

**The American Archivist Editorial Board**  
**August 19, 2015**  
**Report of the Reviews Editor**

**American Archivist Reviews**

The election of Reviews Editor Amy Cooper Cary to SAA Council beginning August, 2015 necessitated the search and appointment of a new Reviews Editor. Bethany Anderson will begin the position starting in August 2015. Amy will facilitate the transition, working with Bethany through the publication of 79:1.

Alexandra Orchard, Portal Coordinator, will take on another two year term effective August, 2015. Her final term as Portal Coordinator will end in August, 2017.

**Highlights:**

- Reviews for 78:2 were submitted in June, and include six monograph reviews and a Review Essay by Heather Briston that addresses Instruction and Archives.
- We continue to publish reviews at roughly 6 per issue. These are published in the “Reviewed in *The American Archivist*” as well as in the journal (see <http://www2.archivists.org/reviewedinaa> ).
- The Online Portal monograph reviews lag somewhat behind the publication -- currently the latest volume on the website is 77:1 (Spring/Summer 2014), and we’ve just seen the publication of 78:1 (Spring Summer 2015). The intent was originally to publish the reviews prior to the release of the journal. I will encourage the new Reviews Editor to be sure this workflow to represent reviews in the Portal is posted in a more timely fashion, and to publicize their availability.
- We have seen an increase in submissions to the “Written By our Members” area, due to the improved marketing of the online form. It will make sense to continue to encourage SAA members to send us their publications on a regular basis – via the Loop, Facebook, Twitter, etc.
- The “Briefly Noted” section of the Reviews Portal should probably be discontinued, or at the very least its role reconsidered.
- The “Purchase Reviewed Monographs” section should also be reconsidered. This is not being regularly maintained, and shows some broken links.

**Reviews Portal Report August 2014 - July 2015 [Alexandra Orchard]**

During the 2014-2015 year, the 10 reviews were posted in the Reviews Portal’s (RP) and the emphasis remained on reviewing digital projects using archival materials, and technologies and tools supportive of archivists’ work. Items reviewed included the international digital archive, Women’s World in Qajar Iran, the tool Evernote, and systems such as ArchivesSpace and Archivematica.

At last year's Editorial Board meeting, a list of 2014-2015 goals for the Reviews Portal were created, which are assessed below:

### **Reviews Portal Goals for 2014-2015**

- **Continue posting two reviews per month.**
  - As of August 14, 2015, 11 reviews have been posted, nearly 1 review per month, rather than the goal of two reviews per month. This was due to difficulty in retaining reviewers. Recruitment through "In the Loop," Twitter, and SAA Roundtables and Section listservs resulted in 35 potential reviewers. Of those 35 potential reviewers:
    - 11 successfully posted reviews
    - 10 reviews are in progress
    - 4 reviews were unusable (1: plagiarism, 3: poor writing/lack of sufficient understanding of the resource)
    - 11 reviewers ghosted (4: unresponsive after initial contact; 7: unresponsive mid-process)
- **Continue recruiting reviewers and promoting posted reviews via "In the Loop" and Twitter.**
  - Anne and Teresa promoted published reviews and recruited potential reviewers via "In the Loop." Alexandra posted links to published reviews on Twitter and Anne retweeted them via the SAA twitter account.
- **Continue consistently (once per month) updating the Archival Technologies and Resources page.**
  - Alexandra added new content on a regular basis, including items received via email from project coordinators.
- **Work closer with roundtables and sections to cross promote Reviews Portal.**
  - Alexandra periodically emailed roundtable and section listservs seeking reviewers, resulting in at least five potential reviewers and several project coordinators asking that projects be added to the Resources and Tools page.
- **Periodically check with Matt Black on status of Reviews Portal with the SAA website upgrade, particularly regarding ability to add RSS feed to push content**
  - Alexandra checked in with Matt Black in July, and there has been no change or redesign to the Reviews Portal as of yet that would enable an RSS feed. This is something that is still on the radar for when the Reviews Portal is upgraded to the new website.

### **Additional 2014-2015 Work**

- **Written by Our Members page**
  - Amy, Alexandra, Teresa, and Anne had a conference call to discuss the Written by Our Members page. It was decided to advertise this page amongst the SAA membership to expand knowledge of it. Anne publicized the page in "In the Loop," and submissions are posted to the page along with a link to the book or article's publisher site (if there is one).

### **2015-2016 Potential Goals**

- Continue updating Resources and Tools page; recruiting reviewers; and adding reviews
- Work with incoming Reviews Editor / transition
- Revise the “What’s Your Favorite *American Archivist* Article” page
- Consider including blogs and other non-traditional media as a reviewable resource types

### **Parting Thoughts:**

In closing, I would just like to say how much I have enjoyed working as Reviews Editor. I began this endeavor in January of 2010, and was delighted to have the opportunity to explore not only the ongoing review of monographs of every stripe, but to be able to work with talented folks like Danna Bell and Alexandra Orchard to see the beginning and development of the Reviews Portal. I fully expect the next Reviews Editor to work with new resources available from Allen Press to take both Reviews and the Portal to the next level.

Thank you for this opportunity to serve *The American Archivist*. I remain committed to continuing to serve and support the Journal in the future.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Amy Cooper Cary