

NEA NEWSLETTER

Volume 33, Number 1 • January 2006



C O V E R — Boston College School of Education Student Senate, 1953-54. BC admitted female undergraduates to the School of Education in 1952. *Courtesy of the Burns Library of Boston College.* The NEA Spring 2006 Meeting will be held March 10 - 11 at Boston College. For more information, visit <www.newenglandarchivists.org/activities/meetings>.

I N S I D E — A new curriculum at the Simmons College Graduate School for Library and Information Science program for archival studies (*Open Forum*, page 4); *Inside NEA* (page 7); *NEA 2006 Elections* (page 22).



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Contributions to the NEA Web site should be sent to: <webcoordinator@newenglandarchivists.org>.

Deadlines for submitting materials are:

November 15 for January issue
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May 15 for July issue
August 15 for October issue

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Table of Contents

From the Editors	3
Open Forum	4
Something Old, Something New, Archives	
Education at Simmons	4
Inside NEA	7
From the President	7
Executive Board Meeting Report	8
Officers' Reports	8
Meetings	8
Committee Reports.....	8
NEA Fall Meeting 2005 Session Reports.....	12
People.....	19
News and Notes	18
Connecticut.....	18
Maine	19
Massachusetts	19
New Hampshire	20
Rhode Island	21
Vermont	21
NEA 2006 Elections	23

From the Editors

-Sheila R. Spalding

This issue of the *NEA Newsletter* is devoted to progress. In *From the President*, Paul Carnahan reflects on the momentum for change NEA has built over the past year to keep this organization thriving. He details the issues that need to be addressed in order for our organization to remain relevant to its membership.

Open Forum features Jeanette Bastian, Associate Professor and Director of Archives Programs at Simmons College, discussing how the Graduate School of Library and Information Science has changed its curriculum to meet the demands of our evolving profession.

Also in this issue, the NEA Nominating Committee presents its slate of promising candidates for the 2006 election. Be sure to cast your vote!

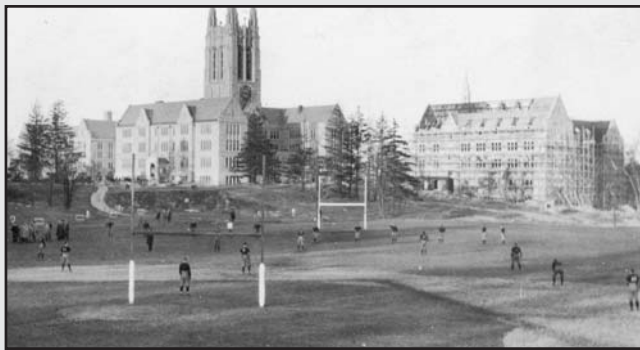
The editors of the *Newsletter* would like to extend our gratitude to our former Senior Editor, Meg Moughan, who is relocating to South Carolina. Her dedication, sense of humor and leadership skills will be greatly missed. We wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors. We welcome Susan Earle of Schlesinger Library as Meg's successor. Michael Forstrom and I will each take a year as Senior Editor, starting with me in 2006.

Do you have any ideas for articles you would like to see in the *Newsletter* or a photograph you would like to publish on the back cover? We encourage you to give us feedback so that we may continue to produce a quality publication that meets the needs of NEA membership. Please contact us with your ideas. ☺

☺ NEW ENGLAND ARCHIVISTS ☺

All Together Now: Archivists Learning from Each Other

Spring 2006 NEA Meeting • Boston College • Boston, Massachusetts • March 10-11



Alumni Field at Boston College, early 1920s. At the time, Boston College consisted of two completed buildings, the Tower Building (now Gasson Hall) and St. Mary's Hall (the Jesuit residence). This image shows the Science Building (Devlin Hall) under construction. Funded primarily with alumni contributions, Alumni Field was dedicated on October 20, 1915, and was used for football, baseball and track. It had a limited seating capacity of only 5000. To accommodate larger crowds, football games were also played in local stadiums such as Fenway Park and Braves Field.

Please join us for the spring meeting at Boston College on March 10th and 11th. Workshops will include Describing Archives: A Content Standard (co-sponsored with SAA), Caring for Historical Records (co-sponsored with the New England Museum Association), Photographs, and Architectural Records. The opening reception on Friday evening will take place at the Burns Library of Rare Books and Special Collections. Saturday's program will include sessions on interns, architectural records, dealing with donors, institutional repositories, traveling exhibits, and new computer tools provided by NEA, for the membership to help us communicate and network with each other. The luncheon speaker will be Thomas O'Connor, University Historian of Boston College and Professor Emeritus.

Registration information is available on the NEA web site.

Open Forum

Something Old, Something New, Archives Education at Simmons

Jeannette A. Bastian, Associate Professor, Simmons College

In September 2005, the Graduate School of Library and Information Sciences (GSLIS) at Simmons College launched a new curriculum based on a three-credit system replacing the four-credit system that had essentially been in place since the library school opened in the early part of the twentieth century.¹ The new curriculum reflects not only a change in credit hours, but also a rethinking of the entire program through the core courses and the electives. With the help of a facilitator, the faculty spent the entire previous year discussing, reviewing and revising each course and course cluster. The Archives Management concentration was a significant part of these discussions and emerged as a strong, cohesive program offering traditional archival theory and practice, as well as courses in developing technologies and electronic records. It is a program that is not only in sync with SAA Guidelines but is also well poised to meet employment challenges now and into the future. Most important is the recognition within GSLIS that the Archives Management concentration and the Archives Management/History dual-degree program are significant and attractive areas of the school's offerings.

Many archivists in New England are connected to Simmons either as alumni or as hosts for Simmons students in archives internships. Since the early 1990s when the Archives Management concentration and the Archives Management/History dual-degree program were established, there has been a close and symbiotic rela-

tionship between Simmons and the New England archival community. For this reason, I thought that the NEA membership might be interested in some of the program changes at Simmons and how these changes should affect employer expectations for our graduates as well as internships for current students.

How We Got Here: Graduate Archival Education²

Although archives and records management may well qualify as one of the 'oldest professions,' archives education in the United States is a fairly recent phenomenon. Until the mid-twentieth century, internships or some other form of apprenticeship were the accepted way to learn and enter the archival profession. Prior to the development of graduate education, a person, generally a historian, learned to become an archivist through on-the-job-training. Formal graduate archival education in the United States began in 1940 after the appointment of Ernst Posner at American University.³ Posner taught one course in the History Department, 'History and Administration of Archives.' Over the ensuing two decades, the American University program grew, adding courses on comparative archival history, administrative history of the federal government, and administration of current government records.⁴ Coinciding with the rising academic interest in public history in the 1970s, archives courses began being offered throughout the country. Robert M. Warner's 1971 survey, "Archival Training in the United States and

Canada," reported seven universities with single courses and eight with two or more courses.⁵ In 1979, Lawrence McCrank identified nine library schools offering multiple courses on archival administration in the *1977/78 SAA Education Directory*. Interestingly, the unresolved debate on where an archival program fits best, in a history department or a library school, began early on in the development of graduate education, forming the heart of a heated discussion at an SAA Conference in the early 1960s. In 1977, SAA published its first set of guidelines for graduate education and identified the three-course sequence that set the pattern for graduate archival education in the United States. The traditional three-course sequence includes an introductory course, a practicum and a seminar or independent study. Subsequent SAA guidelines in 1988 and 1994 expanded this basic set of courses, with the 1994 standards calling for a Masters in Archival Science degree. The current standards, passed by SAA Council in 2002, propose a two-tiered approach, which abandons the three-course sequence in favor of a program integrated within the larger curriculum of the school.

Graduate Archives Education Today

The most recent iteration of the *SAA Guidelines for Graduate Education* developed in 2002 no longer specifically supports a Masters in Archival Science. Instead the guidelines suggest that "Archival education programs have traditionally been established in both history and library science

environments” and encourage a “diversity of institutional homes for archival programs as well as variety in the emphases or specializations available within individual programs.” The *Guidelines* divide archival knowledge into two major categories, Core Archival Knowledge and Interdisciplinary Knowledge. Interdisciplinary Knowledge addresses “the interdisciplinary nature of archival studies,” arising from “the complexity of the records and papers, the contexts of their creation, the multiplicity of their potential uses, and from the many roles that archivists fill.”⁶ Core Archival Knowledge is divided into three separate areas: Knowledge of Archival Functions, which covers fundamental concepts such as processing, appraisal, preservation; Knowledge of the Profession, which encompasses the historical development of record making and recordkeeping, ethics and values; and Contextual Knowledge, or an understanding of the societies and social systems that produce records. SAA suggests that eighteen credit hours be devoted to Core Archival Knowledge plus practical experience through a practicum or internship.

Although the guidelines do not really weigh in on the history department vs. library school debate, recent data from SAA’s ACensus show that library schools may be winning this contest. Increasingly persons seeking a formal archives education, whether in mid-career or beginning a career, are more likely to go to a library school than to a program in a history department. While the ACensus did not probe the reasons for this preference, it seems likely that the library school emphasis on technology offers greater flexibility and marketability in a field that increasingly values technical

skills.⁷ In addition, would-be archivists with their eyes on the job market may find that a library degree offers broader opportunities.

The Simmons Program

At GSLIS, the first courses in Archives were offered as early as 1978-79 and were taught by the Simmons Archivist. The Archives Management concentration and Archives Management/History dual-degree program appeared in 1993 under the guidance of Megan Sniffin-Marinoff, now University Archivist at Harvard. Megan, who was the Simmons Archivist at that time, became the first full-time Archives faculty member. Initially the concentration was an iteration of the three-course sequence, an introductory course, an advanced introduction and a preservation course. Internships were required additions to the two introductory courses. The dual-degree program was a partnership between the Simmons College History Department and GSLIS. Students in this joint program received an MS in Library Science and an MA in History. Under Megan’s watch, more archives courses were added and by the time she left in 1999, the concentration offered a solid suite of courses that included Records Management, Photographic Archives and an Archives Management course. In 1999 Simmons hired another archives educator, Jeannette Bastian, to continue developing the Archives Management concentration.

