

Volume 41, Number 3 • July 2014

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NEWSLETTER

NEW ENGLAND ARCHIVISTS



C O V E R — Students at the Perkins School for the Blind wading at the edge of Perkins Pond located on the Watertown, Massachusetts campus, 1932. A rope serves as a barrier to prevent students from venturing too far into the water. From the collection at the Perkins School for the Blind Archives.

I N S I D E — We include seventeen session reports from the Spring 2014 Meeting in Portsmouth, New Hampshire (page 12). In her first *From the President* column (page 6), Jill Snyder discusses ways in which NEA is moving forward as an organization. In *Around and About* (page 4), Meghan Schwenke and Camille Torres Hoven describe the success of this year's Community Outreach Project. Sharyn Nolan reviews Jessica Lacher-Feldman's book, *Exhibits in Archives and Special Collections Libraries* (page 5). We hear updates from NEA Roundtables (page 22), and as always, we include news and photographs from repositories throughout New England.

TAKING THE PAST INTO THE FUTURE

N E A

New England Archivists

TAKING THE PAST INTO THE FUTURE

Office of Medical History and Archives
The Lamar Soutter Library
University of Massachusetts Medical School
55 Lake Avenue North • Worcester, MA 01655
<www.newenglandarchivists.org>

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Dues of \$35/year (\$45 for institutions) should be sent to: Kristine M. Sjostedt, Office of Medical History and Archives, The Lamar Soutter Library, University of Massachusetts Medical School, 55 Lake Avenue North, Worcester, MA 01655, or join online at <www.newenglandarchivists.org>.

Notices of archival events should be sent to: Heather Cristiano at <Heather_Cristiano@hms.harvard.edu>.

The *NEA Newsletter* is published quarterly in January, April, July and October. The contents of the *Newsletter* may be reproduced in whole or in part provided that credit is given.

Articles and **News** of interest to archivists, historical society members, historians, and other NEA members should be sent for consideration to: Heather Cristiano at <Heather_Cristiano@hms.harvard.edu>, or to NEA Newsletter Editors, c/o Office of Medical History and Archives, The Lamar Soutter Library, University of Massachusetts Medical School, 55 Lake Avenue North, Worcester, MA 01655.

Contributions for inclusion on the NEA website should be sent to: <webcoordinator@newenglandarchivists.org>.

Deadlines for submitting materials are:

November 15 for January issue February 10 for April issue
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Newsletter design by Culp Design <www.culpdesign.com>



Table of Contents

From the Editors 3

Around and About

Community Connections: Day of

Service in Portsmouth, NH 4

Reviews 5

Inside NEA

From the President..... 6

News and Notes

Connecticut..... 7

Maine..... 7

Massachusetts 7

Rhode Island..... 9

Internet Tidbits..... 10

People..... 11

Spring 2014 Meeting Session Reports..... 12

NEA Roundtable Updates 22

Calendar 23

This Season in New England History..... 24

From the Editors

- Jessica Holden

Welcome to the July 2014 issue of the Newsletter! You might notice a few changes this month from previous issues. As you are probably aware, NEA held its first three-day meeting this past spring in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, which means that we have more session reports to share with you than ever before. The Newsletter editors wanted to focus on these reports, so you will find that they make up the bulk of this issue. Another change is that starting this month, NEA's Executive Board Minutes are now available exclusively online <<http://newenglandarchivists.wildapricot.org>>. We welcome your comments on these changes, which can be sent to this issue's Main Editor, Jessica Holden <jessica.holden@umb.edu>.

We are pleased to include seventeen session reports from the spring meeting, beginning with those on the meeting's two plenary talks, which were given by Ian MacKaye and Vivek Bald. In her first *From the President* column, Jill

Snyder discusses ways in which NEA is moving forward as an organization, such as the establishment of the Mentoring Task Force (MTF). In *Around and About*, Meghan Schwenke and Camille Torres Hoven describe the success of this year's Community Outreach Project, which focused on the Henry Clay Barnabee collection at the Portsmouth Public Library.

Also in this issue, Sharyn Nolan reviews Jessica Lacher-Feldman's book, *Exhibits in Archives and Special Collections Libraries*. We hear updates from the Local History Roundtable (LHRT) and the Roundtable for Early Professionals and Students (REPS). In *Internet Tidbits*, we learn about the online exhibit *Medieval Scrolls* at Harvard, Northeastern University's *Our Marathon* digital archive on the Boston Marathon bombing, and ScholarWorks, the digital repository of UMass Amherst and UMass Boston.

Finally, our Calendar of Events includes exciting professional opportunities that are scheduled for the summer and fall, and, as always, we include news and photographs from repositories throughout New England. ■

Archival Certification:

Validate your achievements, knowledge and skills

The 2014 Certified Archivist examination will be held August 13 in Albany (NY), Madison (WI), Phoenix (AZ), Tuscaloosa (AL) and Washington (DC) -- and wherever 5 or more candidates wish to take it.

In 2013, more than 200 candidates took the examination at 17 sites throughout the country.

The 2014 application and more information will be available January 1 at www.certifiedarchivists.org or contact the Academy of Certified Archivists (aca@caphill.com or 518-694-8471).

The application deadline is May 15.



AROUND AND ABOUT

Community Connections: Day of Service in Portsmouth, NH

by Megan Schwenke, Archivist/Records Manager, Harvard Art Museums and Camille Torres Hoven, Chomsky Project Archivist, MIT

NEA first embarked on a community outreach initiative with the StoryCorps project “Why Worcester?” at the 40th Anniversary Meeting in Spring 2013. This project was seen as a first step toward a larger goal for NEA: to offer a community outreach project every year for our members in conjunction with the Spring Meeting. The Portsmouth project was envisioned as the next phase in this tradition, offering members an opportunity to give something back to the town in which the Spring Meeting is held and to make connections with local librarians, town clerks, and other colleagues whose work intersects with what we do.

The NEA Spring 2014 Program Committee hoped to organize something special in Portsmouth, but on a smaller scale than the StoryCorps initiative. Committee members Megan Schwenke and Camille Torres Hoven reached out to various Portsmouth history repositories, and made contact with Mary Ann List, Library Director of the Portsmouth Public Library, and her colleague, Nicole Cloutier, Special Collections Librarian. Together, the team selected the Henry Clay Barnabee collection to be the focus of the outreach day. The Barnabee Collection, comprised of scrapbooks, correspondence, images, and assorted ephemera, would provide NEA volunteers an opportunity to perform basic description and scanning services for the Library. The team liked this project because NEA volunteers would be able to pick up where a series of interns and volunteers had left off, and further the Library’s goal of garnering more exposure for the materials.

On March 20, 2014, seventeen NEA volunteers gathered at the Portsmouth Public Library to take part in the project. Most volunteers came for 2-3 hour shifts throughout the day. Nicole set up multiple cataloging workstations within the Special Collections Room as well as a scanning station. She also provided specific and detailed directions for all volunteers, was available on site to answer questions all day, and provided everyone with an edible thank you gift at the end of their shift. Megan and Camille also solicited volunteers and specialists to participate in advance; for example, Frances Harrell and Jessica Bitely from the Northeast Document Conservation Center stopped by to offer Nicole some preservation advice.

Overall, the project was extremely successful and mutually beneficial. Portsmouth Public Library gained

some valuable volunteer hours for an important collection and also became acquainted with our organization. Nicole noted that “aside from the huge amount of scanning and indexing that was accomplished in a very short amount of time, it was wonderful to have a reason to examine and explain the factors in our collection decision-making, and then to hear advice, as well as sympathy, from like-minded colleagues!” Nicole reminded us that “we all tend to get entrenched in our own collections with the day-to-day work so it was wonderful to see the bigger picture of our common goals as we shared our methods and collection care decisions. It was gratifying to meet colleagues who ‘get’ what we are trying to do in our Special Collections in a Public Library setting!”

At the same time, NEA volunteers were able to share their time and expertise with a fellow repository, and to learn a bit more about Portsmouth history in the process. One of the volunteers from that day, former Board Member Joan Gearin of NARA, summed up the experience nicely: “Having worked in a government archives for many years, it was fun to get to sit with one of Barnabee’s scrapbooks and index names, dates, and places. I really enjoyed the opportunity to contribute to the project.” Old connections were also renewed, as Gearin noted: “An added bonus was the chance to catch up with my old library school pal, Nicole Cloutier, who I hadn’t seen in many years. I know and am glad that NEA will continue providing community outreach projects so we can contribute our aid and expertise to our colleagues.”

