving successes should no longer belong exclusively to those fortunate enough to have institutional support or sufficient disposable income for professional travel. Additionally, SSA should strive to remove accessibility barriers to attending and participating in our yearly meeting for those with impaired mobility, vision, or hearing. When selecting a host site and drafting a program, the organization should also consider those members dealing with issues of dependent care and social anxiety. While these may seem tall orders, SSA has the tools, talent, and budget to make this commitment a standard practice for future Local Arrangements (LAC) and Program committees.

As a profession, we have made great strides in making our collections accessible. The field has worked purposefully to develop digital access to our collections as a standard practice. Archivists across the region thoughtfully examine barriers to patron access, including registration processes, fees, hours of operation, and reading room rules. The legacy of past descriptive practices, laden with insensitive and discriminatory terms and labels, has prompted many archivists to initiate corrective efforts and the drafting of new standards. Archivists across the Southwest are joining community archival efforts that push back against the institutional collecting model and envision a

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way to better serve marginalized and underserved groups. These efforts are commendable. Let us now work toward making good on SSA's mission to "foster opportunities for education and training" by ensuring accessibility to our instructional offerings and meetings.

In order for SSA to be more inclusive, to celebrate diversity, and to develop equity, what easier way than establishing a hybrid annual meeting as the standard practice going forward? By doing so we are indicating to members and potential members that SSA leadership is determined to use the tools available to bridge physical distances, reduce individual costs, and allow participation regardless of a member's location and abilities. To participate in SSA events, the monetary burden placed on individual archivists who are unsupported by employers and lack personal disposable income conducive to travel should be minimized. Attending a conference usually requires registration, travel, room, and board. By eliminating most of these costs to virtual attendees, SSA will reach audiences who previously could not participate. This is an easy way to improve equity and inch toward greater inclusivity.

It is natural to question the hard costs and organizational capacity of hybridity. Ubiquitous video conferencing tools like Zoom, WebEx, and Google Meet have proven their value to the world through developing a low-cost product that allows for wide use by individuals regardless of physical ability; we should question any call to gather that excludes their use given the advantage they afford. The addition of Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART) and American Sign Language (ASL) interpreting services during this year's plenary session also showed commitment to inclusivity. The hard costs to make the Albuquerque conference hybrid and more inclusive were just under \$2,000, a small percentage when considering the meeting's total price tag topped \$53,000. By taking on this cost the organization is passing on potential savings to its membership as well as welcoming annual meeting participation for those





Screenshot of SSA's 2023 Annual Meeting. Virtual participants were able to see the speaker, presentation, and attendees in the physical meeting room.

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members previously priced out, as well as potential members curious about SSA's educational offerings. The vendors contracted to assist with the hybrid effort operate nearly seamlessly with the hosting facility's infrastructure. As this hybridity is becoming the standard fare for hotels and convention centers, the service will undoubtedly improve and require less of SSA's volunteer organizing committees. Knowing how complex this endeavor could be, the Albuquerque LAC is developing an iterative how-to guide for future use.

When surveying attendees after this year's meeting, the LAC was ecstatic to learn that over 90% of the 80 respondents felt that SSA should convene hybrid conferences in the future. Despite some growing pains regarding video conferencing and hardware logistics, the

effort paid off. Let us sustain the momentum of SSA's successful 2023 Albuquerque hybrid conference, by committing to future meetings that normalize access for all. Perhaps the surplus generated from the Albuquerque conference could be put toward expanded CART services during the 2024 virtual meeting? I look forward to attending the 2025 Lafayette meeting that offers accessibility as a core value.



A Trio of TARO Workshops

Krishna Shenoy, Temporary Project Archivist, Southern Methodist University





Attendees at UTEP TARO workshop with instructors Amanda Focke and Robert Weaver

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The Texas Archival Resources Online (TARO) completed its Spring offering of workshops for encoding and submitting finding aids to TARO. These free workshops were sponsored by the Texas Historical Records Advisory Board (THRAB) with the aim of enhancing access to materials from historical and genealogical societies, archives, museums, libraries, colleges, local governments and other institutions across Texas' archival collections.

Sessions were held at Texas Tech University, Lubbock, UT-Rio Grande Valley, Edinburg, and UT-El Paso with a total of over 20 participants across the sessions.

Attendees ranged from institutions who have been longtime TARO members to new members who are creating their very first EAD finding aids.

Archivists learned the history, requirements, and benefits of joining and contributing to TARO. The bulk of the workshop was spent working with a fictional finding-aid, (the Theopolis Thunderbolt Papers), and learning hands-on skills for how to code the finding aid into XML language.

Instructors for these sessions were Amy Bowman, Photo Archivist, Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin, Amanda Focke, Head of Special Collections, Fondren Library, Rice University, and Robert Weaver, Manuscript Archivist, Southwest Collection, Texas Tech University.



University of Texas at El Paso, University Library



University of Texas at El Paso Special Collections located in the University Library



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TARO Texas Archival Resources Online

News and accomplishments:

- We've been pleased to welcome the following new members this calendar year: East Texas Research Center at Stephen F. Austin State University; Tarlton Law Library at the University of Texas at Austin; Baylor University, Arts & Special Collections Research Center; and Archives of the Big Bend
- On March 28, 2023, TARO crossed 18,000 total finding aids on the site!
- The TARO Standards Subcommittee held an online session on the newest Best Practice Guidelines on February 13.
- TARO held three in-person training sessions this spring, on March 20 at Texas Tech, on April 17 at UT-Rio Grande Valley, and on May 25 at UT-El Paso.
- We held our usual Brown Bag presentation at the Society of Southwest Archivists conference in Albuquerque on April 27.