The ever-growing popularity of the Archives Management concentration and the Archives Management/History dual-degree program, both in New England and nationally, combined with the increasingly demanding complexity of archival work, rap-

idly led to more course sections and additional courses such as Appraisal, as well as increased emphasis on technology. The need for a bridge course between the twin disciplines of Archives and History led to a course, “Archives, History and Collective Memory,” jointly taught by Archives and History faculty. In the first years of the new century the Simmons Archives Management concentration was offering nine courses in archival areas and attracting over one hundred students annually into its two programs. Archives concentrators comprised one-fifth of the GSLIS enrollment. The concentration was expanded to include the Simmons campus in Western Massachusetts, but it remained a patchwork of courses that had essentially grown to meet needs but itself needed shaping into an integrated whole. That shaping opportunity came in 2004.

The current program expands the requirements for the concentration from three to four courses: the introductory course (Introduction to Archival Methods and Services), Archival Access and Use (replacing the advanced introduction), a course in records management that emphasizes electronic records (Managing Records in Electronic Environment) and one preservation course (chosen from the three options - Preservation Management, Archiving and Preserving Digital Media, or Preservation Technologies). In addition, students must take at least one archives elective from a menu of four choices: Archives Appraisal, Photographic Archives, Establishing Archives and Manuscripts Programs, or Archives, History and Collective Memory. The requirements for the concentration total fifteen credit hours. Since the new GSLIS core

curriculum now includes five required courses, also a total of fifteen credit hours, archives students are left with only two electives to complete this thirty-six credit-hour program. Among the elective choices are many courses that are directly relevant to archival work, notably a new course in film and several in technology. In addition, the new preservation menu offers students the opportunity of a more focused preservation program.

Internships

The Simmons Archives Internships have always been one of the unique and deeply appealing aspects of the GSLIS program, a status that would be impossible to achieve without a highly supportive archival community. Internships are add-ons to each of the three required courses and students do their sixty-hour internships in addition to the regular course requirements – a total of 180 internship hours, generally done at three different sites. Now that the number of required courses has also expanded the number of required internships, the Archives faculty is seeking creative internship options that will enable students to expand their archival knowledge into areas that may be only briefly touched upon in the coursework. While site supervisors are still encouraged to offer basic processing internships for students in the introductory course, a range of internship projects ranging from reference to exhibits to digitization and archives Web site design could be considered for the Archival Access course. In addition, students who may be taking both Records Management and one of the required Archives courses at the same time could take a combined internship of one hundred hours that would offer practical experience in

both areas. As the work of archivists becomes increasingly diffuse and multi-level, requiring a range of skills from understanding basic arrangement to managing digital assets, internships should reflect as much as possible this wide-ranging discipline.

Our Goals

In 2004, GSLIS hired a second full-time archival educator, Tywana Whorley, and in 2005 brought in Martha Mahard, who had taught Photographic Archives for many years as an adjunct, Visiting Professor also teaching preservation. The Archives and Preservation program at Simmons is fortunate in currently having three full-time faculty members and a substantial pool of enthusiastic and well-qualified adjuncts including Donna Webber, Eliot Wilczek, Kathryn Hammond Baker, Patsy Baudoin, Kelcy Shepherd and Rachel Onuf. We are equally fortunate to be working in a climate of encouragement and support - from our Dean, Michele Cloonan, from the faculty, from the New England archival community, and from our ever-increasing numbers of students.

With all this going for us, what do we hope to achieve? Naturally, nothing less than the best! Educating people to be successful archivists means making sure that they not only have the job skills that the market place is seeking, but also the archival knowledge to move the profession forward. On the one hand, the practice of archives has become a moving technology target, on the other, the theory and basic principles of the profession remain its bedrock. Undoubtedly this mix of theoretical and practical is the goal of all graduate archival education programs, but here in New England

with our combination of rich repositories, deep historical roots, and academic culture we are poised to make that goal a reality. ☺

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- ¹ The School of Library Science was one of the first schools in Simmons College, with courses offered in 1902, the year that Simmons opened. In 1904 it began offering graduate courses and in 1949 started a formal graduate program. The School of Library Science changed its name to Graduate School of Library and Information Science (GSLIS) in 1980.
 - ² The information in this section on graduate archival education is taken from two recent studies, Cox, Richard J., Elizabeth Yakel, Jeannette Bastian, David Wallace and Jennifer Marshall, "Archival Education in North American Library and Information Science Schools: A Status Report," *Library Quarterly*, 71 (April 2001): 141-194, and Elizabeth Yakel and Jeannette A. Bastian, "Are We There Yet?: Professionalism and the Development of an Archival Core Curriculum in the United States," *Journal of Library and Information Science Education*, 2004.
 - ³ Dr. Ernst Posner became a lecturer and adjunct professor at American University in 1939, retiring in 1961. Email correspondence with the archivist at American University, May 15, 2002.
 - ⁴ H.G. Jones, "Archival Training in American Universities, 1938-1968," *American Archivist* 31 (April 1968): 141-142.
 - ⁵ Robert M. Warner, "Archival Training in the United States and Canada," *American Archivist* 35 (July/October 1972): 352.
 - ⁶ "Guidelines for a Graduate Program in Archival Studies," <www.archivists.org/prof-education/ed_guidelines.asp>
 - ⁷ Elizabeth Yakel and Jeannette Allis Bastian, "Archival Education and the A-CENSUS," unpublished report prepared for SAA ACENSUS, February 10, 2005

Inside NEA

From the President

- Paul Carnahan

The NEA Executive Board continues to work at the task of keeping our organization healthy and vital. Three ways we can do that is to increase the number of archivists who are members, communicate well within our organization, and reach out beyond our organization.

The first of these strategies is challenging for us right now. Our membership numbers seem to be declining. We do not have a fixed membership year, so our membership numbers fluctuate throughout the year. However, based on the membership secretary's quarterly reports, we had an average of about 503 members in 2002 but were down to 467 in 2005, a decline of almost eight percent over three years. While this is not a drastic decline, it is a warning bell that we all need to keep active in recruiting our colleagues to join our organization. This is a challenge because the number of archivists in New England may be declining. The NEA Executive Board has been particularly active in recruiting new members among entering archivists, but we need suggestions for other strategies to attract established archivists and record keepers.

The second way to keep this organization vital is to communicate well with each other and draw people into organizational activities. One way that we communicate with each other is through our biannual meetings, which are going strong. One hundred thirty-nine people attended the Fall 2005 Conference in far-away Burlington, Vermont, fourteen more than we budgeted for. The previous meeting at Simmons in Boston attracted 173 participants. Our next meeting is scheduled for March 10 & 11 at Boston College and we hope for an equally robust turnout. When President-elect Nora Murphy proposed to change the format in fall 2007 by having smaller, decentralized meetings she found that members are strongly committed to the present format, which means that we are really a group that likes to come together to learn together.

Another way that we let everyone know what is happening within the organization is through this newsletter

and through the email list servs. The former continues to set standards for regional archival publications, while we need to build the subscription base for the latter. Although everyone is subscribed to NEAannounce as a new member, many people opt out of the list after a while. This is a discouraging trend since email is one of the principal ways we have of keeping in touch with the membership. We will only use this list for organizational communications, so you don't need to worry about having us fill your mailbox with junk email. I encourage all members to stay subscribed (or resubscribe) to NEAannounce so that you can keep on top of what is happening.

We are also exploring new ways to communicate with each other using modern technology. Working with our Web hosting service, we will soon be offering additional methods of enhancing intra-organizational communications. Our Web Master, Jonathan Penyack, will be hosting a session at the Spring 2006 Conference to highlight some of these tools. One of the first services we will implement is an online membership list. The hard copy version of the NEA membership list has not been published since 2001. Since that time, a series of board members have struggled with the task of putting the information online. With the new tools available to us from SkyBuilders, our Web hosting service, we hope to finally have this service available before the Fall 2006 Conference.

A third strategy for keeping NEA vital is to reach beyond our membership and present a professional and positive image of archivists. There are, of course, many ways to do this. The ad-hoc Branding Committee is working on several approaches to this challenge. The most visible product of their work will be a new logo for us to use in many ways and places. If everything goes as planned, we will be able to introduce a new logo at the Spring 2006 Conference in Boston. The committee will also develop strategies for using this graphic identity to spark interest in archives.

These are just three of the ways that the NEA Executive Board is working to strengthen our organization. Through increased membership numbers, effective communication within the organization, and a professional appearance outside the organization, we hope to keep our group moving forward. ☺

Executive Board Meeting Report

- Elizabeth Slomba

The business handled at the October 14, 2005 meeting of the NEA Executive Board is summarized below. All **VOTING** is in bold. Complete minutes are available on the NEA Web site or from the secretary.

Paul Carnahan called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm. Minutes from the May 25, 2005 and June 29, 2005 NEA Executive Board Meetings were presented. **All members voted to accept the May 25, 2005 and June 29, 2005 NEA Executive Board Meeting Minutes.**

Officers' Reports

Immediate Past President

Mary Ide announced that the Branding Committee has samples of branding proposals. A survey to collect the memberships' opinions will be available on the Web site; the samples were on display at the Fall 2005 Conference and will be available for review on the Web site. The report of the committee will appear in the October newsletter. The committee hopes to approve one image before the January 2006 NEA Executive Board Meeting and have it ready for use in the spring.

Vice-President

Nora Murphy discussed ideas for the Fall 2006 Conference, including having small regional meetings at different times in October and centered on a single theme, such as archival advocacy. The emphasis would be on attendee interaction. The Spring 2007 Conference would be a traditional meeting. The board encouraged Nora to plan this type of session.

Treasurer

Lois Hamill discussed the Spring 2005 Conference budget. The board reviewed the proposed budget for 2006. They also discussed current and future income and expenses, as well as committee budget proposals and the potential for a deficit if all proposals were funded. There was a lengthy discussion about declining membership numbers and income from membership. The board debated a variety of issues concerning the budget and individual budget lines and agreed to continue to work on the budget, in consideration

that some additional information was needed concerning income and expenses. The board agreed to discuss and vote on the budget at the January meeting.

Secretary

There was a discussion about indexing of the minutes and the use of the Google search feature on the Web site to search the minutes. **All members voted in favor to remove the requirement to update the annotated index of minutes from the Secretary's job description.**

Meetings

Fall 2005 Conference Local Arrangements and Program Committees

Chris Burns discussed parking at UVM, registration mailing and the cancellation of the education workshop on textiles. At the time of the board meeting, there were 120 regular registrants, seven students, and eight late registrants for the conference.