This summer a Simmons College intern will continue work on the Barnabee Collection, and Nicole hopes that the digitized photographs will be available online soon. In order

Reviews

Lacher-Feldman, Jessica. *Exhibits in Archives and Special Collections Libraries*. Chicago: Society of American Archivists, 2013. 208 pages. ISBN 978-1-931666-64-4.

- Sharyn Nolan, Harvard University Archives

In *Exhibits in Archives and Special Collections Libraries*, Jessica Lacher-Feldman challenges archivists to rethink their roles within their institutions while also providing practical tips on concept, implementation, and evaluation of exhibits. Her first tip sets the tone of the book as she advises exhibit developers to reflect on the fundamental issues that affect organizations, such as “What do you see as the perceived strengths (such as staffing, funding, time, value) within your collection?” The introduction is encouraging in its tone, emphasizing that exhibits can tap into the qualities of creativity, teaching, writing, and analysis that complement how we think and work as archivists.

Lacher-Feldman successfully structures the book to mirror the exhibit development process, with the first chapters focusing on why an organization should exhibit its collection, how to develop exhibit ideas, and best practices for planning. Later chapters delve into practical applications, such as creating labels, promotion and outreach, and evaluation. Mini case studies are presented as examples throughout. The final chapters include three in-depth case studies and practical resources such as a literature review, sample forms, and sample layouts. The practical advice and real-world experiences are a highlight of this book.

The chapter titled “What Makes a ‘Good’ Exhibit” moves the reader beyond the logistical challenges of designing and implementing an exhibit to exploring ways to institutionalize exhibit programs within an organization. Topics such as getting buy-in from staff within your organi-

zation, developing a robust tracking system to understand the strengths of your collection, and adopting standards to measure success are presented as ways to enhance the organization as a whole and not just in building a robust exhibition program. Interestingly, the author places this chapter after the section on outreach and before the chapter on evaluation in the attempt to demonstrate that the exhibit process is a mix of internally-focused and externally-focused work and is constantly a balance of “big picture” thinking and logistical challenges.

This is a very readable book. Each chapter begins with an introductory paragraph that outlines the contents, so you can easily skim to find the information you need. The book is filled with photographs of example exhibits, and the illustrations and forms are easy to digest and adapt for use. Brimming with photographs and case studies, the examples in this book can support efforts to get buy-in for developing or improving an exhibitions program. The book can also be used by the experienced exhibit developer for its wealth of practical advice and best practices. ■

to keep the momentum going, NEA plans to offer another outreach opportunity at the Spring 2015 Joint MARAC/NEA Meeting in Boston, MA. Stay tuned for more details as the meeting approaches, and please feel free to contact a member of the Program Committee or Local Arrangements Committee with location ideas! ■



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Inside NEA

FROM THE PRESIDENT

- Jill Snyder



In 2013, NEA celebrated forty years. A lot has changed in those forty years. We are now faced with an abundance of born-digital records. We also have more electronic tools to help us do our work. And technology is changing at an alarmingly fast

pace. So how do we evolve as an organization and continue to take the past into the future?

One way that NEA is doing this is by creating an organization based on openness and transparency and understanding the needs of membership. NEA is working on many projects to move us forward.

The NEA board recently voted to appoint Tom Doyle and Erik Bauer to co-chair the Constituency Task Force (CTF). The goal of the CTF is to identify the various con-

Look for the NEA Board Meeting Minutes online!

NEA's Executive Board Minutes are going to be featured online, exclusively, beginning July 2014. Visit newenglandarchivists.wildapricot.org for more information.

stituent groups (e.g. historical societies, public libraries, academic, government and religious archives), among the membership to investigate their needs.

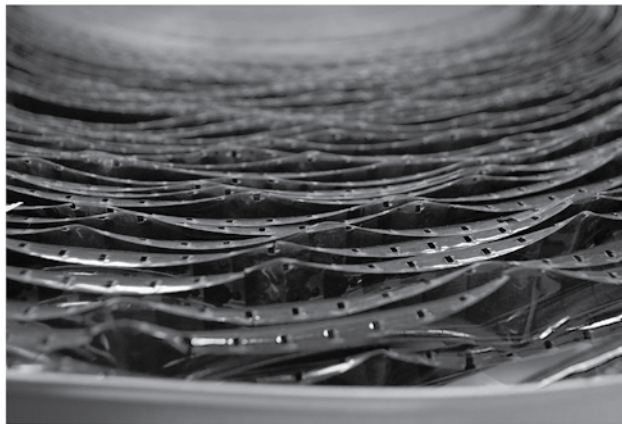
The NEA board also voted to establish the Mentoring Task Force (MTF). Last year the NEA Roundtable for Emerging Professionals and Students (REPS) piloted a Mentoring Circles Program. The goal of the MTF is to make recommendations on how to transition the REPS Mentoring Circles Program into a permanent NEA program for all members. Camille Torres Hoven is the chair of the MTF.

I want to remind you that all executive board meetings are open to members. We will also be posting meeting agendas in advance. We hope to see you at the next meeting.

NEA is due for another strategic plan and the board has been working on a strategy to write a new plan. Be on the lookout for opportunities to comment. NEA is your organization and we look forward to hearing your ideas about what direction to go in!

By understanding your needs, NEA will continue to take the past into the future! Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Fall 2014 meeting at Salve Regina University, in Newport, on November 1! ■

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1901 Centennial Parade in New Canaan, Connecticut – at the Main Street end of Railroad Avenue (now Elm Street). Courtesy of the New Canaan Historical Society.

News and Notes

CONNECTICUT

NHRPC Grant Brings Online Access to Revolutionary Assets

The Connecticut Historical Society (CHS) is pleased to announce that it has been awarded a grant of \$35,000 from the National Historical Records and Publications Commission (NHRPC) to digitize eleven important colonial-era manuscript collections that were previously reproduced and available on microfilm. The collections include the papers of such founding fathers as Oliver Wolcott Jr., Jonathan Trumbull, Silas Deane, and William Williams, along with the papers of Indian preacher Samson Occom and the artificially created collection of American Revolution papers. These represent some of the most heavily used collections in the Waterman Research Center at CHS. Once completed, approximately 118,000 digital images will be made available online via Connecticut History Online <<http://CTHistoryOnline.org>> and the CHS website <<http://CHS.org>>.

This project is part of an ongoing, institution-wide initiative to put more of CHS's historical content on the internet. The collections selected are important to understanding Connecticut's role in the growth of settlement in the colonial period, English relationships with Native Americans, the steps to Revolution, and the development of the new federal government after 1783.

CHS staff and volunteers, led by project archivist Barbara Austen, are currently conducting quality control and creating metadata on the first batch from this project, the Oliver Wolcott Jr. images, in preparation toward the digitization and online access of these resources to the public. Wolcott served as the Secretary of the Treasury from 1795-1800 and as Governor of Connecticut from 1817 to 1827. Both of these offices are represented in his papers. Digitization is being done by Hudson Archival of Port Ewan, New York.

Follow the CHS blog for ongoing updates at <<http://CHS.org/blog>>, or contact Ed Main at <ed_main@chs.org> or 860-236-5621 x218.

MAINE

Women's Literary Club Collection Now Processed

The Northeast Harbor Library Archives recently completed processing the Woman's Literary Club Collection. Belle Smallidge Knowles and Stella P. Hill, two college-educated women living in Northeast Harbor in the early 20th century, thought the community could benefit from a woman's club. The Woman's Literary Club of Northeast Harbor held its first meeting in 1908 and quickly gained membership. Club members actively wrote papers (many award-winning) ranging from poetry to local family histories and biographies of famous artists. Members also participated in community improvement projects, and attended state and national women's club meetings. The club disbanded in 2000 due to dwindling membership.

This incredibly rich collection includes manuscripts, typescripts, letters, annual meeting notes, scrapbooks, news clippings, photographs, and meeting programs all which paint a vivid picture of the progressive, intelligent women living in Northeast Harbor.

