

Volume 37, Number 2 • April 2010

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# NEWSLETTER

NEW ENGLAND ARCHIVISTS



COVER -- Harrington Corner at Main and Front Streets, Worcester, Massachusetts (c. 1920). Photo courtesy of the E.B. Luce Collection, Worcester Historical Museum.

INSIDE -- Eliot Wilczek, 2008 Richard L. Haas Award recipient, reports on the "E-Discovery Forum: A Series of Four Seminars" (*Archival Insight*, page 4) and Robyn Christensen writes about the Worcester Historical Museum's recent acquisition of photographs documenting the city's landscape (*Around and About*, page 18). Also NEA's first annual student writing prize is awarded to Gabrielle Daniello (*Student Writing Prize*, page 10).

TAKING THE PAST INTO THE FUTURE



## New England Archivists

TAKING THE PAST INTO THE FUTURE

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**Notices** of archival events should be sent to: Michael Dello Iacono at <michael.delloiacono@hms.harvard.edu>.

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**Articles** and **News** of interest to archivists, historical society members, historians, and other NEA members should be sent to: Michael Dello Iacono at <michael.delloiacono@hms.harvard.edu> or to NEA Newsletter Editors, c/o College Archives & Special Collections, Wallace E. Mason Library, Keene State College, 299 Main Street, Keene, NH. 03435.

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# From the Editors

- Alyssa Pacy

The April edition of the *NEA Newsletter* reminds us all that spring has finally arrived in New England and with it, new beginnings for those of us in the archives profession. And whether you find yourself ready to tackle a new project or simply doing a little spring-cleaning in the archives, you will find inspiration in the great work done by our colleagues featured in this issue.

Eliot Wilczek, recipient of the 2008 Richard L. Haas Award, describes the incredible work he did organizing the "E-Discovery Forum: A Series of Four Seminars" in *Archival Insight*. The seminar series, presented in the fall of 2008 by ARMA Boston and Simmons College's Graduate School of Information and Library Science, focused on the legal issues surrounding electronic records.

In *Around and About*, Robyn Christensen writes about the Worcester Historical Museum's recent acquisition of

the Edwin Bradley Luce photograph collection. Luce, a long-time Worcester photographer, took over 75,000 photographs between the late-19th to mid-20th centuries, featuring cityscapes and local commercial ventures. This article reminds us how exciting it is to receive a valuable, new collection as well as face the challenges of long-term preservation of unstable materials.

The inspiration to act is evident in Heather Dean's review of *Archives and Justice: A South African Perspective*. Dean, in a careful reading of the writings of Vern Harris, an archivist in post-apartheid South Africa, encourages us to see how the professional work of archivists have real and lasting effects on political systems.

Lastly, on behalf of the NEA Newsletter Committee, I would like to announce the winner of our first annual student writing prize: Gabrielle Daniello, for her piece titled, *Archival Footsteps*, which inspires us to engage in the research side of archival work. We received many highly qualified entries for this prestigious award and look forward to reading next year's essays. ■

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# ARCHIVAL INSIGHT

by Eliot Wilczek, University Records Manager, Tufts University

In 2008 the New England Archivists and the ARMA Boston Chapter awarded Eliot Wilczek a Richard L. Haas Award to help support the “E-Discovery Forum: A Series of Four Seminars,” a set of ARMA Boston meetings about electronic discovery held from September through November 2008. The seminars were presented by ARMA Boston and the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at Simmons College in association with The Sedona Conference. The Haas Award helped address the cost of holding the seminar meetings. In particular, the award played a critical part in supporting considerations given to The Sedona Conference, which played a central role in organizing the seminar series. This report summarizes the meetings and assesses their success.

## Event Summary

Woody Thomas, Main Street America Group; Chris Bednar, Bain & Co; and Eliot Wilczek, Tufts University (respectively the President, Education Director, and a member of ARMA Boston in 2008) led the effort to organize the e-discovery seminar series. They worked in close collaboration with Ken Withers, Director of Judicial Education & Content at The Sedona Conference, to develop the meeting programs and secure speakers. Ken Withers helped to conceptualize the meeting topics and pulled together a diverse and talented set of speakers. He played a crucial role in the success of the series. In addition, Woody Thomas, Chris Bednar, and Eliot Wilczek worked closely with the ARMA Boston board and staff at Simmons College, which served as the location for all four meetings, to make logistical and financial arrangements. Finally, Iron Mountain and Interwoven each sponsored a meeting of the seminar series.

### Program

The four meetings were organized in the following manner:

## E-Discovery Overview

September 25, 2008

*Alumnae Hall, Residence Campus, Simmons College*

An introduction to key electronic discovery concepts and issues.

### Panelists

Hon. Timothy S. Hillman, U.S. Magistrate Judge, District of Massachusetts

Dawn M. Curry, Nutter McClennen & Fish LLP

Daniel K. Gelb, Gelb & Gelb LLP

Woods K. Abbott, Raytheon Company

## Preservation Obligations and Litigation Holds

October 9, 2008

*Alumnae Hall, Residence Campus, Simmons College*

Presentations about preserving the authenticity of records involved in litigation and managing the legal holds process.

### Panelists

Andrew Cohen, EMC Corporation

Sean Regan, Symantec Corporation

Sarah Worley, Pre-Trial Solutions

Ross Harvey, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Simmons College

## Role of the Electronic Records Manager

October 30, 2008

*Paresky Conference Center, Main Campus, Simmons College*

Presentations about the need for records professionals, lawyers, and IT professionals to work collaboratively to address electronic discovery challenges.

### Panelists

Stephen O'Leary, EMC Corporation

Joel Wuesthoff, LECG

Sean Regan, Symantec Corporation

Chuck Young, Tufts University

## Mock Hearing

November 20, 2008

*Paresky Conference Center, Main Campus, Simmons College*

A mock hearing that illustrates electronic discovery issues. The hearing includes a judge, defense and plaintiff counsel, and a records manager witness.



*Participants*

Hon. Robert B. Collings, U.S. Magistrate Judge, District of Massachusetts

Daniel K. Gelb, Gelb & Gelb LLP

Eric P. Magnuson, Nutter McClennen & Fish LLP

Jill Snyder, NARA Northeast Region

Information about the sessions, including some of the presentations, is posted at the ARMA Boston website, <<http://www.armaboston.org/library.htm>>, and at <<http://web.simmons.edu/~wilczek/ediscovery/index.html>>.