Jeff Marshall discussed the program and session content, attendance, honoraria and room arrangements. Information from coordinators on how the discussion sections go will be collected.

Spring 2006 Conference Program Committee

Laura Katz Smith discussed the work of the program committee and the general theme of archivists learning from each other. The sessions may be longer because of their participatory nature. The speaker at the Friday reception will be Thomas O'Connor.

Spring 2006 Conference Local Arrangements Committee

The board discussed proposed costs for the conference and reception arrangements.

Committee Reports to the Board

Outreach Committee

Mary Caldera presented at length the committee's ideas concerning the promotion of Archives Week and the creation of promotional items. There is a schedule of Archives on the Road events on the Web site. April Hagins is heading up the brochure development funded through the MHRAB grant.

Education Committee

The proposed workshops to be offered at the Spring 2006 NEA Meeting are: an SAA workshop on DACS, Caring for Historical Records (offered in conjunction with NEMA), Identifying and Handling Photographs and Architectural Records.

Development Coordinator

The board discussed the NEA policy of giving vendors an institutional membership as part of their vendor fees. **All members voted in favor of revoking the policy that established institutional memberships for vendors on June 2000.**

Then attendees discussed vendor access to member contact information, what constituted contact information, and one-time use restriction on contact information given to vendors. **All members voted in favor of providing vendors with names, institutional affiliation, postal address, phone and email if available of conference attendees in electronic format for one-time use only.** Anne Sauer offered to draft a privacy policy regarding contact information.

There was a discussion of vendors' preferences for electronic labels. **All members voted in favor of selling mailing labels in electronic format.**

Newsletter

Meg Moughan will be stepping down from the newsletter as she is leaving the area for another position. **All members voted in favor of appointing Susan Earle Reviews Editor for a term to run from January 2006 to January 2009.** Sheila Spalding and Michael Forstrom will serve in rotation as senior editor for one year.

Membership Committee

Kelcy Shepherd reported the progress so far on the online membership directory and expected to have a demo available at the next board meeting in January. There was a brief discussion about the NEA listservs and declining membership numbers.

Then the board discussed the size of the Membership Committee as compared with other committees. **All members voted in favor of the Membership Committee having a minimum of five members. All members voted in favor of appointing Maria Hudspeth to the Membership Committee.**

Hale Award

All members voted in favor of changing the Hale Award deadline for one year.

Policy and Procedures Officer

Four members voted in favor, three members against, with one abstention, to adopt the Policy and Procedures Officer position for a one-year trial, November 2005 through October 2006. Subsequent research shows that the NEA bylaws state, "All decisions shall be made by majority of those board members present." Since the measure received only four votes and a majority of those present would be five or more, the motion failed.

Next Meeting Date and Adjournment

The next quarterly NEA Executive Board Meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 17, from 10 am to 2 pm at the Burns Library, Boston College. The snow date is Thursday, January 19. ☺

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NEA Fall Meeting 2005 Session Reports

Discussion Group: Academic Archivists

- Selene Colburn

A lively group of archivists working in a variety of academic settings — from Harvard and Yale, to smaller state universities, to secondary education — met to talk about the challenges inherent to balancing the needs of collections and users with the funding, personnel, equipment, technology, and expertise available in our workplaces. Peter Carini, College Archivist at Dartmouth College, facilitated the discussion.

Some common challenges identified included:

- **Managing the expectations of higher education.** Participants reported having conversations with supervisors who said, “Have you heard of D-Space? Let’s do it!” or assigned an ever-growing list of grant-writing and project management assignments with the assumption that “You can do that, right?”
- **Resources.** Sometimes it feels like the only way to make the case for more resources is to let down patrons.
- **Records management.** This job on college campuses often falls to archivists by default, particularly in the electronic age. One participant reported, “The question is not just how we preserve the historical record, but ‘what should I do with the email I got this morning?’”
- **Space issues.** There just isn’t enough physical space. As more and more materials go offsite, retrieval becomes a huge issue.

Proposed solutions included:

- Advocate! Annual reports and strategic plans are great tools to use with library deans or other supervisors to negotiate realistic priorities.
- Advocate some more! Know who controls resource allocation on your campus and find the best ways to communicate with them. If the budget committee members are the

ultimate powers that be, learn to speak their language. Some participants found that securing grant funding impressed higher-ups and brought them to the table.

- Make a point of asking for accompanying funding for preservation and processing for collections at the point of acquisition. The worst you’ll get is a no.
- Experiment with the level of access tools created for collections. Does everything need a full finding aid? Are brief inventories created when collections arrive sufficient in some instances?
- Review long-standing agreements with organizations that use you as a depository and renegotiate additional support for more records management at their end (or rethink the entire arrangement).
- Student workers can be a blessing or a drain. Use issues of records confidentiality and security as leverage for having more input/quality control in the hiring process.
- Get legal counsel and risk management involved as advocates for the creation of formal records management programs. They are likely to respond to tales of search committee or disciplinary hearing records living indefinitely in faculty offices and other legally precarious instances you can cite.

The Archivists’ Toolkit

- Danielle Kovacs

The participants of this session included chairperson Danielle Kovacs, University of Massachusetts, Amherst; Kelcy Shepherd, Five College Project Archivist; and Lee Mandell, Design Team Manager, Archivists’ Toolkit.

An update on the progress of *The Archivists’ Toolkit*, a two-year collaborative project to develop an integrated archival management system that streamlines workflows and standardizes archival information, was presented by Kelcy Shepherd, Archives Analyst, and Lee Mandell, Design Team Manager. The goal of the presentation was to explain the project’s objectives, features, functional modules, and its application and technology, followed by a demonstration of an early prototype.

Shepherd opened the session by explaining that the main objective of the Archivists' Toolkit is to create an open source archival management system that will increase efficiency and standardization of key functions, such as accessioning, description, subject and name management, and location management. Outputs will include EAD, EAC, METS, MARCXML, and various administrative reports. Even though the *AT* is designed to be versatile enough to be used by all levels of staff at different types of repositories, it is also designed to be customizable, so archivists can create default fields, required fields, and input forms as well as create project definitions and manage users.

Lee Mandell described the application architecture and technology of the *Archivists' Toolkit* beginning with the back end. The *AT* database was developed with MySQL, which is compatible with many SQL databases both open source and commercial. A number of factors were taken into consideration when the decision to use SQL over other technologies was made, such as the maturity of SQL databases, the likelihood of local IT departments having SQL expertise, and the fact that there are likely to be many existing open source projects that will need to be integrated. Because the *AT* also needed to be cross platform (MAC OSX, Windows 98+, Linux) and needed to have sophisticated user interface capabilities, the design team decided to use Java desktop client for the front end.

Both speakers encouraged the audience to introduce questions at any point during the session, resulting in a lively conversation about the project. Some of the question topics posed to Shepherd and Mandell included hierarchical subject headings within *AT*, the possible incorporation of records schedules in the future, and use of the *AT* to manage location of digital resources.

Book Discussion: All the Names

-April Hagins

In this book discussion session, chaired by April Hagins from the Massachusetts Historical Society, participants discussed the novel *All the Names*, by Pulitzer Prize winning author Jose Saramago. Leith Johnson, Co-Curator of the Wesleyan University Cinema Archives in Middletown, CT, facilitated the dialog. The discussion was active, with topics ranging from thematic comparisons to Greek mythology

and Catholicism, the characters' challenges, plot development, quality of writing, and the book's relevance to manuscripts and archives. Overall, participants enjoyed the book and felt it was a very creative and well-written novel.

Discussion Group: Government Archivists

-Paul R. Bergeron

The facilitator of this session was Paul R. Bergeron, City Clerk of Nashua, NH.

Archivists, records managers and clerks who work with state and municipal public records met in an informal setting to discuss their challenges and to share a number of problem-solving ideas. Among the topics discussed were:

- **Training:** Participants acknowledged a need to bring Archives and Records Management training to county and municipal clerks, but wondered how best to do that. Managing records is just one part of a clerk's responsibilities, generally not at the top of his/her daily things-to-do-list, and turnover (statewide) is high. In addition, small towns have small staffs (if any) and small budgets, making time off for, or travel to, professional development workshops difficult. Dartmouth's *Local Records Education Project* was discussed as a potential outreach model. This project developed a two-day preservation curriculum, which was presented at five different locations in NH. Also mentioned as a self-teaching tool was *The Basics of Archives Continuing Education* (BACE) program, which is intended to introduce individuals who have responsibility for archival collections to the basic archival practices. A copy of this program is available from the state archives.
- **Staffing:** Some communities are large enough and have been fortunate enough to bring experienced professionals on staff. In one NH city, the job of city archivist was initially a grant-funded position. Early on, the position was added to the city's personnel classification system so that the person hired would be eligible for health insurance benefits. When the grant ran out, the city clerk was able to fill the vacancy with a permanent hire because, in part, the position was already appearing as a line item in his budget. In another community, the city clerk filled a deputy clerk position with someone who

had a records management background. The rationale was that it would be easier to train him in the daily functions of the clerk's office, rather than to train another employee in records preservation. One Massachusetts participant, however, lamented about the high turnover his town experienced in its town archivist position and suggested that some graduates may regard a government job as a "temporary" position until they find something else in an academic setting.

- **Vital Records:** The Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 requires new federal regulations relative to the issuance of birth certificates; an initial draft of those regulations was distributed. These regulations will be promulgated by the end of 2005 and must then be implemented by the states. They will change how birth certificates are issued, how they are secured, and who may have access to them.

Participants debated and discussed a number of other subjects, some technical, some philosophical, some theoretical and some practical. Several stated their appreciation for an opportunity to meet with peers who share similar challenges in a governmental setting.

Getting Your Historical Stuff Together

-Jane Belcher

Diana Senturia of Peacham Historical Association chaired this session. Panelists included: Lynn Bonfield, Labor Archives and Research Center, San Francisco State University; Karen Lewis, Agilent Technologies Foundation and Archives; and Lorna Quimby, Peacham Historical Association.

This session provided a case study of the process of creating an archival program for the Peacham, Vermont, Historical Association from the hiring of professional archivists in 1980, to the establishment of systematic policies and procedures, to the training of local archivists who still are carrying on the work twenty-five years later.

