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N E A

NEWSLETTER

NEW ENGLAND ARCHIVISTS



C O V E R -- Hollywood film crew on location in front of Mary Norton Clapp Library at Occidental College. *Photo courtesy of the College Archives, Occidental College Library Special Collections.* (See related article on page 4.)

I N S I D E -- John R. Thelin shares his thoughts on the importance of archives (*Archival Insight*, page 4), and Elizabeth Slomba describes her experiences as chair of a committee which commissioned a sculpture of the University of New Hampshire's mascot (*Around and About* page 20).

TAKING THE PAST INTO THE FUTURE



New England Archivists

TAKING THE PAST INTO THE FUTURE

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From the Editors

-Susan Earle

This issue of the *NEA Newsletter*, heralding the arrival of Spring, covers a range of archival issues and topics, with buildings and sculptures, and records related to them, functioning as a recurring theme throughout the issue. The *Archival Insight* article, by John Thelin, University Research Professor at the University of Kentucky, is based on his keynote address at the Fall 2007 NEA meeting. That meeting focused on college, university, and school archives, and in his article, Thelin urges that in the need to maintain traditional institutional records, the preservation of institutional lore, and the roles and significance of students, faculty, and campus buildings, not be overlooked.

In *Around and About*, Elizabeth Slomba, describing her role as chair of a committee which commissioned a sculp-

ture of the University of New Hampshire's mascot, muses on the challenges that befall an archivist who becomes a records creator. Continuing the theme of design-related records and the challenges they can entail, the issue also includes Laura Tatum's review of *Architectural Records: Managing Design and Construction Records*. In his "From the President" column, Chris Burns sums up his year as NEA president, thanking all those who served on committees.

The editors would like to thank former editors Sheila Spalding and Michael Forstrom, whose terms ended in January, for their hard work over the past three years. With this issue Maryalice Perrin-Mohr takes over as senior editor, and we welcome Cynthia Harbeson, of the Connecticut Historical Society, and Lacy Schutz, of the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute. Cyndi will serve as *Inside NEA/This Season in New England History* editor, while Lacy is the new *Session Reports/Internet Tidbits* editor. ■

APPLY FOR THE HAAS AWARD

The Richard L. Haas Memorial Award is sponsored jointly by New England Archivists and the Boston Chapter of the Association of Records Managers and Administrators (ARMA). The purpose of the award is to promote better understanding between the archival and records management professions. The award for 2008 is \$1,000.

The award is given to an individual who proposes a project that promotes increased cooperation, understanding, and knowledge between the archival and records management professions. Traditional examples of proposals include attendance at seminars or workshops, preparing articles of interest to both professions, and research projects. The award is not limited to these suggestions. This explanation is somewhat ambiguous in the hope that applicants will be creative with their proposals. Preference, however, will be given to those that integrate records management and archival issues.

The award is not limited to members of NEA or ARMA. Anyone, especially students and educators, is encouraged to apply. The successful candidate has up to a year to use the award. The award recipient must provide a financial report to the Haas Award Committee, and is also expected to write an article for publication in the ARMA and NEA newsletters.

Applications are due May 1, 2008

For details, see the NEA Web site:
www.newenglandarchivists.org
 or contact: Judy Huenneke, Chair
 NEA Haas Award Committee
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 200 Massachusetts Avenue
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ARCHIVAL INSIGHT

Archives and the Campus:
Our Past, Present, and Future

John R. Thelin, University Research Professor, University of Kentucky
(based on keynote address, Fall Meeting, October 12, 2007)

I'm honored to meet and talk with you. I'm also greatly relieved to be at NEA because I was worried I had misunderstood the invitation and thought it was to address the NRA. I really prefer to join with archivists to write and talk about college and university documents, rather than give historical analysis of Smith & Wesson manufacturing processes, changes in gun control legislation, and Charlton Heston as a charismatic leader. Yes, colleges and universities as part of American history are my passion. As a high school student I collected college admissions view books – and still cherish the 1963 Harvard brochure which offered the insight, "Age, like wealth, does not make a university great... But it helps!" No doubt this recipe for greatness favors Harvard. The challenge is to persuade presidents and provosts that it is essential wisdom so as to make certain that each of our campus archives, whether our respective institutions are old or young, continue to receive the resources and space to serve well as a truly significant institutional memory.

One dilemma college and university archivists face, I think, is how to balance a growing set of demands to be custodian and retriever of certain kinds of institutional records – namely, the internal paper and electronic data sets on budgets, enrollments, and myriad topics used by deans, provosts, and presidents to inform institutional decisions and planning. However, although it's difficult to evade or ignore such obligations, my gentle request is you rediscover another role for campus archives that may be less pressing immediately but which I think is very important over the long run both for the health of the institution – a nod for the proper role of the archives. Here I have in mind what sociologists call "organizational saga" – the legends and lore which infuse the heritage of your respective institutions with a drama that is larger than life. Official records, ranging from minutes of boards of trustees meetings to new program proposals, are necessary but insufficient to bring colleges and universities to life in the connection of past, present, and future.

To make the case for the importance of archives and campus saga I rely on the highly visual sources prompted by campus architecture and monuments – which in turn are connected to various sources of written documents, photographs, and primary sources gathered and analyzed by university archivists. I draw my inspiration from one of the most familiar rhetorical phrases used by presidents at commencement exercises and in fund-raising speeches as they remind alumni and prospective major donors that the college or university is, after all, "More than bricks and mortar..." I agree. The metaphor I prefer is to see the

campus as a stage set for a remarkable, complex drama of college life. This is not just conjecture on my part – it's a dictum that has guided Hollywood film crews as well as students, faculty, and staff. My favorite image is that of the film crew at Occidental College, a beautiful liberal arts college just east of downtown Los Angeles, used as the setting for Jane Fonda's first movie – the 1960 romantic comedy, *Tall Story*. Now, just in case you were busy reviewing calculus notes and did not have time to watch this at your local movie theatre, the opening scene showed the traditional fall course registration in the basketball gym. Jane Fonda, when asked by a kindly yet weary faculty advisor about the courses she wished to take, looked admiringly at senior basketball player Anthony Perkins (not Anthony Hopkins) and in a pre-feminist voice, proclaimed, "I'll take the same courses he's taking!"

My premise is that belief and loyalty are crucial to creating a strong college identity. Institutional history is important. What has been a serious problem at every new campus is how to create a sense of heritage – of "instant history." At the new UCLA campus, opened in 1929, acres of bean fields and vacant tracts did not evoke collegiate nostalgia. Something was missing from the academic landscape. Resourceful trustees had a good, prompt solution: they paid to have a huge boulder imported to the campus and immediately anointed it as "Founders' Rock." Elsewhere, new buildings at least appeared to be old, especially in an era when revival architecture captured the American public's fancy. A good example in 1929 was the University of Pittsburgh's magnificent "Cathedral of

Learning,” praised as the ultimate example of “Girder Gothic.” In the same spirit, Gothic revival design made the Rockefeller Chapel at the University of Chicago impressive. Alas, form did not always harmonize with official functions, as students adapted buildings to their own priorities. The university president candidly told a group of distinguished visitors who entered the chapel’s solemn interior – “More souls have been conceived than saved within these walls.”

Not only have generations of students imposed their own priorities and uses on buildings, they also have left a legacy of imaginative nicknames for these structures. At Brown University in 1964 when the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Library opened, appreciative students affectionately called it “The Rock.” Administrators thought this was flippant, and asked students to cease using the name. Students then complied, but adopted a new nickname – “The John.” Administrators immediately reconsidered and said it was fine with them if students called it “The Rock.” And so it is called, to this day.

