

**Society of American Archivists  
Council Meeting  
June 8 – 10, 2012  
Chicago, Illinois**

**SAA/ACA Representation to  
International Council on Archives  
(Prepared by: Gregor Trinkaus-Randall)**

**BACKGROUND**

For the past eight years Trudy Peterson has represented the Academy of Certified Archivists (ACA) and SAA on the International Council on Archives Section of Professional Associations (ICA/SPA). Last fall she announced that she would be stepping down from that position following the 2012 ICA Congress to be held August 20-24 in Brisbane, Australia.

At that time, SAA and ACA began discussing whether both organizations wish to have a representative and, if so, how the groups might go about selecting someone who could represent both organizations into the future. Several archivists were approached by ACA and SAA, but for one reason or another they were unable to accept. To ensure continued representation, I offered to take on that responsibility because I will be stepping down as SAA President prior to the ICA meeting and because I represented SAA at the ICA/SPA meeting in Edinburgh, Scotland, in August 2011.

SAA and ACA agree that there should be a formal procedure for soliciting representatives from among the memberships to ensure the transparency of the selection process. The SAA Council and ACA Board decided to appoint me as interim representative while such a procedure is developed.

Individually, a number of SAA members have participated in ICA activities and on ICA committees. However, only Trudy Peterson has officially represented SAA on the ICA/SPA Steering Committee in the recent past.

ICA/SPA meets twice a year – once in the spring in a country of one of the Steering Committee members and once in connection with the ICA annual meeting. At the moment, the spring 2013 meeting will be in the Netherlands or in Paris, and the 2013 ICA annual meeting will be in Rio de Janeiro. The spring 2014 meeting will be either in Canada or in the United States. According to Trudy: “It is imperative that someone be there at least once a year – and better both times....If a person misses three meetings, the rules say the association the person represents is asked to name a new delegate or to step down from the Steering Committee.” The spring meeting is the business meeting of the

ICA/SPA. There is an opportunity for SAA/ACA to host this spring meeting in 2014 (late March – early April). The last time we hosted a meeting was in 1995. The autumn meeting usually occurs sometime between August and October, depending on when the host country wants to host it.

## DISCUSSION

SAA is one of the larger professional archival associations in the world. It is important that its voice be heard when issues of international import are discussed at the International Council on Archives.

There are several points to be discussed. First, Trudy has never requested a reimbursement from SAA (or ACA) for her attendance at ICA. It is not reasonable for SAA to expect whomever it appoints to serve as its representative (with ACA) to pay their own way. Because this is a joint representation for SAA and ACA, the current division of funds is structured at 50/50. On the other hand, it should be noted, as mentioned above, that SAA's presence on ICA/SPA is important because of the size of the organization, the research that is underway, and the steps that have been and will be taken to clarify and advance archival theory and practice in the United States.

As a consequence, it is important that the SAA Council discuss a number of issues, including:

1. Its commitment to having a seat on the SPA Steering Committee,
2. The source of the funds to enable a representative to attend the meetings (SAA Foundation, SAA operations budget, or other),
3. The number of meetings appropriate for the designee to attend,
4. The reporting requirements for that person, and
5. A procedure for working with ACA to select an SAA/ACA representative.

**Funding:** For the ICA Congress in Brisbane, the Council will be making a request to the SAA Foundation for the necessary funding, which is 50% of the total cost. If the Council decides to continue the SAA/ACA representation, then it should decide whether to 1) continue, once or twice a year (recommended), to apply to the SAA Foundation for funding or 2) incorporate these costs into the operations budget as an ongoing item. In the former instance, there is the possibility of significantly lowering the amount available in some of the Funds for future requests/projects. In the latter case, it becomes an added annual expense to be incurred.

**Support Statement:** SAA's continued participation as a member of the ICA/SPA Steering Committee ensures that the Society's viewpoints will be heard and that someone will be present to report back to SAA (and ACA) on the activities of ICA/SPA. Without this representation, there is a possibility that ICA/SPA could enact some recommendations or policies that would not necessarily coincide with those of SAA or ACA.

**Fiscal Impact:** The annual cost of funding a representative to ICA/SPA will vary depending on the locale. The ICA Congress in Brisbane, Australia, will cost approximately \$4,000, of which SAA's share will be \$2,000.