**Analysis**

The four meetings on the single topic of electronic discovery allowed members and guests to engage more fully in an issue than they normally can at a single ARMA Boston meeting. ARMA Boston received positive feedback on the speakers and the organization of the meetings. In general, all the sessions worked well together. There was more topical overlap between the second session (Preservation Obligations and Litigation Holds) and the third session (Role of the Electronic Records Manager) than originally intended, but considering the inter-connectedness between e-discovery topics, the overlap should not be surprising. A seminar or conference session that had discussion about preservation obligations and litigation holds could at the same time serve as an illustration of collaboration issues and the respective roles of information technology, legal, and records management professionals. The Mock Hearing (fourth session) was very successful. Based on the comments received, the audience appeared to find it enjoyable, engaging, and insightful. In particular, the audience of records managers found it very interesting to hear a judge's concerns, questions, and opinions. It was very instructive for the audience to see the decisions and actions Judge Collings took during the hearing and to hear his discussion during the question and answer period about issues such as safe harbor for records destruction and the cost-benefit analysis of data-recovery costs versus stakes of a case.

ARMA Boston took several steps to encourage New England Archivists (NEA) members to attend these meetings. It announced the meeting in multiple NEA venues, including the NEA website. ARMA Boston also extended the member rate for registration to NEA members. These efforts helped bring in several NEA members who did not normally attend ARMA Boston meetings. Thus, the meetings were able to help foster cooperation and understand-

ing between the archival and records management professions, the stated purpose of the Haas Award.

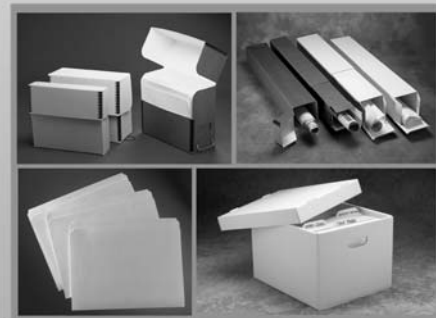
ARMA Boston also used the four meetings to reach out to students in the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at Simmons College, particularly those in the archives concentration track. ARMA Boston announced the meetings in several Simmons venues and extended a reduced student rate as it normally does for its meeting. The meeting also took place at Simmons between the Library School's morning and afternoon class times. While some students did attend some of the meeting, ARMA Boston did not have the student attendance it hoped for. Many students at Simmons also have part- or full-time jobs, lengthy commutes, or family obligations that hinder their ability to attend extra professional events in the middle of a weekday. In addition, the majority of archives concentrators at Simmons appear to be more professionally attuned to NEA and archives than ARMA Boston and records management. More student involvement with ARMA Boston will take directed, focused, and sustained attention on the part of the organization and the college. ■



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# Reviews

*Archives and Justice: A South African Perspective.* By Verne Harris with a foreword by Terry Cook. Chicago: Society of American Archivists, 2007. \$56.00. ISBN: 1-931666-18-0.

by Heather Dean, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

*Archives and Justice* is a collection of essays, speeches, and newspaper articles, written by the South African archivist Verne Harris (Project Manager for the Nelson Mandela Centre of Memory), dating from 1994 (the year that apartheid formally ended) to roughly 2004.

In his introduction Harris observes: “To a great degree, professional archival discourses are insulated from the energies of imagination, passion, mystery, and wonder.” It’s therefore unsurprising that, while the selections chronicle Harris’s post-apartheid experiences and his grappling with the real-life relationship between archives and justice, he treats both of these concepts more philosophically and peppers his writing with quotes from music and literature. Harris “would happily regard as ‘archive’ the shared narratives of a collectivity” because his understanding of ‘archive’ and ‘record,’ as many of the essays demonstrate, are inspired by the French philosophers Jacques Derrida and Michel Foucault. Similarly, his conception of justice is not tethered to legal definitions, but is discussed in the broader context of ethics and the ability “to know right from wrong.” In his writings Harris also reminds the reader of the poetry inherent in everyday archival tasks, such as appraisal and description, writing that “appraisal will always be closer to storytelling than to scientific endeavour” and that “in archival description archivists tell stories about stories; they tell stories with stories.”

As the title suggests, Harris directly addresses archives and justice in South Africa and his essays range from an exploration of general archival themes within the South African landscape to historical analyses of archives immediately following apartheid. Harris explains: “As a South

African I cannot but speak from the context of realities in the periphery.” This is not so much an acknowledgement of a limitation as it is a qualification; Harris is careful to draw attention to the subjectivities that inform his thinking, so that South Africa is both the topic of his writing as well as the context of his practice. Harris’s writings are written with candour and are full of illuminating anecdotes and it is this highly personalized approach that makes *Archives and Justice* so readable. As Terry Cook states in his foreword, *Archives and Justice* in many ways reads as “professional autobiography.”

With this approach, Harris ably connects the local with the international, demonstrating how lessons learned by archives in South Africa are relevant to the global archival community, and conversely, illustrating his broader perspectives on archival theory with examples drawn from his experiences as a South African archivist. In his essay, “The Record, the Archive, and Electronic Technologies in South Africa,” Harris points out that “the analysis perforce embraces the particular but in drawing conclusions I look always for what we could call the universal.”

In this collection Harris draws on his strengths as a multifaceted author (he publishes on archival theory and writes novels) to connect the local with the global, archival theory with the artistic. One quibble with the collection is that the essays don’t always hang-well together, and at times can feel repetitive if read linearly cover-to-cover. Then again, the strength of this collection is that it shows the maturation of Harris’s ideas over a longer trajectory than if the collection had originally been written as a book-length project. *Archives and Justice* is an enlightening collection of some of Harris’s most thought-provoking essays and, coming from someone who is only mid-career, it’s exciting to see it as an illustration of what else is to come ■

Visit the NEA online at:

**<[www.newenglandarchivists.org](http://www.newenglandarchivists.org)>**

## It’s Your Newsletter: Contribute!

The *NEA Newsletter* always needs news from your archives and other archives in New England, about NEA members, and about upcoming events. We also need people to write reviews, long articles, and session reports for NEA meetings. If you have any ideas for articles, etc., please contact an editor.

# Inside NEA

FROM THE PRESIDENT

- Peter Carini



It's hard to believe that a whole year has passed since I took on the role of NEA President. We have managed a great deal over this year and none of it would have been possible without the support of the Board, those who serve on committees, or the support of you, the membership. Likewise, none of this would have been

possible without past planning by the organization or the work of those who held office before me.

NEA is an exciting and thriving organization that is on the cusp of major change. Over the last several years the Board has worked to position the organization to better take advantage of web-based tools. As I write we are in the process of implementing the long promised online mem-

bership directory and a new electronic voting process. Within the next year we hope to be able to move to online registration for meetings, workshops, and events.

In addition, the organization has taken several stands on archival issues over the last couple of years. Many within NEA supported the PHAR initiative and the Board took action on the threatened closure of the Massachusetts State Library. While we had minimal impact in both cases, it is important for the organization to take on this advocacy role and to make itself heard in the public forum. I hope that these small steps will be followed by others and that some day NEA will be seen as an authoritative voice on archival issues in the region.

