

**Society of American Archivists
Council Meeting
May 7–9, 2018
Chicago, Illinois**

**Report of the Publications Editor, Nov. 2017–May 2018
(Prepared by Christopher J. Prom)**

I continue to be proud of my association with and leadership of our book publishing program, as well as humbled by the quality of work done by our Publications Board, reviewers, and authors. With the support of the Board, and with excellent writing in progress by multiple authors, the SAA Publishing Program is primed to make tangible and long-term contributions to the profession and the Society. The completion of these efforts is an essential element of ongoing efforts to reverse the direction of book sales, to enrich the intellectual culture of the profession, and to strengthen the financial profile of SAA.

Meeting the challenges before us demands complementary methods, which I have pursued during my time as Publications Editor. First and foremost has been revitalizing our catalog. At least 8 books—all of which have benefited from years of planning and support—will come to fruition in the next 12 to 15 months, with more to follow. More importantly, SAA will publish a wide range of books in FY 2019 and 2020, including titles in the Archival Fundamentals Series III and Trends in Archives Practice, as well as thoughtful and innovative essays and monographs written by a diverse range of people, including new and established authors. The works published over the next year will provide many appealing titles to the community, significantly refresh SAA's front list, and offer the likelihood of long-term revenue.

The new initiatives we are developing will also play a key role in revivifying SAA's position as the primary advocate for an archival perspective within the broader information science marketplace. In this respect, content development is only one piece of a dynamic publishing program, and I am also pleased to report we have made significant headway in exciting new distribution channels. First, we are pursuing partnerships with other presses (American Library Association & Facet, a UK publisher affiliated with CILIP, the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals). Relationships with allied professional association publishers will allow us to reduce expenses and expand our market reach, while maintaining our independence and strengthening the value of our editorial services.

We are also breaking new ground with a book aimed at the general public, *Creating Family Archives*. And we are poised to be one of the first presses nationwide to implement a pilot program with an innovative electronic publishing and distribution platform, Fulcrum. The Fulcrum service will be offered by the University of Michigan Press on a not-for-profit basis, and its development has benefitted from significant investment via the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. By getting in on the ground floor, we position ourselves for significant competitive advantage in selling e-books subscriptions to institutions and to individuals.

Having worked assiduously to develop authors and titles, as well to lay the groundwork for the initiatives noted above, I feel a deep commitment to SAA, as well as a sense of obligation to help these projects reach to their full potential. I hope to use my remaining time as Editor to see this work through, transferring a legacy of high-quality published books and a new publishing platform to my successor and to future Publication Boards.

Here are specific updates grouped by area of activity:

Archival Fundamentals Series III (AFS III)

- Work is moving forward on the seven volumes of our linchpin book series, coordinated by AFS III Editor Peter Wosh.
- Four manuscripts are in the editorial review/revision stage:
 - *Advocacy and Awareness for Archivists* by Kathleen Roe. The revised manuscript is with reviewers with production anticipated to begin this summer. Projected availability: late 2018/early 2019.
 - *Leadership and Management of Archival Programs* edited by David Carmicheal and Peter Gottlieb. The revised manuscript is in process and a chapter author has been added to draft a reflective essay for the end of the volume. Projected availability: 2019.
 - *Providing Reference and Access Services for Archives and Manuscripts* by Cheryl Oestreicher. Caryn Radick has agreed to join as Consulting Editor to assist the author to incorporate reviewer feedback and polish the manuscript. Projected availability: 2019.
 - *Arranging and Describing Archives and Manuscripts* by Dennis Meissner. Peer reviews of the initial manuscript are in the process of being compiled and returned to the author for revisions. Projected availability: 2019.
- The balance of the AFS III volumes are still in the initial writing phase:
 - *Advancing Preservation: Principles and Practices* by Beth Joffrion and Michele Cloonan. Initial manuscript now due August 31, 2018.
 - *Selecting and Appraising and Acquiring Archives and Manuscripts*. Originally to

be authored by the late Mark Greene, the Board recently approved a proposal by Michelle Light and Margery Sly. We are currently working out a timetable for delivery of the initial manuscript.