The Peacham Historical Association, which was revived in 1979, inherited "boxes of stuff" from earlier historical work in the town. With the help of Association President Ed Brown, Lorna Quimby, a local resident, arranged for

professional archivists Lynn Bonfield and Karen Lewis to work with her and other local volunteers during the summers of 1980 and 1981 to arrange the items according to established archival standards. First the materials were organized into manuscript files, print files, photograph files, large collection files and oversize collections. A card index, containing provenance and donor information, was established so that specific items could be easily located. The next step was to acquire fireproofed space with humidity control. Fortunately there was financial support for this from elected officials of Peacham. The collection has now expanded from thirty to 152 linear feet. New materials are readily integrated according to established standards.

The two main challenges facing the Peacham Historical Association are access to records and long-term records survival. Currently the collection is only available two hours per week and the limited space available to researchers is also utilized by volunteer staff. The panel recommended that organizations collaborate as well as publicize their collections. When enthusiasm for the rich collections that are available for use is conveyed to the community, not only are items from the past preserved, but also volunteer staff is attracted. When volunteers come, identify their strengths, give them a job, provide the necessary training and then let them do their jobs independently.

At PHA both volunteers and student interns have helped to develop and maintain the collections. The association gives a one-year membership in their organization to all new homeowners in Peacham. School children are regularly exposed to learning units based on materials in the collection. The entire community participates in the annual 4th of July Ghost Walk, meeting characters whose lives are reconstructed from material in the collection. Several books have been published based on information in the collection including *The Peacham Anthology*, which sold several hundred copies. Peacham Historical Association has a Web site maintained by Diana Senturia and is striving to list their collection as part of ARCAT, a statewide cataloging system. Peacham Historical Association also consults as necessary with staff from the state historical association and archivists at local universities.

Please visit us online at
www.newenglandarchivists.org
 for more information about becoming a member of NEA

Managing Digital Assets: Notes from the Field

-Wilma Slaight

Chair Sylvia Kennick Brown (Williams College) explained that this session was designed as a follow-up to earlier sessions on digital asset management systems. This session's focus was to provide information and comments on systems from colleagues who were using them, as opposed to demonstrations by vendors. The focus also was to be on vendor-based systems, not open source or home grown systems.

Two systems were featured: Endeavor's ENCompass and OCLC's ContentDM. The chair was unable to secure a speaker using DigiTool, but indicated that she could provide contact information for archivists who are using it. Presenters Leah Prescott (Manuscripts and Archives Librarian and Collections Information Technology Coordinator, G.W. Blunt White Library at Mystic Seaport) and Andrew Wentink (Special Collections Librarian, Middlebury College) described how their institutions had come to adopt the system they were using and commented on how it worked.

Leah Prescott explained that for a number of years Mystic Seaport had been seeking an integrated access system that would meet the needs of both the museum and the library. This proved a challenge since each area – museum, library and archives — had developed different descriptive tools that focused on different elements and used different formats. About two years ago Mystic chose Endeavor's ENCompass, in part because it was able to accept metadata from different platforms, and, as a federated system, would allow searching across platforms. It also allowed them to attach digital images to records. Prescott demonstrated the searching and browsing capabilities of the system. She mentioned that it has some display problems with EAD2 that are to be addressed in the next upgrade.

Andrew Wentink's experience at Middlebury College was somewhat different. A committee from their recently merged Library and Information Systems departments had done a study of various digital initiatives and projects at the college. The committee recommended exploring open source and proprietary systems and the development of standards. The college decided on a two-year trial of ContentDM at the minimal level (8000 digital objects) even though it lacked customizability and had little front end

user interface. Some of the customization issues have been resolved in the new version. While demonstrating the system, Wentink explained that they are taking advantage of existing digital exhibitions to build content. He hoped that in the future digital collections or assets would be built to meet curricular, research or administrative needs.

Both presenters commented on the challenges of getting different groups to learn to talk to each other, and the importance of getting everyone to accept the need for, and agree upon, standards.

During a lively question period it was clear that differences in the purposes and structures of the presenters' institutions affected how their digital systems and projects were implemented.

Discussion Group: Museums, Local Libraries and Historical Societies

-Donna Longo DiMichele

With twenty-one active participants, Anne Ostendarp led the group in a lively dialog about various issues shared by those who work in local, state, and academic libraries, museums, professional associations, town halls, and historical societies. The group included archivists from large institutions who wanted to hear about concerns of small institutions in order to know where they could provide support and assistance.

The discussion began with a brainstorming session, which Ostendarp used to create a list of the issues facing archivists who work in institutions where the archives collections may not be the major focal point of the mission or where archives are seen as ancillary to the mission.

Some of the most often echoed concerns included: smaller repositories facing a lack of satisfactory software solutions for providing online access; the frequently edgy relationships between archivists and museum curators resulting from very different perspectives on collection management; the difficulty in linking public access systems to outreach programming; and the need for all types of institutions to collaborate. The impetus to partner collaboratively was deemed especially important when more than one local institution had historical manuscript and printed col-

lections. However, sometimes the notion of collections as “territory” was an obstacle to collaboration.

As a tool to help put an institution’s challenges in perspective, Anne Ostendarp recommended the use of SWOT analysis, i.e., creating a plan by examining an institution’s Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats. The SWOT analysis can be the foundation for a strategic plan, which would include goals to move the repository forward.

Judging by the active manner in which participants shared information and ideas, it was clear that everyone in attendance had a vested interest in their repository’s success. It was also evident that the opportunity to be involved in dialog about the problems and concerns facing archivists is always welcome.

Reaching Out Around New England: Outreach to the Public

-Elizabeth Scott

This session was designed to look at some ways in which archivists around New England participate in programs designed to promote public awareness of primary resource materials and educate on preservation principles. Susan von Salis, Archivist at Harvard University Art Museums Archives and member of the NEA Outreach Committee, opened up the session with an overview of the work of the Outreach Committee since 1997. The Outreach Committee began with the idea that NEA had an active responsibility in educating the public about the role archives play in their lives. Susan’s talk looked at the activities of the committee through the years, including the creation of a brochure, NEA Speakers Bureau, their work with the Simmons College Internship Fair, coordination of Archives Week activities and now, the successful Archives on the Road program. She also touched on some plans for the Outreach Committee.

Aimée Primeaux, a Field Representative at the Northeast Document Conservation Center, followed Susan with a talk about NEDCC’s role in educating both repositories and individuals about preservation and conservation. Specifically, Aimée discussed her work as an opportunity to work with individuals and groups on their individual preservation or conservation needs. An important aspect of her

work is the trickle down effect, where the general public learns from professionals and begins to handle their own materials in a better way.

Paul Carnahan, current NEA President and Librarian at the Vermont Historical Society, finished the program with his look at the Vermont History Exposition, now in its sixth year. As Paul demonstrated through his slide show, the History Expo is an important outreach event for the Vermont Historical Society, which runs the event and coordinates workshops for local historical societies wishing to set up a booth at the fair. In addition to over one hundred local societies, the public can find re-enactors, local archivists, children’s activities, genealogical forums, talks, food vendors, and even the NEA Outreach Committee at the two-day fair. Attendance at the Expo is quite high - and while the Expo itself takes quite a bit of money, staff and volunteer time, the society feels that it is a worthy outreach activity. A question session followed the formal presentations.

Preserving Folklore Collections

-Michael Forstrom

Chair Andy Kolovos (Vermont Folklife Center) opened the session with a brief introduction to the history of folklore research and collections. He discussed the development of cultural and private research collections in the nineteenth century. These resulted from the efforts of immigrant communities and scholars respectively, the latter based largely on oral traditions and literature, such as Cinderella and Robin Hood, or components of such stories. Kolovos described how, since the 1970s, folklore collections have come to be affiliated with public arts agencies and non-profit research organizations.

Panelists included: Lynne Williamson, Institute for Community Research, Hartford, CT; Maggie Holtzberg, Folk Arts & Heritage Program Manager, Massachusetts Cultural Council; and Wini Lambrecht, Folk/Traditional & Community Arts, Rhode Island State Council on the Arts. The session highlighted the ways in which these collections and programs are shaped by the missions of their parent institutions, institutional budgets and fundraising (i.e. grant funding), research interests and opportunities open to staff, local cultural practices and traditions, and

community participation. Kolovos, Williamson, and Holtzberg all shared examples of recent projects in their states: the Mad River Valley project in Vermont, the music of Cape Verdean communities in Connecticut, and a profile of an eleventh generation shipbuilder and his construction of a schooner in Massachusetts.

Folklore collections commonly include audio recordings, interview transcripts, photographs and slides, video and moving image material, and, increasingly, digital objects. Panelists stressed the public service and preservation-related challenges to maintaining such collections.

Archives in Public Libraries

- Susan Zeigfinger

This session was chaired by Susan Zeigfinger from Vermont Law School. Panelists included: Karol Bartlett (Morse Institute Library, Natick, MA), Marjorie Strong (Assistant Librarian at the Vermont Historical Society) and Louise Sandberg (Lawrence, MA Public Library).

Bartlett began the session by describing some of the problems at the Morse Institute Library, which included many un-cataloged items, temperature and relative humidity levels, staffing changes, and multiple storage areas. Hired to fill a part-time grant funded position in 1998, Bartlett's mission was to inventory the Local History Collection. This process involved consolidating the items and developing an inventory database containing a number of fields (e.g. box information, item number location, subject heading, name of item description, etc.) She also created an input form, an inventory form and an index for the reference staff. She addressed preservation issues by monitoring the Local History Room's temperature and RH levels, purchasing proper archival supplies and a Liebert Unit, working with the library director and trustees to create a climate controlled archives room and urging that an archivist be hired. Currently she is working on collection development, retention, access services and disaster preparedness policies. Workflow, weeding, marketing, digitizing town records, developing standards, and future planning are some of the projects on her to-do list. One very important aspect of her job is to work with many constituencies, e.g. town clerks, cataloger, Natick Historical Society, library Board of

Trustees. These connections should help maintain continuing support for the local history collection in the library.

Next, Marjorie Strong discussed the local history collection of Barre, VT. Settled in 1780, Barre is a rural community in central Vermont with an interesting history and a culturally diverse population. In 1880, with the arrival of the railroad, the granite industry in Barre took off. Attracted by the needs of the granite industry, skilled craftsmen and highly education artists arrived. In 1915, at the height of the immigration, the Barre Historical Society was founded. Its mission was to preserve the historical memory of the traditions and culture of the original inhabitants. The Aldrich Public Library, named for Leonard Frost Aldrich, a successful Barre businessman, opened in 1908. In 1920, the Historical Society was given space in the library. The society's archival collection included china, portraits, and artifacts; at that time, there were not many documents.