NAFAN update

TARO was one of twelve finding aid aggregator partners in the NAFAN (Building a National Finding Aid Network) initiative, which was conducted from 2020 through early 2023 under a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). This summer, NAFAN issued five reports documenting the work and findings of the project, with particular emphasis on issues identified by archival practitioners that a national finding aid network could mitigate. Those issues include the need for better connectivity and discoverability between existing sites, access challenges, training and informational needs, and the historiographical consequences of inequities of access to and representation in archival collections. TARO looks forward to



TALK OF THE REGION

continuing its collaboration with the NAFAN initiative to maximize usability, interoperability, discoverability, and equity in Texas collections.

Up next

Are you interested in professional service opportunities with TARO? Stay tuned for our upcoming nominations. This year, TARO will be seeking nominations for Steering Committee Vice Chair/Chair Elect, as well as two at-large nominations. Elections will take place in November for those positions, and our various subcommittees always welcome additional interest and involvement! Please contact Steering Committee chair Maristella Feustle (Maristella.Feustle@unt.edu) for more information.

Two additional projects TARO is pursuing in the second half of 2023 are planning and implementing site upgrades for TARO Today, the companion site to the finding aids, which contains news, information, and documentation, as well as taking steps to implement the strategic plan drafted and approved last year.

Join TARO!

If your institution is interested in joining TARO, there are two ways to join that accommodate a variety of levels of experience and available labor for producing and uploading the EAD finding aids that appear on TARO. One is our New Member Initiative, funded by a grant from the Summerlee foundation, which offers vendor encoding of finding aids with the aim of helping new or currently inactive TARO repositories add their finding aids to the site. The project currently has 15 members, and we are actively recruiting new ones. Robert Weaver, past chair of TARO, supervises this effort with the support of volunteers providing quality assurance. The other way to participate is if your institution already encodes its own finding aids: Please contact TARO Steering Committee Chair <u>Maristella.Feustle@unt.edu</u> for information on joining TARO, on our best-practice guidelines, and other details. We look forward to hearing from you!

Stay in Touch

TARO Today blog: <u>http://sites.utexas.edu/taro/</u> TARO working wiki: <u>http://texastaro.pbworks.com/</u>





Hopi Kachina Dolls Still Have A Lot to Teach Us Caden Summers, Intern, The Wittliff Collections





REPOSITORY NEWS

Wittliff Collection interns Caden Summers and Annemarie Teagle worked on an interdisciplinary project to research Hopi artifacts. Caden applied a scientific approach to these cultural objects. Their work culminated in an exhibition on display at The Wittliff through Summer 2023.

"Scratching the Surface" is an interdisciplinary approach to examining Hopi Kachina dolls. These dolls hold symbolic meaning in the tribe and correspond to different Kachinas – or spirits – in Hopi culture. They are

Wittliff interns Caden Summers and Annemarie Teagle installing the Kachina doll exhibition.

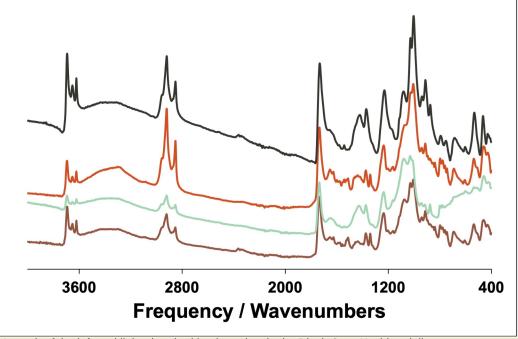
traditionally given to children to pass down important spiritual or cultural beliefs. The dolls in The Wittliff, collected by Southwestern historian Marc Simmons, are representative of the types of symbolic dolls that are given or sold to individuals outside the Hopi tribe. Through this collection we can still learn a lot about how the Hopi craft, decorate and use Kachina dolls in their culture and religion.

We often study art in terms of its qualitative, societal impact. Complementary to this is a more objective, scientific approach, whereby we analyze the materials used in art pieces. Kachina dolls exhibit a vibrant array of colors by virtue of the varieties of pigments and materials at the disposal of Hopi people. These materials can be identified through analytical techniques to reveal chemical information about the composition and connectivity of atoms. For example, most materials absorb and emit characteristic wavelengths/frequencies of light, which we can exploit in spectroscopy —a non-destructive family of techniques that involve the interaction of light with matter.

For our analysis of Kachina dolls, we used infrared spectroscopy to identify the main components present in the paints used by the Hopi people. When a material absorbs infrared light, its bonds vibrate to a greater extent. The frequency of vibrations depends on the molecule and is characteristic of specific arrangements of atoms. Instead, in ultraviolet–visible spectroscopy a material absorbs ultraviolet or visible light, which excites the outer electrons of its atoms to higher energy levels. This gap between energy levels is characteristic of a material, and any light

Hopi Kachina Dolls Still Have A Lot to Teach Us (continued from page 21)





REPOSITORY NEWS

that is not absorbed is reflected. Consequently, the material appears as the complementary color of the absorbed light. Lastly, energy-dispersive X-ray spectroscopy sees us excite a material with an electron beam, whence core electrons are expelled to leave behind holes that are subsequently filled by electrons in higher energy levels. As these latter electrons relax to lower energy levels, the materials emit X-rays characteristics of the atoms present.