- *Introducing Archives and Manuscripts* by Tom Nesmith. Initial manuscript due December 2019.

Trends in Archives Practice Series

- *Innovative Approaches to Outreach*, co-edited by Jennie Thomas and Chris Prom. Currently working with authors on three modules in this volume. Projected availability: 2019.

Other Book Projects

- *Archival Values: Essays in Honor of Mark A. Greene*, edited by Mary Caldera and Christine Weideman. A revised manuscript is expected by the end of April, and the book will then move into production. Projected availability: Fall 2018.
- *Defining a Discipline: Archival Research and Practice in the 21st Century*, edited by Jeannette Bastian and Elizabeth Yakel. Initial manuscript due August 2018.
- *Museum Archives: An Introduction* (3rd Edition), edited by Rachel Chatalbash and Susan Hernandez, and Megan Schwenke. Initial manuscript due November 2018.
- After working with proposers to develop revised proposals, SAA has recently signed contracts for the following new book projects.
 - Margot Note, *Creating Family Archives*. Initial manuscript due September 2018.
 - Audra Yun, *Archival Accessioning*. With contributions from chapter authors. Initial manuscript due July 2019.
 - Max Ekhard, *Making your Tools Work for You: Systems Integration in the Archival Enterprise*. Initial manuscript due June 2019.

Fulcrum

- Publications Board member Mike Shallcross (Bentley Library) and I received a project update from the University of Michigan regarding Fulcrum, an electronic publication platform currently under development. The project recently received a second round of grant funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, focusing on community development. We will speak with the project's community development manager in the fall, and plan to pilot one or more books on the platform when it is available in early 2019. This would make SAA one of the early adopters of a full-featured e-book platform that runs on a not-for-profit, collaborative basis and is able to provide institutional subscriptions.

Other Publishing Partnerships and Prospects

- American Library Association (ALA):
 - Bethany Anderson and Amy Cooper Cary have agreed to co-edit a book series tentatively titled Archival Futures. It will be co-published with ALA Editions. As with our other partnerships, this would leverage SAA's member expertise and editorial advisory, with ALA driving production. Each book in this series will take the form of an extended essay or "think piece," which is intended to be provocative and speculative while also providing some practical insight and guidance, examining a trend or issue in light of professional values and current innovations in archival and library practice. Once final details and an agreement is worked out with ALA, we will move forward to form an advisory board and to begin working to solicit proposals.
 - Laura Millar has signed a contract with ALA for the book *A Matter of Facts: The Value of Evidence in an Information Age*. SAA will take the lead in developmental editing and peer review. ALA will drive production.
 - In addition, ALA will be distributing some of our existing titles, and new titles will be offered to them for potential distribution as they come to market.

- Facet Publishing (UK publisher affiliated with CILIP, the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals):
 - *Trusting Records in the Cloud* by Luciana Duranti and Corinne Rodgers is proceeding apace and will be co-published by Facet and SAA, with UK-based Facet in the lead role and SAA distributing the book in North America. Initial manuscript due in early 2019.
 - Facet will be offered distribution rights for some of our titles in a reciprocal agreement, giving us access to a potential international market.

- Association of Canadian Archivists:

'All Shook Up': The Archival Legacy of Terry Cook, edited by Tom Nesmith, Joan Schwartz, and Greg Bak, will be co-published by ACA and SAA. This book mixes many of Cook's classic essays (many of which are difficult to locate) with significant new content in the form of commentaries by archival thought-leaders. Initial manuscript due August 2018.

Publications Board Meeting

The Publications Board held a very productive meeting in Chicago in early March, where we discussed and planned for all of the above topics. We began with a discussion concerning our

favorite books, what makes for memorable writing, and how we can encourage more dynamic writing in the program. The Board discussed writings that build strong emotional connections and passions, and we hope that our new Archival Futures series can provide an outlet for these types of works. We also discussed and provided advice regarding the podcasting initiative, <*incontext*>, which is moving forward in conjunction with the *American Archivist* Editorial Board. The group also brainstormed topics and authors for the Archival Futures series, developed book marketing ideas, and formed three subgroups to focus on the following areas: Grants and Funding, Digital Publishing/Distribution, and Marketing.