Preservation Publication Award: Award Prize Funding
(Prepared by Heather Parks, PPA Chair)

The SAA Preservation Publication Award subcommittee meets at minimum twice a year via Zoom, and is made up of a chair, vice chair, preservation president, and a newly elected member. During the 2022 award decision meeting, the group discussed adding a financial prize element to the award as the other publication awards do. This had also been discussed during the 2021 meetings.

BACKGROUND

Of the four publication awards, only the Preservation Publication Award carries no monetary reward. The Leland Award carries a $1,000 prize, Posner carries $500, and Pease $250, along with certificates. All three are funded by the SAA Foundation.

The Preservation Award was established in 1993 and as such is the newest of the publication awards. It awards an article, report, chapter, or monograph in an audiovisual, digital, or print format for outstanding work in the archival preservation field.

DISCUSSION

Based on the medium of publication type, the Preservation Publication Award fits between the Leland and Posner awards. The Leland Award being for books has a $1,000 prize and the Posner Award for articles has a $500 prize. The Preservation Award can be for books or article publications. We are asking for $750 as middle ground between the two.

While the sum of a monetary prize can be up for debate among the Foundation, providing the Preservation Publication Award with a financial award shows that those types of publications are equally as valued.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the SAA Foundation fund the Preservation Publication Award annually for $750.

Support Statement: SAA funding the Preservation Publication Award would give equal standing with the three other similar publication awards that are already funded by SAA.
Impact on Strategic Priorities: Funding the Preservation Publication Award aligns with SAA’s vision of achieving professional excellence as it will encourage not only publications as well as nominations. Adding a monetary award would help foster creativity, collaboration, and experimentation. This would align with Strategic Plan of promoting value of the archives (Goal 1.1), strengthening the articulation of archival/preservation values (Goal 1.4) and to participate actively in enhancing professional knowledge (Goal 3.3).

Fiscal Impact: The proposed cost is $750 annually for the Preservation Publication Award recipient.