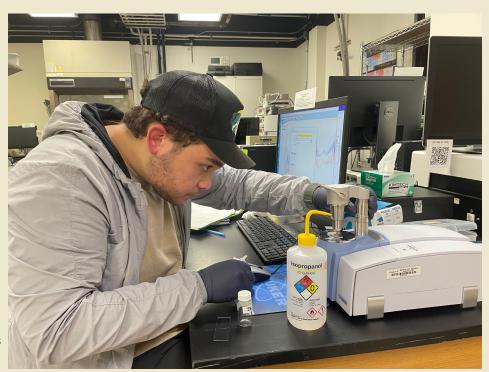
Aside from spectroscopic methods, scanning electron

A graph of the infrared light absorbed by the paints in the Black Ogre Kachina doll.

microscopy is a valuable tool to visualize the composition of woods and other materials used to craft the dolls. Electrons have much shorter wavelengths than most light, which enables an electron microscope to capture minute details beyond the resolution of a traditional light microscope.

From this interdisciplinary project, important advancements in preservation, conservation and interpretation can be made. It provides vital insights into the materials used, and an understanding of what they represent. Through non-destructive art sampling, we can unlock the mysteries held within masterpieces, understanding artists' visions, techniques, and the story behind each Kachina doll.

Caden Summers testing paint samples from a Kachina doll.



SOUTHWESTERN ARCHIVIST 23

Collections on the Dew Drop Inn of New Orleans and Musician Louis Prima Are Open to Researchers *Melissa A. Weber, Curator/Librarian II, Tulane University Special Collections*

REPOSITORY NEWS

The Hogan Archive of New Orleans Music and New Orleans Jazz, a unit of Tulane University Special Collections (TUSC) is pleased to announce two new collections open for research: the Louis Prima collection and *The Legend of the Dew Drop Inn* documentary interviews.

The Prima collection is 38.92 linear feet, and includes personal papers, business papers, correspondence, sheet music, photographs, publicity materials, ephemera, and audiovisual materials related to the influential Italian American musician and recording artist. Prima's entertainment career spanned five decades, and encompassed music writing and performance, motion pictures, and pioneering recording industry practices as a bandleader and record label owner. With trumpet and vocals being his primary instruments, he cited Louis Armstrong as an influence, and became a leading ambassador of New Orleans jazz beginning in the 1930s, and a popular Las Vegas headliner beginning in the 1950s. Walt Disney Pictures based its 1967 Oscar-nominated, animated film, The Jungle Book, on Prima, who provided his voice for the character of orangutan "King Louis." He was the first New Orleanian to win a GRAMMY, awarded during the Recording Academy's first ceremony in 1959, and given in the Best Performance by a Vocal Group or Chorus category for Louis Prima & Keely Smith's version of "That Old Black Magic." <u>Click here</u> for the finding aid.

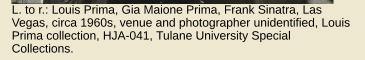
The Legend of the Dew Drop Inn documentary interviews by Julia Dorn consists of footage filmed in 2004 and 2005 for an unfinished film about the historical, social, and cultural impact of the famed Dew Drop Inn complex,

which included one of the foremost Black-owned entertainment venues of pre-integration New Orleans during the 1940s through the 1960s. In addition to the music club, the Dew Drop Inn boasted an accompanying hotel, restaurant, and barber shop. It catered to African American customers and entertainers during segregation, and would become renowned for early performances of legendary rhythm and blues and rock 'n' roll musicians, such as iconic New Orleans artists like Fats Domino, Irma Thomas, and Allen Toussaint. The video collection has

Collections.

been digitized and is available to view online via the <u>Tulane University Digital Library</u>.

Tulane University Special Collections is a division of Tulane University Libraries, located in New Orleans. TUSC units include the Hogan Archive of New Orleans Music and New Orleans Jazz, Louisiana Research Collection, Rare Books Collection, Southeastern Architectural Archive, and University Archives. To learn more, visit <u>library.tulane.edu/tusc</u> or email <u>specialcollections@tulane.edu</u>.





Exterior of the Dew Drop Inn, 2836 LaSalle Street in New Orleans, 1953; photographer: Ralston Crawford, Ralston

Crawford collection of jazz photography, Hogan Archive of New

Orleans Music and New Orleans Jazz, Tulane University Special



24 SOUTHWESTERN ARCHIVIST

Faced with hundreds of 30-year-old snapshots from the Fort Worth Hebrew Day School, two archives' volunteers hit on a novel way to identify students and stage a reunion among friends. Rebecca Isgur, former principal at the parochial school, and Sheila Stocker, the school's longtime education chair, staged an "Archives Tea."

REPOSITORY NEWS

More than twenty-five guests, including a mother-daughter team, gathered at Fort Worth's Congregation Ahavath Sholom for the tea and to reminisce and to recall exactly who the children were in all those photos. They were old friends who used to see one another most every day when they were involved with launching and building a top-notch private school from the ground up.

The Fort Worth Hebrew Day School had initially operated from 1981 to May of 1989 at Congregation Ahavath Sholom. After years of fundraising through grants, galas, and auctions, in 1989, students, parents, alumni, and supporters celebrated the opening of a 22,000 square-foot schoolhouse on the grounds of the Dan Danziger Jewish Community Center. The school enrolled children from kindergarten through eighth grade. Among the student body were a sprinkling of immigrants from the Soviet Union and Israeli youngsters whose parents were assigned to train at General Dynamics and later Lockheed. The school proved to be a melting pot within the Fort Worth Jewish community.

Sadly, as the Day School grew and its enrollment increased, the Jewish Community Center (JCC) was losing members and operating at a deficit. Although the Day School owned its building, the road leading to it was on the JCC's property. The ailing JCC was sold in May 1999. With that, the Hebrew Day School lost its schoolhouse and its visibility. It moved back to Congregation Ahavath Sholom, but its enrollment shrank, and the school ceased operations in 2007.