I think NEA has a very positive future and I look forward to continuing to work with all of you as past president and as fellow member. ■

## EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING REPORT

- Danielle Kovacs



The business handled at the January 15, 2010 meeting of the Executive Board is summarized below. All **VOTING** is in bold. Complete minutes are available on the NEA website or from the secretary.

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m. by Peter Carini. Minutes from the November 6, 2009 Board Meeting were presented. **All members voted to accept the November 6, 2009 Board Meeting minutes.**

## OFFICERS' REPORTS

### President

Some fairly significant changes were made to the strategic plan at a meeting held by the Board on December 11, 2009. During this meeting the Board prioritized the goals and objectives and assessed the human and financial impacts of both. What remains to be done is to compile lists of actions to be taken to achieve the objectives. There will be an update on the strategic planning at the annual business meeting on March 20, 2010.



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In November Board members drafted a letter to be sent to Governor Deval Patrick concerning the threat posed to the special collections in the Massachusetts State Library. An Ad Hoc Committee was also assembled to discuss this issue with the Governor in the future as an opportunity arises.

### Immediate Past President

Arrangements are being made for NEA's first online Executive Board election via [vod.votenet.com](http://vod.votenet.com) online service. Polls will open on February 18, 2010 and close on March 18, 2010.

### Vice President

The Fall 2010 Program Committee has been assembled and a location for the Spring 2011 meeting is being discussed, possibly at an institution in Rhode Island.

### Treasurer

The FY2010 budget was approved by email on December 4, 2009. The FY2009 closed with a deficit of \$1,129.85 due to unforeseen but necessary expenditures on web design and the Fall 2009 conference.

## MEETINGS

### Spring 2010

Nine poster session proposals were submitted and all were accepted. The posters will be on display alongside the vendors; presenters will be available to discuss their work and answer questions during the 10-10:30 coffee break. The registration mailer has already been sent to the printer and is available on NEA's website. The full program with local arrangements information will be submitted to the Web Committee for inclusion on the site.

### Fall 2010

The meeting will be held on Nov 5-6, 2010 at Keene State College and Cheshire Historical Society. **All members voted to appoint the following individuals to the Program Committee: Peter Rawson, Hotchkiss School; Jamie Kingman-Rice, Maine Historical Society; Sarah Campbell, Holy Cross; Jessica Tanny, Schlesinger Library; Renee DesRoberts, Biddeford Public Library; Paul Bergeron, City Clerk, Nashua, N.H.**

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Web Committee

Krista Ferrante outlined the options we have for capturing

the audio content of our meetings. The Board agreed that capturing the keynote speaker's address as an mp3 using recording equipment purchased by NEA was the best option. Since there are still a number of issues to be resolved, such as the development of a copyright statement and clearance forms to be signed by speakers, Krista and Elizabeth Slomba will report back to the Board with further details in March.

Krista is also looking into arranging a service contract with Appleseed for ongoing maintenance of the website. The Board asked her to determine what our most critical issues are in terms of maintenance; what the cost for ongoing maintenance will be; how much protection a service contract will provide us; and if it will cover all our needs. She will address these concerns with Appleseed and report back to the Board in March.

### Membership Committee

Maria Bernier asked the Board to begin submitting suggestions about what questions should be included in the Membership Committee's next survey. Some topics already identified include: NEA communications, communication from the Board, transparency issues, and the listservs. Compiling questions for the next membership survey will be on the Board agenda for the next few meetings and Maria will be soliciting input on an ongoing basis.

**All members voted to appoint Kris Reinhard of the UMass Medical Library to the Membership Committee.**

### Communication Committee

Elizabeth Slomba presented the revised Communication Committee purpose and job description. **All members voted to establish a Communication Committee and adopt the purpose and job description.**

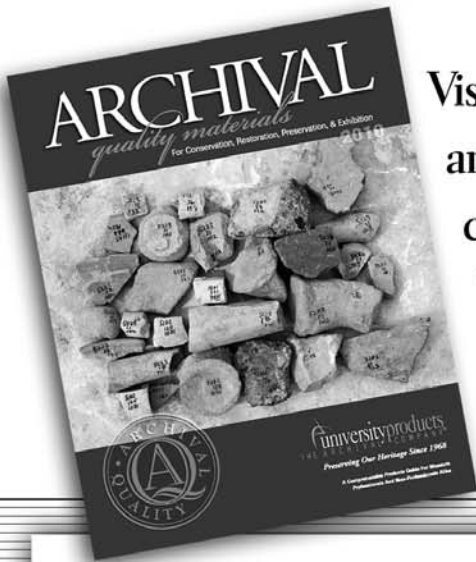
### Advocacy Guidelines

Karen Adler Abramson presented the proposed policy on NEA advocacy, which allows the Board to take action in cases where access to and preservation of historical records are threatened. **All members voted in to approve the NEA Advocacy Policy.**

### Next Meeting Date

The next quarterly Board meeting will take place at UMass Amherst on March 19, 2010. ■





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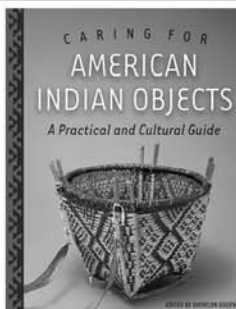


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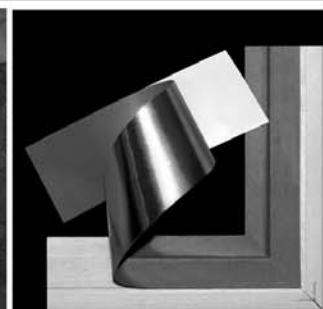
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## STUDENT WRITING PRIZE

### Archival Footsteps

by Gabrielle Daniello

At 61 India Street, in Portland Maine, a three-story, mansard-roofed building hosts a bait-and-tackle shop on the ground floor. Great, arched, boarded-up carriage doors on the addition at the rear of the building brood around a dilapidated courtyard and hint that this building has a story to tell. On one brick wall, the ghostly evidence of a flight of outdoor stairs remains, the discoloration of the bricks telling us that what we see now is not the way it always was. It has the flavor of a haunted house from a childhood fantasy.

And indeed, it is haunted, as is the street on which this building stands. What ghosts haunt India Street? What stories do the buildings shelter in their stones and brick? Several years ago, as a graduate student in American and New England Studies, I took that question as my directive, and spent a good many months researching the history and inhabitants of India Street. Early written histories took me part of the way in my research, until I bumped up against the early twentieth century when the written documentation essentially disappeared. So I turned to archival materials, many of them primarily visual in nature such as maps and photographs, to try to recreate the landscape of the street, and then “read” that landscape for evidence of how its people lived. The inhabitants and users of the street at that time (immigrants, travelers, lodgers, day laborers, coal collectors, longshoremen) lived on the margins of a literate society and the marks they left behind were not always marks on paper. So I searched for the marks that they made, figuratively and imaginatively, on the buildings in which they lived and the streets on which they walked.

