

**Society of American Archivists  
Council Meeting  
December 3-5, 2019  
Chicago, Illinois**

**Report of the Publications Editor, August-November 2019  
(Prepared by Christopher J. Prom)**

During the past few months, I have focused on: 1) bringing existing book projects to fruition; 2) leading a process to review and improve our proposal review process; 3) taking steps to ensure a smooth handoff to a new Publications Editor this spring; and 4) engaging actively in discussions with the *American Archivist* Editorial Board related to the controversy over the Frank Boles article and the cancelled Brown Bag Lunch discussion during the Joint Annual Meeting in August. In particular, I would like to call attention to the following items:

- Max Eckard has returned a revised manuscript for his book *Making Your Tools Work for You: Systems Integration and the Archival Enterprise*. I have reviewed and accepted the manuscript, which is moving to copyedit and production.
- Peer reviews for three initial manuscripts were evaluated and returned to authors/editors. I am working with them on revisions for each of the following:
  - Susan Hernandez, Rachel Chatalbash, and Megan Schwenke, editors, *Museum Archives: Practice, Issues, Advocacy*.
  - Audra Yun and contributors, *Archival Accessioning*.
  - Scott Cline, *Toward a Philosophy of Archival Virtue*.
- Facilitating discussions for a co-publishing agreement with Music Library Association regarding the forthcoming *Archival Description of Notated Music—A Supplement to “Describing Archives: A Content Standard.”*
- Assisting the Native American Archives Section with establishing a case studies series.
- Coordinating the review process for three newly proposed books, including two in the *Archival Futures Series*, which is co-published with the American Library Association.
- Leading the Publications Board and its subcommittee in revising the proposal review process. The process now incorporates the following new elements:
  - Required writing sample from proposers. This gives us something objective to measure in the case of new and established authors.
  - Added a criterion to allow comments on whether a proposal meets the criteria of a specific series, such as *Archival Futures* or *Trends in Archives Practice*.
  - A copy of our review criteria now posted on the Publications Board site. This is

consistent with practice in other areas and makes our process more transparent.

- Incorporated new criteria into our evaluation process, specifically a question as to how the book proposal speaks to the strategic goals and core organizational values of the SAA. A copy of the new policy is in place at <https://www2.archivists.org/publications/book-publishing/guidelinesforbookproposals>.
- Participated in two conference calls and attended the *American Archivist* Editorial Board meeting in October in Chicago and sought to help build a productive environment for discussion, heal divisions, and foster a community approach to this difficult issue.
- Scheduling Publications Board conference calls/meetings for spring 2020.