When Rebecca Isgur volunteered in 2022 to spend one morning a week in the Fort Worth Jewish Archives, her special project became boxes of Hebrew Day School memorabilia, documents, yearbooks, scrapbooks, art projects, and photos. She recruited her friend Sheila Stocker, an educator who on multiple occasions has been recognized as Public School Teacher of the Year. This team is off to a good start!For more information please contact Hollace Ava Weiner at hollaceava@gmail.com.

Continued on page 25

Sylvia Weiner and her daughter Jenny, an alumna of the Hebrew Day School, identify her former classmates in a group picture. Next time around, the plan is to invite alumni rather than moms.

For weeks in advance, they sorted photos by year, designed adhesive labels for the back of each print, and invited dozens of moms to drop by one afternoon last April. On tables covered with bright pink linens, scrapbooks lay open alongside magnifying glasses, pens, and sharpened pencils.

At a check-in-table, also set with a bright pink tablecloth, hostesses had poured iced tea and lemonade and set out plates of cookies alongside a vase filled with lilacs and a peach-colored iris.







A magnifying glass, pens and pencils helped the identification process.





A sign-in table, set with flowers, iced tea, and cookies, welcomed participants.

FWHDS

Date:

Activity

Names L - R

To get the proper metadata for the photos, the volunteers designed adhesive labels on the back of the prints. The labels ask for the date, occasion, and identities from left to right.

Makers and Menders: The Sykes Brothers and Flagstaff's Early History Melissa Valenzuela, Lowell Observatory Archives

If you could start a new life anywhere in the world, where would you go? That was the question Godfrey and Stanley Sykes asked themselves as young men setting off from England in the late 1800s, searching for economic opportunities and adventure. After a couple of detours in New York, Kansas, and Texas, the brothers put down roots in Flagstaff, Arizona where

they hoped to make their dreams of building a successful cattle ranch come true.

Godfrey Sykes' memoir, A Westerly Trend, is full of his fantasies about the Wild West-most of which were rooted in fiction rather than fact; he gained many of his ideas about the west from his favorite childhood novel. The Headless Horseman by Mayne Reid. But what he found in the Southwest was not a rag-tag settlement overflowing with cattle and run by the cowboys of his boyhood imagination. The Sykes brothers had come to Flagstaff in the 1890s at the decline of cattle ranching and the boom of both the railroad and lumber industries. To keep themselves afloat financially, they utilized their engineering skills and started a bicycle

A display case titled *The Wild & Wooly West* in the newest exhibit, *The Sykes Brothers: Makers and Menders* at Lowell Observatory. Photo courtesy of Melissa Valenzuela

repair shop in downtown Flagstaff that changed the course of their lives and cemented them in Flagstaff's history forever.

Observatory's campus and Flagstaff's skyline. Our newest exhibit in the Putnam Collection Center at Lowell Observatory highlights the life and legacy of the Sykes brothers, from their Westward journey to

sibling, the Lawrence Lowell

iconic feature of both Lowell

"Pluto" dome, and serves as an



The Makers and Menders shop—located on present day Aspen Avenue in Historic Downtown Flagstaff—advertised the Sykes brothers' ability to make or mend "any old thing," and local Flagstaff residents took their word very seriously. Before they knew it, the brothers had expanded from bike repairs to fixing cameras, music boxes, pocket watches, and

> just about anything that entered their little shop. Their advertisement also piqued the interest of influential Flagstaff residents, including Percival Lowell, founder of Lowell **Observatory**. Lowell happened to be in the market for engineers to design and construct a dome for his new Clark Telescope, and despite their inexperience with a project of that scale, Stanley and Godfrey agreed to take on the challenge in 1895. The brothers were also involved in various projects around the observatory's campus, including the construction of the Lawrence Lowell telescope that was later used to discover Pluto in 1930. Over a hundred years later, the Clark dome stands as strong as it ever has alongside its younger





their time at Lowell and beyond. *The Sykes Brothers: Makers and Menders* discusses some of the challenges that awaited the brothers and other settlers in the western frontier, as well as the mark they left within the local community. We were fortunate enough to receive donations from their family members, including Stanley Sykes' great-granddaughters Diana and Theresa Gabaldon, who provided us with personal items like photographs and sketchbooks that belonged to the brothers. With the help of a local resident who resides on Stanley Sykes' old property in Flagstaff, we were also able to create a small environmental display of the Makers and Menders workshop. Other artifacts, such as Godfrey Sykes' saddle and prosthetic leg, are featured on display courtesy of the Arizona Historical Society. Our hope is that visitors will appreciate the roles that the Sykes brothers played in our early history, as well as the risks and rewards that come with following your dreams into the unknown.



Lowell Observatory Archives Staff from left to right: Melissa Valenzuela, Stacey Christen, and Lauren Amundson at the opening of *The Sykes Brothers: Makers and Menders*, June 9, 2023. Photo courtesy of Mary DeMuth.



Rosenberg Library's Galveston & Texas History Center is home to collections documenting the accomplishments of two renowned lifesavers: Carmelo Bertolino and LeRoy Colombo. Nicknamed the "Dean of Galveston's Lifeguards," Carmelo "Charles" Bertolino was born in Galveston on September 4, 1887, to Italian immigrants and worked as a commercial fisherman and baker. While never officially employed as a lifeguard with the City of Galveston, he was credited with rescuing 500 people from drowning in Galveston's waters, including during the Storm of 1915 when he reportedly pulled survivors from floodwaters while riding a boat. His exploits earned him medals from the American Red Cross and a commendation in 1936 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Bertolino died on March 8, 1960. On August 2, 1961, the Texas State Senate passed Resolution No. 54 in his memory, mourning the loss of "a great and good man whose deeds shall long be remembered." On March 3, 1996, about one-hundred people, including members of the Bertolino family, gathered at the Galveston Seawall to dedicate a monument to him erected by the Texas Historical Commission.