With very little fanfare, India Street today marches up a few blocks from the waterfront to Congress Street, one of the city’s main drags. The short street offers a gap-toothed appearance – modest red brick buildings interspersed with small surface parking lots, a tangle of overhead wires, a few scraggly trees, some nondescript storefronts, a chain link fence, a water treatment plant. Yet it also surprises with its pockets of beauty and glories of brick – the graceful, understated arches on the façade of the Italian market, some mansard roofs, the delicately multi-hued brick sidewalks. For the most part, the buildings are outwardly quiet – the now empty hot dog factory building succumbs further and further to weeds, the old Grand Trunk office building stands alone in a sea of scrubby surface parking lots.

Once upon a time, the street was home to Portland’s first European settlers, and then, in the mid-nineteenth century, it became a street of mansions, where the city’s elite lived. This history is well documented in written sources. The era of the street’s history that interested me the most, however, were the early decades of the twentieth century when the Grand Trunk Railway station (now gone) presided over the waterfront end of the street; when the steamships brought crowds of people to the wharves; when lodging houses, taverns, and pool halls spilled their boisterous crowds out onto the sidewalk; when hordes of immigrants crammed into small apartments over small shops and called the street home. It was a loud, bustling, raucous era in the street’s history, and yet it is precisely at this critical moment that the old books and the textual records in the city’s archival repositories became quite silent.

Many of India Street’s immigrant residents and laborers couldn’t read or write English. Many couldn’t even write in their native tongue. And if they could write, these working class people, whose days began early and ended late, did not have an abundance of leisure time in which to write and reflect. I felt at this point as though my research had come to the end of the road.

Then two different archival sources came to my rescue: the city’s collection of 1924 tax assessment photographs, held at City Hall, and the Sanborn fire insurance maps, bound into large books, held by the University of Southern Maine’s Osher Map Library. These materials allowed me to piece together a picture of the street during those years. A sense of order began to emerge out of the ghostly, enigmatic landscape. In 1924, city tax assessors photographed and surveyed all taxable structures in the city of Portland. Using a standard form, they ticked off elements about each building – the materials used in its construction, the type of heating and

lighting systems – and noted its age and condition of repair. From these checklists, I learned that a great many of the apartments and rooms on the street were still lit by gas lamps, rather than with electricity which had become common in more well-off neighborhoods, and that many of the street's homes were in less than pristine condition.

These documents, tightly bound, narrow bundles of checklists with photos attached, were kept in the Tax Assessors Office in City Hall. I studied them while standing at the counter in the office. About a year ago, I heard that there was a plan afoot to digitize them.

The tax photos show a street that is densely packed with buildings, ranging from simple one-story additions and stores to relatively plain three- and four-story buildings with businesses on the ground floor and residences on the upper floors. At street level, striped awnings, shop signs, and sandwich boards lend visual interest to the scene, while the apartments above offer blurred glimpses of curtains, and laundry hangs on back porches and between buildings. Several commercial one-story structures jostled for space on the crowded street. This particular type of building, a product of the mid-nineteenth century, satisfied the growing need for commercial space and could provide some money-making incentives for the owner, but required very little in the way of initial investment. As such, this architectural type fit the needs of India Street's small businesses perfectly. The fact that these little structures kept springing up suggests that business was brisk, if not overly profitable or tenable for the long haul.

Fire insurance maps also provided a wealth of details about the street that help to shed light on how the street's residents lived. The maps color code each building to show the material of which it is constructed, whether stone, brick, or wood. Thus I discovered the paucity of brick buildings during those years on the street, a not insignificant detail as it turned out. Quickly constructed, cheap, and, above all, flexible, wooden buildings did not carry the same expectations of permanence that brick buildings do. Much of Portland's commercial district was rebuilt in brick following a devastating fire in 1866. Not so on India Street. The cost of wood suited India Street's small-scale shopkeepers, and it was easy to adapt a wooden building to frequent changes in commercial occupants. City directories reveal that shops changed function sometimes from year to year.

The photographs and the maps sketch a picture of a

neighborhood that is quite crowded and commercially diverse. Residents lived over livery stables, restaurants, and grocery stores. The buildings, apart from the hotels, were not particularly large. City directories in the public library and census records filled in some more details. These small homes were bursting with people from all over, and families took in lodgers and spare relatives. Fredricka and Oscar Albue emigrated from Norway; Benjamin Bukwald from Poland; David Graff from Russia. There were many Irish, some Swedes. Michael Paolino, 33, lived at 41 India Street with his wife Mary Grace, 27. They had seven children, and shared their home with four boarders, all Italian males, who ranged in age from 18 to 42, and who worked as general laborers. A father-in-law and a 15-year old brother-in-law who worked as a machinist also lived with them. The majority of India Street's adult males worked as longshoremen or laborers. Others found work as shop clerks, box cutters, coal collectors, and machinists. The women who worked outside the home clerked in grocery stores, owned their own shops, or worked as seamstresses.

This is just a sampling of the largely forgotten cast of characters that peopled the street during the first decades of the last century. There were also transients, travelers, and people on the move whose pathways and familial networks can't be mapped, like the immigrants who spent only a night or two in one of the hotels before heading on to their final destinations, or the men who gathered at the Liverpool Tavern in the fall prior to embarking on a long, isolated season of lumbering in the North Woods.

India Street is no spectacular landscape. Over the course of my research, I came to appreciate it, aesthetically and intellectually, and to see beauty even where it seems far from beautiful, but I know that it is just an ordinary street. The fire insurance maps with their delicate hues of pale red and green and the sometimes blurry black and white tax photographs came into being for very prosaic reasons (taxes and insurance!), and were used in the course of very ordinary business, yet they, too, came to seem beautiful to me. I found them beautiful visually, but also for the way they enriched the research process. India Street's residents of a hundred years ago left behind precious few marks on paper with pens they themselves wielded. But they moved through their world and left their marks in other ways, however passing and ephemeral, and the maps and photographs help us to catch a glimpse of those marks, to hear, however faintly, the sound of footsteps echoing in the distant past. ■

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## New Members *- Rodney Obien*