Sometimes strong institutional saga involves grabbing victory from the jaws of defeat. For example, bad campus architecture sometimes can kindle good spirits among campus constituencies. Evans Hall at the University of California, Berkeley was so forbidding in its monolithic, reinforced concrete appearance that students immediately called it “Fort Evans.” It has become a perverse source of cohesion on campus because no one has ever had anything good to say about it. Meanwhile, each year a campus group has sponsored a coloring contest to bring some life to the exterior of drab Evans Hall.

One reason the campus is a stage is that “who” and “how” facilities are used changes dramatically over time. At the University of Chicago the football stadium was packed for every home game for over a quarter century when the university team was a power in the Big Ten Conference. But the stadium fell into neglect after the university dropped football in 1939, following a 61 to 0 loss to Harvard. Even though weeds and plants grew in the deserted grandstands, beneath the surface the stadium was recycled to serve another purpose: during World War II its locker rooms were the secret laboratories of the Manhattan Project in which teams of physicists and chemists developed the hydrogen bomb. So, the University of Chicago’s team may have lost the football game, but

its scientific team helped, literally, to win the war.

Another way to bring history to life on the American campus is to seek out what each institution has come to regard as its distinctive “sacred ground.” At the University of Illinois it is the Morrow Plots – the oldest continuous working research farm which has provided information on crop yield and soil composition for almost 150 years. For each generation of entering freshmen at the University of Georgia, the “sacred ground” is the entry way between Athens and the University. The Dean tells the students in no uncertain terms, “This is The Arch. If you want Arches, go to McDonald’s.”

Campus pride often connects with civic boosterism. In California, the Claremont Colleges were extolled as the “Oxford of the Orange Belt.” Campus buildings were depicted on the colorful shipping labels for the local citrus crop. Real estate brochures distributed during the winter in the Midwest urged potential settlers to consider a “college town among the orange groves,” with year round sunshine, an educated and refined community, and with no pool halls. Who could resist? In the Midwest and South an added source of town and gown enhancement came from the rise of spectator sports, especially football. A landmark victory over a strong opposing college could transform the legendary past of the campus far beyond classrooms and lectures. After all, in the 1950s the pop quartet, “The Lettermen,” inspired campus nostalgia as they sang about, “The day we tore the goal posts down... We will have these moments to remember!” – but, as you can remind your provost, only if archivists have the resources to preserve the records!

Bringing the campus buildings to life means that archivists ought be alert for legendary figures, whether as students, professors, administrators, or alumni. Sometimes it means grabbing victory from the jaws of defeat. When an alumnus of the University of California at Berkeley was sent to prison for his role as San Francisco’s “political boss” in promoting corrupt contracts that led to fires after the great San Francisco earthquake, he showed his enduring loyalty to alma mater by establishing the first University of California alumni chapter at San Quentin.

The heroes of student life have tended to be those who demonstrated loyalty to their classmates while at the same time mastering the academic demands of the formal

curriculum. Edward Prichard, a precocious freshman at Princeton in the late 1920s, had a life long habit of closing his eyes while listening. One history professor thought young Prichard was sleeping during the lecture – and challenged Prichard to pay attention. Prichard responded, without opening his eyes, by summarizing the lecture and then correcting some of the professor’s factual errors. Oh, he was a hero to his fellow students! They made a good choice, as later Prichard would be editor of the Harvard Law Review and eventually one of the brightest lights of FDR’s Brain Trust.

Most of our attention goes to memorable students. However, I think I have found what presidents and provosts will consider the “Ideal Professor.” My candidate is Jeremy Bentham, famous as a 19th century philosopher who also taught at the University of London. Bentham left



Jeremy Bentham, the “Ideal Faculty Member.” Photo courtesy of University of London Photograph Files.

a generous part of his estate to the university with the condition that for perpetuity he be allowed to attend university faculty meetings. To this day, his embalmed body housed in a glass case is wheeled into meetings. And the faculty minutes always note that “Professor Bentham did not vote or speak...” Presidents and provosts wish many contentious professors today would follow Bentham’s historic example.

What I have tried to suggest with these scattered examples are some ways in which archivists can introduce each new generation of students, staff, and faculty to the liveliness of the campus setting. These are legacies which tend to get lost in the growing burden of institutional record keeping. These are the animated figures and inspirational buildings that bring the budget to life. So, my hope is that you use this heritage in a wise, imaginative way – and that this will then provide you the interest and support for you to continue your excellent and essential work.

About the Author: John Thelin is author of *A History of American Higher Education*, published by The Johns Hopkins University Press in 2004. A native of Massachusetts, he has forfeited his green card privileges in all New England states – and hence is especially grateful for the NEA invitation to visit for their annual conference held at the University of Connecticut in Storrs. ■

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Inside NEA

FROM THE PRESIDENT

- *Chris Burns*



As this is my final “From the President” column, it seems an appropriate time to report on the recent progress of NEA. Never have I been more aware or more appreciative of the efforts of all of the individuals within this organization that make sure all of our activities are successful.

In many respects, the core activity of this organization has long been our meetings. It is always a difficult balancing act to make these attractive events for a membership which spans a wide spectrum of the archival profession. We all tend to have slightly, sometimes vastly, different needs. Even when we’re talking about the same core functions such as appraisal or description, we come at them from different angles which have a lot to do with the different types of repositories we work in and the varying levels of resources available to us. Perhaps our largest constituency, academic archivists, had a chance this past fall to put together a meeting focused exclusively on issues they were facing. By all accounts, it was a very successful program. To offset this focused meeting, a number of workshops were held around the region to provide some continuing education opportunities for all of our members. All of these workshops were well attended. For those of us in the outer reaches of New England, having an NEA sponsored workshop a little closer to home proved to be highly desirable. I am extremely hopeful that this model of holding workshops around the region, not necessarily paired with one of our meetings, can be sustained.

By the time you read this, you will have had sufficient time to recover from your long weekend in Newport at NEA’s Spring 2008 Meeting and will certainly be carefully writing your notes of praise to Maria Bernier (local arrangements) and Jay Gaidmore (program) and their respective committees for putting together such a memorable event. Jay and the program committee have done a nice job of putting together a program that seeks to address those difficult challenges I mentioned above, trying

to meet the needs of each and every one of us. The Fall 2008 Meeting, which will take place on November 13 and 14, will take on this challenge in a slightly different way, focusing on the singularly important issue of preservation. Anne Sauer, Donia Conn, and their program committee are currently putting the program together and welcome any suggestions you might have. Jason Wood and Sheila Spalding, along with their local arrangements committee, will be our hosts as we return once again to Simmons College.

This past year has seen newsletter articles from Martha Mahard on teaching, Tom Hyry on an archival description project in Cuba, Barbara K. Wheaton on cookbooks, Beth Bower and Laura Muller on an oral history project at Suffolk University, John J. McColgan on moving the Boston City Archives, Anita Israel on the Longfellow National Historic Site, and Ellen Doon on the Beinecke Library’s initiative to reduce its manuscript backlog. The breadth and depth of these pieces is remarkable and I congratulate the newsletter editors for continuing to pull together such high quality issues.

The work of the Outreach Committee can often escape the attention of the membership, aimed as it is at the world beyond NEA. The committee, with Molly Wheeler as Chair, continues to hold Archives on the Road programs around the region and is always on the lookout for new hosting venues. They also continue to hold successful events as part of the annual Vermont History Expo and in conjunction with the Massachusetts Studies Project.

