

Archives Management Roundtable Newsletter

FEBRUARY, 2003

2002 MANAGEMENT ROUNDTABLE MEETING

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *2002 Management Roundtable Meeting*
- *Institutional Spotlight: John Hope Franklin Collection of African and African American Documentation*
- *Next Roundtable meeting scheduled*
- *Professional and Institutional news wanted*

The Archives Management Roundtable met on Saturday, August 24, 2002, at the Birmingham Hilton. The meeting was well attended, with an audience of about thirty people. The first half featured an excellent presentation, "Go Ahead and Hire Your Next Supervisor!" Pamela Burks, Director, Cultural Diversity & Career Development, University of Alabama at Birmingham, was commentator. Lois Hamill, Assistant Archivist and Special Collections Librarian, College of the Holy Cross, and Mott Linn, Coordinator of Archives and Special Collections, Clark University, conducted scripted interviews to demonstrate the attributes of good and bad supervisors.

During the second half of the meeting, Casey Greene, Roundtable chair, led an audience discussion of session proposals to be sponsored by the Archives Management Roundtable at the SAA annual meeting in Los Angeles in 2003.

Topics discussed included wellness strategies for archivists, diversity in the workplace, and training staff.

Institutional Spotlight: John Hope Franklin Collection of African and African American Documentation

The Director of the John Hope Franklin Collection of African and African American Documentation in the Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Library at Duke University identifies and acquires materials pertinent to African American studies for both RBMSCL and the general collections in Perkins Library. Along with those duties, the director

develops and implements collection development policies, acts as liaison with faculty regarding collection needs, provides specialized research assistance and promotes the use of African-American materials through a variety of means. Did you miss it? Look again. Still having troubles? NO PROCESSING. Pinch me now! After years of crying, "I'm not a manager! I'm an archivist!" and with the paper cuts to back up my claims, I find that I've now been reduced to the Big M. Perhaps more shocking, I haven't seen a Metal Edge Catalog in months. I couldn't put a record center box together if you put a gun to my head. And ... get this; my nails are starting to grow!

I had no such worries as a "lone arranger". For years, my day-to-day schedule was set. After getting to work, I would check my voice mail. BAM! Morning fires! Those were always the easy ones. Someone needs this or that, wants to drop off a collection, get help on a research paper, due tomorrow, or locate a photo of someone that they can't remember the name of standing on a beach they can't remember the location of, wearing a large Peace symbol. I could always knock those out in time for my morning tea. The point is that for years I had jobs in the archives profession where the problems of the job dictated the job. I had no worries of vision statements, goals or objectives, other than, see the fire, be the fire, put out the fire. Today, my time is spent researching the permanent collection, proposing subject areas for acquisition, donor relations, appraisals and outreach, including publications about the collection, like this one. Sometimes, I miss the smell of smoke.

The Collection I manage is named after John Hope Franklin, James B. Duke professor emeritus of history and scholar of Southern and African American history for more than forty years. In November 1995, the Duke University Library established the John Hope Franklin Center for African and African American Documentation. The center was established to preserve critical resources necessary for scholarly research and teaching in the field of African and African American Studies. Dr. Franklin is best known for his book, "From Slavery to Freedom: A history of Negro Americans." The book is in its eighth edition and now titled "From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African Americans." Franklin first came to North Carolina in 1943, as a professor at North Carolina College, now North Carolina Central University. During his teaching career, Franklin taught at Fisk University, North Carolina Central University, Howard University, Brooklyn College and the University of Chicago. In 1982, he retired from the University of Chicago and ended his academic career as the James B. Duke Professor of History Emeritus at Duke University.

The John Hope Franklin Collection is an educational outreach division of the Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Library, at Duke University. The collection is especially strong regarding nineteenth-century slavery and African American life in the post-civil rights era, highlighting the areas of Dr. Franklin's own research and scholarship: e.g. *The Free Negro in North Carolina* (1943), *From Slavery to Freedom: A His-*

tory of African Americans (1947), *The Militant South, 1800-1860* (1956), *Reconstruction After the Civil War* (1961), *The Emancipation Proclamation* (1963), *Land of the Free* (1965), *A Southern Odyssey: Travelers in the Antebellum North* (1976), *Racial Equality in America* (1976), *George Washington Williams: A Biography* (1985), *Race and History: Selected Essays 1938-1988* (1990), *The Color Line: Legacy for the 21st Century* (1993) and *Runaway Slaves: Rebels on the Plantation* (1999).