Like Bertolino, Peter LeRoy Colombo was also the child of Italian immigrants. He lost his hearing and partial use of his legs to spinal meningitis when he was 7 years old. His brothers worked to rehabilitate him by dragging him up and down the alley behind their house and taking him to the Gulf of Mexico, where he later learned how to swim, until he regained full feeling in his legs.

He went on to work as a volunteer lifeguard who reportedly saved approximately a thousand lives (the 1976 edition of the Guinness Book of World Records recorded 907 people rescued). One of his most renowned rescues occurred on March 13, 1928, when he saved two crew members of the tugboat Propeller from drowning after the *Propeller* caught fire at Galveston Harbor.

Colombo was also a competitive swimmer. On September 5, 1927, Colombo won a



LeRoy Colombo swimming. Name Files Photographic Collection, Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Texas.

Two Galveston Lifesavers (Continued from page 28)





15-mile race in the Gulf sponsored by the Surf Toboggan Club, an elite group of volunteer lifeguards that he joined when he was 15. He finished in just eleven and a half hours — three and a half hours ahead of his brother, Cinto. In both races, only one other swimmer finished along with him; the other racers dropped out because of cramps or injury.

Colombo died on July 12, 1974. Six days later, Galveston City Council passed a resolution grieving his death. The Texas State Senate followed suit with

LeRoy Colombo at the beach, Name Files Photographic Collection, Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Texas.

a resolution adopted on April 25, 1975. In 2006, the natatorium at the Texas School for the Deaf in Austin, which Colombo attended for several years in his youth, was named in his honor. Finally, in 2008 the Texas Historical Commission established and dedicated a historical marker to Colombo on the Seawall, just over three and a half miles southwest of Bertolino's marker.

Bertolino and Colombo's accomplishments are available for research at GTHC, courtesy of Donald Mark Mize (1949-2013), a former member of the Galveston Historical Foundation whose research notes

REPOSITORY NEWS

were instrumental in the designations of their markers. These notes are included in the Donald Mark Mize papers on Carmelo Bertolino (MS2006-0012) and the Leroy Colombo Research Notebook (MS2010-0005). GTHC also has two scrapbooks containing news clippings, photographs, and correspondence pertaining to Colombo's life and career in the LeRoy Colombo Papers (MS81-0001). A 2013 biography on him by Jean F. Andrews titled *High Tides, Low Tides* is available in GTHC's book collection. Finally, the trophy that Colombo won during the 1927 race is housed in the Rosenberg Library Museum.



Carmelo "Charles" Bertolino on the Galveston Seawall, circa 1910. Donald Mark Mize papers on Carmelo Bertolino, MS2006-0012. Rosenberg Library, Galveston, Texas.

The University of New Mexico's Health Sciences Library and Informatics Center (HSLIC) is pleased to announce that its Carrie Tingley Hospital records have been processed and are now available for research onsite on UNM's north campus.

The Carrie Tingley Hospital for Crippled Children was created on December 1, 1936, in Hot Springs (now Truth or Consequences), New Mexico. It was named after Governor Clyde Tingley's wife, Carrie Wooster Tingley, because of her love for helping children. The hospital's goal was to give high-quality orthopedic care, specifically associated with the polio outbreaks of the early twentieth century, to New Mexico's low-income children. The hospital was located in Truth or Consequences because of its abundance of natural hot springs, a therapeutic treatment for polio at that time. Governor Clyde Tingley modeled the New Mexico rehabilitation center after the treatment center Franklin D. Roosevelt went to in Warm Springs, Georgia. It is popularly known that Carrie Tingley Hospital treated all patients, regardless of color and financial ability. This would have been progressive on New Mexico's part as many medical facilities in the U.S. were segregated at that time.

The hospital stayed in Truth or Consequences until 1981 when the hospital was relocated to Albuquerque, and ultimately became part of the University of New Mexico Health System.

HSLIC supported the processing of this important body of records through one of its seed funding grants, which are designed to help foster a variety of research and innovative projects by library employees. HSLIC hired UNM student Maxx Harrison (he/they) to review 16 boxes of unprocessed materials and physically rehouse them in acid-free archival containers and folders. Maxx used the time-saving archival processing framework More Product, Less Process (MPLP) as well as contemporaneously identified logical series/subseries structures within the boxes, and described the entire collection in an archival finding guide. This guide is now available for review via New Mexico Archives Online: <u>https://nmarchives.unm.edu/repositories/23/resources/4839</u>.

These records should be of interest to researchers in the fields of history, healthcare management, orthopedics, physical medicine, virology, and population health, among others. For those interested in Chicano literature, Rudolfo Anaya's novel *Tortuga* is based on his own experiences at Carrie Tingley Hospital.

Our thanks to Maxx for their work and contributions to this article.

Dr. William Minear performing surgery at Carrie Tingley Hospital, circa 1947-1956



Dallas Municipal Archives Announces Acquisition of Annette Strauss Papers *Kristi Nedderman, Dallas Municipal Archives*





Strauss at City of Dallas podium, undated. Courtesy Dallas Municipal Archives.

In July, the Dallas Municipal Archives acquired the papers of Annette Strauss, former mayor of the City of Dallas and civic leader. The collection will be part of the Municipal Archives and will provide a rich look at the political and personal activities of Annette Strauss, a two-term mayor from 1987 to 1991. The collection includes 26 cubic feet of correspondence, scrapbooks, photography, and campaign ephemera documenting Strauss' career.

The major acquisition was deeded to the City by Strauss' daughters, Janie McGarr and Nancy Halbreich. The papers have previously been in the care of the Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life at the University of Texas at Austin.