### STUDENT

Emily Baldoni  
Simmons College

Betsy Baldwin  
Simmons College

Sally Benny  
Simmons College

Erica Cataldi  
University of Rhode Island

Su Ciampa  
Simmons College

Marika L. Cifor  
Simmons College

Nadia Dixon  
Simmons College

Deirdre Doran  
Simmons College

Gwendolyn Fougy Henry  
Simmons College

Kevin French  
Simmons College

Katrina Wirth Fulton  
Simmons College

Matthew Gamber  
Simmons College/Harvard

Kimberly Hula  
Simmons College

Melissa Hulse  
Simmons College

Kimberly Kinder  
Simmons College

Jade Kwong  
Simmons College

Phyllis Ladd  
University of Illinois,  
Champaign-Urbana

Sara Ludovissy  
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Colleen McGhee  
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Megan McNiff  
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Kate Monea  
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Chessie Monks  
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Laurie Pazzano  
UMass Boston

Corinne Philips  
Simmons College

Nicola Shayer  
UConn

Betsy Sherman  
Simmons College

Shannon Struble  
Simmons College

Eugenia Tsantinis  
Assumption College

Irina Tsiklik  
Simmons College

### INDIVIDUAL

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Kennebec Historical  
Society, LLC

Teri DeYoung  
National Park Service

Jeannine Ducharme  
MIT Lincoln Laboratory

Xaviera Flores

Robert Hall  
Concord Free Public  
Library, MA

Judy Lucey  
New England Historic  
Genealogical Society

Robert McFadden  
Gordon-Conwell  
Theological Seminary

Anne L. Moore  
UMass Amherst

Sonia Pacheco  
UMass - Dartmouth

Jane Polson

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Not only do we offer workshops at NEA's semi-annual meetings, but we also can bring them to your institution anytime during the year. Please e-mail Alyssa Pacy, Education Committee Chair, at <apacy@lesley.edu> with any comments or suggestions.



# News and Notes

## GENERAL

### The NEA Outreach Committee Needs Your Help with Archives Month 2010!

October is Archives Month and the NEA Outreach Committee is developing a plan to promote this important event. According to SAA, the mission of Archives Month is “an opportunity ‘all over this broad land’ to raise awareness about the value of archives – and archivists.” To do this, we are asking the membership of NEA for their ideas. Do you have an image from your collection that encapsulates archives or represents your state? Do you have an event planned? Do you have an idea how to best push archives or archivists to the forefront in October? If so, we’d like to hear from you! Please contact Susan Von Salis: <susan\_vonsalis@harvard.edu>

### Summer with NEA Program

Join us for a Lone Arrangers celebration on the afternoon of May 26, 2010 at the Congregational Library in Boston. More events to come!

## MASSACHUSETTS

### McArthur Public Library Awarded NEH Grant

The McArthur Public Library is delighted to announce that the National Endowment for the Humanities has awarded the library a grant of \$6,000 in support of preserving the local history and special collections. The funding will support the purchase of archival supplies and storage furniture. In 2007, the McArthur was awarded a NEH grant to fund a preservation assessment of collections conducted by the Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC), located in Andover, Massachusetts.

In addition to the NEH award, the library’s project has been designated a “We the People” project and is being supported in part by funds the agency has set aside for this special initiative. The goal of the “We the People” initiative is to encourage and strengthen the teaching, study, and understanding of American history and culture through

the support of projects that explore significant events and themes in our nation’s history and culture and that advance knowledge of the principles that define America.

For more information about the McArthur’s Local History and Special Collections, check out the library’s new web site at <[www.mcarthurpubliclibrary.org](http://www.mcarthurpubliclibrary.org)>, or call the library at 207-284-4181.

### News from the Schlesinger Library

Manuscript staff at the Schlesinger Library have recently processed and made available for research the papers of the following women: attorney and women’s rights activist Sonia Pressman Fuentes (papers, ca. 1929-2009); reporter and social worker Katharine Wolcott Toll (papers, 1809-2004); Pulitzer Prize-winning *New York Times* journalist Nan Robertson (papers, 1920-2004); California commune member and plaintiff in *Diamond v. Yale University* gender and age discrimination case; Ann Pecora Diamond (papers, 1897-2009); and political and social activist Florence Luscomb (addenda, 1888-1988). Staff also processed the records of the following organizations: the Women’s Educational and Industrial Union, a non-profit social and educational agency in Boston, Massachusetts (addenda, 1877-2004); New Words (1974-2002), the country’s oldest, continuously-run women’s bookstore until 2002; and the National Organization for Women Legal Defense & Education Fund’s (NOW LDEF) Project on Equal Education Rights (PEER) (records, 1966-1991), created in 1974 to monitor the government’s progress in enforcing federal laws against sex discrimination in the public schools. Finding aids are available on Harvard University’s OASIS web site at <<http://oasis.lib.harvard.edu>>.

### Boston Bureau of Jewish Education Collection Now Open to Researchers

The American Jewish Historical Society in Newton, Massachusetts has recently completed processing the collection of the Boston Bureau of Jewish Education (BJE), which recently closed its doors after 89 years of service to the greater Boston area. The BJE was established in 1920 and worked with Hebrew schools to provide quality Hebrew language instruction to students. During the 1940s,

the BJE formed a collaborative with the United Hebrew Schools and the Hebrew Teachers and Principals Association in order to set higher professional and educational standards of achievement for teachers and administration. By 1960, the BJE shifted towards providing consultation, curriculum development, and training services to Jewish day schools, Hebrew Schools, Jewish pre-schools, and camps. These records document the growth and development of a number of Jewish schools in the area and reflect the changing dynamics and needs of the Boston Jewish community. The collection is currently being digitized by Inception Technologies, Inc. and is now available to researchers. See <[www.ajhs.org](http://www.ajhs.org)> for details.

### **Countway Library's Center for the History of Medicine Awarded Funding to Digitize Medical Rare Books**

The Center for the History of Medicine has joined with peer libraries to initiate a digital Medical Heritage Library. The Center will receive \$400,000 over the next

two years to digitize 10,000 rare books from the sixteenth to the twentieth centuries that relate to the intersection of medicine and society. The initiative is funded by a \$1.5 million award from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation to the Open Knowledge Commons, a nonprofit organization dedicated to building a universal digital library for democratic access to information.

Approximately 30,000 volumes of public domain works will be digitized from the collections of some of the world's leading medical libraries: the National Library of Medicine, the Harvey Cushing/John Hay Whitney Medical Library at Yale University, the Augustus C. Long Health Sciences Library at Columbia University, and the New York Public Library. The Center will contribute works in public health, psychiatry, obstetrics, and other areas of social medicine.

Plans include the addition of more library partners and provision of Web access to the collection. This project will eventually make resources permanently and freely available through a digital library. For more information, see <<https://countway.med.harvard.edu/chm>>.

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## Mount Holyoke Awarded NHPRC Grant for Electronic Records Start-Up Project

The National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) has awarded Mount Holyoke College a grant in support of a start-up electronic records project in the Archives and Special Collections department of LITS. Mount Holyoke was one of three institutions across the nation to garner an award in this category. The outcome of the grant will be to establish procedures for ingest, processing, preservation, and providing access to campus electronic records of enduring value. In addition to providing a model for other small institutions grappling with similar challenges, this project will help ensure the continued documentation and preservation of Mount Holyoke history, a history that has been actively preserved for more than one hundred seventy years.