The organization as a whole is in good shape. As detailed above, the content of our programming efforts are consistently excellent. Our budget remains balanced and our membership numbers have begun to recover after a period of decline. In response to that downward trend, a Membership Recruitment and Retention Task Force was established, now co-chaired by Debbie Richards and Rodney Obien, which has been investigating and implementing ways to increase our membership numbers. The creation of this task force was a direct result of the planning efforts led by the Executive Board in 2004-2005. The board has begun

Visit the NEA online at:

www.newenglandarchivists.org

to revisit the recommendations of this prior effort and the future direction of NEA. One recommendation that is still in active development is the long-awaited membership database. Over the coming months, you will be hearing a great deal more about the Recruitment and Retention Task Force, the membership database, and further planning efforts within the organization.

Earlier this year, the Executive Board voted to endorse a piece of legislation due to be introduced in the United States House of Representatives, the Preserving the American Historical Record (PAHR) act. The act would establish a program of formula-based grants to states for re-grants and statewide services to support preservation and use of historical records. Further information about PAHR can be found on the Society of American Archivists Web site <www.archivists.org/pahr/>. I encourage you to learn more about this legislation, and, if you support its intentions, to take the further step of contacting your legislative representatives.

In closing, I would like to say it has been an honor to serve as NEA President. I hope I was able to give something back to an organization that has played a very critical role in my own professional development and I hope many of you will feel the same desire, or lack of foresight, when I come calling on you later this year in my role as chair of the Nominating Committee. ■

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING REPORT

- Elizabeth Slomba



The business handled at the January 25, 2008 meeting of the Executive Board is summarized below. All **VOTING** is in bold. Complete minutes are available on the NEA Web site or from the secretary.

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 AM by Chris Burns. Minutes from the October 12, 2007 Board Meeting were presented. **All members voted to accept the October 12, 2007 Board Meeting Minutes as amended.**

OFFICERS' REPORTS

President

Chris Burns sent out a letter of support on behalf of NEA for the upcoming Preserving American History legislation. He is also looking for a person to serve as the Membership committee chair and will be addressing the situation regarding the Haas Award.

Vice President

Kathryn Hammond Baker announced that the Spring 2009 Meeting will be held at the Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America on March 27 and 28, 2009. **All members voted to appoint Marilyn Dunn chair of Local Arrangements for the Spring 2009 Meeting.**

Immediate Past President; Nominating Committee

Nora Murphy presented information about the slate and the committee is working to fill additional slots. The ballot is almost completed and ready to mail out. The Board discussed changing the membership eligibility date in the NEA By-Laws to encourage more voting.

Treasurer

Nova Seals discussed the changes and additions to the current budget, what should be accounted for in committees' budgets, the Fall 2007 and Spring 2008 Meetings' budgets, and likely expenses and income. Although the budget is currently running a deficit, she mentioned the current assets of NEA and said that NEA is doing fine overall. She gave an update regarding the transfer of the Hale Award funds to a money market account.

Secretary

All members voted in favor to accept the updated Secretary's job description as amended. Attendees discussed issues regarding the efficiency and recording of online board votes that take place between board meetings.

MEETINGS

Fall 2007 Meeting

Board members discussed the overall success of the conference, the elements of the success of the meeting, and the impact of scheduling and conference facilities on holding meetings. There was a lengthy discussion about who and what committee handles publicity for meetings and how to

handle publicity for the Fall 2008 Meeting. It was suggested that NEA look into podcasting sessions, creating meeting wikis, and posting session papers on the Web site.

Spring 2008 Meeting

The Spring 2008 program has gone to the printers and will be in the mail shortly.

Fall 2008 Meeting

All members voted in favor to appoint Gregor Trinkaus-Randall, Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners; Michael Comeau, Massachusetts Archives; and Patsy Baudoin of MIT to the Fall 2008 Program committee. The meeting will be held over two days, November 14 and 15, and the structure will be similar to the Fall 2007 Meeting format with plenary forums and break-out sessions. Calls for proposals have been posted on listservs.

All members voted in favor to appoint Andrew Elder, The History Project; Melissa Gonzales, Simmons College GSLIS; Maryalice Perrin-Mohr, the New England Conservatory of Music; Jennifer Pelose, Harvard University Countway Library of Medicine;

Ashley Solod, Simmons College GSLIS; and Donna Weber, Simmons College to the Fall 2008 Local Arrangements committee. The Web and Fall 2008 Local Arrangements committees will look into the possibility of setting up a roommate matching service on the NEA Web site for this meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education Committee

Jaimie Quaglino described upcoming workshops to be held at the Spring 2008 Meeting, the success of past workshops and the amount of work needed to hold stand-alone workshops. **All members voted in favor to accept the revised policies for the Education committee as emended.**

Web Committee

All members voted in favor to appoint Rick Steinmetz to the Web Committee for a three year term (January 2008 to January 2011).

Krista Ferrante announced current developments regarding the online membership directory and has a test site for the board to review the directory. There was discussion

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about a plan for the roll-out of the directory to the membership. She also discussed at length the need for a major redesign of the Web site. There was a discussion of updating pages, a need for clear responsibility for who updates what, and the development of an intranet for board business. There was further discussion of the organization of the Web site, what content should be kept, and what legacy information should be kept or archived.

Planning Discussion

The board discussed previous planning committees, the focus groups at the Fall 2004 Meeting, and the efforts of the board since then. The board discussed Mary Ide's planning report recommendations (based on the feedback from the 2004 focus groups) and what was accomplished by the board regarding the recommendations. The board discussed the need to develop new planning ideas and recommendations and debated at length whether to create a new planning task force. There was lengthy discussion of the activities of the Membership Recruitment and Retention Task Force, which was created in response to Ide's recommendations. Attendees discussed the next steps to take regarding planning. The sense of the board was to charge Melissa Watterworth to look at the past planning documents, assess what has been accomplished, and report on what remains to be done. Time will be set aside at the next board meeting to review this information and consider what steps to take next.

Next Meeting Date

The next quarterly board meeting will take place at McKillop Library Salve Regina University, on March 28, 2008, 1 pm to 5 pm. ■

Errata Notice

Several errors appeared in the feature Archival Insight article of January 2008. The editors apologize for this oversight and direct readers to the NEA Web site at: <www.newenglandarchivists.org/newsletter/index.html> for the corrected text of Jeffrey Mifflin's article, *The Wakefield Archives Project: Coming to Grips with Historical Papers on a Private Estate*.

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for more information about becoming a member of NEA

New Members

- Rodney Obien

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Reviews

Architectural Records: Managing Design and Construction Records, Waverly Lowell and Tawny Ryan Nelb. Chicago: Society of American Archivists, 2006. 197 pp. Hard cover. ISBN: 1-931666-19-9. \$45.00 (SAA members), \$62.00 (non-members)

- Laura Tatum, *Architectural Records Archivist, Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library*

Architectural records are among the most challenging materials to arrange, describe, and provide access to in archival repositories. Drawings are large and often difficult for the untrained eye to interpret; project records are voluminous and can represent decades of a firm's output; preservation of brittle or decaying photoreproductions can be risky and expensive; and in this digital age, storing and providing access to projects for which a 3-D computer model is the only design artifact is an uphill battle. Fortunately for all of us, Waverly Lowell and Tawny Ryan Nelb, both recognized experts in the field of architectural records archives, have written a comprehensive manual that addresses every aspect of handling these exceptional materials. Their book, *Architectural Records: Managing Design and Construction Records*, recently won the Society of American Archivists' 2007 Waldo Gifford Leland award for "superior excellence and usefulness in the field of archival history, theory, or practice."

