

**Society of American Archivists
Council Meeting
January 25 – 27, 2012
Chicago, Illinois**

**Report of the Editor, Print and Electronic Publications
(Prepared by: Peter Wosh)**

Our major focus over the past several months has been to plan and implement the “Fundamental Change” project, which has been made possible thanks to the generosity of the SAA Foundation. Since receiving this support, we have formed a working group to spearhead the project. Members include: Helen Tibbo (Chair); Greg Hunter (*The American Archivist* Editor); Editorial Board members Chris Prom, Paul Conway, and Donna McCrea (Council liaison); Publication Board members Michael Shallcross, Nicole Milano, Tom Frusciano (Council liaison), and myself; and SAA staff members Nancy Beaumont and Teresa Brinati (*ex officio*). We held an initial two-day meeting in Chicago this past November, and the working group developed an ambitious plan for moving forward. Specifically, we decided to experiment with a modular approach to the next iteration of the Archival Fundamentals Series. Our goal is to produce a series of relatively brief and discrete stand-alone units, somewhat akin to book chapters, that convey information concerning foundational archival knowledge. These individual units can then be packaged and combined into more comprehensive books that treat such topics as description, reference, appraisal, and preservation.

We also discussed a variety of electronic delivery options, since the ultimate goal of the series is to provide current, easily updatable, and user-oriented products that take advantage of new distribution models. And, we carefully considered the issue of target audience, affirming the fact that graduate students, as well as newer archivists and individuals with limited or no practical experience in the area treated in the module, remain our core consumers. To test out the modular approach, we decided to focus first on arrangement and description because there have been so many advances in standards and approaches since the publication in 2005 of Kathleen Roe’s excellent book, *Arranging and Describing Archives and Manuscripts*. Another initial emphasis is on digital preservation, given the explosive growth in this area. We have been working to line up authors for individual modules and hope to have three samples ready to debut at SAA’s 2012 Annual Meeting this August.

Production continues on more traditional print products as well. *The Lone Arranger: Succeeding in A Small Repository* by Christina Zamon is in the final stages of production and should be available by the end of January. Additional books concerning processing, management, and exhibits are in the manuscript revision stages and we hope will be available this year as well. Finally, we should note that Neal-Schumann, which recently partnered with SAA on the *Public Relations for Archivists* book, has now merged with the American Library Association Editions publications program. We will be exploring the implications of this union for our work in the coming months.