This 18-month grant will commence on July 1, 2010. Updates on project findings will be posted on a quarterly basis to the Archives and Special Collections web site. Please see the NHPRC press release at <[www.archives.gov/press/press-releases/2010/nr10-28.html](http://www.archives.gov/press/press-releases/2010/nr10-28.html)>

## Carmen A. Pola Papers Open at Northeastern University

Community activist Carmen A. Pola was born Carmen A. Villanueva Garcia in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico in 1939. In 1955, she moved to the continental United States with her family, settling briefly in the Bronx, New York, before moving to Oakland, California. While in California, Pola became involved in community activism, participating in a number of grassroots organizations concerned with education and youth activism, including La Raza Educators and young Catholic Workers. In 1972, the Pola family relocated to Boston, Massachusetts, settling in the neighborhood of Mission Hill. Pola quickly became involved in community activism in a number of ways. In 1975, she was coordinator of the Festival Puertorriqueño (Puerto Rican Festival), held annually in Boston since 1967. From 1977 to 1980, Pola was the coordinator of the Community District I Advisory Council (CDAC), part of the Citywide Parents Advisory Council (CPAC), Inc., which operated from 1974–2004 under the court-mandated desegregation of Boston Public Schools (*Morgan v. Hennigan*). Pola was also involved in the Bilingual Masters Parents Advisory Council which

oversaw the implementation of the Voluntary Law Compliance Plan, a 1979 agreement that outlined the responsibilities of the Boston Public Schools in providing education to bilingual students.

The Carmen A. Pola papers are open for research Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., in 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/m159find.htm](http://www.library.neu.edu/archives/collect/findaids/m159find.htm)>.

## Lesley University Archives Awarded Mass Humanities Grant for Oral History Project

The Lesley University Archives recently received funding from Mass Humanities to present the exhibition, *Loyal Lesley Daughters: An Oral History of Massachusetts Women Teachers, 1925-1965*, as part of the University's 2009-2010 centennial celebration. *Loyal Lesley Daughters* will exhibit twelve oral history interviews of Lesley's alumnae, detailing their experiences at an all women's institution, the teaching techniques they learned, and the challenges they faced as women building careers in Massachusetts public schools. Gallery visitors will be able to listen to audio excerpts of each interview and view a short documentary, outlining the cultural, economic, and political climates that the women faced each decade.

The exhibition will run from May 26, 2010 to July 1, 2010 at the Marran Gallery at Lesley University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. A panel discussion with the participants will take place on June 4, 2010 and an oral history workshop will take place on June 19, 2010. Both events are free and open to the public. For more information, please contact Alyssa Pacy, Lesley University Archivist, at <[apacy@lesley.edu](mailto:apacy@lesley.edu)> or visit <[www.masshumanities.org](http://www.masshumanities.org)>.

## Recent Activities at the Lawrence Public Library

The Special Collections of the Lawrence Public Library has started a new "catablog" at <[www.queencityma.wordpress.com](http://www.queencityma.wordpress.com)> that is accessible through the Library's web site <[www.lawrencefreelibrary.org](http://www.lawrencefreelibrary.org)>. Louise Sandberg,

Special Collections Librarian, modeled the blog after Umarmot, the University of Massachusetts Amherst blog, which was presented by Robert Cox at a previous NEA meeting.

The Special Collections is also commemorating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Pemberton Mill Disaster with an exhibit at Lawrence Heritage State Park. The exhibit will run from February 6 to April 30, 2010. The disaster was the collapse of one of the mills along the Merrimack River with the subsequent fire in which 98 people died and many were injured. The exhibit will document the event and honor the victims, who were mostly women and children.

### Emerson College Archives Help Re-Open Historic Paramount Theater

In January 2010, Emerson College re-opened the long shuttered Paramount Theater and Adams House Annex (also known as the Arcade Building) in Boston's Theater District. As part of this project, the archives at Emerson College worked with architects, project planners, and

exhibit designers to create permanent displays throughout the building depicting Boston's rich theater history and the history of the site itself.

The two buildings were reconstructed and repurposed for live performance, classroom, office, and dormitory space; the displays include reproductions of items as well as artifacts found on-site during reconstruction. Most of the items came from the private collection of Hank Zappala, Director of Professional Studies at Emerson College. Other items came from Emerson's own archives, such as the large backlit graphic of the interior of the Bijou Theatre. The remaining images were donations from the public and other institutions.

### "Cornerstones and Connections" -- Mount Auburn Cemetery Historical Collections Hold Joint Program in July

Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, Massachusetts, hosted a special behind-the-scenes tour of their archival collections on July 15, 2009 as part of a joint program with the Cambridge Historical Society and



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the Longfellow National Historic Site. Curators and archivists at each site showed highlights from their extensive collections of archival manuscripts, photographs, and ephemera. The public program, called “Cornerstones and Connections,” focused on the many connections between the institutions, with architecture as a unifying theme. Four separate groups visited each of the three sites along Mount Auburn and Brattle Streets in Cambridge. Mount Auburn visitors were treated to presentations by Curator of Historical Collections Meg L. Winslow, Archivist Brian A. Sullivan, and Volunteer Caroline Loughlin. Items on display included a 19th century felt hat worn by the Cemetery gatekeeper, a 1896 watercolor proposal by Willard Sears for Story Chapel, a candelabra featuring Bigelow chapel, and an 1855 petition to build a conservatory.

## R H O D E I S L A N D

### Protecting the Past—RI Project Wins Award

A Rhody Award for Stewardship was given to the project “Protecting the Past -- RI” by the Rhode Island Historical and Preservation Commission and Preserve Rhode Island in May 2009. The award committee wrote: “Protecting the Past -- RI has established a high standard for creating strong awareness for disaster preparedness and encouraged many cultural institutions to formulate lasting and realistic plans to protect the state’s priceless cultural heritage.”

The Rhode Island Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS) completed the IMLS Connecting to Collections funded project “Protecting the Past -- RI” in 2009. The planning project resulted in RI.dPlan, an online disaster planning tool customized for Rhode Island libraries, museums, archives, city and town clerks offices, historical societies, and other institutions with collections of cultural heritage significance. The project trained a cadre of 135 staff in 89 institutions in its use. Additional programs on insurance, hiring conservators, the need for a disaster plan, as well as presentations at conferences and annual meetings were given.

RI.dPlan was customized by adding geo-centrally likely natural disasters and their affects (e.g., water spout); local and regional AIC certified conservators and their specialties; local suppliers (a list populated once an institution enters its zip

code); RI emergency managers (local, state, and federal), including contacts for police and fire; local freezing services; GPS coordinates for institutions; temp employment agencies for supplemental personnel needs during a disaster; a section to list “buddies” who will help during a disaster; and sources for personal assistance if an institution’s staff or supporters need help with coping with a disaster.