For more information, please contact Hannah Stevens, Archivist at the Northeast Harbor Library, at 207-276-3333 or <hstevens@nehlibrary.org>.

MASSACHUSETTS

Newly Processed Collection at the William Brewster Nickerson Cape Cod History Archives

The William Brewster Nickerson Cape Cod History Archives located in Cape Cod Community College has completed the processing of one of its collections. The Leonard H. Mersky Collection (ca. 1960-1980) is now open and available for research. The collection was donated by Leonard H. Mersky's wife, in March of 1999. The Leonard H. Mersky Collection contains photographs taken by the American artist Leonard H. Mersky as well as newspaper clippings and postcards collected during his lifetime. The materials present in the collection are not dated, but are estimated to span from the 1960s to the 1980s. Mersky was well-known for his etchings of antique ships, harbor views,



Marina view in the coastal town of Rockport, Massachusetts, circa 1960-1980. William Brewster Nickerson Cape Cod History Archives.

and coastal scenes. The majority of Mersky's photographs are of Cape Cod and other local towns, but also include images of towns along the Eastern Seaboard.

For more information, contact the Nickerson Archives at 508-362-2131 x4445 or via email at <mlabombard@capecod.edu>. The finding aid for this and other collections can be found at <www.archon.capecod.edu>.

Boston College Completes a University Archives Backlog Processing Project

In honor of Boston College's sesquicentennial celebrations, the John J. Burns Library recently completed a yearlong University Archives backlog processing project to make the history of the institution more accessible to researchers. The records of the university's founder and first twenty-three presidents were processed or updated, as were the records of the Academic Vice President's office and several important photograph collections documenting campus history. Over 330 linear feet of university archives were processed. Interesting finds included faculty loyalty oaths collected during the Cold War; records documenting the Ksar Akil Paleolithic site excavation trips sponsored by the University in the 1930s and 1940s; and centennial celebration records that included John F. Kennedy's convocation speech. In addition to University Archives, the library's collection of Japanese woodblock prints was cataloged, as were several manuscript collections relating to Boston history.

For further resources on Boston College history, please

see our Libguide at <<http://libguides.bc.edu/UnivArch>>; finding aids or catalog records for all newly processed materials are available at <<http://bclib.bc.edu/libsearch/archive/collection/BPP2014>>. For more information, contact the Burns Library at <burnsref@bc.edu> or 617-552-4861, or see our Libguide at <<http://libguides.bc.edu/Burns>>.

New Digital Commonwealth Repository Now Live!

In April the Digital Commonwealth of Massachusetts launched a new version of its website which provides access to digital presentations of more than 98,000 items from about ninety cultural organizations located all over the state. Digital Commonwealth, a collaborative membership-driven organization, focuses on providing online access to the breadth and depth of the rich cultural heritage of Massachusetts and also offers events and training in support of digitization efforts. In 2011, Digital Commonwealth entered into a partnership with the Boston Public Library. The BPL, as part of its Library for the Commonwealth program, provides digital services to members of Digital Commonwealth, and the BPL's web developers created and currently maintain the new website, a state-of-the-art Hydra repository.

Digital Commonwealth currently has about 170 member organizations including libraries, archives, historical societies, museums and cultural organizations. Please check out the content (additional digital collections will be added throughout the year), faceted browsing, and more at: <www.digitalcommonwealth.org>.

For more information, contact <membership@digital-commonwealth.org> or Digital Commonwealth, Inc.; 321 Walnut Street; Newton, MA 02460.

Handel and Haydn Society Celebrates Bicentennial

The Handel and Haydn Society (H+H) was founded in Boston in 1815 by a small group of music lovers "for the purpose of improving the style of performing sacred music, and introducing into more general use the works of Handel and Haydn and other eminent composers." Today, H+H is considered America's oldest continuously perform-

ing arts organization and an international leader in both music performance and education. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Harry Christophers, the Period Instrument Orchestra and Chorus regularly perform at Boston's Symphony Hall, H+H's home since 1900, and throughout New England.

In 2015, H+H celebrates 200 years of music and cultural heritage. Bicentennial festivities commence in the fall of 2014 with the opening of H+H's 200th season and continue through December 2015, including performances of works H+H premiered in the US, an exhibit of historical materials, free concerts, a commemorative book, lectures and symposia, and more.

Available this fall as part of the Bicentennial celebration, *Handel and Haydn Society: Bringing Music to Life for 200 Years* is an updated and extensively researched history of H+H. It covers the organization's rich cultural heritage from its founding and first concerts at King's Chapel through its evolution as a professional ensemble focused on Historically Informed Performance. Comprised of unique perspectives and personal accounts from well-known scholars and musicians, this book also beautifully highlights material from the collections at the H+H Archive.

For more information, visit <<http://handelandhaydn.org>> or contact Michelle Chiles, archivist, at <archivist@handelandhaydn.org> or Emily Yoder Reed, Director of

Bicentennial and Community Engagement, at <ereed@handelandhaydn.org>.

R H O D E I S L A N D

John Hay Library (Brown University) Renovation Project

The John Hay Library's (Brown University) temporary reading rooms will close effective June 2, 2014. Staff will spend the summer months preparing the newly renovated building for reopening in early September 2014. Due to the enormous amount of work involved in re-shelving materials and reorienting staff and services in the new space, requests for assistance during the summer (June-August) will be reserved for research related to Brown University's 250th anniversary. There will be no other Special Collections services during Summer 2014.

The John Hay Library will reopen in early September 2014, at which time the Special Collections Reading Room and reference services will resume. Please contact the Library at hay@brown.edu with any questions. For more information about using Special Collections and University Archives, please visit <<http://library.brown.edu/about/hay/>>.

For more information on the John Hay Library Renovation Project, please go to <<http://library.brown.edu/hayrenovation/>> or contact Tom Horrocks, Director of Special Collections and the John Hay Library <thomas_horrocks@brown.edu>. ■



Lawn Party fundraiser, circa 1908, Box 3, Boston College Special Guests and Events Photographs, MS.1986.032, John J. Burns Library, Boston College.



Commemorative medal celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Handel and Haydn Society. Handel and Haydn Society Archives.

Internet Tidbits

- Susan Martin

Medieval Scrolls at Harvard

<<http://omeka.cga.harvard.edu/exhibits/show/medscrolls>>

This online exhibit corresponds to an interdisciplinary seminar held at Harvard earlier this year and an exhibit of the same name at Houghton Library. The website is well-organized and easy to navigate. The menu remains at the top of the page throughout, so users can read through the exhibit sequentially or skip to any section. An essay accompanying each Medieval scroll contains detailed information on its content, physical properties, and importance, but the text is clear and concise enough not to overwhelm readers unfamiliar with the topic. Click on an image to enlarge select “close-ups” and handwriting samples, or click on the title of a scroll to open it in a new window via the Harvard Page Delivery Service. From here, you can read the whole scroll; most but not all the scrolls have been digitized in their entirety, and the reproductions are beautiful.

Our Marathon

<<http://marathon.neu.edu/>>

Northeastern University serves as the host institution for this digital archive of the Boston Marathon bombing of April 15, 2013. Because the event affected so many people in so many different ways and because it was so widely documented in photographs, videos, tweets, etc., this kind of crowd-sourced on-line presentation works particularly well. The home page contains random images, featured stories, and links to the Boston City Archives Collection, the WBUR Oral History Project, letters of sympathy and condolence from around the world, and first-hand accounts. Also included is a map (<<http://marathon.neu.edu/geolocation/map/browse>>) with geolocation coordinates associated with images, news articles, and other items. This website—interactive and sharable on social media—is a powerful application of technology to document the ongoing impact of the bombing.

ScholarWorks

<<http://scholarworks.umb.edu>>

<<http://scholarworks.umass.edu/>>

ScholarWorks is defined as “a digital repository for the research, creative and scholarly contributions of faculty, staff, researchers, and students” of the University of Massachusetts. Both UMass-Boston and UMass Amherst host very similar ScholarWorks sites. Detailed submission guides and FAQs are available. As the UMass Boston “About” page explains, there are several advantages to this kind of repository: “In addition to providing an open access archive of articles and other works that have already been published, the institutional repository is an excellent vehicle for working papers, conference papers, theses, dissertations, or other works not published elsewhere.” The site provides permanent URLs for citations, and documents are delivered as PDFs with HTML abstracts. Click on an author’s name to see all of his or her contributions. I particularly like the Top 10 Downloads, Recent Additions, and Paper of the Day links, as well as the color navigation wheel, which is a great way to browse by discipline and to compare how many works each field contains. ■



A beach party during Senior Week, 1963. University Archives, John J. Burns Library, Boston College.