The book is organized in eight extensively-illustrated chapters, beginning with a history of architectural practice and a literature review of major works dealing with archival administration of architectural records. The chapters describe the design process in architectural firms and the types of records generated in each stage of design and construction; project management in architectural firms; appraisal issues; arrangement, description, and preservation of the records; and issues of access and use. Of particular note is the forty-page section of color images in the middle of the book, which builds on Eleonore Kissel and Erin Vigneau's earlier *Architectural Photoreproductions: A Manual for Identification and Care* to include examples of CAD models, unprocessed collections in situ before their transfer to archival repositories, and poor storage techniques, as well as images of drawings and prints in various stages of deterioration, which will help archivists identify the preservation

issues in their collections. The authors discuss the issues inherent in architectural records clearly, calmly, and with an eye toward addressing archivists who might not necessarily work with architectural records every day, but need help in processing a collection or two from the backlog.

Lowell's chapters on arrangement and description and appraisal serve as standard guidelines for processing architectural records. The Appraisal Grid will help archivists make informed decisions about the permanence of certain materials generated in various phases of design and project administration, and could also be shown to active architectural firms during negotiations about which materials an archives will accept. The chapter on arrangement and description explains the use of the *Standard Series for Architecture and Landscape Design Records* (Kelcy Shepherd and Waverly Lowell, 2000) and its companion access tool, the Project Index. Lowell promotes the use of series-level description for design records, as well as a spreadsheet-based project index to provide extensive information about project files at a glance. Nelb's chapters on identifying design media and supports will be a boon to any archivist struggling with the difference between a diazo print and a sepia, and her advice about copyright issues, digitizing architectural materials, and mounting exhibitions is all of immediate and practical use for archivists providing reference and outreach for these collections. This book is highly recommended for all repositories that have architectural records in their care. ■



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NEA By-Laws

I. Name

The name of this organization is NEW ENGLAND ARCHIVISTS. It is incorporated as a nonprofit organization under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

II. PURPOSES

New England Archivists is an organization established to foster the preservation and use of records of enduring value in New England, public and private, corporate and individual, and to improve the management and the public awareness and understanding of such records, by providing pre-professional and continuing education in archival theory and practice; a forum for the exchange of information among individuals and institutions having responsibility for records of enduring value in the region; and appropriate means of communication and cooperation with other archival organizations at the local, regional, and national levels, and with individuals and groups representing allied professions.

III. MEMBERSHIP

1) Membership is open, upon payment of dues, to any individual or institution concerned with or interested in accession, administration, organization, preservation, or use of archival and manuscript material.

2) There are two categories of membership: Regular and Institutional.

IV. OFFICERS AND GOVERNMENT

1) The officers shall be a president, president-elect who shall serve as vice-president, secretary, and treasurer. The terms of office of the president and president-elect shall be one year, and of the secretary and treasurer, two years. No officer shall serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office. Each officer shall have duties usually associated with the office.

2) Four representatives-at-large shall be elected, each for a term of three years. No representative-at-large shall serve more than two consecutive terms.

3) The president, with consent of a majority of the voting members of the executive board, shall appoint a Massachusetts resident as corporation clerk to serve at the pleasure of the board. The president may also, with consent

of a majority of the voting members of the board, appoint persons to undertake such other responsibilities as the board may from time to time deem appropriate; the president may, with such consent, designate such persons as members of the executive board without vote.

4) The executive board shall consist of the president, president-elect, secretary, treasurer, the representatives-at-large, and the immediate past president, as voting members; and as ex officio, non-voting members, the corporation clerk and such other persons as shall have been appointed to undertake responsibilities pursuant to section 3 of this article, and shall have been so designated. The executive board is empowered to conduct business between annual meetings within general policies approved by a majority of its voting members. All decisions shall be by majority vote of those board members present. All executive board meetings shall be open to members.

5) The president, with consent of a majority of the executive board, shall appoint a program committee, and other appropriate committees.

6) Officers and representatives-at-large shall be elected by mail ballot of a majority of those members voting, from a slate presented by the nominating committee. Nominees must be members of New England Archivists. At least two candidates shall be slated for each office. The slate shall include the name of any member nominated by a petition signed by not less than ten per cent of the membership and received by the chair of the nominating committee not later than sixty days in advance of the annual meeting. The ballot shall contain space for write-in candidates for each office. Ballots shall be mailed to members at least thirty days in advance of the annual meeting. To be counted, ballots must be returned to the chair of the nominating committee postmarked not later than ten days in advance of the annual meeting, and received by said chair not later than the second day before the annual meeting.

7) In the event of a tie vote for any office, the successful candidate shall be determined by re-balloting the membership using the same mailing list as for the original ballot.

8) Any vacancy in the executive board shall be filled by the board until the next election when candidates shall be nominated to fill any unexpired term.

V. MEETINGS

- 1) New England Archivists shall hold at least one meeting a year to transact any business brought before the meeting and to provide a program of general interest. This annual meeting shall be held in the spring.
- 2) Special meetings may be called by the president, with consent of a majority of the executive board, or at written request of ten percent of the members addressed to the executive board through the president or the president-elect.
- 3) The membership shall be notified at least ninety days in advance of an annual meeting and thirty days in advance of a special meeting. Those members present and voting shall constitute a quorum.
- 4) The executive board shall meet as necessary. Five voting members, one of whom must be the president or vice-president, shall constitute a quorum.

VI. FINANCES

- 1) The treasurer shall record the financial transactions of New England Archivists so as to ensure that the membership may have a sound basis for evaluating the management of its funds; that the board may have adequate information on which to plan the activities of the organization; and that its financial practices conform to applicable accounting standards. The treasurer shall maintain such records, for accounting purposes, on a cash basis.
- 2) The president shall, with the approval of the executive board, from time to time, but no less frequently than every third year, appoint a professional accountant to examine the financial records of the organization and to report his/her findings to the board consistently with generally recognized accounting practices.
- 3) Annual dues for regular membership may be changed at an annual meeting by a majority vote of the members attending.
- 4) Life membership category shall be abolished as of January 1, 1995. Individuals who have paid for a Life Membership prior to September 1, 1994 will remain Life Members and will receive full membership benefits.
- 5) The fiscal and membership years shall run from January 1 to December 31.

6) Institutional membership dues shall be \$10.00 more than the current membership rate. An institutional member shall receive one (1) copy of each NEA publication which is distributed to the general membership free of charge. It shall be entitled to all other publications at the membership rate and employees of the institution may attend workshops and meetings at the member rate. The Institution is not entitled to vote in the annual election nor shall it hold elected or appointed office.

VII. DISPOSITION OF ASSETS AND RECORDS

1) As the records of the organization become non-current, those of enduring value shall be donated to an archival repository selected by the board to be preserved under a formal agreement which shall address the needs of both the officers and members of New England Archivists and the general public for access to the records in accordance with the normal policies and practices of the repository.

2) If it becomes necessary to dissolve the organization, its assets shall be turned over to an historical or archival organization selected by the board.

VIII. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The latest edition of Sturgis's Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure shall govern the proceedings of the organization, except as otherwise provided by these bylaws.

IX. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to these bylaws must be proposed in writing and filed with the secretary at least sixty days prior to an annual meeting. Copies shall be mailed to all members at least thirty days in advance of the annual meeting. An affirmative vote by a two-thirds majority of voting members present shall constitute passage.

NEA Web Committee News

The Web Committee would like to thank Julia Collins, Aimee Primeaux, and Georgen Charnes, for their service to the New England Archivists. Michelle Romero, Cheryl Ostrowski, and Rick Steinmetz have taken their places.

It's your Web site! And we need your help! If you have any events, content or pictures you would like to see on the Web site, then please contact Krista Ferrante, the NEA Web Coordinator, at <ksferrante@yahoo.com>.