Learn more about the project at <<http://tinyurl.com/ProtectingthePast-RI>>

### New Archives and Special Collections Room at Salve Regina University

On March 24, Salve Regina University, Newport, RI, hosted an open house to introduce faculty, staff, and students to the new Archives and Special Collections room in the McKillop Library. The new space provides ample room for collections storage, research tables, and staff work areas, including a room dedicated to preservation and reformatting projects. For the first time, the university’s Newport Collection of books is readily accessible and browsable by researchers. The room also contains the university’s institutional archives, dissertations, and faculty publications, as well as rare books and manuscript collections. The open house marked the end of several months of work to improve the space, which formerly had been an instructional technology lab. For more information about the Salve Regina University Archives and Special Collections, visit <<http://library.salve.edu/archives>>. ■

Promote your photograph  
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The *NEA Newsletter* is seeking submissions from repositories in New England for back cover pictorial features in *This Season in New England History*. Send submissions in JPG or TIFF format, along with a caption detailing the subject of the photograph, to: <[cynthia.harbeson@gmail.com](mailto:cynthia.harbeson@gmail.com)>. Photographs must be scanned at 400 dpi or better.

## AROUND AND ABOUT

### The E.B. Luce Collection: The Positives About Negatives

*by Robyn Christensen, Librarian and Archivist, Worcester Historical Museum*

**W**orcester Historical Museum is excited to announce its recent acquisition of approximately 75,000 negatives and prints dating from the late-19th to mid-20th centuries taken by long-time Worcester, Massachusetts photographer, Edwin Bradley Luce (1863–1938).

Edwin Luce was 19 years old when he established his Worcester photographic studio in 1881. He specialized in commercial and landscape photography and was a fixture in Worcester until his death on May 24, 1938. In an 1893 publication on the Board of Trade (later to become the Chamber of Commerce) he was named official photographer for the Columbian Tribute. The writer described him as a landscape photographer “who is today without equal.”

E.B. Luce photographed many turn-of-the-century street views, valuable imprints of a now-vanished Worcester—pictures of downtown, parks, hotels, and churches. He also took pictures of exteriors and interiors of businesses and factories and countless pictures of their many products, which illustrate the variety of local enterprises of that time. Subjects include: the Charles G. Allen Company; American Steel and Wire; Osgood Bradley; Pullman Standard; Harrington and Richardson; Poli’s Palace Theatre; and Reed Prentice Company.

When E.B. Luce closed in 2007, after 125 years in business, owners Barry Berggren and Larry McDonald offered the E.B. Luce collection to Worcester Historical Museum. Along with the 75,000 negatives, was a collection of cameras and camera equipment as well as some of Luce’s personal effects and papers.

While this important collection opens a new window into an earlier Worcester, it also brings new, unforeseen and exciting challenges for library staff, obstacles that many other similarly-sized and staffed archives share.

The initial challenge can be divided into two parts: developing a plan of action for processing the collection and finding a suitable storage location for a collection of

this size. Like many historical societies, space and staffing are constant concerns. Finding time to process and space to properly store 75,000 negatives in already limited quarters is not an easy prospect. Whatever the final accommodations are, both necessitate a search for funding.

The first step in processing a collection of this size is performing a complete inventory. Because of the sheer number of boxes and negatives, the museum hired a temporary assistant to count each box of negatives by type (glass or film). She was also careful to note the subject matter and date of the photographs. This information was entered into an Excel worksheet. This process provided a quick inventory of subject matter for staff and researchers, and also gave staff the opportunity to examine and note the condition of each negative.

It was immediately apparent that a number of the negatives were made from cellulose nitrate. Introduced in the late 1880s by the Eastman Kodak Company, nitrocellulose film was the first flexible film base. Over time, this type of film sometimes curled and was often considered extremely flammable. Several improvements were made reducing these risks, however, this type of sheet film continued to be used into the mid-1930s. Nitrate negatives deteriorate at an unpredictable rate over time, giving off nitric oxide and nitrogen dioxide, which can be harmful to human health. More importantly, nitrate negatives can present a severe fire hazard—they can be highly flammable and have been known to burn even under water.

The classic signs of cellulose nitrate negative deterioration were also there: sticky negatives; bubbling; amber discoloration; and a noxious odor. Damaged boxes were isolated and will be properly disposed of. While it was sad to think that these images are lost, it was more important to

realize the dangers of allowing these negatives and their off-gases to remain with the collection.

The presence of nitrate-based negatives also created an unexpected storage challenge. These negatives, as many of you are probably aware, have very specific storage requirements. Ideally, they need to be individually sealed and placed in an explosion-proof freezer to keep them at a temperature below 40 degrees and at a low, constant humidity to prevent moisture condensation. With no freezing capabilities on site, this expense along with the other specialized housing needs of nitrate negatives would need to be written into a funding proposal.

The remaining glass plate and non-nitrate negatives, the majority of the E.B. Luce Collection, presented their own set of challenges. The inventory process revealed some broken and/or cracked glass plate negatives. Because they cannot be repaired, it was decided that the best course of action would be to cut acid free boards to create “sink mats” (a mount with additional space between the cover and the backing) for damaged negatives.


The remaining negatives will also need to be individually housed in envelopes, labeled, and stored in acid-free boxes. For now, the temperature and humidity in the museum’s archives are adequate to properly store these items.

The ultimate plan is to move all of the museum’s film negatives to freezer storage if and when it is available.

Perhaps the most important challenge facing the museum is how to allow the public access to such a large, diverse, and fragile collection. The inventory revealed that in some cases, a duplicate acetate film negative and/or copy print were included in the boxes of glass and nitrate negatives. The presence of the copy print and more stable film medium, lessens the conservation issues surrounding these images. Also, an examination of an included external hard drive showed that many of the over 3,000 glass negatives had been scanned in Tiff format at a high resolution.

In order to allow the public easy access to the collection, the entire collection will be scanned and entered into the museum’s searchable Past Perfect database. Scanning the remaining negatives would nearly negate the necessity of ever transporting the original collection from storage. The external hard drive provided a great head start to this process but also points to the need for a computer capable of handling the storage requirements of such a huge collection. Also, since these negatives come in all shapes, sizes, and formats, research needs to be done on a scanner that can handle these variations. Funding will also be needed for additional staff to scan the remaining negatives and enter them into our Past Perfect database. Only then will these remarkable 75,000 negatives that document Worcester’s history be subject-searchable and viewable to researchers throughout the world. ■

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A group of damaged negatives from the E.B. Luce Collection, Worcester Historical Museum.

