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

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

The Publications Board has, over the past several months, focused first and foremost on implementing the “Fundamental Change” project, which has been made possible thanks to the generosity of the SAA Foundation. For our first experimental foray into this area, three modules were commissioned around the theme of arrangement and description. Chris Prom and Thomas Frusciano will serve as the editors of these modules. Gordon Daines (Brigham Young University), Daniel Santamaria (Princeton University), and Sibyl Schaefer (Rockefeller Archive Center)/Janet Bunde (New York University) agreed to prepare modules on (respectively) “Processing Digital Materials,” “Selecting and Implementing Archival Access Systems,” and “Standards for Arrangement and Description.” Work is underway and is following a very tight schedule so that we might have product available at the Annual Meeting in August. The next planned modules will address preservation and appraisal.

The SAA Publications Board met in February and considered a broad range of issues and projects. A few highlights follow.

- We had considerable discussion about the need to transition to a new Publications Editor, since my second and final term will be ending in February 2013. Accordingly, we drafted a job description (see Director of Publishing report at V.E.4.) as well as recommendations for revising the Publications Board charge to bring it in conformity with current practice (see Publications Board Action Item III.C.).

- We are moving forward with the “SAA Sampler,” a new product that will repurpose existing content around the themes. Based on the “Princeton Shorts” concept, the idea is to highlight significant contributions to the archival literature by bringing together one chapter from three different books and adding an introduction. Samplers would be available as ePubs and we hope will stimulate sales of the books themselves. First up is “legal and ethical issues,” which will include a chapter each from The Ethical Archivist (Elena Danielson), Navigating Legal Issues (Menzi Behrnd-Klodt), and Privacy and Confidentiality Perspectives (edited by Wosh/Behrnd-Klodt).

- Further, we are embarking on a joint project with the SAA Manuscripts Section to update the very popular brochures “Donating Your Personal or Family Papers to a Repository” and “Donating Your Organizational Records to a Repository.”

Finally, owing to term expirations of Jennifer McDaid and Tywanna Whorley and the election of Geof Huth to the Council, there are a number of vacancies to fill on the Publications Board. Vice
President Jackie Dooley has reappointed Lisa Mix (Cornell Weill Medical Center Archives) and Tawny Nelb (Consultant) to second terms on the Publications Board. In addition, Cheryl Oestreicher (Boise State University), Nicole Milano (American Field Service Archives), and Kathryn Michaelis (University of Mississippi) will be joining the Board.

Once again, the work of the Publications Board would be impossible to accomplish without the excellent support and hard work of Nancy Beaumont, Teresa Brinati, and the rest of the staff at SAA, and we can never thank them enough for all they accomplish.