REPOSITORY NEWS

Mark Strama, director of the Institute, commented, "We are proud to be one of several civic institutions that carry the name and honor the legacy of Annette Strauss. The correspondence, photos, and records from her time as Mayor of Dallas are a window into the political history of the second half of the 20th century in America. But other artifacts from both before and after her tenure as mayor highlight the example she set as a citizen, bringing people together to solve community problems. The historical significance of Annette Strauss's life in public service deserves to be recognized and preserved in the Dallas Municipal Archives."

John H. Slate, city archivist, said "This collection is a time capsule of what it was like to be a strong leader in a time when there were few female mayors of major American cities. Her strength and spirit mark a pivotal time for Dallas and for the rise of women in American politics."

About Annette (Greenfield) Strauss

Annette Greenfield was born in Houston, Texas, on January 26, 1924. She moved to Dallas in 1947 with husband Ted Strauss. While raising daughters Nancy and Janie, Strauss served the Dallas community by volunteering and fundraising for educational, arts, health care and social services organizations. She participated on the Dallas Park Board, and in 1983, she won an at-large seat on the Dallas City Council (and as deputy mayor pro tem in 1984). In 1987, she was elected Mayor of Dallas, serving two terms and leaving office in 1991. Her innumerable mayoral accomplishments include supporting building of the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center, preventing Radio Station WRR from being sold, and presiding over the federally-mandated realignment of the City Council into single-member districts. Strauss is credited with being a calm, dedicated mayor who



worked tirelessly to improve Dallas.

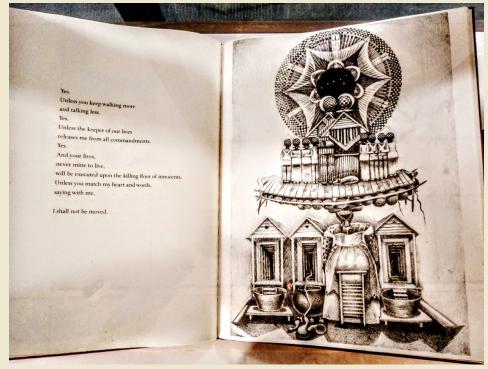
For more information about this collection, please contact Kristi Nedderman at <u>kristi.nedderman@dallas.gov</u>



'45 Bond election 2 claim to greatace well ving hallow The god news is that on hay 6th we will have The opportunity to the Rece value man fallow cretical problems by voteog to approve the no-tee excrease tond. There are no lumerice included in This proposal to cover saley the bost Face improvemente occu city Tech. The websle boud partice comes to yest under \$ 175 William, an amount the city can rafely mue without resting fiture tax increases to pay the interest on the bonds.

Top Left: Page from Annette Strauss' Scrapbook. Right: Manuscript notes on the 1995 Dallas bond election. Bottom Left: From the Annette Strauss Papers: photo contact sheet from 1987 mayoral campaign. Photos courtesy Dallas Municipal Archives.





Maya Angelou's *Our Grandmothers* (originally published in *I Shall Not Be Moved*). Angelou, Maya. *Our Grandmothers*. New York: Limited Editions Club, 1994. Rare Books, Tulane University Special Collections.

In July 2020, Tulane's Black Student Union released a list of demands and expectations calling for "institutional revolution." It was a call that referenced and echoed the demands released in 1968 by tBSU's predecessors, the Afro-American Congress of Tulane. Among ACT's many "orders of discourse" were a call for the establishment of an academic program focused on Black history and culture, for the administration to prioritize increased enrollment and retention of Black students, and for the library to increase representations of Black American voices and experiences among its collections and resources. Some of the demands have yet to be fully realized.

In light of these calls for action, Tulane University Special Collections

is pleased to have partnered with tBSU to mount an exhibition that highlights and contextualizes Black student life at Tulane over the past 60 years. "I Shall Not Be Moved": Black Student Life at Tulane, 1963-2023 seeks to invite conversation between tBSU's past and present. Featuring historical documents and photographs from Tulane University Archives and items from the Rare Books collection, the material on display was selected by tBSU's Executive Board with the assistance of TUSC archivists and librarians. The exhibition's title, chosen by tBSU, quotes Maya Angelou's 1990 poem, "Our Grandmothers," which celebrates the power and agency of her Black ancestors and community. The poem is displayed in a limited-edition folio illustrated by the artist



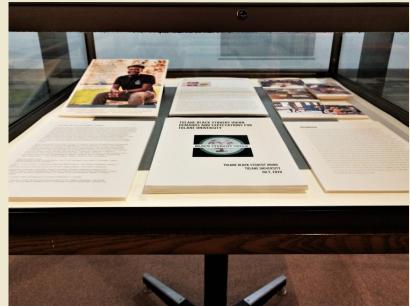
Historical documents pertaining to the founding and early activities of ACT/Tulane Black Student Union. University Archives, UA-RG23, Tulane University Special Collections.



and educator John Biggers, paired with another rare book that celebrates African American ancestors.

"I Shall Not Be Moved": Black Student Life at Tulane, 1963-2023 opened April 20, 2023 with a public reception at the Tulane University Special Collections 2nd Floor Gallery, Jones Hall, 6801 Freret Street, on Tulane University's Uptown campus. The exhibition will remain on view through October 22, 2023 from 10:00am to 4:00pm Monday through Friday. Admission is free and open to the public.

The exhibition was curated and installed by Tulane University Archivist Ann Case, Head of Research Services and Rare Books Curator Agnieszka Czeblakow, Special Collections Library Associate Faye Daigle, and Coordinator for Exhibits and Outreach Kevin Williams.



Archival material representing recent activities of Tulane Black Student Union. University Archives, UA-RG23, Tulane University Special Collections.



