

Society of American Archivists
Meetings of
Council | Publications Board | *American Archivist* Editorial Board
August 12 – 14, 2013
New Orleans

***The American Archivist* Editor**
Reporting Period: May 1 – July 31, 2013
Prepared by: Gregory S. Hunter

Introduction

With Volume 76, *The American Archivist* implemented a redesign of the journal that had been in process for several years. To date, comments on the redesign have been overwhelmingly positive. This redesign helps pave the way for delivery of the journal as an ePublication readable on mobile devices.

Upcoming Issue

Volume 76, No. 2 (Fall/Winter 2013) is about to move into production. The issue will contain articles on a wide range of topics. I am attaching to this report the working table of contents for the issue.

Article Submissions

Since January 1, I have received nineteen new article submissions. In addition, sixteen other articles have been resubmitted after the authors considered comments received during the peer review process. I continue to be encouraged by the quality of the submissions and resubmissions.

Brown Bag Discussion at CoSA/SAA Conference

This year, we again will be holding an informal lunchtime Brown Bag Discussion of an article from the upcoming issue of the journal. For this year, I have selected Mark Greene's "A Critique of Social Justice as an Archival Imperative: What *Is* It We're Doing that's All that Important?" When SAA announced the session via e-mail, it was completely subscribed in two days. I now have a waiting list for the discussion.

Manuscript Tracking Software

Council has approved funding for "manuscript tracking software" to manage the complete lifecycle of manuscripts, from submission to publication. This will be a major item on the agenda for the upcoming meeting of the Editorial Board. Depending upon the system selected, SAA also may be able to use the software for the awards process and annual meeting program committee.

I would be happy to answer any questions Council may have about the Editorial Board or *The American Archivist*.

Vol. 76.2 Fall/Winter 2013 – Table of Contents

From the Editor / Gregory S. Hunter

Articles

What Is It We're Doing that's All that Important? Concerns and Challenges in the Call for Social Justice as an Archival Imperative
Mark Allen Greene (11,770 words)

[Hold space for possible response from Rand Jimerson]

Ambition and Ambivalence: A Study of Professional Attitudes Toward Digital Distribution of Archival Moving Images
Karen F. Gracy (10,911 words)

Making Connections: A Survey of Special Collections' Social Media Outreach
Sean Heyliger, Juli McLoone, and Nikki Lynn Thomas (10,020 words)

Can We Finally See Those Records? An Update on the Automatic/ Systematic Declassification Review Program
James David (8,042 words)

The Case of LLACE: Challenges, Triumphs, and Lessons of a Community Archives
Diana K. Wakimoto, Debra L. Hansen, and Christine Bruce (8,003 words)

Historians and the Use of Primary Source Materials in the Digital Age
Alexandra Chassanoff (6,369 words)

Mass Representation Defined: A Study of Unique Page Views at East Carolina University
Mark Custer (5,620 words)

"Complete and in Order": Bram Stoker's *Dracula* and the Archival Profession
Caryn Radick (7,324 words)

All Text Considered: A Perspective on Mass Digitizing and Archival Processing
Larisa K. Miller (7,552 words)

EAD Tag Usage: Community Analysis of the use of Encoded Archival Description Elements
Katherine M. Wisser and Jackie Dean (4,684 words)

Total: 80,295 words

Reviews

Archives and Societal Provenance / Michael Piggott
Reviewed by Jeannette A. Bastian

Records Management and Knowledge Mobilisation: A Handbook for Regulation, Innovation and Transformation / Stephen Harries
Reviewed by Philip C. Bantin

Libraries and Archives: A Comparative Study / Tomas Lidman
Reviewed by Joseph Turrini

The E-copyright Handbook / Paul Pedley
Reviewed by Jean Dryden

The Lone Arranger: Succeeding in a Small Repository / Christina Zamon
Reviewed by Anna M. Stadick

Archival Arrangement and Description / Edited by Christopher J. Prom and Thomas J. Frusciano
Reviewed by Pam Hackbart-Dean

From: American Archivist Editor
Sent: Tuesday, August 06, 2013 9:37 AM
To: aa-edboard@forums.archivists.org
Cc: Teresa Brinati; Nancy Beaumont
Subject: Some Additional Information for Next Week

Hi, Everyone,

I'm looking forward to our meeting next week.

I thought it might be useful to have some additional information before we meet. This also will be good background information for the new members of the Editorial Board.

Article Submissions 2013

So far this year I have received 19 new submissions. The 8 most recent articles are still in the peer review process. The previous 11 articles have all received "revise and resubmit." This is not unusual. Since I created the new categories in 2012, approximately 10% of the articles receive an immediate acceptance and 5% receive an outright rejection.

The majority of the articles have promise but are not yet at the point of being published. In past years, some of these articles may have been "accepted pending revisions," a category I found problematic and discontinued.

Revise and Resubmit

Going back to the start of my term in January 2012, there are a total of 27 articles that have been returned to the authors for revision and that are still "open" (awaiting resubmission). In 2012 I received two resubmissions from the tenure of the previous editor; in 2013 there have been no such resubmissions.

I think this is a very healthy pipeline for future issues of the journal. Let me explain this by detailing the process that I follow:

- Every article receives three blind peer reviews. I believe every author who submits an article for consideration by the journal deserves peer review; the editor should not deny peer review for any articles.
- I return all anonymized peer reviews to the author. I want this to be a collegial process -- the reviewers should be in a "conversation" with the authors.
- Once the authors consider the peer reviews, I work with the authors to develop a revision plan, if the author wishes.
- If an author resubmits a rejected article, I sent it out again for peer review.
- If the author sends me a "revise and resubmit" article, I compare it to the revision plan and the original peer reviews. I then decide if it should be accepted or returned to the author for additional work. To date, most of the resubmitted articles have been considerable improvements over the original versions.

For Volume 77, Number 1 (Spring/Summer 2014), I already have accepted two articles, both of which went through the "revise and resubmit" process outlined above. Since this issue also will include the presidential address and Pease Award winner, approximately 40% of the issue content is set already.

It took a while to build the pipeline for future issues, but I believe I am starting to see the benefits of the process that took a year to implement.

Peer Reviewers

When I became editor I set a goal of increasing member engagement with the journal. I expanded the number of peer reviewers of each article from 2 to 3. In this way, I can mentor newer members of the profession as peer reviewers. I hope future editors will benefit from the articles these members submit as a result of their early professional involvement with the journal.

The Editorial Board remains the core of the peer review process, with members reviewing several articles each year. I am pleased to report that 123 other people have volunteered as peer reviewers; they receive 1-2 articles per year.

Other Vehicles for Member Engagement

The following activities are also working toward my goal of increased member engagement:

- 75th Anniversary Celebration. To commemorate the 75th anniversary of the journal, we asked members to post on the SAA Website a reflection about the article that most influenced them. We will continue to promote this.
- SAA Meeting Brown Bag Lunch Discussion. For the last two years, I have selected articles that I thought would be of broad professional interest. Both years we have filled 2 rooms to capacity.
- E-Publication. I hope in the next year we can move forward with the delivery of *The American Archivist* as an e-publication for subscribers. The redesign of the journal was an important preparatory step.

We can talk about all of this next week. See you in New Orleans!

Greg

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Established in 1938, *The American Archivist* is a refereed journal that seeks to reflect thinking about theoretical and practical developments in the archival profession, particularly in North America; about the relationships between archivists and the creators and users of archives; and about cultural, social, legal, and technological developments that affect the nature of recorded information and the need to create and maintain it. Visit www2.archivists.org/american-archivist.

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