Visit NEA online at:

<www.newenglandarchivists.org>

People

Elizabeth “Wiz” H. Dow has retired and returned to Hardwick, Vermont, after thirteen and a half years at Louisiana State University’s School of Library and Information Science (SLIS). Wiz worked as an archivist at the Sheldon Museum in Middlebury, Vermont, the Vermont State Archives, and at the University of Vermont’s Special Collections. While at LSU, Wiz established the archives track which now provides 25% of SLIS’s population. She became the J. Franklin Bahyi Professor at SLIS in 2013. SLIS is one of six schools which make up the College of Human Sciences and Education; CHSE recognized her with its Distinguished Teaching Award for 2014. Wiz holds a master’s degree in library science from the University of Oregon, an MA in history from the University of Vermont, and a PhD in library science from the University of Pittsburgh. She has published an assortment of journal articles as well as three books: *Creating EAD-Compatible Finding Guides on Paper*, *Electronic Records in the Manuscript Repository*, and *Archivists, Collectors, Dealers, and Replevin: Case Studies on Private Ownership of Public Documents*. Her fourth book, on historical appraisal for downsizers, will appear in early fall 2014. In retirement, Wiz plans to stay moderately active professionally.

Julie Swierczek joined the Harvard Art Museums as Digital Archivist in January 2014. In this newly created position, Julie will be managing preservation of digital records as well as selecting and implementing a digital asset management system for the museums. Julie most recently worked as the University Archivist and Special Collections Librarian at Salve Regina University. In addition to an MSLIS from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, she holds a BA in History and Philosophy from Rosemont College and an MA in Philosophy from Miami University of Ohio.

Beth Myers joined Smith College as Director of Special Collections and Curator of the Sophia Smith Collection in May. In this newly created position, Beth has the happy responsibility of overseeing all three units of Smith College Special Collections: the Sophia Smith Collection, the Smith College Archives, and the Mortimer Rare Books Room. She relocated to New England by way of Detroit, Michigan, where she served as Director of the Walter P. Reuther Library of Labor and Urban Affairs at Wayne State University. Beth holds an MA and PhD in 20th Century US History with concentrations in Women’s History and Public History from Loyola Univer-

sity Chicago. At that same institution, she also served as Director of the Women and Leadership Archives from 2006-2012. In 2010, she became a certified archivist.

Caitlin Birch has been appointed to the position of Digital Collections and Oral History Archivist at Rauner Special Collections Library at Dartmouth College. This newly-created position coordinates and manages born-digital manuscripts and archival records as well as overseeing the Library’s oral history program, which involves planning, managing and implementing oral history projects. Caitlin is a recent graduate of Simmons College Graduate School of Library and Information Science where she received an MS in library science with a concentration in archives management and an MA in history.

In March 2014, **Jen Hale** was hired as an assistant archivist at the Perkins School for the Blind Archives. At Perkins, she will be processing collections, working on digitization projects and updating website and social media content. Nineteenth century materials that are part of a National Endowment for the Humanities grant will be of particular focus. She is currently pursuing a master’s degree at Simmons College Graduate School of Library and Information Science and expects to graduate in 2015. ■

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Spring 2014 Meeting Session Reports

Day 1 Plenary Talk: Ian MacKaye

-Martha E. Meacham

Ian MacKaye, former a member of influential punk bands Minor Threat and Fugazi and current front man of The Evens, opened the conference with a colorful and entertaining plenary talk. MacKaye spoke about his time in punk rock and the significant role he played in documenting his band and the era, culminating in the Fugazi Live Series online archive <www.dischord.com/fugazi_live_series>. The material was produced after MacKaye realized no one else was documenting punk rock history and he decided to do it himself, having kept extensive journals, notes, and sound recordings from almost every show, resulting in a significant collection with a tremendous amount of detail and context. Much later, he working with an archivist to sort, arrange, catalog, and make digitally accessible a vast amount of material in a wide, and sometimes difficult, variety of formats. He spoke about the importance of documenting the events and experiences that are traditionally, and sometimes purposely, overlooked, noting that “punk rock was an invisible history.” He emphasized the importance of the work archivists do documenting, preserving, and making accessible hidden or uncomfortable histories. Throughout the talk, MacKaye offered engaging, humorous and colorful anecdotes and insights about his career, experiences, world view, and the project, often using examples based on the work that went into the archive and the resulting visual and auditory collection.

Day 2 Plenary Talk: Vivek Bald

-Martha E. Meacham

Filmmaker, scholar, and associate professor at MIT, Vivek Bald offered the plenary talk on the second day of the conference. Bald’s talk, “The Bengali Harlem Lost Histories Project,” showcased his work to document the history and stories of two groups of early South Asian migrants to the United States. <<http://bengaliharlem.com/>>. These groups often found no cultural or ethnic enclaves, instead melding with other minority groups, making their story less known and often harder to uncover. Bald detailed the journeys and trials of these people and the conditions that illustrate their

history and state today. Bald noted, “how immigration has been imagined and researched had produced blind spots.” Bald has used extensive and often creative archival resources to research these groups, saying he has become kind of “an archival addict.” Bald also spoke about the importance and necessity of gathering and preserving the records of marginalized groups, also noting the power that comes from these groups helping create their own histories - documenting it and sharing it themselves. Bald has crowdsourced from the only communities that retain the history, using interviews and seeking materials in personal collections. Bald pointed out the interconnected nature of documents, archives, memory, and history. He then presented how these things can move from flat or text-based to an interactive, documentary experience. Bald’s work shows how individuals, groups, and archivists can help protect and preserve social history and personal memory.

National History Day and the Archives

- Jeannine T. Levesque

Chair: Kathleen Barker, Massachusetts Historical Society

Speakers: Andrea Cronin, Massachusetts Historical Society; Kerin Shea, Massachusetts History Day; Zack Armand, Josh Raposa, Madison Hifmeester, Matthew Maderia, St. John’s Preparatory School; Sarah Herlihy, Jessica Herlihy, Hannah Farnham, Anni Tuttle, Hamilton-Wenham Regional High School

Getting your institution involved in National History Day can raise your archives’ profile, help young researchers improve historical and critical-thinking skills, and be personally rewarding to archivists, speakers from the Massachusetts Historical Society stressed. The society, a co-sponsor of National History Day in Massachusetts, offered a handout of five essential points to keep in mind in dealing with students — our future supporters:

1. Providing a brief description of your institution and its research materials;
2. What students need to know about visiting you;
3. What you can provide them, and what research they can do to prepare beforehand;
4. What neighboring organizations might be able to assist them; and
5. What key scholars, teachers or experts might be available for the students to interview.

High school students presented their History Day projects; two student groups from St. John's presented on this year's topic of rights and responsibilities in history: Zack Armand presented a synopsis of his paper on the Massachusetts Body of Liberties of 1641, while his fellow St. John's students showed part of their historical video on "Essex County Abolitionists." The Hamilton-Wenham students showed a video of their group performance on "Tinker v. Des Moines: Students' Rights on Trial" from the 2013 competition.

The session ended with a call for archivists to consider becoming involved in National History Day as judges on local, regional and state levels.

Developing a Preservation Framework for Complex Digital Artworks

- Christina Stone

Co-Chairs/Speakers: Desiree Alexander and Dianne Dietrich, Rose Goldsen Archive of New Media Art, Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections, Cornell University Library; Alex Duryee, AVPreserve

The Rose Goldsen Archive of New Media Art at Cornell University focuses on housing born-digital art resulting from experimental, collaborative, and international efforts. The Archive has recently been tasked to develop a methodology to analyze complex digital objects and their dependencies, which include defining and capturing significant properties of digital objects, developing metadata ingest protocols, and profiling media art for researchers.