Tulane Black Student Life admissions booklet created by members of the Afro-American Congress of Tulane, 1971, with original photographs. University Archives, UA-RG23, Tulane University Special Collections.



A new exhibit documenting Texas television news launches July 31. Texas Archive of the Moving Image (TAMI) takes an in-depth look with *Breaking News: Rescuing the first draft of history*. The exhibit features local news footage from 16 Texas television stations. It can be viewed at: <u>TexasArchive.org</u>.

Breaking News highlights footage from the Archive's wide assortment of television news collections. It features an inside look at how broadcast professionals documented news film and videotape—from story slugs to tape labels to log books—and the challenges for modern archivists trying to decode the clues left behind.

The 2019 Local Television Preservation Summit estimated that approximately 80 percent of local television programming produced before 1995 is either missing or destroyed. The time to recover what little remains is running out. Recent data warns that essential videotape formats will become unsalvageable by 2040.

"Local television news collections are an invaluable record of the twentieth century that we will lose forever if we don't act now. Breaking News offers a rare, behind-the-scenes look at how TAMI approaches local television news preservation and why we consider that effort an urgent rescue mission," says Katharine Austin, TAMI Curator.

The exhibit features footage from Houston's KPRC and KHOU; Austin's KTBC, KVUE and KXAN; San Antonio's KSAT and WOAI; Dallas/Fort Worth's WFAA and KDFW; Midland/Odessa's KOSA; Wichita Falls'



New exhibit coming July 31 from Texas Archive of the Moving Image explores the preservation of local news footage in the Lone Star State.

KAUZ and KFDX; Beaumont's KFDM; San Angelo's KLST; Lubbock's KLBK and Laredo's KGNS.

Breaking News was created in partnership with the Texas Film Commission (TFC). Many of the archival films featured in the exhibit were digitized as a part of the Texas Film Round-Up, a statewide media preservation program presented by TAMI and the TFC. The Texas Film Round-Up has resulted in the digitization of more than 50,000 films and videotapes. A curated collection of more than 6,000 videos is available to watch at texasarchive.org. Contributors to this exhibition include Alex Lieban, Angelo State University Porter Henderson Library, Austin History Center, Harold Ferguson, Jeff Pitner, Jim Ruddy, KAUZ-TV, KPRC-TV, Larry Weidman, Neal Spelce, Ramiro Saucedo, Stephen Schaefer, Thomas Bleich, Tom Wright, Travis Boles, University of Texas Permian Basin, and UTSA Libraries Special Collections.

The Texas Archive of the Moving Image is an independent non-profit organization founded 20 years ago to discover, preserve, make accessible and serve community interest in Texas' moving image heritage. To learn more about the Texas Archive of the Moving Image, visit texasarchive.org.

For interviews and footage requests, contact Sarah Walters at swalters@texasarchive.org.

Krishna Shenoy, Project Archivist, DeGolyer Library, Southern Methodist University



The papers of the legendary real estate businesswoman and philanthropist Ebby Halliday (b. March 9, 1911 d. September 8, 2015) are now processed and the finding aid accessible on the Texas Archival Resources Online database. Materials related to

Ebby's business, civic, and personal life were donated to Southern Methodist University's DeGolyer Library in 1998 and in 2020. A grant funded by the Ebby Halliday Foundation allowed for engaging a contract archivist to prepare the papers for public access.

This manuscript collection is significant because it illuminates the working environment for women, economic conditions, and the cultural and political concerns from the 1940s to 2010s. It also documents the growth and development of the burgeoning real estate industry in North Texas. The collection reflects the

life and times of a business woman who achieved a level of financial success and public admiration, deserving of examination.

Processing

The project duration was approximately eleven months and culminated in 109 document boxes and 73 over-sized boxes, which hold Ebby's collection of richly annotated scrapbooks. Preparing the collection involved usual archival processing methods, such as removing rusty paper clips and rubber bands (which

REPOSITORY NEWS

were simultaneously brittle and sticky), eliminating duplicates, un-creasing documents, removing photographs from plastic photo albums and picture frames, and disposing of items that accidentally arrived with the donation such as a stray box of baking soda. After processing and arranging, the finding aid was encoded and uploaded to TARO. Along with processing the collection, numerous <u>blog posts</u> were written and shared on the DeGolyer News site.

Speeches

The bulk of the collection is speeches and scrapbooks. Speeches are found throughout the business, civic, and

> personal series. From the beginning of her real estate career in 1945, Ebby Halliday took to the road and traveled the country and the world, speaking about the real estate business, profession and industry. She was invited to speak by regional boards, professional organizations, women's groups, and chambers of commerce.



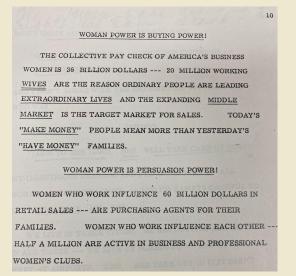
Photos courtesy of Krishna Shenoy.

Ebby was working during a time when women were not legally permitted to obtain a mortgage without a male cosigner. Women could sell houses, but could not borrow money to own one until the passage of the The Equal Credit Opportunity Act of 1974.

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Ebby's early speeches emphasized the "The Four M's" as she called them–Merchandising, Message, Mobility, and Mental Attitude. She focused on the work and business of selling properties, delivering the information from a decidedly gender neutral way. She referred to herself as a "salesman".



Speech - Sales and Marketing Executives, Wichita Falls, 1973.

While she rejected the label of feminist, just a decade later, Ebby's 1973 speech for sales and marketing executives acknowledged the changing times and roles of women by promoting themes such as "Women power is buying power", "Women power is persuasion power," and pronounced the greatest new market trend—"Species Female, Consumer".

