

**Society of American Archivists
Council Meeting
November 10, 12, 2021
Virtual Meeting**

**Report: *American Archivist* (May–October 2021)
(Prepared by Amy Cooper Cary, Editor)**

I. UPDATE ON PUBLICATION STATUS

Backlog on all outstanding article reviews and decisions was completed by July 2021. All submissions are currently in the workflow process of peer review, editorial review, editorial decision, and publication workflow. The Table of Contents (TOC) for 84:2 and 85:1 are below. The amount of content pending in these next two issues speaks to the timely completion of the review of backlog and to the efforts made to work with authors on revisions. Cary has invested in fostering shepherding relationships to assist multiple authors through the revision process.

A. 84:2 (in final proof process)

Introductory Material

- Editor's Introduction (Amy Cooper Cary)
- Special Section Editor's Introduction (Karen Trivette)
- Letter from Design Records Section

Special Section: Design Records

- Larson: Design and Social Change: An Architectural History of the University of California, Santa Barbara
- Anderson et al: Laying a Foundation for Digital Collections at the Property Information Resource Center
- Leventhal: Of Grasshoppers and Rhinos: A Visual Literacy Approach to Born-digital Design Records
- Leventhal et al: Design Records Appraisal Tool
- Kim & Irwin: Learning from Las Vegas: Adapting Workflows for Managing Born-Digital Design Records
- Quagliaroli & Casey: Teaching with Drawings: Primary Source Instruction with Architecture Archives
- Biggers: Archivists and Architects: A Case Study on Mitigating Design Cataloging Challenges through Copyright Outreach

Articles

- Bak, Greg: Counterweight: Helen Samuels and Archival Decolonization

- Wilczek, Eliot: “Archival Engagements with Wicked Problems”
- Chinery, Kristen and Rita J. Casey “Archivists At Work: Stress and Mood Effects in a Gendered Profession”
- Stankrauff et al, “Our Comeback Story: Case Studies on Imposter Syndrome in the Archival Profession”

Reviews

B. **85:1 (All content gathered)**

Editor’s Introduction

Presidential Address (Vagts)

Pease Award Winner – Ferrin Evans, “Love (and Loss) In the Time of COVID-19: Translating Trauma into an Archive of Embodied Immediacy”

(<https://www2.archivists.org/2021-Theodore-Calvin-Pease-Award-Ferrin-Evans>)

Articles

- Ricardo Punzalan, “Reciprocity: Building a Discourse in Archival Science”
- Gracen Brilmyer, “‘It’s a Trap’: Complicating Representation in Community-Based Archives”
- Michelle Ganz et al, PERSECTIVES, “Understanding the Unseen: Invisible Disabilities in the Workplace”
- Deirdre Joyce et al, “Toward a Conceptual Framework for Technical Debt in Archives.”
- Scott Cline, “The Archivist as Translator”
- Laura Uglean Jackson and Erin Faulder, “Digital Processing: Exploring the Enigma”
- Ruth Kitchin Tillman, “Pragmatic Principles for Archival Linked Data”
- Robert Weaver, “#FromTheArchives: An Assessment of a Successful Social Media Program in an Academic Archive”
- Philip Haas and Martin Schürer, INTERNATIONAL, “Lester Kruger Born, Ernst Maximilian Posner, and the US-American Influence on the Reshaping of German Archives after the Second World War.”
- Carly Dearborn, “‘Active and Vital Resources:’ A Thematic Analysis of Congressional Collection Policies”
- Christine Lutz, “Making a Scene: A Scenes Approach to Creating a Local Music Archive”
- Amanda Greenwood, “Archiving COVID-19: A Historical Literature Review

Reviews

- C. **Submissions** – Since May 2021, we have had 12 submissions (a total of 22 since January 1). This is still slightly below par compared to 2020, but does not include submissions for a special issue (which was the case for 2020). I hope that the scheduled Writer’s Forum and upcoming Peer Review member discussions will help identify and encourage publishing opportunities.

- It would be interesting to examine the impact of COVID-19 on professional publishing as a whole.

II. DEIA EFFORTS

A. Editorial Board meeting at Annual Meeting – At the July meeting of the Editorial Board (part of the 2021 SAA Annual Meeting), we focused much of our conversation on an extensive discussion of DEIA initiatives.

- Discussion about collaborating with the SAA Council DEIA Working Group to form a DEIA statement for the journal. First will investigate other statements published by other professional journals.
- To do – bring together Editorial Board members to work on a bibliography that references the history of SAA and *American Archivist*, to begin exploring the history of diversity in the organization and in the journal.
- We would like to check with Allen Press to determine if we are able to add/track optional demographic information for journal contributors.
- Extensive conversation of Peer Review
 - Consideration of the current rubric and its effectiveness, as well as implicit bias in the rubric. Considering what changes we can make in order to improve the rubric.
- Discussion of how the Board can better engage with component groups. We are developing a form for Board members to indicate what sections they are engaged with and asking Board members to encourage submissions.
- Beginning to encourage development of additional special sections. Shared information from Trivette about the process of developing the special section on Design Records.
 - Will continue to explore interest in special sections with chairs of Committee on Ethics and Professional Conduct; Accessibility and Disability Section.

B. Editorial Board Orientation

- Result of the July Board meeting, we used this as an opportunity to discuss the Board's commitment to DEIA and what that means for our actions as Board members; the function of the Editorial Board; opportunities for greater Board member participation; and the potential for shepherding opportunities.
- This was the first orientation offered. Targeted to members appointed in 2020 and 2021, but all Board members were invited.

C. Hidden Content Project Meeting

- Meeting with outgoing early-career members (Moran, Espanto, and Hammond) and incoming early-career member (Karen Gionet Zentek), and Editorial Board member Hering, to orient incoming member and discuss ongoing work with Hidden Content project. Work continues in reviewing issues to determine best ways to highlight and restructure journal content to optimize access. Hering is doing a fantastic job as the Board member overseeing this project.

III. CORDA / SAA DATAVERSE

- Cary met with the CORDA team to discuss collaboration between *American Archivist* and SAA Dataverse. Developing a statement for inclusion in author letters to encourage journal contributors to submit their datasets to the Dataverse.
- Cary will reconnect with Dataverse team this fall to determine next steps and other collaborative opportunities

IV. REVIEWS EDITOR AND SEARCH IN PROGRESS

- Cary wishes to thank Reviews Editor Bethany Anderson for her service. Anderson will be stepping down from this position as she has been appointed Editor of *COMMA*, the journal of the International Council on Archives. Cary hopes for opportunities for international collaboration!
- A search for a new Reviews Editor is taking place. Applications were submitted and next steps for review are being undertaken. An appointment will be made this fall.

V. MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- Setting dates for regular bimonthly Editorial Board meetings.
- “Write Away” Virtual Forum on SAA Publishing Opportunities on Nov. 5, 12:00 – 1:30 PM CT.
- Date TBD for joint virtual session on the Peer Review Process (Journal + Publications editors).
- Cary encourages all Council members to attend these events!