Alex Duryee of AV Preserve indicated how optical media (CDs and DVDs) is given a similar treatment of benign neglect as its paper-based counterparts in archival settings. Optical media differs in that it requires a more vigilant approach toward preservation as it retains data for only up to ten years and possesses a high failure rate. It should be treated similarly to magnetic disks when undergoing migration and software such as dBpoweramp or CDPanoia should be utilized to ensure that the disc is read multiple times to identify all available data.

Desiree Alexander discussed her work with preserving *Beyond Manzanar*, a three-dimensional interactive virtual reality installation. Saved on an optical media disc and con-

sisting of images, audio, and video, this piece was complex to preserve, as it was important to maintain the original context and user interaction. To recreate and uphold the artistic vision of the experience, Alexander worked in an emulation environment to mimic the obsolete operating system and hardware initially used to run *Beyond Manzanar*.

Dianne Dietrich reviewed an additional method of preserving digital works of art through creating a disk image and separating the data from its fragile media by using programs such as IsoBuster and Guymager. Dietrich also identified prevailing questions when classifying how a work of art will need to be preserved, focusing on the requirements needed to run the piece. The Goldsen Archive hopes to inform future preservation and curatorial direction through gaining remote access to the original source code, scholarship, and artist interviews.

Student Participation in Archives on a High School & College Level

- Jennifer Carey

Co-chairs: Randy Hanson, Colby-Sawyer College; Karilyn Crockett, MYTOWN

Speakers: Two history/political science students at Colby-Sawyer College; Taeia Downie, MYTOWN; Michelle Zhang, MYTOWN; Rakeima Norris, MYTOWN

This session examined a topic that many archivists strive to address, but seldom accomplish; namely that of how to encourage college and high school students to use the archives for research and volunteering.

Randy Hanson, chair of the Multidisciplinary Studies department at Colby-Sawyer College, opened the session by discussing a sequence of courses designed to develop students' research and problem-solving skills. A course titled "Introduction to History and Political Science" challenges students to work in groups and complete projects using archives as research tools, examining themes that interested them over the course of the semester. A senior-level Research Methods course requires students to research the past graduating classes honored at the school's latest alumni meeting and to conduct oral history interviews with alumni that will be made available on the college's website.

The three goals of CSC's program are to give students

hands-on experience in archives, to allow students to explore job possibilities in the fields of public history and archives, and to construct an updated history of their school, as the most recent history was compiled in 1937. Colby-Sawyer students shared their thoughts on the project and discussed issues that they encountered while performing oral history interviews and creating their own archival website. Examples of the students' projects can be found at <http://cscstudentgov.wordpress.com/> and <http://library.colby-sawyer.edu/clevelandarchives>.

Karilyn Crockett introduced MYTOWN, a youth program that she founded in 1995 in Boston, in which high school students create archives of their neighborhoods using existing archival materials and by performing oral history interviews. Physical and online exhibits are created, and student workers give walking tours of their neighborhoods over the summer. Three of Crockett's students explained their studied neighborhoods and the projects that they completed over a seven-week period during the summer of 2013. Examples of the students' projects can be found at <http://curatingthecity.squarespace.com/>.

Elevator Pitches to Declare our Superpowers and Share our Collections

-Martha E. Meacham

Chair: Nora Murphy, MIT Institute Archives and Special Collections

Speakers: James Roth, John F. Kennedy Library and Museum; Mary Richardson, Yale Divinity Library; Elise Dunham, University of Connecticut; Elizabeth Caplise, National Library of Australia; Jessica Tanny, NEA Communications Committee; Kari Smith, MIT Institute Archives and Special Collections

This lightning session, moderated by Nora Murphy, Archivist for Reference, Outreach, and Instruction at the MIT Institute Archives and Special Collections, provided practical tips and examples for elevator pitches that can be used to engage, spark interest, and promote the skills, services, and resources of archivists. First to speak was James Roth, Deputy Director at the John F. Kennedy Library and Museum. Roth noted that humor is often an effective means of catching attention and creating interest, using the example of an archivist at a shoe company who says, "I save soles." Second, Mary Richardson, Project Archivist at Yale Divinity Library, made



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the important point that archivists need to drop jargon. Richardson also suggested the use of pop culture references in pitches. Elise Dunham, Metadata Production Specialist at the Roper Center, University of Connecticut, spoke third, noting that most pitches are either too long or too short. Dunham then made the excellent point to not just start the conversation, but be the conversation. Elizabeth Caplise, Archivist at the National Library of Australia spoke next and provided the practical suggestion of finding three items in your collection that resonate with people, spark interest, and prompt further discussion. The penultimate speaker, Jessica Tanny, Chair of the NEA communications Committee, approached the elevator pitch from the perspective of a graphic designer and offered a compelling example of how other professions engage and show value. The final speaker was Kari Smith, Digital Archivist at MIT Institute Archives and Special Collections. Smith showed the effective use of an unconventional talking point, like an interesting hat, in starting a conversation. Smith also noted the importance of using verbal triggers that fit with what people are already familiar. After the speakers were finished, the floor was opened for questions and discussion. Some significant points from this included: the importance of having conversations options available and having the ability to improvise, helping people realize the importance of documenting their own history, and the observation that sometimes it is useful not just to teach about archivists, but to help people think more “archivally.”

Perfecting the Process: Working with Digital Records, Access Restrictions, Retention Decisions, and Evolving Policies While Processing Manuscript and Corporate Archival Collections

- Martha E. Meacham

Chair: Jennifer Betts, Brown University

Speakers: Amber LaFountain, Center for the History of Medicine, Countway Library, Harvard Medical School; Meghan Bannon, Center for the History of Medicine, Countway Library, Harvard Medical School; Sara Beneman, MIT Lincoln Laboratory; Krista Ferrante, The MITRE Corporation

This session focused on projects, materials, or experiences in archives of a highly complex or unique nature, requiring special attention, handling, or insight. The panelists presented specific projects and challenges, as well as offering practical tips for working on unique projects and with sub-

ject specific materials. Jennifer Betts, University Archivist at Brown University, introduced the session and speakers. First to speak was Amber LaFountain, Processing Archivist in the Center for the History of Medicine in Countway Library at Harvard Medical School. LaFountain spoke about how archivists can deal with confidential information they find in collections. She offered many valuable suggestions including sampling collections instead of going through every item and the importance of knowing particular institutional, professional and legal standards.

Meghan Bannon, Processing Archivist in the Center for the History of Medicine in Countway Library at Harvard Medical School, spoke next about the issues and challenges of dealing with different types of media that can be found in collections, including electronic media and records. Some take-away points from Bannon included the importance of tracking and documenting work done with media, the importance of learning about the technology and media, and the value of standardizing practices when working with this material.

Sara Beneman, Project Archivist at MIT's Lincoln Laboratory, spoke about working with unique, subject specific materials. Beneman discussed the advantages and relationship building opportunities that are possible when working with subject experts to help gather information, especially about objects, but warned that this needs to be done with patience and caution. Krista Ferrante, Archivist at The MITRE Corporation, showed through her own work the unique role and skills of a project archivist, highlighting the skills that archivists possess as project managers. Ferrante cautioned that a project archivist should consider ways that the things developed can be made to last or incorporated into regular work flow, even after the project is complete.