Scrapbooks

After speeches, Ebby's scrapbooks, bound and unbound, are the most significant items in the collection. Arranged in chronological order, they contain valuable information, filling in what otherwise would be gaps in the collection. Each scrapbook is richly detailed with clippings, photographs, programs, ephemera, and correspondence, recording the notable professional and civic events and activities or significant birthdays.

Ebby Halliday lived to see 104 birthdays and once she turned 90 years old each succeeding milestone was celebrated with more festivities and more grandeur. Ebby's scrapbooks document the public adoration of the First Lady of Real Estate.



In 2001, for her 90th birthday,the cake was a replica of Ebby's landmark office in Dallas.

When Ebby hit the century mark, she famously said, "Go easy on the candles." Her 100th birthday in 2011 transformed the Meyerson Symphony Center into "Cirque du Ebby."



Business

Materials related to Ebby's real estate business and involvement in professional organizations and business-related women's groups include correspondence, department meeting reports and





An assortment of Ebby Halliday Realtors, Inc. promotional pins.

minutes, financial and legal documents, clippings, awards, and recognitions. The series also contains artifacts, audio and video recordings, and magazines and newsletters. The business papers contain examples of the award-winning advertising strategies that played a vital role in the company's decades long success. Weekly ads in the major Dallas-Fort Worth newspapers reached thousands of potential clients and made the company's brand a household name and generated millions in sales.

During the 1960s, Ebby was setting records in real estate, both in sales and by volume each year. In 1970, the company had five offices and 103 agents. At the time of her 100th birthday her company had grown to 30 offices and

approximately 1,600 real estate agents and it was the 10th largest real estate firm in the United States. Always one to share in the success, Ebby attributed this tremendous growth and success to the company's rigorous training program which delivered agents who embraced technological innovations, were industry experts, and

knowledgeable about the local neighborhoods and the communities they served.

Civic

In addition to her reputation as a successful businesswoman, Ebby was known for her fundraising prowess and contributions to civic and charitable causes. Her civic materials highlight Ebby's involvement with religious, political, social, educational, and women's groups. Deeply devout in her Christian faith, she believed that serving the community was not only good business, but a way to show gratitude. She and her husband Maurice Acers were longtime activists and members of the Beautify Texas



Over 1,100 runners participated in the "Run for a Clean Dallas Community" sponsored by Ebby Halliday Realtors, Inc. on February 14, 1981

Council, and Clean Dallas Inc. Ebby served on the boards of the Thanks-Giving Square Foundation and Communities Foundation of Texas. In 2005, Ebby Halliday received the prestigious Horatio Alger Award which honored Ebby's lifelong belief that hard work, honesty and determination can conquer all obstacles.

Personal

Ebby's personal papers contain correspondence with family, friends, and church members. In addition, the series gathers biographical material about Ebby including her vital documents, biographical sketches, and estate/end of life planning documents. It also holds legal documents related to the Maurice Acers Family Trust, memorials given in his honor, his obituary, funeral arrangements, and condolence letters to Ebby. Also available are research



materials Ebby used for speech writing including poetry, speeches by others, wit and humor articles, political cartoons, articles about women in business, and religious and inspirational commentary.

The personal series also holds several songbooks and lyric sheets composed by Ebby. Almost as famous as "Ebby Halliday" was Ebby Halliday's ukulele. Ebby channeled charm and humor knowing how effective a funny lyric, a familiar tune, and the occasional off-beat note could be in winning over admirers in business and in friendship. She had a penchant for changing lyrics to well known songs to suit her topic and audience.

Maurice Acers died in 1993 at age 85. Ebby willed the company to her employees when she passed away in 2015 in Dallas, Texas at the age of 104. In 2018, HomeServices, an affiliate of Berkshire Hathaway, purchased Ebby Halliday's three remaining real estate brands and affiliated mortgage and title companies. A biography about her life, *Ebby Halliday: The First Lady of Real Estate* by Michael Poss was published in 2009.

Having opened the doors to successful careers for thousands of people, in particular women at a time when professional opportunities were limited, Ebby was widely admired for her visionary leadership and tireless altruism. The Ebby Halliday papers reside in the Archives of Women of the Southwest (AWS), one of the special collections of the DeGolyer Library at SMU.



Portrait of Ebby and her ukelele for an article in the *Fort Worth Star Telegram*, 1987.



Submission guidelines are as follows:

Submissions

Submission Deadly

- Repository news items showcases significant projects, donations or purchases, exhibitions, grants received, and similar activities.
- Leadership Log items highlight professional accomplishments such as promotions, career changes, retirement, awards, publications, and presentations.
- Submissions are written in a style consistent with a professional publication, including a title, the author's name, institutional affiliation, and contact information.
- Suggested word count is 150-600 words.
- Images, sent as separate files, with captions and attributions, are encouraged.
- Articles may be edited to conform to style conventions and space limitations.

Editor

Janine Smith ssaeditor@southwestarchivists.org

Assistant Editor Alana Inman ainman@tsl.texas.gov	Louisiana Ann Case acase@tulane.edu	January 10 April 10 July 10 October 10
Arizona Steve Hussman shussman@email.arizona.edu	Arkansas Krishna Shenoy kbshenoy0427@gmail.com	
New Mexico	Oklahoma	North Texas
Jennifer Olguin	Amanda Hudson	Patrizia Nava
jechavez@nmsu.edu	amanda.hudson@chickasaw.net	patrizia.nava@utdallas.edu
South Texas	Out-of-Region	Leadership Log
Mike Miller	Gerrianne Schaad	Blake Relle
mmiller@rosenberg-library.org	gschaad@flsouthern.edu	blakerelleSSA@gmail.com

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