News and Notes

CONNECTICUT

News from the Litchfield Historical Society

The Litchfield Historical Society's Helga J. Ingraham Memorial Library will be undergoing exciting changes in the next few months. A generous donor has provided funding to install a new section of movable shelving in the stack area. The same donor is also funding a project to outsource the creation of modern catalog records for the book collection to a library vendor. The catalog records will be added to reQuest, the state library database, thereby making the library's book holding information widely available. In addition, the National Endowment for the Humanities awarded the Society a grant of \$4,360 to hire a consultant to conduct a preservation assessment of manuscripts, works of art on paper, maps, architectural drawings, photographs, and posters related to the history of Litchfield, Connecticut, from the eighteenth through the twentieth centuries.

MAINE

Maine Historical Society Announces Upcoming Museum Exhibition

Gifts from Gluskabe: Maine Indian Artforms from the Hudson Museum, an exhibit celebrating the craft traditions of Maine's Micmac, Maliseet, Passamaquoddy, and Penobscot tribes, opened at the MHS Museum on Friday, February 15 and continues through Sunday, June 1, 2008.

"This exhibit is a celebration of the material culture traditions of Maine's Indian people and a showcase of the objects they made using the resources of their world," notes MHS Museum Curator, John Mayer. "The methods used to make these objects evolved over thousands of years and yet those same traditions are a vital part of the Maine Indian community today."

"According to Indian legend, the Great Spirit created Gluskabe, a powerful person who shaped the world of the Native People of Maine, and taught them how to use and respect the land and its resources," continues Mayer.

"Gluskabe showed the people how to make tools and how to create all that they needed – everything from shelter and clothing to household implements and canoes."

Gifts from Gluskabe features over seventy-five objects from the collections of the Hudson Museum at the University of Maine in Orono. Drawing upon the Hudson's historic and contemporary collections and historic images, the exhibit includes brown ash splint and sweet grass basketry dating from 1860 to the present, along with an important collection of basketmaking tools and molds, birchbark containers and implements, rootclubs, crooked knives, snowshoes, and Penobscot beadwork, including ceremonial regalia.

Gifts from Gluskabe: Maine Indian Artforms from the Hudson Museum is sponsored by: The BHA Foundation Fund and The Elsie A. Brown Fund. Hours are: Monday – Saturday: 10:00 am – 5:00 pm; Sundays beginning May 1: Noon – 5:00 pm at Maine Historical Society, 489 Congress Street, Portland, Maine 04101. Admission: Adults: \$5.00; Children 5-17: \$2.00. Contact information: (207) 774-1822; <www.mainehistory.org> .

MASSACHUSETTS

The Massachusetts Historical Society to Extend its Library Hours

To better accommodate researchers, beginning on Saturday, 8 March, the MHS library will be open from 9:00 AM until 4:00 PM on Saturdays. This is a permanent change and is in addition to the present library schedule of 9:00 AM-4:45 PM, Monday-Wednesday, and Friday; and 9:00 AM-7:45 PM on Thursdays. The MHS library will be closed on some Saturdays that fall on three-day weekends and on the Saturday that falls between Christmas and New Year's Day. In 2008, the dates the library will be closed on Saturdays are: Saturday, 24 May (Memorial Day weekend), Saturday, 30 August (Labor Day weekend), and Friday and Saturday, 21-22 November (the days following Thanksgiving). The library also is closed from noon on Christmas Eve through New Year's Day (24 December-1 January 2009). If you have any questions about the new MHS library hours or library procedures, please contact Elaine Grublin, the reference librarian at <egrublin@masshist.org>.

Northeastern University Announces the Acquisition of the ACT UP/Boston Historical Records

Northeastern University Libraries is pleased to announce the acquisition of the historical records of ACT/UP Boston, donated by founding members Raymond Schmidt and Stephen Skuce. ACT UP / Boston (the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power) was a diverse, nonpartisan group of people united in anger and committed to direct action to end the AIDS crisis.

Founded in December 1987 by activists Raymond Schmidt, Stephen Skuce, Donald Smith, and Paul Wychules, ACT UP/Boston was formed to focus local efforts to speed up the development of AIDS treatments, educational programs, and prevention strategies. The organization negotiated with government officials, public health policy-makers, medical personnel, researchers, pharmaceutical manufacturers, and others to bring about changes to meet the demands of the AIDS crisis. When negotiations failed, they held dramatic demonstrations, sometimes employing civil disobedience, to effect changes to save lives. In January 1988, the group held its first protest at the Boston offices of the Department of Health and Human Services, regarding delays and red tape surrounding approval of AIDS treatment drugs. ACT UP/Boston's agenda included demands for a compassionate and comprehensive national policy on AIDS; a national emergency AIDS project; intensified drug testing, research, and treatment efforts; and a full-scale national educational program within reach of all. The organization held die-ins and sleep-ins, provided "freshman orientation" for Harvard Medical School students, negotiated successfully with a major pharmaceutical corporation, affected state and national AIDS policies, pressured health care insurers to provide coverage for people with AIDS, influenced the thinking of some of the nation's most influential researchers, served on the Commonwealth committee that created the nation's first online registry of clinical trials for AIDS treatments, distributed information and condoms to the congregation at Cardinal Law's Confirmation Sunday services at Holy Cross Cathedral in Boston, and made aerosolized pentamidine an accessible treatment in New England. The organization's motto was "Silence = Death."

The material, dating from 1987-1996, documents the organization's founding, the work of the Treatment Issues

Committee, fund-raising activities, demonstrations, and treatment related activities as well as other campaigns. The records include board and committee minutes; correspondence; grant proposals; ACT UP publications; press clippings; flyers; clinical trial reviews; and realia.

This rich collection contributes to the University Archives and Special Collection Department's collecting focus on the records of private, non-profit, community-based organizations that are concerned with social justice issues. For a list of all collections available for research in the Northeastern University Archives and Special Collections Department, please see: <www.library.neu.edu/archives/collections/overview/>.

Boston Foundation Persistent Poverty Project Records at Northeastern University Available for Research

Northeastern University Libraries is pleased to announce that the historical records of the Boston Foundation Persistent Poverty Project are open for research. In 1987, the

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Equal Opportunity Program of the Rockefeller Foundation chose Boston along with Washington, D.C., Cleveland, San Antonio, Denver, and Oakland to be part of the Community Planning and Action Program. The aim of the program was to see how each of the six cities would develop strategies and work with the local community to analyze and reduce poverty. The Boston branch of this program became known as the Persistent Poverty Project, which ran from 1987 until 1997, publishing several reports and holding seminars, focus groups, roundtables, conferences, and briefings to involve the general public, politicians, and other community organizations. The Project was also involved in initiatives, such as the National Neighborhood Indicators Project and the National Community Building Network, and it created the Boston Children and Families Database and the Boston Community Building Curriculum. The Project continued after 1997 as the Boston Community Building Network at the Boston Foundation.

The collection documents the activities of the Boston Foundation's Persistent Poverty Project in its attempt to create a comprehensive picture of multi-generational poverty in Boston. Records reflect the day-to-day administration of the Project and document its outreach activities, including data-gathering on poverty through community roundtables, focus groups, and surveys. The collection also reflects the Project's attempts to disseminate its research through Boston College Citizen seminars, press briefings, and multiple publications. Topics documented include the effects of poverty on various communities in Boston, including African American, white, Asian American, and youth; community building; and the Project's involvement with larger organizations such as the Rockefeller Foundation and the National Community Building Network. Records include committee minutes and agendas; staff correspondence and notes; conference packets; seminar, conference, and meeting transcripts; publications; reports; and research data.

The Boston Foundation Persistent Poverty Project collection was processed with partial funding from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. This collection is open for research Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., in the Northeastern University Libraries, Archives and Special Collections Department, 92 Snell Library, Boston, Massachusetts. A guide to the collection is available online at: <www.library.neu.edu/archives/collect/findaids/m127find.htm>.