Archival Perspectives from Abroad: Conversations with Members of the International Council on Archives Section on Professional Associations

- Martha E. Meacham

Chair: Gregor Trinkaus-Randall, Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners

Speakers: Claude Roberto, Association of Canadian Archivists/Association des Archivistes du Quebec; Cristina Bianchi, Association of Swiss Archives; Vilde Ronge, Norwe-

gian Society of Records Managers and Archivists; Fred van Kan, Royal Association of Archivists in the Netherlands; Bernhard Post, Association of German Archivists; Michal Henkin, Israel Archives and Information Association

The panelists in this session shared insights into the archival profession and archival experiences from around the world. After a brief introduction from Gregor Trinkaus-Randall of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, the first speaker was Claude Roberto from the Association of Canadian Archivists/Association des Archivistes du Quebec. Roberto noted that Canadian archives were focused on building relationships and working with libraries and museums. He noted, however, the importance of these relationships leading to complete and meaningful projects. Cristina Bianchi of the Association of Swiss Archives spoke next about the significant role archives can play in human rights. Bianchi also highlighted of a successful project in which records management information was distributed to small locales and municipalities, including in Africa. Third to speak was Vilde Ronge from the Norwegian Society of Records Managers and Archivists, who also touched upon records management. Ronge noted that we should not focus on the differences between records management and archives, but rather, show how the loss of any documents and information can be dangerous. Next to speak was Fred van Kan of the Royal Association of Archivists in the Netherlands. He discussed the association's goals, including increased support of professionals, continued work on legislation, and the development of a scientific foundation for the profession. Bernhard Post from the Association of German Archivists spoke next. Of note, Post spoke about the training and single track of schooling that archivists in Germany, except for Bavaria, go through, leading to a shared network and uniform knowledge throughout Germany. The final speaker was Michal Henkin of the Israel Archives and Information Association. Henkin highlighted many of the collaborations, outreach, and education initiatives of Israeli archivists and the Association. The panel accepted questions. Of note was discussion about the differences in nature and participation with professional associations in various areas, and much discussion about different ways archives and archives are playing a role in protecting human rights and preserving controversial history.

Provenance: The New Chapter in the Museum Narrative

- Martha E. Meacham

Speakers: Paul Caserta, Rhode Island School of Design; Victoria Reed, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

Paul Caserta, a Digital Archives Intern at the Rhode Island School of Design, began this session by discussing the importance of archives in the documentation of art and its provenance. While much provenance research is focused on stolen art, Caserta emphasized that archives can help create more complete narratives about objects and collections. The documents found in archives are a source of identity for many objects and should be available to patrons for both provenance and greater contextual information. Caserta offered many useful examples and tips for engaging users in collections, including exhibitions, social media, and blogs. Caserta then introduced Victoria Reed, the Curator of Provenance at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. Reed spoke about the importance of provenance research in museums, particularly because of the controversy and difficulty surrounding Nazi art thefts. Reed emphasized the importance of making provenance information public and available to encourage continued investigation, discussion, and discovery. Reed addressed questions of the archivist's role in provenance research by noting that many of the things necessary to do this type of research are found in archives and is possible because of the work done by archivists. She stressed that the documents found in archives can not only help right some wrongs, but also help create greater, richer understanding and context for objects and works of art.

The State of Statewide Repositories in New England and How They are Aggregating Special Collections

- Martha E. Meacham

Chair: Nancy Heywood, Massachusetts Historical Society

Speakers: Kathy Bolduc Amoroso, Maine Historical Society; Joseph Fisher, University of Massachusetts Lowell, and Past President of Digital Commonwealth; Chris Burns, Center for Digital Initiatives; Michael Howser, Connecticut Digital Archive, University of Connecticut Libraries; Katelynn R. Vance, New Hampshire History Network, New Hampshire Historical Society; Chelsea Gunn, RHODI Project, Rhode Island Historical Society

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Nancy Heywood, Digital Projects Coordinator at Massachusetts Historical Society, introduced the panel and explained the importance of collaborative, aggregated projects, noting the exceptional significance that each of the New England states was represented. Kathy Bolduc Amoroso, Director of Digital Projects for Maine Historical Society, spoke first, offering an introduction to Maine Memory Network <www.mainememory.net/>. Bolduc discussed outreach efforts, including traveling the state training people on the information and data needs of the project.

Joseph Fisher of the University of Massachusetts Lowell and Past President of Digital Commonwealth then discussed the background and his role in the Digital Commonwealth of Massachusetts <www.digitalcommonwealth.org/>. While acknowledging that there are some issues of long term stability, Fisher emphasized the power and innovation that are a central part of this collaboration.

Third, Chris Burns from the Center for Digital Initiatives at the University of Vermont <<http://cdi.uvm.edu/collections/index.xql>>, pointed out that while this project was not necessarily statewide, as it was focused primarily on the University of Vermont, they did seek unique collaborations, such as collections of children's art and Japanese postcards. Burns did mention other Vermont-wide initiatives to create a true statewide repository.

Michael Howser spoke next about the Connecticut Digital Archive, a partnership between the University of Connecticut Libraries and the Connecticut State Archives <<http://ctdigitalarchive.org/>> to preserve and provide access to digital assets related to Connecticut. Of note, one of the first and most significant achievements of this collaboration was the digitization of Nuremberg Trial papers. Katelynn Vance from the New Hampshire Historical Society next introduced the New Hampshire History Network Project, which is still in development. Vance noted that while there was still much to be completed and worked out, many organizations across New Hampshire were eager to collaborate.

Finally, Chelsea Gunn from the Rhode Island Historical Society explained the Rhode Island History Online Directory Initiative (RHODI) Project <www.rhodi.org/>, a directory created to help researchers find collections across Rhode Island that are most useful and relevant. The RHODI proj-

ect was unique in that it showed an efficient way of making researchers aware of different collections, rather than attempting to put all the content online.

A Miscellany of Short Talks

-Allyson Glazier

Chair: Caitlin Birch, Northeastern University Archives

Talk #1: Student Paper Pitches

Speakers: Renee Elizabeth Neely, Simmons GSLIS; Katy Sternberger, StarWrite; Myles Crowley, MIT Institute Archives and Special Collections

The three speakers in this first short talk of the session presented a variety of archival research, focusing both on the use of archival holdings as well as education and outreach.

Renee Elizabeth Neely's talk focused on her research rooted in folk history; specifically, a case study of images from the Federal Writers' Project. Neely explained what she called the "cloak of the folk," which may limit the use of textiles and metalwork as primary sources. In a culture that privileges the authenticity of written documentation, she argued that material culture could be just as important and evidential but may be overlooked by researchers.

Katy Sternberger's project, "Illuminated: The Role of Books in Reformation and Early English Drama," described her work with primary sources, including the Book of Hours and the Book of Common Prayer, and her time spent utilizing both on-site and online materials found in the Houghton Library. Sternberger made the argument that illuminated manuscripts, which sought to educate illiterate people through illustration, functioned in a very similar manner as drama and theatre in the early English period, while the Book of Common Prayer similarly enabled lay people to make their own interpretations of religious thoughts and prayer.

Myles Crowley's presentation discussed the Anglicized History of the Dorchester First Parish Church, focusing specifically on Mary Fifield King, a church historian appointed in 1913. Calling her an "old church daughter," Crowley discusses her involvement with the church in the early twentieth century. In response to the World War and urbanization,

Fifield delved into 17th century church tradition and aimed to protect the church's past. With attendance declining, attempts to draw in new members of the congregation were short-lived. However, Fifield collected materials, such as scrapbooks and teacups and locked them away for protection, rather than allowing them to be seen. A direct reaction to the changing world around her, this attempt at preserving the past saved many artifacts of the past, and Crowley continues to learn more about the church from them.

Talk #2: Crafty Outreach: Small Button, Big Impact

Speakers: Leslie Fields and Mary Alice Martin, Mt. Holyoke College

Leslie Fields and Mary Alice Martin discussed their use of a button machine for archival outreach on the Mt. Holyoke Campus. By bringing this small machine to special events and popular hangout spots on campus, Mt. Holyoke's archives has been able to get students interested in their collections. Because, as Fields and Martin remind us, who doesn't love buttons? Some have images of their holdings or witty sayings, but the most popular have been buttons with each class's symbol. Even visiting alumnae seem to love them. The archives have also set up tables at Pangynaskeia Day (a Mt. Holyoke celebratory tradition), and on the top of Mt. Holyoke on Mountain Day, when classes are cancelled and the students climb to the top. They have even combined the button machine with bunnies in the archives! Between animals and buttons, Mt. Holyoke has become a visible fixture on campus outside of the library. While buttons may sound silly to some, experience at Mt. Holyoke has shown that they have the power to increase interest in our collections and draw people in.

Talk #3: Agile Archivist

Speaker: Chris Markman, Clark University

In his talk, Chris Markman explained the relationship and similarity between Agile software development methodology and MPLP (More Product Less Process). Markman asked the audience: What comes after MPLP, a methodology developed almost a decade ago? How can we be more efficient in processing? What can Agile teach us as archivists about efficiency? Not seeking to present definitive answers, Markman hoped his presentation would spark discussion and allow others to offer feedback as we continue to develop new ways of processing in a highly technological world.