In the 1960s, a cultural shift occurred caused by an influx of young people of the "counter-culture" with new ideas. A new librarian, Dan Beavin, founded the Friends of the Library Local History Committee, and they developed a local history project that was not connected to the Barre Historical Society. The Friends' project focused on the workers and the ethnic mix. The Friends published a historical booklet: *Barre in Retrospect* (1975), followed in 1979 by *Barre Vermont: An Annotated Bibliography*. Oral histories were recorded and transcribed and published as *Granite Artists and Their Work*. Aldrich Public Library received a grant from the U.S. Department of Education to collect information on the immigrant population. The library acquired manuscripts, photographs, and oral history tapes. These were kept separate from the historical society collections. In 1980, the Barre Historical Society dissolved, donating its collection to the Aldrich Public Library. The two collections were merged. Dan Beavin's successor was interested in its manuscripts and documents, not its artifacts. The local history collection became known as a collection mostly used for research by scholars rather than the community. The archives became separated from the library and the library staff was not comfortable assisting patrons with the absence of the archivist. A library-planning project began and did not include the archives. Eventually, the archives collection was put into storage, where it still remains. Strong concluded by saying that in this case, the public library was no longer the best repository for the local history archives because it ceased to be inte-

grated into the mission of the library.

Louise Sandberg spoke about the Lawrence Historical Society and the public library's local history collection. Founded in the 1840s by a group of wealthy Boston Brahmins, Lawrence, originally named Merrimack, is currently an industrial city of 70,000. Lawrence's historical significance is tied to labor, the textile industry and immigration.

As early as 1855, a subscription library existed in Lawrence; in 1872, the Lawrence Free Public Library was founded. Its second Director, Frederic Hedge, a passionate collector, began building the library's local history collection. Much of the early scrapbooks and ephemera processed by Sandberg can be traced back to his efforts. In 1892, the city built the first library building, which became a focal point for the community, hosting lectures, art exhibits, and meetings of cultural groups. Librarians collected church and political materials, advertisements, government publications, posters, photographs, newspaper clipping, broadsides etc. During the 1912 Bread and Roses textile strike, a library staffer sensed its historical importance and collected the newspaper clippings into scrapbooks and actively hunted for contemporary magazine articles. In 1973, the library and the local history collection again moved to new quarters, where Sandberg later discovered it.

This library and the community have benefited from public library directors who have valued and supported local history collections. To date, Sandberg has re-housed, conserved and cataloged about seventy percent of the material held by the library. She has begun marketing the library to the community as a responsible and logical repository for organization and government records. The Water Department, Assessors' Department, and Rotary Club now deposit their records with the library. Fortunately, the library has the space to expand its collection, monies to purchase conservation supplies and a staff member trained in archival methods. There are plans for a reading room for the local history collection. Most important to sustaining the life of the collection is the library administration's awareness of the strong community interest in the collection.

In conclusion, Sandberg talked about the Lawrence History Center, another local institution that collects archival materials. Sandberg stated that while the Lawrence Public Library and LHC may collect similar materials, they

complement each other by working together on exhibits and other collaborative activities.

Academic Archives and Student Papers

- *Chris Pratt*

Panelists included: Sylvia Bugbee, University of Vermont, Elizabeth Slomba, University of New Hampshire, and Keith P. Williams, Registrar, University of Vermont.

Archivists at institutions of higher education frequently discover student papers within their collections. While these may provide a wealth of information for researchers, archivists need to carefully follow rules regarding copyright and the privacy of the authors. In addition, student papers need to be considered as student records, especially if they contain grades and comments.

Elizabeth Slomba defined the dilemma by discussing some of her archives' holdings. These papers range from those written before World War II to the present. Most have no release forms and those written after 1974 are governed by restrictions imposed by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). At the same time, the University's Writing Center would like to conduct research on the evolution of writing and curriculum by examining student papers. This presents the problem of balancing their desires with the need for permissions and respect for the rights of the creators. Slomba also sees a great resource developing in the electronic field with classroom blogs and chats, but these add the issue of capture and preservation of permissions.

Sylvia J. Bugbee detailed the policies used at her archives. Copyright issues are addressed by having the student sign a permission form to provide access to certain papers. Papers not containing the permission form fall under the copyright law and researchers must seek permission for use up to eighty years after the death of the author. Applying FERPA, however, presents some problems. Under FERPA, access to all student records, is restricted to the student and certain school officials. A student record is defined as any record uniquely identified to an individual. This creates an ambiguity that Bugbee would like to see resolved. She pointed to a U.S. Department of Education ruling in 1993 that allowed undergraduate theses to be used without permission, though she wonders if that would cover other papers as well.

Keith Williams, coming from the perspective of a registrar, spoke about FERPA itself. He pointed out that it is a regulation administered by the U.S. Department of Education that applies only to colleges and universities accepting federal funds. In addition, FERPA only applies to records created after the student is enrolled. Some information in records is public unless it has been specifically restricted by the student. This is so-called 'directory information' and its extent may be determined by institutional

policy. He pointed out that strictly following the regulation is the best policy, but he also recognized that many of the issues faced by archivists involve bending the rules to fit specific situations. Williams stated that there are certain "must" and "may" aspects to the law, meaning that you must comply with specific restrictions; in some areas your responsibilities as a custodian of records may place more restrictions on the material than is required. ☺

People

Ian Graham is the new assistant archivist at the Wellesley College Archives in Wellesley, Massachusetts. He was previously the Special Collections & Archives Assistant at Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine.

Tanya Marshall has joined the Vermont State Archives staff as an assistant state archivist. Marshall had previously worked with the archives and the court administrator's office on the Vermont Judicial Records Program. She gave a presentation on government records and privacy at NEA's fall meeting in Burlington.

In May 2005 Giordana Mecagni was hired as an archivist at the Countway Library at Harvard Medical School. Giordana, who received her BA in Women's Studies and Sociology from the University of New Hampshire, and her MLIS with a concentration in Archives Management from Simmons, came to Countway from the Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America.

Anne Ostendarp has joined the Vermont Archives staff as a consultant for developing a strategic plan for managing executive agency records. The plan was mandated by the Vermont General Assembly in spring 2005 to provide a preliminary plan by the time the legislature reconvenes in January 2006. Under the legislation the Secretary of Administration is a partner with the Archives.

Connell Gallagher, Director of Research Collections at Bailey/Howe Library, University of Vermont, Joan Krizack, University Archivist and Head of Special Collections at Northeastern University, and Megan Sniffin-Marinoff, University Archivist of Harvard University, were recently named SAA Fellows, the highest honor conferred by

the society for outstanding contributions to the archival profession.

Doctor Howard B. Gotlieb, the Founding Director of Boston University's Howard Gotlieb Archival Research Center, died Thursday, December 1, at the age of 79, of complications from surgery. Dr. Gotlieb will be remembered as a pioneer in collecting and documenting popular culture. A memorial service will be held at 2:30 pm in Boston University's Marsh Chapel on January 6, 2006. For more information, visit: <www.bu.edu/archives/news/pressmain/hbg12105.html>. ☺

Attention Amateur Photographers!



The Public Relations Committee seeks to compile a list of photographers to be made available to all NEA committees. Individuals with high quality digital cameras can help document the NEA organization by taking photographs of members, keynote speakers, leadership and committees at bi-annual meetings, special events, etc. To join the list of photographers, contact Tracy Messer at: <tracy.messer@crotchedmountain.org>. ☺

News and Notes

CONNECTICUT

Beinecke Library Online Exhibitions Celebrate Women in the Arts

Beinecke Library Web exhibitions *Intimate Circles: American Women in the Arts* and *Extravagant Crowd: Carl Van Vechten's Portraits of Women* celebrate the accomplishments and contributions of women in the arts. The exhibitions document and extend those mounted at the library from July 28-October 18, 2003. The Web exhibitions include additional subjects and photos, manuscripts, and artifacts that were not on display in the library.

Intimate Circles: American Women in the Arts documents the lives of sixty-one women who lived and worked in the early twentieth-century, including writers, artists, publishers, performers, collaborators, and community builders. The exhibition locates, maps, and studies the relationships among these women to reveal networks that shaped and defined the artistic movements of the period. The contributions they made to the development of modern art, literature, and theater guided the course of these arts beyond their own lifetimes. Subjects include Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas, Georgia O'Keeffe, Muriel Draper, Josephine Baker, Harriet Monroe, Sara Teasdale, A'Lelia Walker, Eve Le Gallienne, Neith Boyce Hapgood, Georgia Douglas Johnson, H.D., Marianne Moore, Mabel Dodge Luhan, and many others.

Carl Van Vechten's photographic subjects, many of whom were friends and acquaintances, included dancers, actresses, writers, artists, activists, singers, costumiers, photographers, social critics, educators, journalists, socialites, and aesthetes. *Extravagant Crowd: Carl Van Vechten's Portraits of Women* includes portraits of eighty-five women of achievement photographed between 1932-1964, including Billie Holiday, Zora Neale Hurston, and Marianne Moore to name a few of his most well known subjects, and some now-forgotten women who made significant contributions to the Broadway theater community, the Harlem Renaissance, the early Hollywood film industry, and the 1920s and '30s expatriate communities in Paris and London.

The exhibition also reveals something of the photogra-

pher's unique life. Born in 1880, Van Vechten was a leading opera and music critic in the early twentieth-century and, by many accounts, America's first serious dance critic. He was also a best selling novelist and a promoter of many literary talents, including Gertrude Stein, Langston Hughes, and Nella Larsen. After a full career as a writer and critic, Van Vechten began photographing friends and professional acquaintances in 1932.

The range of American women's contributions to the arts has been vast; thus *Intimate Circles* and *Extravagant Crowd* celebrate the accomplishments of painters, dancers, poets, actresses, novelists, musicians, and playwrights, as well as the less visible achievements of editors and publishers, collectors, patrons, curators, critics, partners, biographers, and arts advocates.

The exhibitions are accessible at <beinecke.library.yale.edu\awia> and <beinecke.library.yale.edu\cvvpw>.