# Internet Tidbits

- Susan Martin

The American Antiquarian Society (AAS) has been producing terrific digital resources for years. One of their latest efforts is called the European Political Print Collection Illustrated Box List (<<http://www.americanantiquarian.org/Inventories/Europeanprints/>>). Created by Graphic Arts Assistant Jaclyn Penny, this digital inventory consists of over 200 reproductions of mezzotint and aquatint material, engravings, and etchings related to a variety of political subjects between 1720 and 1843. These graphic arts items originate from England, France, Germany, and the Netherlands and portray, among other things, events leading up to the American Revolution from the European perspective. Highlights include depictions of the tarring and feathering of Loyalist John Malcolm in 1774, an engraving entitled “The Parricide: A Sketch of Modern Patriotism” (1776) showing Native Americans attacking Lady Britannia, and several fascinating images in which the nations and continents of the world are rendered as allegorical figures. The items, many of them beautifully hand-colored, are arranged chronologically into boxes and folders, with detailed descriptions and thumbnails available for enlarging as pdfs. The item descriptions have also been compiled into a 59-page pdf for keyword searching.

This digital inventory is similar to another recent AAS project: the Charles Peirce Collection Illustrated Box List (<<http://www.americanantiquarian.org/Inventories/Peirce/>>). The Charles Peirce Collection of Social and Political Caricatures and Ballads contains 65 satirical prints from England and America, 1796-1807.

To get updates on new exhibits at the AAS, as well as important acquisitions, collection highlights, and stories of local or timely interest, read their terrific blog called “Past is Present” (<<http://pastispresent.org/>>). Each entry is illustrated with interesting images, and about two or three new posts are added each week. The AAS also hosts another blog called “A Day in the Life of a Blacksmith” (<<http://blacksmithaday.wordpress.com/>>), which publishes the daily diary entries of a Massachusetts blacksmith exactly 140 years after they were written.

Recent digital projects at other libraries and archives include:

- The Alexander Parris Digital Project by the State Library of Massachusetts and other institutions (<<http://www.parrisproject.org/>>), documenting the work of the renowned architect and engineer with letters, drawings, accounts, and other papers, 1803-1851. Included for reference are indexes of personal names and projects.
- “Daguerreotypes at Harvard” (<<http://preserve.harvard.edu/daguerreotypes/>>), consisting of digital reproductions of over 3,500 daguerreotypes in Harvard University collections. Highlights include two beautiful portraits of Lola Montez and early photographs of the moon by John Adams Whipple. (A Harvard ID is required to access some enlarged images.)
- The Massachusetts Historical Society’s latest web presentation of the Silence Dogood essays of Benjamin Franklin (<[http://www.masshist.org/online/silence\\_dogood/](http://www.masshist.org/online/silence_dogood/)>), which appeared in The New-England Courant in 1722, when Franklin was just a teenager. ■

## Volunteer with NEA

Opportunities for volunteer participation in New England Archivists activities abound. NEA is a volunteer-run organization; without the participation of its members, NEA would cease to function. There are many committees, offices, and projects that need assistance from members.

<[www.newenglandarchivists.org/join/volunteer\\_with\\_nea.html](http://www.newenglandarchivists.org/join/volunteer_with_nea.html)>

Professionals in the archival field already possess skills and experience needed to support and advance New England Archivists. Willing volunteers should jump in and identify a role that suits them among varied opportunities. The opportunity to meet, converse, and do meaningful work with colleagues is of great professional and personal benefit. In addition, service to a professional organization such as NEA adds an important dimension to a professional resume.



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# Aeon

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*For details on these and other enhancements, contact Aeon program director Christian Dupont at [cdupont@atlas-sys.com](mailto:cdupont@atlas-sys.com) or 757-467-7872 ext 215*

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# Calendar of Events



Press releases and other announcements should be sent to Michael Dello Iacono at <michael.delloiacono@hms.harvard.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 29-May 1, 2010.** Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference, "Outside the Archival Box: Cultural Heritage Collaborations" in Wilmington, DE. For details see <www.marac.info>

**May 12, 2010.** Spring 2010 NHAG (New Hampshire Archives Group) Meeting: "Disaster Planning and Recovery" presented by Gregor Trinkaus-Randall at the Gale Library, Laconia, NH. For details see <www.nharchivesgroup.org/upcoming\_meetings.htm>

**June 21, 2010.** Maine Archives and Museums: "Collections Care Workshop" at the L. C. Bates Museum in Hinkley, ME. For details contact the L. C. Bates Museum at (207) 238-4250 or <lcates@gwh.org>.

**August 10-15, 2010.** Joint Annual Meeting of the Council of State Archivists, the National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators, and the Society of American Archivists, "Archives\*Records/DC" in Washington, DC. For details see <www.archivists.org/conference>

**August 17-21, 2010.** Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, and Publishing (SHARP) annual conference, "Book Culture from Below" in Helsinki, Finland. For details see <www.helsinki.fi/sharp2010>

**September 23-24, 2010.** Art Museum Libraries Symposium at the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, MA. Join library, archives, and museum colleagues to discuss the unique issues faced by libraries affiliated with art museums. Please contact Andrew French at <andrew\_french@pem.org>

**November 3-5, 2010.** NEMA Annual Conference in Springfield, MA. For details see <www.nemanet.org>

**November 5-6, 2010.** NEA Fall Meeting at Keene State College in Keene, NH. For details see <www.newenglandarchivists.org> ■

## NEA is always looking for ideas for sessions at the fall and spring meetings. Your suggestions are invited!

Please complete and send this form to:

Nora Murphy  
Reference Archivist, Institute Archives  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
77 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02139-4307

Proposed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide a brief description of the session you'd like to see offered at an NEA meeting. If possible, include the overall purpose and a general description of the session, and its intended audience (including skill level and topic category). If you have ideas for potential speakers for this session, please include their names and institutional affiliations.

## THIS SEASON IN NEW ENGLAND HISTORY



### **Stop & Shop's former location on Main Street in Waltham, Massachusetts, 1955.**

Brothers Jacob and Julius Rabinovitz started the Economy Grocery Company in 1913. By 1919, their brother Joseph and his eldest son, Sidney, were also involved with the company, becoming sole owners with Jacob in 1920. Joseph's younger sons, Norman and Irving, also entered the family business after graduating from Harvard University. Economy opened its first supermarket store in 1935 on Memorial Drive in Cambridge under the name R.H. White Food Mart. As a result of its rapid growth, in 1937 the company opened self-service supermarkets under the name Stop & Shop. Gradually, Economy stores were closed and in 1946, the company officially changed its name to Stop & Shop, Inc., and Sidney, Norman, and Irving changed their last name from Rabinovitz to Rabb.

*Courtesy of The American Jewish Historical Society, Newton, Massachusetts.*