The most interesting point of the talk was Markman's demonstration that, with the substitution of archival terms for a few key words, Agile principles closely resemble those of MPLP. Markman's personal favorite: "Accessible content is the primary reason for progress." It sounds like MPLP, but is actually a part of the Agile methodology developed much earlier. At the end of the talk, Markman opened up the floor for questions and extended an invitation for additional discussion through his website, <www.akamarkman.com>.

Our Marathon: The Boston Bombing Digital Archives Roundtable and Discussion

-Chris Markman

Chair: Giordana Mecagni, Northeastern University

Speakers: Jim McGrath, Northeastern University; Alicia Peaker, Northeastern University; Andrew Begley, Simmons College; Elise Dunham, University of Connecticut; John Campopiano, New England Conservatory

This roundtable and discussion was delivered to an overflowing conference room on Saturday afternoon and provided an overview of the "Boston Bombing" Digital Archive hosted by Northeastern University <www.northeastern.edu/marathon> in collaboration with many local partners including the Digital Public Library of American and the City of Boston. The presenters discussed their individual roles in the project, how those roles have changed over time, and the future of the Our Marathon website.

Questions from the audience were plentiful and covered a wide variety of topics ranging from the dual purpose of the Our Marathon site as both a digital archive and memorial to this tragic event and how the site was created from an information technology standpoint. Technical details included issues with Twitter post timestamps (they sometimes lie!), Omeka crowdsourcing and customization (they built a new interface) and how to manage the evolution of a "live" and very active digital archive website (who manages the bugs?).

Several audience members offered their perspective on the role of archivists as content mediators who must manage sensitive and/or offensive "born digital" material in their collections and views from both sides of the argument were heard. The presenters spoke at great length describing the balance between a website that the Boston community, and beyond, would both feel comfortable contributing to and ac-

cessing in various contexts today and how the role of this digital archive might change in the future.

Free Open Source Tools

- Erin McCoy

Chair: Chris Lacinak, AVPreserve

Speakers: Yvonne Ng, WITNESS; Jane Mandelbaum, Library of Congress

This session focused on tools that are freely available to help administer specific tasks in an archive. Two open source tools from AVPreserve were showcased: Fixity and MDQC. Both tools have to do with checking the metadata on an archived file. Fixity runs checks on individual files to ensure that the file being preserved is the same as what is “currently” saved; the tool runs reports and will search a specified folder or directory. MDQC can assess legacy collections and identify what files are missing key metadata and can also extract specified metadata. The goal for both products is to give archivists tools that reflect archival priorities instead of relying on an IT department or digitization vendor.

Yvonne Ng walked the group through Witness <www.witness.org>, an online tool and media archive for non-archivists. Witness’ target users are citizen-archivists and journalists in areas of global conflict that shoot video (usually on mobile devices). The perceived need for this tool arose out of concern for the personal risk assumed by citizens if they keep this documentation of controversial action on their personal devices. The site walks users through how to upload and backup their digital assets, and connects them with a server partner.

The Library of Congress spearheads the National Digital Stewardship Alliance in order to help cultural institutions prioritize and manage their digitization projects. They have created a grid that allows archivists to identify and assess their needs, strategize for next steps, and offer language to help communicate with people within the organization who may not fully understand the details of the archive’s mission. It was clear from the presentation that even at the highest level, archivists and IT departments have different priorities and interpretations of how to treat data.



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Monster Lake Trout: Landing the Big One with Social Media

-Meridith Halsey

Chair: VivianLea Solek, Collections Management and Archival Consultant

Speakers: Dan Bullman, Simmons GSLIS; Erik R. Bauer, Peabody Institute Library; Barbara Austen, Connecticut Historical Society; Dani Fazio, Maine Historical Society

Dan Bullman began the session with an overview of Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, and Instagram, including user demographics for each. Bullman made it clear that each institution should pick the tool that best fits its collection, schedule, and institutional persona.

Dani Fazio then reviewed Pinterest for collection promotion. She recommended using strong imagery and humor to engage Pinterest users; lighthearted content, such as “Facial Hair Friday” and “Daguerreotypical Mainers,” tends to be more successful. Fazio’s practical tips included: posting regularly but not “flooding the board” with too many posts at once; asking staff to help identify fun content; posting only low-resolution, watermarked images; and tracking metrics on your website to count how many visitors come from your Pinterest posts. Next, Erik Bauer explained how he invigorated the Peabody Institute Library’s Facebook page, gaining 158 “Likes” since January 2013. Bauer described his digital media strategy, which includes sharing responsibility for posting content and a daily investment of 15-20 minutes of his time. Bauer’s practical tips included: post 3-5 times a day; use Facebook’s post scheduling feature; use Facebook’s analytics to find the best times to post; and post a variety of content (e.g. photos, postcards, quotes, and trivia).

Finally, Barbara Austen described her experience with blogging for her institution. Austen’s practical tips included tying blog posts to current events (e.g. post about a historical blizzard during a current blizzard and post historical news from the royal family when the current royal family is making headlines). She also recommended writing posts about recently donated or processed collections to demonstrate to your donors that you value the materials that they have given.

All of the panelists agree: social media is a great way to enhance your outreach program and help you start a conversation with your audience and community!

Working in Harmony with Non-Archivists as Collaborators: Case Studies from Music Repositories

-Liz Francis

Speakers: Brendan Higgins, The Boston Conservatory; Sarah Funke Donovan, Boston Symphony Orchestra; Paul Engle, Berklee College of Music; Sofia Becerra-Licha, Berklee College of Music

Brendan Higgins, Evening Library Supervisor, opened the session with his presentation, “Outreach for Survival: Creative Collaboration with the Boston Conservatory Archives.” Working as a part-time librarian, Brendan learned to “think like an archivist” when he discovered the Conservatory’s collections were at risk. Without funding for an archives program, he advocated for the cause through collaborations with IT, Advancement, faculty, and students. Brendan reflected on the importance of creativity, constant contact with other departments, and a good eye for joint endeavors.

Next, Sarah Funke Donovan, Digital Project Archivist, presented “Symphony Orchestra Archives: Performance History Digital Access Projects.” Sarah shared her successes collaborating with the orchestra’s marketing and development offices, as well as vendors, to build “HENRY,” the BSO’s Performance History Search module. Reflecting on the project, Sarah encouraged her colleagues to be “gracious but tenacious” when communicating needs to vendors. Another takeaway restated the importance of communication – Sarah suggested thinking of collaboration as “the art of translation,” to achieve buy-in from other parties by speaking their language.

To close, Paul Engle and Sofia Becerra-Licha presented “Establishing a College Archives at Berklee: A Collaborative Endeavor.” Paul, Director of Library Services, opened with an overview of his successful NHPRC start-up grant to fund a “living, breathing” archives at the school. Sofia, Berklee’s first Project Archivist, introduced their new archives program before focusing on two key collaborations with faculty – tapping these “resident subject experts” to enrich the Berklee Oral History Project and to enhance finding aids. In addition to providing valuable context, Sofia found that these faculty interactions built trust and an enduring rapport.

Providing Access to Moving Image & Sound Archives Through Unique Grant Projects

-Benjamin Johnson

Speakers: Allison Pikel and Sadie Roosa, WGBH Media Library and Archives

Allison Pikel and Sadie Roosa, both of the WGBH Media Library and Archives presented on providing access to moving images and sound archives through unique grant opportunities. The two separate grants were funded by IMLS and CLIR and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and focused on providing access to under-utilized and inaccessible materials. Through collaboration with different stakeholders and promoting user participation, the two projects moved forward despite some legal issues concerning rights clearance.

The Boston TV News Digital Archive, a partnership between WGBH, Northeast Historic Film, Cambridge Community Television and the Boston Public Library brings together news clips from WCVB, WGBH, CCTV, UPN 38 and WHDH creating one large media clearinghouse of video and sound from 1960 to 2000. The digital archive is digitization on demand. If a user wants and pays for digitization, WGBH will make the material available to all. The goal is to have these materials available in Digital Commonwealth and eventually DPLA. The WGBH archives provided access to its vast archival holdings and solicited scholars to curate certain collections for greater discoverability. Both grant projects experimented with crowdsourcing for metadata. Session attendees really enjoyed the media clips shared by the presenters which included a speech by Harvard Law student, Barak Obama and scenes from Julia Child's show, *The French Chef*.