Mystic Seaport Completes Project Funded by NHPRC

The Daniel S. Gregory Ships Plans Library at Mystic Seaport is pleased to announce the successful completion of a cataloging project funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. Over an eighteen-month period, project cataloger Beth Russell converted descriptive information from old catalog cards and worksheets into several electronic formats. This project created three new access points to twenty-one collections: a collection-level MARC record in the library's online catalog, a detailed EAD finding aid on the library's Web site, and design-level records in the museum's collection management system, which is shared with the artifact and photography collections. The new finding aids and catalog records describe some of the library's most frequently used collections, including those of L. Francis Herreshoff and Philip L. Rhodes. A description of the project and

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links to the new finding aids can be found online at www.mysticseaport.org/library/initiative/nhprc.cfm.

The Ships Plans Collection, with more than 100,000 sheets of plans, is one of the largest and most comprehensive in the country, containing documentation for yachts, commercial vessels (fishing, tugs, cargo carriers, clippers, passenger vessels, ferries, etc.), lighthouses, and marine machinery. Ships Plans Library collections are utilized regularly by boat owners and builders, model makers, historians, genealogists, authors, and commercial companies. This project helps the library to pursue its mission of collecting, preserving and providing access to records documenting the history of American naval architecture from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

MAINE

A Riot of Words -Broadsides and Ballads, Posters and Proclamations

A Riot of Words -Broadsides and Ballads, Posters and Proclamations, an original exhibit presented by Maine Historical Society, will open at the MHS Museum on Friday, February 10th and continues through Sunday, June 11th, 2006. This unique exhibit draws from Maine Historical Society's collection of nearly 1,000 posters and broadsides from Maine that range in date from around 1700 to the 1940s.

"These objects serve as documents of daily life in Maine communities," notes Curator John Mayer, and "reflect the changing aesthetic and technology of the period. These same needs and interests are active today and represented by photocopied sheets plastered on walls, bulletin boards and lampposts."

This collection illustrates the way Maine people used this ephemera to communicate news, political views, commercial opportunities and moral values. The exhibit includes advertisements of patented inventions such as kerosene lamps, self-fastening fences, and other devices; declarations of war; the tragic news of lost ships, murders, and robberies; and warnings of the evils of alcohol.

For additional information please contact the MHS at www.mainehistory.org/ or at 207-774-1822.

MASSACHUSETTS

Mary Baker Eddy Library Research Fellowships

Applications are now available for The Mary Baker Eddy Library Summer 2006 research fellowships. Fellowships are open to doctoral and postdoctoral students, independent scholars, and university, college, and high school faculty in the fields of womens' history, spirituality and health, religious studies, nineteenth-century history, and journalism. Stipends are provided. The deadline for submission of applications and supporting documents is February 13, 2006. For additional information regarding Mary Baker Eddy Library collections and the fellowship program, including fellowship guidelines and an application, please visit the library Web site at www.marybakereddylibrary.org/ or contact Fellowship Program Coordinator, The Mary Baker Eddy Library for the Betterment of Humanity, 200 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston, MA 02115; 617-450-7206, fellowships@marybakereddylibrary.org.

Massachusetts Libraries to Host Exhibit on Women in Medicine

Changing the Face of Medicine: Celebrating America's Women Physicians, an exhibit on women in medicine, will travel in 2006 to libraries in Boston, Worcester, and Holyoke. The exhibit will be hosted by the Countway Library of Medicine at Harvard Medical School in Boston, the Lamar Soutter Library at University of Massachusetts Medical School in Worcester, and the Williston Library at Mount Holyoke College in Holyoke.

The exhibit describes women's successful quest to become doctors and introduces audiences to outstanding physicians from across the United States. Women physicians are now found in every branch of medicine. They are researchers on the cutting edge of new medical discoveries, educators, surgeons, family practitioners, specialists, and government medical officials. Interactive kiosks will provide educational activities, information about medical careers, and biographies of women physicians. Audiences may also add names of their own favorite women physicians to the Web site.

The National Library of Medicine, Bethesda, Md., and

the American Library Association, Chicago, Ill., organized the traveling exhibition with support from the National Library of Medicine, the National Institutes of Health Office of Research on Women's Health, and the American Medical Women's Association.

The libraries are offering free programs and other events for the public in connection with the exhibition. For details see <www.library.umassmed.edu/changingthefaceofmedicine>.

Over 1000 Schlesinger Library Finding Aids to be Available Online

In July 2005, the Schlesinger Library at Harvard started its Retrospective EAD Conversion Project (RECON), which is a two-year project to mark up all of its finding aids. The RECON project follows in the footsteps of the library's earlier Library Digital Initiative EAD Conversion Project, which marked up 235 finding aids. With over 400 finding aids already available through Harvard's Online Archival Search Information System (OASIS), by the end of the RECON project over 1,000 Schlesinger Library finding aids will be available.

The finding aids in the project include personal, family, and organizational collections, as well as oral histories and audio/visual material. Collections include: 9 to 5, National Association of Working Women; the Schlesinger's Black Women Oral History Project & Family Planning Oral History Project; the National Abortion Rights Action League; National Organization for Women's Legal Defense and Education Fund; the Stokes, a Christian philanthropist family from New York; labor organizer Mary Kenney O'Sullivan; and the Woman's Rights Collection, which formed the original nucleus of the Schlesinger Library collections.

Suffolk University Celebrates 100th Anniversary and Re-establishes University Archives

Approaching its one hundredth anniversary, Suffolk University has renewed its commitment to collecting, organizing, and preserving the university's history with the re-establishment of the University Archives. Custodians of the Suffolk Archives have collected university records,

scrapbooks, photographs, publications, and other materials that document the university's history from the founding in 1906 to the present.

The Archives staff originally came on a three-year federal grant to process the congressional papers of Congressman John Joseph "Joe" Moakley. The archivists, Beth Bower, Julia Collins, and Becky Rudolph will now assume responsibility for all archival collections held by the university. In July they began the process of surveying and re-housing 400 cubic feet of collection material and, as the Moakley Papers project nears completion, they will embark on a new project to process university records and mount exhibits and programs related to the Centennial celebration. Future plans include developing a university-wide records management program, expanded collection development, and digitization projects. Bower will continue in the dual role of University Archivist and Director of the Moakley Institute on Public Policy and Political Leadership. The University Archives, located in the John Joseph Moakley Library at Suffolk University Law School, 120 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02108, is currently open to researchers by appointment. For additional information, please visit <www.suffolk.edu/archive/index.html> or contact the Suffolk University Archives at <archives@suffolk.edu>.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Mooseplate Conservation Grant Awards

The N.H. State Library has awarded the following 2005/2006 Mooseplate conservation grants:

Historical Society of Cheshire County

Project Title: Preservation of Cheshire County Superior Court Records, 1761-1899
Grant Amount: \$1,094

Town of Richmond

Project Title: Town Record Book, 1966-1996
Grant Amount: \$1,538

Portsmouth Public Library

Project Title: Sarah Haven Foster Watercolors
Grant Amount: \$1,545

City of Nashua

Project Title: Nashua Lithograph Restoration
Grant Amount: \$1,911

Town of Sandwich

Project Title: Archival Vault Project
Grant Amount: \$4,133

Canterbury Historical Society

Project Title: Canterbury Cody Glass
Negative Project
Grant Amount: \$5,000

Salisbury Historical Society

Project Title: Conservation & Microfilming
of Early Town Records
Grant Amount: \$5,000

City of Manchester

Project Title: Restoration of Early Records of
the Town and City of Manchester, 1836-1847
Grant Amount: \$8,177

Town of Salem

Project Title: Records Restoration Project
Grant Amount: \$9,907

Town of Grantham

Project Title: Preserving Grantham's History
Grant Amount: \$10,000

RHODE ISLAND**Naval Historical Collection at Naval War College Acquires Sims' Journal**

The Naval Historical Collection recently acquired a lithograph navigation journal kept by Ensign William S. Sims in 1891-1892 aboard the USS *Saratoga*. The journal consists of navigation problems with detailed explanations as well as drawings and mathematical calculations. Sims' journal entries were based on his experience navigating at sea and were meant to serve as a guide to sailors. This is a rare and valuable manuscript of a prominent twentieth-century naval officer.

Sims was president of the Naval War College in 1917 before being assigned as Commanding Officer, U.S. Naval Forces, Europe during World War I. He returned to the post of president of the College in 1919, and held the position until he retired in 1922. He won the Pulitzer Prize in 1921 for his *The Victory at Sea*.

VERMONT**Abenaki Recognition Petition Rejected**

In mid November the Department of the Interior's Office of the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs issued a proposed finding on the application of the St. Francis/Sokoki Band of Abenakis of Vermont for federal recognition as an Indian Tribe. The office, based on a review of research submitted by the Abenakis and the State of Vermont by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), concluded that the group did not meet the criteria for federal recognition. The group first applied for federal recognition in 1982, withdrew the petition in 1989, and then reapplied in December 1995.

The proposed finding, like other similar findings from the BIA, is based on analysis of the historical record. The BIA researchers used published histories and journals, census records, church records, manuscript vital records, military records, oral histories, letters, research notes, diaries, and artifacts in conducting their analysis. Collections of note that they used were the papers of Gordon Day housed at the Museum of Civilization in Hull, Quebec; Canadian government census lists of the Odanak Indians of Quebec found in the Canadian Archives and at Dartmouth College; the records of the Commission to Investigate Indian Claims from the 1950s at the Vermont State Archives; and the records of the 1920s Vermont Eugenics Survey at the state's Public Records Division.

Of particular interest to archivists is the report's emphasis on the BIA researchers' need to examine copies of original records. The petitioners are repeatedly reminded to provide copies of primary records in order for the BIA to verify their substance. The BIA report notes many instances where the petitioners' description of documents did not match the content of the original records. The group has six months to respond to the proposed finding.

News from the Vermont State Archives

On November 15th Robert Horton, Minnesota State Archivist, gave an overview of Minnesota's project on managing the records of an e-legislature. The work is part of a two-year NHPRC grant and entails a partnership between the Minnesota and California legislatures and the San Diego Supercomputer Center. Bob addressed members of Vermont's Joint Legislative Committee on Technology, the Vermont Archives' partners on projects within the executive and judicial branches, and other interested parties. The presentation provided context on planning that will help guide Vermont State Government's various record-keeping initiatives.