The American slavery holdings include more than 20 autobiographical works by former slaves from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Materials on the Reconstruction Period focus on Black mobility, African-American political activity, the transition to wage and contract labor, white violence and black response. The collection also contains a good mix of first-and third-person accounts of black life during the age of Jim Crow. Personal memoirs and correspondence, organizational records, and pertinent government material are all represented in the collection. Central to the Franklin Collection is the Behind the Veil Oral History Project, undertaken by the Duke University's Center for Documentary Studies between 1993 and 1997. The collection includes 1,260 interviews with people from Albany, Ga.; Fargo, Ark.; Birmingham and Tuskegee, Ala.; Charlotte, Durham, Enfield, New Bern, Wilmington, and Craven County N.C.; LeFlore County, Miss.; Memphis, Tenn.; Muhlenburg County, Ky.; New Iberia and New Orleans, La.; Norfolk, Va.; Columbia, Orangeburg, St. Helena, and Summerton, S. C.; and Tallahassee, Fla.

To better document the African American experience during slavery and under Jim Crow, from an African American perspective, the Franklin Collection has amassed a group of autobiographical accounts of African Americans during the age of southern segregation. The *Black Voices* Collection focuses on published narratives from two distinct periods. The first category is Former Slave/Nadir Narratives, encompassing texts written by three groups: formerly enslaved African Americans who escaped slavery and wrote in the post-bellum period; slaves freed by the general emancipation who provide an account of slavery, reconstruction and, perhaps the coming of the age of Jim Crow; and southern African Americans who were born free or freed before the general emancipation. Most of these texts were penned between the 1890s and the early 1930s. The second category in the *Black Voices* Collection contains Jim Crow narratives, texts written by African-Americans born after the end of slavery. Most of the authors in this category were born between 1860 and 1919, and thus many of these autobiographies detail the coming of Jim Crow segregation and the contours of black life in the segregated South.

The Post World War II: Civil Right Era collection is especially strong in documenting the life and labors of Durham's prominent black middle class. After the Civil War, former slaves moved to Durham from the neighboring farmlands and found employment in tobacco processing plants. By 1900, a large Black middle class had developed which began businesses that soon grew into phenomenally successful corporations, e.g. North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company. The City of Durham was given the name "Black Wall Street" due to its many various black ventures. Being new to Durham, cur-

rently much of my time is spent learning the rich history of Durham's African American community, networking in that community and chasing down local (and national) leads.

The road from "lone arranger" to collection development manager has been a long one. Still, I'm glad I made the move south eight months ago and joined the RBMSCL staff at Duke University. Collection management and sweet tea is not a bad way to spend your day. And let's face it; no matter how good you are at putting out fires, in a one-person shop, you're still spending your day putting out fires. So, although not as sexy as encoding in EAD, the management of archival selection is still a very important aspect of the archival profession. And in order to do this job well, you have to learn how to keep all your balls up in the air. You've got issues of appraisal theory, acquisition policies, donor relations, public relations, fund raising and development. Wait. Wait. What's that blowing in from under my door? Ah, the smell of smoke.

Additional information on all holdings in the John Hope Franklin Collection of African and African American Documentation can be found at <http://scriptorium.lib.duke.edu/franklin/>

— Submitted by: Karen Jean Hunt, Director

2003 Roundtable Meeting Scheduled

The Archives Management Roundtable is scheduled to meet during the Society of American Archivists annual meeting on Saturday, August 23, 8:00 a.m.-9:30 a.m. at the Los Angeles Century Plaza Hotel.

Professional or Institutional News Wanted

Roundtable members are encouraged to submit professional accomplishments and institutional news items for inclusion in this newsletter. Please send submissions to Kerrie A. Cross, University Archivist, Albert Emanuel Hall Room 211, University of Dayton, Dayton, OH 45469-1360, or Kerrie. Cross@udayton.edu.

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