NEA DIY Wikipedia Edit-A-Thon

-Donna Heckman Stapleton

Chair: Amanda Rust, Northeastern University

Speakers: Amanda Strauss, Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe Institute, Harvard University; Jenny Gotwals, Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe Institute, Harvard University

The session discussed the universal visibility and use of Wikipedia and argued that archivists can easily engage with this free outlet, which acts as a first resource for

many citizens of the 2014 global world. The presenters argued that there is minimal archival visibility on this highly used website and encouraged attendees to engage with the Wikipedia community by creating new and enhancing existing entries.

The movement to engage with and exchange knowledge digitally is growing and presents both opportunities and challenges for educational institutions. Archivists and historians can participate in digital communities, like Wikipedia, by supplying references that invite further investigation and development of knowledge, allowing users to see and understand the flow of scholarly information. During the session, Wikipedia strategies and criteria were outlined and attendees were urged to register as editors; it was stressed that the archival community in particular can add to the pool of editors who write clear, neutral entries, following community guidelines.

The presenters discussed Wikipedia Edit-a-Thons in which they were engaged and urged members of the audience to plan and implement similar events at their institutions. They spoke of the encyclopedic nature of Wikipedia and how archivists, history buffs, and lay-people can share insight and resources on a variety of topics. Wikipedia editing processes were outlined and the presenters noted copyright, domain, vetting, and licensing regulations that apply as in most standard publications. The site also requires references to secondary sources, including finding aids and BLOGS.

Edit-a-Thons, designed as meet-ups, all-day gatherings, or individual writing sessions, can facilitate access to oft-overlooked materials. These events serve as a particularly efficient and effective means to supplying information and resources on topics related to minorities, marginalized populations, and under-represented groups, and offer a way for individuals to engage in the dissemination of information. Edit-a-Thons should be adequately publicized, and participants should be provided with easy Wi-Fi access, a list of suggested topics, secondary resources, and two or more professionals/staff people who can support and facilitate the event.

The three panelists offered to share knowledge and experience in planning Edit-a-Thons, and discussion ensued about a Cambridge (MA) Public Library event engaging residents, graduate students, and archivists in topical writing. ■

NEA Roundtable Updates

Local History Roundtable

- *Renée DesRoberts, Chair (Reference + Archives Librarian, McArthur Library)*

The **Local History Roundtable (LHRT)** has launched a new website to share and connect with members. The site <www.nealocalhistory.wordpress.com> has completely replaced the wiki the group previously used. At NEA Portsmouth the membership roundly agreed that while the information contained therein was useful, the wiki just wasn't user-friendly. Therefore, it was agreed to try something new.

The new site allows members to keep up with new posts in a few ways: via email, RSS, or by following using a current Wordpress account (for those who have them). Those options can all be found on the right-hand side of the screen at the site. Visitors and members are encouraged to leave their thoughts, ideas, comments, and questions using the "Leave a Reply" function on the site. We value your input!

The LHRT will continue to use the Google Group to facilitate email discussion, but we hope everyone will take advantage of the communication advantages of the new site.

Roundtable for Early Professionals and Students (REPS)

- *Casey E. Davis, Co-Chair (Project Manager, The American Archive Project, WGBH Media Library & Archives)*

The **Roundtable for Early Professionals and Students (REPS)** announced its new leadership at this spring's NEA Annual Meeting. Officers include:

- Dan Bullman, Student Co-Chair, Simmons College
- Casey Davis, Early Professional Co-Chair, WGBH
- Mary Richardson, Secretary, Yale University
- Annalisa Moretti, Web and Social Media Coordinator, MIT Libraries
- Rose Oliveira, Student Liaison, Simmons College


Ex-Officio Members include:

- Chris Markman, Clark University
- Vivian-Lea Solek, Easton Public Library
- Allyson Grazier, Dartmouth College
- Mary Margaret Fletcher, Norwich University
- Kim Hewitt, Simmons College

Our first step was to gather feedback from the REPS membership, and to accomplish this goal we sent out a survey and received responses from about 1/3 of the membership. REPS members identified a variety of types of desired programming for the coming year, and the leadership is currently working to plan several events that will be announced in the coming months.


In May, REPS held two meet-ups -- one in Hartford, Connecticut and one in Cambridge, Massachusetts. We encourage REPS members to help organize meet-ups in other locations, and if you are interested please contact the REPS leadership at <reps.nea@gmail.com>. ■

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Calendar of Events



Press releases and other announcements should be sent to Heather Cristiano at <Heather_Cristiano@hms.harvard.edu>. Please provide the date, time, place, a brief description of the event, and an internet link for contact information and/or registration.

August 10-16, 2014. Joint Annual Meeting of CoSA, NAGARA, and SAA at the Marriott Wardman Park in Washington, DC. For details see <www2.archivists.org/conference>.

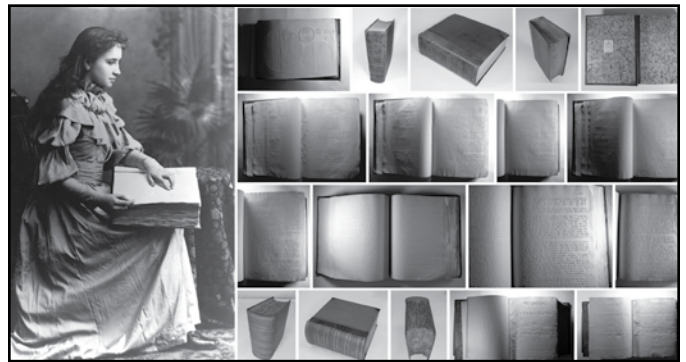
August 21-23, 2014. The Reel Thing in Los Angeles, CA presents the latest technologies in audiovisual restoration and preservation. For details see <www.the-reel-thing.org/>.

October 2014. October is American Archives Month — an opportunity to raise awareness about the value of archives and archivists. See <www2.archivists.org/initiatives/american-archives-month> to get involved.

October 8-11, 2014. AMIA Conference in Savannah, Georgia. For details see <www.amiacconference.com>.

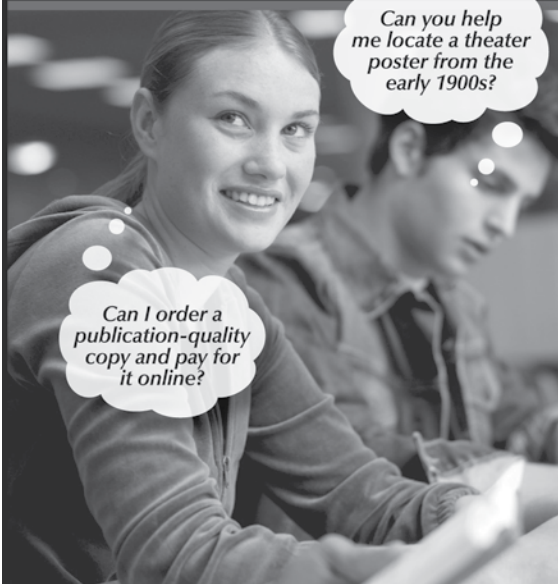
October 26-28, 2014. ARMA International Live! 59th Annual Conference & Expo in San Diego, CA. For details see <www.arma.org/Conference/2014/SanDiego.aspx>.

November 19-21, 2014. New England Museum Association (NEMA) Annual Conference in Cambridge, MA. For details, see <www.nemanet.org/conference.htm>. ■



Helen Keller reading an embossed book, ca. 1899 (left) and a screenshot of a virtual bookshelf from the digital exhibit: Writing Systems for the Blind Used by Helen Keller, 2014. Perkins School for the Blind Archives.

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THIS SEASON IN NEW ENGLAND HISTORY



Three-legged Race

Teams of young boys compete in a traditional three-legged race around 1907 on Squirrel Island, Maine, during Fete Week, a late-summer festival celebrated by the summer community on the island. Bound at knee and ankle, three teams strive for the finish line while a fourth team (right rear) tries to regain its footing and get back in the race.

Raymond W. Stanley Collection, Stanley Museum, Kingfield Maine.