The archives is working with the architectural firm of TruexCullins & Partners of Burlington, VT and the Department of Buildings and General Services on site selection and preliminary design of a new archives research facility. The Archives will report on site selection to the legislature in January and will seek funds for the next phase of the work.

The archives worked with a reporter on a story on the oil embargo and energy crisis of 1970. The story, which appeared in the November 6th edition of the *Rutland Herald*, cited archival records from the administration of Governor Thomas Salmon (1973-77), included interviews with former administration members, and examined not only Vermont's response to the oil embargo but also the decline in support for energy conservation once the embargo was lifted. ☺

Join NEAdiscuss: An open forum for NEA Members to communicate about items of common professional interest. Open to all NEA members and moderated by the email coordinator. Send subscription requests to: <proberts@SPFLDCOL.EDU>.

NEA Archival Advocacy & Distinguished Service Awards

Invitation for Nominations

NEA grants the Archival Advocacy Award (AAA) to an individual or institution demonstrating extraordinary support of New England archival programs and records; either politically, financially or through public advocacy. For more information on this award, visit: <www.newenglandarchivists.org/services/awards/aa_award/index.html>

The New England Archivists Distinguished Service Award (DSA) is granted to individuals or institutions who are dedicated to the promotion of NEA objectives and who have made significant contributions to the profession, their institution, NEA and/or the archival community in New England. The award shall reflect the total experience of the awardee(s) and is based upon knowledge, leadership, participation and achievements in the profession. For more information on this award, visit: <www.newenglandarchivists.org/services/awards/distinguished_award/index.html>

Please submit nominations one month prior to the summer or winter Board meetings to: Mary Ide, Immediate Past President, WGBH Archives, 125 Western Avenue, Boston, MA 02134; 617-300-2368 or <mary_ide@wgbh.org>

NEA 2006 Elections

The New England Archivists Nominating Committee, with the approval of the Executive Board, presents the following candidates for office. The candidates' information is printed in the NEA Newsletter and posted to the NEA Web site so NEA members will be better prepared to cast their ballot next month. A postcard ballot will be mailed to all members.

Your vote is very important; many NEA elections have been decided by fewer than three votes! If you have any questions about the election, please contact Mary Ide at <mary_ide@wgbh.org>.

From the NEA Bylaws, IV.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.

The Nominating Committee of New England Archivists asked the candidates to submit an autobiographical summary and answer the following question:

NEA has made it a stated policy to increase its membership and presence among record keepers. As an officer within the organization, how would you specifically motivate NEA members to increase our membership and what would you do to foster a greater sense of involvement among current NEA members?

Candidates for Vice President / President



Name: Chris Burns

Education: MS in Library and Information Science with a concentration in Archives Management, Simmons College, 1998; BA in Philosophy, University of Vermont, 1990.

Employment: Curator of Manuscripts, Special Collections, Bailey/Howe Library, University of Vermont, 2004-present; Technical Services Librarian/Archivist, Special Collections, Bailey/Howe Library, University of Vermont, 2001-2004; Oral History Project Coordinator, Special Collections, Dartmouth College, 2000-2001; Library Specialist, Lyndon State College, 1999-2000; Librarian/Archivist, Carol R. Johnson Associates, 1998-1999.

Service To New England Archivists: Chair, Local Arrangements Committee, Fall 2005 Meeting; Panelist, "Managing Descriptive Overhead" Plenary Session, Spring 2004 Meeting; Nominating Committee, 2003; Program Committee, Spring 2003 Meeting; Newsletter Editor, 2001-2004.

Service To The Archival Profession: Newsletter co-editor, Congressional Papers Roundtable, SAA, 2005-present; Awards Committee, C.F.W. Coker Award, SAA, 2005-2008; Steering Committee, Description Section, SAA, 2004-present; Digital Services Advisory Committee, NELINET, 2001-present; St. Johnsbury Archives Collaborative Advisory Board, 2001-2003; Deputy Coordinator, Vermont Historical Records Advisory Board, 1999-present.

Response To Candidate Question: As President of NEA, I would encourage and support a thorough study of our membership. Do we know why our membership rises and falls? Are there other variables we need to capture? What is our retention rate? What does the data we capture from our meeting registration forms tell us about our membership? This survey should lead to a number of new options for increasing membership, as well as inform traditional methods of meetings, the NEA Newsletter, and encouraging active participation.

Our meetings are the main method for attracting new members, and we need to strike the right balance of offering ses-

sions that attract the bulk of attendees, and sessions for smaller more specialized groups of archivists. To ensure high quality, we may need to think about whether our meetings are adequately funded.

The NEA Newsletter is another mechanism for increasing membership, a publication that strives to be informative and eagerly anticipated. In this area, the President of NEA needs to emphasize to members the importance of submitting articles featuring their insights and their collections.

Finally, the President of NEA must encourage members, especially new members, to get involved. I live in Vermont where, because of its size, it is relatively easy to meet people and feel like you can make a difference. I have found my volunteer experiences in NEA to be enriching in a similar manner. I have made wonderful contacts and friendships, learned a great deal, and in return made a small contribution to the greater good.



Name: Anne Sauer

Education: MLS, Archives Management, Simmons College Graduate School of Library and Information Science; MA, History, Tufts University.

Employment: Director of Digital Collections and Archives and University Archivist, Tufts University, 2004-present; Assistant Archivist, Digital Collections and Archives, Tufts University, 2001-2004; Photographic Project Archivist, University Archives, Tufts University, 2000-2001; Editor, Concise Encyclopedia of Tufts History, University Archives, Tufts University, 1999-2000; Project Archivist, John A. Holmes Poetry Collection, University Archives, Tufts University, 1998-1999.

Service To New England Archivists: Representative at Large, Executive Board, 2003-2006; NEA Representative to the SAA A*CENSUS (Archival Census and Educational Needs Survey of the United States) Working Group, 2003-2005; Membership Secretary, 1998-2001.

Service To The Archival Profession: Co-instructor, Building Digital Collections. Workshop sponsored by SAA, Boston, 2004 and New Orleans, 2005; Panelist, "Archivists and IT Professionals," NEA Spring 2005 Conference,

Boston, MA; Instructor, "Reference Services for Archives," Museum and Library Archives Institute, Wilbraham, MA, 2002-2004; Co-instructor, Building Digital Collections. Workshop sponsored by SAA. Boston, 2004 and New Orleans, 2005.

Response To Candidate Question: NEA is a membership organization whose vitality depends on how well it serves its members. Fostering the vibrant community that is NEA means engaging the broad spectrum of record keepers in New England by both retaining current members and attracting new ones.

We continue to be members of NEA because of what it offers us as professionals - conferences, workshops on a variety of topics, a quarterly newsletter, outreach programs, and more. But I feel that NEA can, and should, go beyond these offerings to facilitate more active engagement in the organization. Specifically, I propose investing in further development of the NEA Web site to provide an online community gathering area for members to share their diverse interests and talents. The Web site can be a focal point for interest groups, resource sharing, and professional enrichment.

Then, we must continue to reach out to the wide spectrum of individuals and institutions doing archival work in New England. Perhaps the most important pool of prospective members I see is those studying to become archivists. The enrollments in archival studies programs have grown tremendously in recent years, while the number of student members of NEA has remained relatively small. I believe that NEA should offer a discounted student membership rate to encourage them to join our organization.

Achieving that mix of engaging our current members and attracting new members is the key to keep NEA a vibrant and relevant organization and should be the focus of NEA's leadership in the coming years.

Candidates for Secretary



Name: Lisa Carole Long

Education: MS in Library and Information Science, Simmons College, 1996-1997; MA in Archival Management, North Carolina State

University, 1989-1991; BA, History / Spanish, Appalachian State University, 1983-1988

Employment: Ezra Stiles Special Collections Librarian, Redwood Library and Athenæum, Newport, Rhode Island, 2002-present; Archivist / Records Manager; University Archivist, Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts, 1998-2002; Librarian / Archivist, American Meteorological Society, Boston, Massachusetts, 1996-1998; Intern – Preservation Department, Widener Library, Harvard University, Cambridge Massachusetts, Fall 1997; Practicum – Conservation Lab Prints, Drawings and Photographs Department, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Massachusetts, Spring 1997; Archivist, Dorothy Carpenter Medical Archives, Bowman Gray School of Medicine, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, 1991-1996; Archives Fellow, University Archives, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, North Carolina, 1989-1991.

Service to New England Archivists: Author – “Around and About” featuring The Redwood Library and Athenæum (*NEA Newsletter*, Vol. 30, No. 2, April 2003); Session Recorder – The Stuff of History: Textiles and Objects in Archival Repositories session, NEA Meeting, Spring 2003; Member – NEA Communication Survey Task Force, June 2002 - January 2003; A Session Coordinator – Archives in the Curriculum and Collecting Women’s History sessions, NEA Meeting at Yale University, Fall 2001; Committee Member – Program Committee, NEA Fall Meeting at Yale University, Fall 2001.

Service to the Archival Profession: Committee Member – Advisory Committee, Northeast Document Conservation Center, 2005 – 2006; Workshop Presenter – *Issues for Small Archival Collections*, The Greater Boston Chapter of the Association of Jewish Librarians, Hebrew College, Boston, Massachusetts, May 2000; Workshop Presenter – *File Management*, Brandeis University Library, Brandeis University, May 1998; Workshop Presenter – *Developing a Disaster Preparedness Plan*, Federation of North Carolina Historical Societies, Hendersonville, North Carolina, August 1995; Chairperson – Membership Committee, Society of North Carolina Archivists, 1994 – 1996; Committee Member – Program Committee, Society of North Carolina Archivists, 1992 – 1994.

Response To Candidate Question: Sustained membership in any organization is dependent upon an individual’s

sense of the relevance of that organization to their lives. Sustained membership is also dependent upon the organization’s ability to communicate the relevance of membership to the individual. The NEA communicates well through the *NEA Newsletter*, the Web site, and the list-serve, and has been monitoring the changing communication needs of the membership through the Communication Survey Task Force. However, there is no better means of convincing than through a witness. As members of the NEA we are the best communicators of the relevance of this organization. We all know a librarian, local historian, or municipal records manager who is not a member of the NEA. Our membership would double if we each convinced one person in these related fields to join the NEA. Even more important to the future of the organization are the students coming through the library, archival and records management programs. The NEA should consider asking members to regularly meet with each program and/or create a program to reach out to the many student interns working in our institutions. A robust and growing NEA will be made up of members who feel that the organization is relevant to their lives and who can communicate that relevance to the larger community of potential new members they interact with each day. As an officer in the NEA I would encourage proactive programs that promote the relevance of the organization to potential members as well as current NEA members.