Papers of Samuel V. Chamberlain Available at Phillips Library, Peabody Essex Museum

The Phillips Library of the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts, has recently finished processing the papers of Samuel V. Chamberlain (1885-1975), artist, photographer, and author. The collection consists of twenty-seven boxes of personal and business papers, including photographs, diaries, travel notes, postcards, and newspaper clippings. Chamberlain began his academic career at the University of Washington in 1913. In 1915 he enrolled in the architectural program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Cambridge, but his education was interrupted by World War I. He joined the American Field Service and drove ambulances in France. In 1919, Chamberlain returned to the United States where he worked for various architectural firms and as a commercial artist. In 1922 he moved back to Paris for a few months and on the return voyage he met his future wife, Narcissa Gellatly (1899-1988). They wed in 1923 and had two daughters, Narcisse (1924-) and Stephanie (1931-1993). In the mid-1930's they settled in Marblehead, MA.

During his career, Chamberlain worked for a number of publications such as *Pencil Points* and published widely on subjects he encountered during his travels. He also wrote and/or illustrated nearly 100 books on architecture and interiors. Chamberlain taught graphic arts at MIT from 1934 until World War II. He worked as a reconnaissance photographer during that war. Throughout the 1940s and 1950s Chamberlain broadened his focus to include cookbooks and fashion illustrations. The Chamberlains' love for Europe would lead to the publication of superb travel books on France, Italy, and England. He invented the week-by-week photographic engagement calendar in 1940.

During his lifetime Chamberlain was widely respected for his work as a printmaker, artist, photographer, and writer. He was a member of the esteemed National Academy of Design, the American Institute of Architects, and other prestigious societies in America and Europe. He received many awards and was a founding member of the Marblehead Arts Association. He died in Marblehead in 1975.

The collection also contains a significant amount of material from his wife, Narcissa Gellatly Chamberlain. Narcissa was educated at Dana Hall School in Wellesley. She later studied at the Ecole Cordon Bleu in Paris. After

World War I, she served as a volunteer with the American Committee for Devastated France. After marrying Samuel Chamberlain in 1923, she studied painting in Paris and Boston. Narcissa painted throughout her life and exhibited at the Childs Gallery in Boston, Massachusetts. When Samuel began making photographic books, she often traveled with him, doing research, caption writing, and the lighting for photographs of room interiors. For the "Bouquet" books she translated, tested, and adapted the recipes. She co-authored many of her husband's books. She is the author of *Old Rooms for New Living* (1954), *Southern Interiors of Charleston, S.C.* (1956), *The Omelette Book* (1956), and *The Prints of Samuel Chamberlain* (1984) and the editor of *A Vintage Food Sampler*. She was active in the Marblehead Historical Society and was one of a group who helped save the King Hooper Mansion as an historical site in the late 1930s.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

New Hampshire Historical Society presents exhibition: *New Hampshire: A Proven Primary Tradition*

The history and importance of New Hampshire's first-in-the-nation Presidential primary is the focus of a current exhibition of the New Hampshire Historical Society and the New Hampshire Political Library. *New Hampshire: A Proven Primary Tradition* looks at the impact New Hampshire's primary has on the national Presidential nominating process and examines how the state's political culture and traditions have shaped its first-in-the-nation role. The colorful retrospective adds to our appreciation for the New Hampshire primary and reinforces the importance of our own participation in the political process.

New Hampshire: A Proven Primary Tradition is on display at the Society's Library through May 24, 2008. This exhibit is sponsored by Rath, Young and Pignatelli, Boston Private Value Investors, the Mount Washington Resort, and Bailey Donovan, with the New Hampshire Union Leader and WMUR-TV as media sponsors. Location: 30 Park Street, Concord, New Hampshire. Hours: Tuesday - Saturday 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Admission: Free. Contact: (603) 228-6688. Additional information is available at <www.nhhistory.org/museumexhibits/primary0708/provenprimarytradition.htm>.

R H O D E I S L A N D

Exhibits in the Naval Historical Collection, Newport, Rhode Island

In January, the staff of the Naval Historical Collection designed an exhibit on recently acquired World War II items for display in the Naval War College Library. The exhibit contains memoirs of officers who served in the Navy in the Pacific Theater, photographs of wartime ships and crews, charts of the Pacific, and a track chart of Composite Squadron VC-66. It will be on display through May 2008. An exhibit on the voyage of the Great White Fleet around the world, 1907-1909, was installed in the Naval Historical Collection in December 2007 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the event. The Great White Fleet of sixteen battle-ships, painted white with gold trim, departed Hampton Roads, Virginia on December 16, 1907 and returned on February 22, 1909 after port calls in the United States, Asia, Australia, New Zealand, the Near East, and Europe. Conceived by President Theodore Roosevelt, the purpose of the cruise was to display U.S. naval power, to demonstrate friendship, and to train the crew of 14,000 men. The cruise was a resounding

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success and the ships were greeted by enthusiastic crowds wherever they went. Memorabilia on exhibit includes photographs, menus, invitations, maps, and pictorial logs from the papers of Admiral Charles Snyder, Admiral Harris Laning, two future Naval War College presidents, and Admiral Walter B. Woodson. Admiral Charles Sperry, Naval War College president, 1903-1906, was the commander-in-chief of the Fleet during the second half of the cruise.

Photos of Salve Regina University Properties Now Available for Research

In January, the Salve Regina University Archives completed a four-month, grant-funded project to rehouse, arrange, and describe a collection of photographs of campus buildings and landscapes. Prior to this project, the photos had been stored in old folders and non-archival sleeves, and there was no finding aid or other written description of the collection. Intern Jodi Goodman, a current URI GSLIS student, transferred the photos to new sleeves and three-ring binder boxes and arranged them logically by building. The new storage containers protect the photos while making them much easier for researchers to flip through.

Since the projected use of the collection does not warrant item-level cataloging, Jodi wrote a traditional, DACS-compliant archival finding aid to describe the material, including details about the types of images available for each building and the dates they cover. Jodi and University Archivist Maria Bernier also collaborated on a new photograph collection management manual for the Archives. Both resources have been added to the Archives' Web site at <http://library.salve.edu/archives/>.

This project was made possible through financial support from the Rhode Island Historical Records Advisory Board and the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

VERMONT

Saint Michael's College Awarded NEH Preservation Assistance Grant

The National Endowment for the Humanities has awarded the Saint Michael's College Archives with a Preservation Assistance Grant to help with the conservation of the Society of Saint Edmund Southern Missions photograph collection in Selma, Alabama. Archivist Liz Scott will work with a consultant to perform a preservation assessment and overall review of the collection, which is rich in images from seventy years of the Society's work in Alabama, North Carolina, and Louisiana. Following the assessment and review, the collection will move to Saint Michael's where it will join the balance of the Society of Saint Edmund Archives.

Vermont Historical Society Honored in White House Ceremony

Washington, DC—Mrs. Laura Bush presented the 2007 National Medals for Museum and Library Service to five libraries and five museums in a White House ceremony on Monday, January 14th. The awards are conferred annually by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) in coordination with the White House. The Vermont Historical Society is among the recipients.

Kevin Graffagnino, Executive Director of the Vermont Historical Society; Lyn Blackwell, Trustee; and Sarah Dopp, President of the Vermont Historical Society, attended the

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ceremony to accept the award on behalf of the Vermont Historical Society.

The annual award, made by the IMLS since 1994, recognizes institutions for outstanding social, educational, environmental, or economic contributions to their communities. "The Vermont Historical Society does far more than preserve the past," said U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT). "It uses its exhibits to connect present-day Americans, and in particular the citizens of Vermont, with the traditions of our wonderful state. Groups across the nation can learn from the society's innovative outreach program connecting people with their history."