Name: Elizabeth Slomba

Education: BA, Latin and Greek, Mount Holyoke College 1991; MA, Classics, University of Virginia 1993; MLS, Archives Concentration, University of Maryland, College Park 1998.

Employment: University Archivist, Milne Special Collections and Archives, Dimond Library, University of New Hampshire, 1999-present; Project Supervisor, Special Collections Department, Alderman Library, University of Virginia, 1997.

Service To New England Archivists: Secretary, 2004-2006; Education Committee, 2001-2004; Program Committee, Fall 2004, Fall 2002; Local Arrangements Committee Fall 2006, Fall 1999 (Registrar). Presented at sessions at the Fall 2005, Fall 2004 conferences.

Service To The Archival Profession: Society of American Archivists Key Contact for New Hampshire and Maine, October 2005-present; Society of American Archivists Boston 2004 Host Committee; New Hampshire Archives Group, Immediate Past-President, 2005-2007, President, 2003-2005, Vice-President, 2001-2003; Newsletter Editor, 2000-2003; Northeast Document Conservation Center Advisory Board, 2001-2006; New Hampshire Local Records Education Project consultant, 2002-2003. Presented at New Hampshire Archivists Group Fall 2004 meeting.

Response To Candidate Question: Serving as Secretary, I would promote ideas for programming and meeting the membership's need through consistent, in-depth and reflective communication among the membership, the Executive Board and committees. I will draw on my experiences with the New Hampshire Archives Group and work on the NEA Education committee. As an officer in the New Hampshire Archives Group, I worked towards increasing the membership through programming responsive to the membership needs and through greater outreach to people who care for records. I would bring this approach to New England Archivists and continue to encourage different types of conference programming, interaction and networking among records keepers, flexible leadership through efficient and effective communication, and outreach to records keepers by identifying underserved archival groups. Through my membership in other professional organizations and contacts in the archival world, I actively promote New England Archivists and the benefits of membership and listen to what people who care for records are looking for from a professional group. Through enhanced communication and flexibility, we can continue to grow the membership and become responsive to what members are looking for in regards to professional growth, educational opportunities and networking.

Candidates for Representative-at-Large



Name: Karen Adler Abramson

Education: BA, Brandeis University, 1985; MA, Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University, 1994; MS in Library and Information Science with a concentration in Archives

Management, Simmons College, 1999; CA, Academy of Certified Archivists, 2004.

Employment: Assistant Director for Special Collections & University Archives, Robert D. Farber University Archives & Special Collections Department, Brandeis University, 2005- present; University Archivist, Robert D. Farber University Archives & Special Collections Department, Brandeis University, 2003-2005; Archivist, Mary Baker Eddy Library for the Betterment of Humanity, 2001-2002; Special Collections Librarian, Special Collections Department, State Library of Massachusetts, 1999-2001; Archives Assistant, Northeastern University Archives & Special Collections Department, 1998-1999.

Service To New England Archivists: Program Committee Co-Chair, Spring 2005 Meeting; Member since 1999.

Service To The Archival Profession: Volunteer Archivist, Jamaica Plain Historical Society, Jamaica Plain, MA.

Response To Candidate Question: NEA serves a vital purpose for its membership; it is the glue that binds together professionals who often work in small, isolated and under-resourced institutions. NEA meetings provide its members with ongoing, regularly scheduled opportunities to network with friends and colleagues in the field. In recent years, however, NEA membership has declined. While the NEA Board has worked diligently to redress ongoing concerns about the frequency, structure, and content of meetings, the issue must be brought directly to the membership for feedback and recommendations. As a representative at large, I would propose and offer to lead a comprehensive survey of the membership to solicit input on ways to improve meetings and program offerings. I would invite new and prospective NEA members (Simmons students and recent graduates, for example) to participate in this effort. Survey feedback would be used to rethink and innovate program planning and networking opportunities. Responsiveness to membership needs will foster a sense of institutional "ownership" and motivate members to grow the organization.

Additionally, I would attend the meetings of comparable chapter organizations to explore ways in which to provide collaborative programming. It is in our best interests to find common cause with colleagues who share many of the same goals and aspirations for the preservation and promotion of historical documentation. I believe that targeted outreach

to grassroots organizations (e.g., local historical societies) and increased collaboration will bolster our membership and enhance the quality and versatility of our programming. I look forward to playing a role in the revitalization of NEA.



Name: Elizabeth B. Scott

Education: MSLS, University of Kentucky; MAR, Yale University; BA, History College of Wooster.

Employment: Archivist, Saint Michael's College/Society of Saint Edmund, 2001-present; Archivist/Special Collections Librarian, South Dakota State University, 1997-2001; Serials Cataloger, US Newspaper Project: Oregon 1996-1997.

Service To New England Archivists: Outreach Committee, 2004-present; Program Committee, 2005 Fall Meeting.

Service To The Archival Profession: Key Contact—Vermont, SAA 2005-present; Sister M. Claude Lane Award subcommittee, SAA 2005-present; Vermont Representative NEDCC Advisory Board, 2002-present; Steering Committee/Newsletter Editor, Congressional Papers Roundtable, SAA, 2000-2005; Presidential Leadership Award Committee, Midwest Archives Conference, 2000-2001; Membership Committee, Midwest Archives Conference, 1999-2001; South Dakota State Historical Records Advisory Board, 1999-2001; U.S. Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress, 1999-2002.

Response To Candidate Question: NEA has a stated goal of increasing membership and presence among record keepers. I believe that we need to make a conscious effort to increase not only membership, but also active membership. We can

make initial contact with brochures, but a note or phone call will result in a personal connection. The same is true of increasing the activity levels of members of the organization. Asking people to take part can personalize the process and will generate new interest. Many people may not know that they are eligible to join NEA or that it exists for them, particularly those who come to the archives world without formal training. People are busy. People will still need to decide if they want to become involved, but people like to be asked. The personal contact can also help them decide if it is a good match for them. It is up to members to let them know that it is. Members know whom they work with, whom they went to library school with, or whom they met at the last historical society meeting. They are our connection with non-members and inactive members and we need to use that connection. It is much easier to ignore an announcement sent on a listserv than it is to ignore a phone call or an email from your colleague down the road. ☺

NEA Needs You - Please Volunteer!

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.

Professionals in the archival field already possess skills and experience needed to support and advance New England Archivists. 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.

If you are interested in volunteering for a committee, contact either Membership Committee Co-chair.

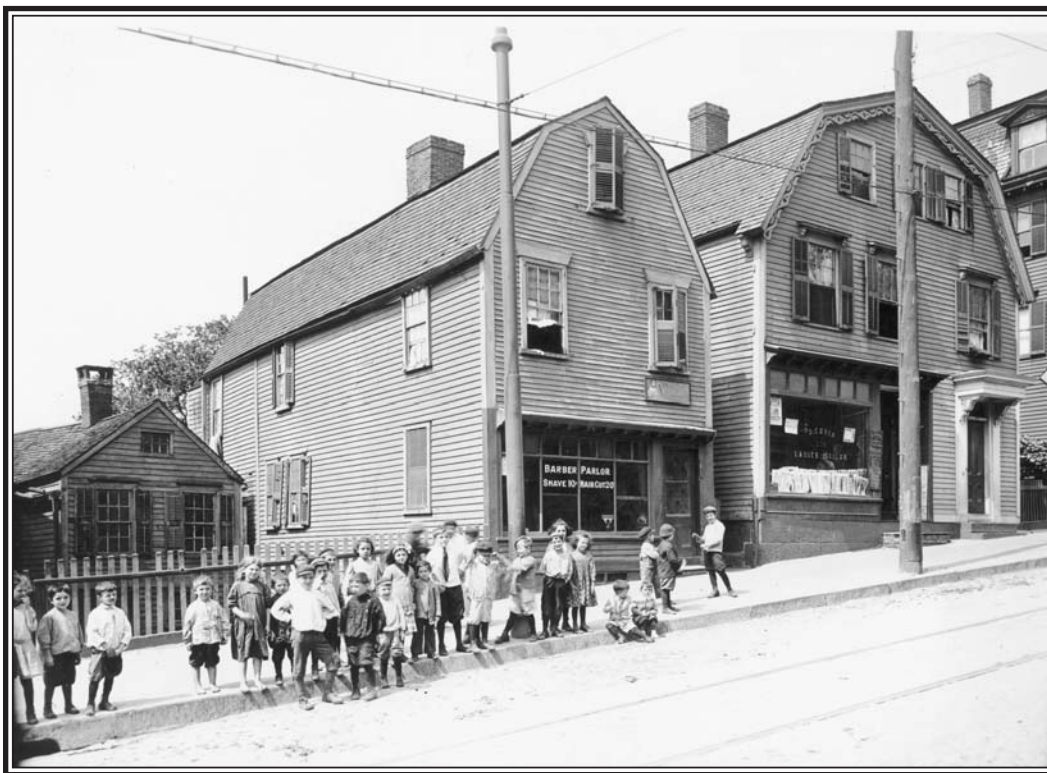
Promote your photograph collections by sharing an image of an historic event, place, or person with the NEA community.

The *NEA Newsletter* is seeking submissions from repositories in Connecticut, Maine, and Vermont 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: <sheila.spalding@cityofboston.gov>. Photographs must be scanned at 600 dpi or better.

NEW ENGLAND ARCHIVISTS
WPI Archives and Special Collections
Gordon Library
100 Institute Road
Worcester, MA 01609

Non-profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Boston, Massachusetts 02205
Permit Number 56006

This Season in New England History



Our Gang: Constitution Hill, Providence circa 1912

This image from the Preston Collection of the Rhode Island State Archives Division is part of a series of photographs documenting "Constitution Hill," once a thriving Jewish neighborhood in Providence. The image was captured by an unidentified photographer who was documenting North Main Street before it was widened to accommodate more traffic. As one looks through the series of photographs, the group of children becomes larger and larger, presumably following the photographer. This picture shows the largest group of the children, some sans shoes. Many of the homes and businesses on this street no longer exist. A series of apartment buildings now line the street. The name "Constitution Hill" appears today as a small sign on one of the buildings.