In recent years the Historical Society has launched a number of ambitious programs to bring Vermont's heritage to the general public. "Many people don't realize how cutting edge our state historical society is," stated Sarah Dopp. "The annual Vermont History Expo, the award-winning museum exhibit in Montpelier, the school programs, the online library catalog and exhibits – they are all quite innovative," she said. For more information on the Vermont Historical Society, the Vermont History museum and other programs, go to <www.vermonthistory.org>.

The other IMLS award recipients are: Birmingham Civil Rights Institute in Alabama; Chicago Zoological Society in Illinois, Georgetown County Library in South Carolina; Kim Yerton Memorial Library in California; Memphis Public Library in Tennessee; National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, DC; The Newberry Library in Illinois; Ocean County Library in New Jersey; and Oregon Museum of Science and Industry in Oregon. ■

Editors Wanted!

Do you have keen literary skills and an eye for detail? If so, join us on the NEA Editorial Team. Four editors serve for three year terms to produce the quarterly *NEA Newsletter*. Layout is done by a professional – we want your eyes, ideas and energy. We are currently looking for two editors, one to serve from October 2008-October 2011, covering News & Notes and Calendar; the other to serve as Reviews Editor from January 2009-January 2012. Visit the NEA Web site for the job description and contact information.

People

Laura Morris joins the Harvard University Art Museums Archives as the processing archivist for a two-year cataloging project. Funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Getty Foundation, the project will include arrangement and description of many of the institution's major historical collections. Morris comes to HUAM from the Harvard Business School's Baker Library, where she served as a manuscripts processor in the Historical Collections. She holds a BA in Interdisciplinary Studies from the University of Virginia, where she was an Echols scholar. In addition, she has studied at the Marchutz School in Aix-en-Provence, France and at Pratt Institute in New York.

Sarah L. Campbell is the new Assistant Archivist at the College of the Holy Cross. Sarah previously worked as the Curator of Historical Collections at the Holyoke Public Library, Holyoke, Massachusetts. She has a MA in Art History with a concentration in Northern Renaissance art from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Massachusetts and a MSIS from the University of Albany. She is also a Certified Archivist. ■

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AROUND AND ABOUT

Wildcat Thoughts: Archivist or Records Creator?

Elizabeth Slomba, University Archivist, Milne Special Collections and Archives, Dimond Library, University of New Hampshire

The Papers of the Art Selection Committee for the Wildcat Sculpture in my archives will likely remain unprocessed until the next university archivist comes to my institution. I imagine that this archivist will be eager to process the collection because of the interest in the history of the mascot. And after looking through the material, that archivist will say, “What was the chair of this committee thinking? She knew better, she was the University Archivist for goodness’ sakes.” During my chairship of this committee I thought often of this future archivist and whether as chair I was creating the right amount of material for future study. This thought grew into an ongoing tension between my roles as a committee chair and a university archivist and as a creator of records and a collector and preserver of records. After experiencing this tension in my work on this committee, I started to recognize the same tension in all my service activities at my institution. As a result, I have changed my perspective on being an archivist while also being an active university community member.

Back in 2003, the University of New Hampshire Alumni Association decided to fund the creation of a bronze sculpture of our university wildcat mascot. The university president then charged the Aesthetics Committee with overseeing the process to commission the sculpture. The Aesthetics Committee had recently created guidelines for commissioning public art on the campus. At the time, I was serving on the Aesthetics Committee as a library representative and wrangled my way onto the committee that would commission the sculpture. I wanted to serve on the committee since I thought that this would be a great way to collect information on the commission of the sculpture and to promote the University Archives. Then I was asked to serve as the committee’s chair. I suspect I was asked to be chair because I was the only committee member who could be reached on a Friday afternoon, not because I am the University Archivist.

Serving as chair changed my role on the committee from committee member to the one overseeing the process. This shift subtly affected what I thought my role on the committee would be. As a member of the committee, I expected to be in a great position to collect information about the Sculpture Committee for the archives. As all university and college archivists know, students and alumni (and alumnae) and other interested parties always have an interest in the history and stories of their university/college mascot. As chair, I became responsible for generating the content I intended to collect. On one hand, this was good for the Archives because I had an awareness of what

information I would need as an archivist answering questions. But on the other hand, it was not good for me as an archivist because I was acutely aware of all the possible streams of information about the committee’s work but knew I would be able to capture most (but not all) of that information.

The committee met during the course of three years from the initial call for proposals for artists to the commissioning of the sculpture to the approval of the final designs. At the beginning I was focused on getting the call for proposals out and setting up the first meetings. Fortunately, in this early stage, I realized that I needed to save my emails to the committee in order to even create the Papers of the Art Selection Committee for the Wildcat Sculpture. Regardless of the Archives’ needs, I had to hold onto emails to review the progress of the committee and consider plans of action. But after I began to save emails for the express purpose of collecting them, I found that I was writing longer and very explicit emails to the committee members, even about routine matters such as potential agendas and meeting dates. I set aside in a box every single piece of paper I touched in regard to the committee. Usually, when I meet with representatives from academic departments and campus offices, I make the sales pitch that they do not need to worry about weeding out their files, that we can provide simple guidelines for what to save and what to toss, and that we are willing and able to handle the difficult choices. I prefer that the Archives staff do the weeding when processing because of the concern that departments and

offices will over select and toss out valuable materials. In my particular case, because I was the creator of the records for this committee, I became overly sensitive to my role in creating documentation and the possibility of creating a bias (however benign it may be) in the materials saved. If I had received this collection from a source other than myself, I would not have had any qualms about the collection. If items were missing or the information lacking a certain thoroughness, I would chalk it up to the principle of “what we get is what we get.”

During the course of the committee’s work, I saved versions of the first and second call for proposals, every DVD the artist sent, the original proposal from the artist, clay models, comment sheets from public meetings, lists of submitted proposals, landscape plans for the site, photos, and so on. Despite my best efforts in collecting all that I could, there were items that did not make it into the Papers of the committee. The selected artist gave the committee a copy of the Power Point presentation he used in his campus presentation, but left out most of the images he used. The committee did not receive copies of the contracts between the artist and the university because of the proprietary information in the contracts. A member of the committee who went on a site visit sent out pictures from his camera phone, but no one saved the images. Although some information was lost, I found that there was additional information in other non-committee sources, such as the news stories in the student and administration newspapers. Eventually, additional documentation about the Wildcat Sculpture process will surface when campus offices eventually hand their files over to the Archives. I hope that my enterprising successor will be interested in doing an oral history of the committee, because there are many stories about what happened that did not make it into the paper or electronic record and cannot be told with attribution until people are retired. Even further in the future, the artist’s family may likely donate his papers to another archives at another institution.

Since my service on the Art Selection Committee, I have noticed a permanent change in my perspective about being a committee member and an archivist. I am an active community member and look to promote the archives at every opportunity during my committee work. But I now have questions about who documents the committee’s work and if they do not, I wonder what my role should be. As a committee member, I am limited in the materials I can

collect but can do my part in documenting what the committee is doing. And I have developed a reputation at my institution for having sticky fingers. I pick up everything relating to my institution (annual reports, brochures, magnets, and so on) and people now think of me if they have something of interest for the archives.

There is another aspect to my institutional community involvement that is difficult to think about. The more service I do at my institution, the more documentation I save from my own work, the more I generate and add to my own papers. Someday I will have to retire and leave my university. The idea that I may one day have a conversation with my successor about whether or not my papers fit the collecting criteria for faculty papers at my institution is very shocking. When considering what papers and collections to take into my archives, I can recite my collection development policy for the archives by heart. It surprises me that my “papers” (such as they are) fit the policy. In that case, I should probably file things better and use descriptive labeling in case my papers do go to the Archives.

These challenges face anyone who works at an institution. How many of us who work daily with others’ papers think about the impact of our own work on the history of

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A friend of the author. Photo courtesy of Lisa Nugent, UNH Photographic Services.

Internet Tidbits

- Susan Martin

The Maine State Archives has recently digitized some terrific photographs by native Mainer George W. French (1882-1970). From 1936-1955, French worked as a photographer for the Maine Development Commission. His striking black-and-white images of the people, architecture, and natural beauty of his home state were often used in advertisements, calendars, and postcards. The Maine State Archives' latest digital exhibits of French's award-winning work are called "Workaday World of Maine" and "Down East Doorways." Both exhibits (as well as several others) are available at www.maine.gov/sos/arc/exhibits/.

"Workaday World of Maine" consists of fifteen black-and-white photographs documenting the everyday work life of Mainers in the 1930s and 1940s. Included are men, women, and children in the acts of weaving, farming, fishing, shipbuilding, and logging. French had a knack for framing his subjects: indoor scenes lit by a nearby window, for example, or workers on a shipyard dwarfed by the wooden frame of a half-built ship. One photograph of fishermen unloading the day's catch is shot from a height to include the entire crane and a wider view of the harbor. All of the photographs are reproduced well, from dark interiors to scenic views of apple orchards, hayfields, and rivers. Brief captions provide some historical and local context.

"Down East Doorways" contains seventeen black-and-white photographs of the entrances of homes in Fryeburg, Parsonsfield, Wiscasset, Thomaston, and other Maine towns. Most of the houses, owned by sea captains or prominent merchants, represent the Federal style of architecture. The exhibit also includes photographs of the homes of Thomas Ruggles in Columbia Falls and Sarah Orne Jewett in South Berwick. Captions describe significant architectural features, such as sidelights, carvings, columns, and widow's walks.

For additional photographs by George W. French, see the Archives' 2001 exhibit "Main Street Yesterdays." These seven nostalgic photographs depict the tree-lined streets of small-town Maine in the middle of the twentieth century.

In general, the Maine State Archives' digital exhibits

could benefit from more detailed bibliographic information, a more creative interface, and a zoom capability for viewing individual photographs. However, the local knowledge that has gone into the selection of the photographs and the accompanying text adds a depth often missing from other Web sites. George W. French said, "I hope to leave a sort of monument to represent a life devoted to picturing the beautiful side of the great out-of-doors, as well as preserving in pictures the dignity and charm of everyday folks and their ways of life." This small sample of French's photography will undoubtedly pique the interest of researchers both inside and outside the state of Maine. ■

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our institutions? Or if we are generating materials worthy of being collected, processed and presented to the public? I set aside these thoughts when I serve on committees because I do not want to get caught up in wondering if I saved the right item or documented my recent committee activities, and thus get burdened by the weight of potential history. If I thought that way every time my Art Selection Committee met, I would not have been effective in getting the committee's charge completed. Not every activity is important enough to document. But I believe it is necessary to identify the important activities and potential future impact and then collect as much documentation as possible. I am mindful of needing to collect and document for the Archives and realize that it is also important for me to do this as part of my role as a community member, not just as the Archivist.

Towards the end of the committee's life, when the dedication of the sculpture was announced, a committee member asked if anyone had bothered to save something about the creation of the sculpture. I answered confidently that yes, I had saved documentation, because that's my day job. Yet, I cannot imagine processing this collection myself or anytime soon since it is so personal. The little granite chip I received as a dedication gift looks nifty on my desk, although I know it should go into the collection eventually. The only step I took towards processing was to disregard the emails planning the next meeting dates. This was the only type of information I felt confident enough to toss; everything else still felt very recent. So, until I can develop some professional distance from the collection, it will remain unprocessed and waiting for the next University Archivist. ■

Calendar of Events



Press releases and other announcements of upcoming activities to be published in the *Newsletter* should be sent to NEA, c/o WPI Archives and Special Collections, Gordon Library, 100 Institute Road, Worcester, MA 01609, or sent via e-mail to <mperrin-mohr@newenglandconservatory.edu>. Please provide the date, time, place, and a brief description of the event and the name, address, and telephone number of the person to be contacted for information.

April 24–25, 2008. SAA workshop, “Style Sheets for EAD: Delivering Your Finding Aids on the Web,” University Park, PA. Note that the SAA workshop “Encoded Archival Description” will immediately precede this workshop. See <www.archivists.org/prof-education/workshop-detail.asp?id=2331>.

May 1-3, 2008. MARAC Spring meeting, Chautauqua Institution, NY. For information, see <www.lib.umd.edu/MARAC/conferences/conferences.html>.

May 13, 2008. SAA workshop, “Applying DACS to Single-Item Manuscript Cataloging,” Atlanta, GA. See <www.archivists.org/prof-education/workshop-detail.asp?id=2347>.

May 15, 2008. Deadline to apply to take the Academy of Certified Archivists archival certification examination; and to apply for “You Pick Your Site” examination locations. Contact: Academy of Certified Archivists, 48 Howard Street, Albany, NY. 12207, Tel: 518-463-8644, Fax: 518-463-8656, <aca@caphill.com>.

May 15, 2008. Application Deadline for National Endowment for the Humanities Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions. Application materials and instructions are available at <www.neh.gov/grants/guidelines/pag.html>.

May 16, 2008. SAA workshop, “Applying DACS to Single-Item Manuscript Cataloging,” Provo, UT. For information, see <www.archivists.org/prof-education/workshop-detail.asp?id=2342>.

May 19, 2008. SAA workshop, “Building Digital Collections,” University Park, PA. For further information see <www.archivists.org/prof-education/workshop-detail.asp?id=2335>.

May 23, 2008. SAA workshop, “An Introduction to Archival Exhibitions,” Frankfort, KY. For further information see <www.archivists.org/prof-education/workshop-detail.asp?id=2343>.

June 2, 2008. National Historical Publications and Records Commission Grant Applications deadline (for the November meeting). For detailed information see <www.archives.gov/nhprc/apply/program.html> or contact the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), National Archives and Records Administration, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Room 111, Washington, DC 20408-0001, Phone: 202-501-5610, Fax: 202-501-5601.

June 9-13, 2008. “Designing Archival Description Systems” will be taught as a new course in the Rare Book School at the University of Virginia. The course will be taught by Daniel Pitti. Applications are available at <www.rarebookschool.org/applications/>.

June 10-11, 2008. “Digital Directions: The Fundamentals of Creating and Managing Digital Collections,” Jacksonville, FL. Visit <www.nedcc.org> for more information.

June 21-28, 2008. The University of Wisconsin - Madison will hold the 1st Archives Leadership Institute, Madison, WI. For further information see <www.slis.wisc.edu/continued/archivesinst.html>.

July 21-27, 2008. XVIth International Congress on Archives, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. For details see <www.ica.org/en/2008/07/21/xvith-international-congress-archives>.

Aug 24–31, 2008. Society of American Archivists Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA. For details see <www.archivists.org/conference/sanfrancisco2008/>. ■

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New England Archivists

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THIS SEASON IN NEW ENGLAND HISTORY



A few years ago, Yankee Magazine chose Peacham as the loveliest village in New England. Historically, all of the roads in New England have had muddy ruts, as exemplified here on Old Cemetery Road. Today we may all enjoy paved freeways but in the heaviest snow you might still experience these ruts, a prelude to the New England fifth season, mud season.

Image courtesy of the Peacham Historical Association in Peacham, Vermont.