

**Society of American Archivists**  
**American Archivist Editorial Board**  
**Virtual Meeting | May 13, 2022**

**MINUTES**

**In attendance:** Amy Cooper Cary (American Archivist Editor and Editorial Board Chair), Rose Buchanan (Reviews Editor), Sumayya Ahmed, Rebecca Hankins, Katharina Hering, Eric Hung, Shadrack Katuu, Jessica Lacher-Feldman, Mark Matienzo, and Sylvia Welsh; ex officio member Stacie Williams (Publications Editor); and SAA staff Abigail Christian and Julia Pillard.

**Unable to attend:** Stephanie Luke (Reviews Editor), Marlee Newman, Kate Puerini, and ex officio member Mario Ramirez (Council Liaison).

**I. WELCOME**

- A. Amy Cooper Cary welcomed Rebecca Hankins to the Editorial Board, who is stepping in mid-term to replace former Board member Ben Goldman. Hankins has a long history of working with SAA and the journal, and we're pleased she has joined us.
- B. SAA has undergone a number of staff transitions.
  - a. As shared on the Board's listserv, former Director of Publishing Teresa Brinati's last day with SAA was April 15; she has accepted a position in the corporate sector. Read an interview with her in the [May/June issue](#) of *Archival Outlook*—it provides a great overview of the Publications program in the last 30 years.) Abigail Christian is the Interim Director as we consider the program's staff needs and next steps.
  - b. Julia Pillard joined SAA's Publications program team on April 25 as the new Marketing and Communications Specialist. Hailing from Colorado, Julia has an MA in English literature from the University of Colorado at Boulder and a background in academia and craft publishing. We're excited to have her on board!
  - c. Please bear with SAA staff. We have other a few other staff transitions happening as well and appreciate members' grace and patience as we "keep our trains moving."

**II. CONTENT UPDATE**

- A. Issue 85.1 is almost out and 85.2 is in progress. [See TOC](#) for both issues.
- B. Issue 85.2 includes three articles that compliment each other; two are cowritten by the same author and Cooper Cary asked if anyone was concerned about publishing them together vs. spreading them out across multiple issues. Five Board members supported publishing them together and did not have any concerns, especially since one is cowritten with emerging archivists and/or first-time *American Archivist* authors. Cooper Cary can share why these are being published together in the issue's introduction to help alleviate readers' concerns [Editor's note: the articles deal with ALI, the ACA and Archival Educators; and the Guidelines for a Program in Archival Studies (GPAS)]. Looking at stats of past issues, *American Archivist* does have an excellent track record of publishing new and first-time authors alongside repeating authors. There is also value in encouraging people to continue publishing with us. However, this question does provide a good opportunity to continue examining how we encourage people to submit to the journal, especially when the pandemic and other challenging circumstances in the world mean that those who have the

time and capacity to research, write, and publish are limited (the numbers of women and single people with caretaking responsibilities publishing academic articles has decreased significantly during the pandemic). For reference, below are the number of contributors and first-time contributors for the last 6 issues.

Issue 82:1: 27 contributors	17 first-time contributors
Issue 82:2: 36 contributors	29 first-time contributors
Issue 83:1: 18 contributors	15 first-time contributors
Issue 83:2: 22 contributors	19 first-time contributors
Issue 84:1: 24 contributors	18 first-time contributors [first digital-only issue]
Issue 84:2: 33 contributors	24 first-time contributors

The Board continues to seek opportunities to encourage and engage authors and peer reviewers from all segments of the profession.

C. Update from Reviews Editors (Rose Buchanan and Stephanie Luke)

a. **Statistics:**

- 3 publication reviews slated for 85.1
- 5 reviews published on the [Portal](#) since January 2022
- 9 publication reviews slated for 85.2 (2 already at the copyediting stage)
- 13 Portal reviews in progress

b. **Cross-promotion:** In the past, editors have promoted publication reviews on the Portal, but not vice versa. Issue 85.1 includes a list of reviews published on the Portal in the previous year.

c. **New review formats:** Editors are experimenting with different review formats for the Portal to expand opportunities for participation. Formats piloted or discussed so far include:

- Question and answer from multiple reviewers (Example: [Preservica review](#))
- Joint-authored reviews (Example: *Archive 81* review, in progress)
- Reviews of professional reports (Example: Response to the Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Taskforce review, in progress)
- Pop-culture reviews (Example: *Watermelon Woman* review, in progress)
- Reviews paired with roundtable discussions (Example: Reimagine Descriptive Workflows review, in progress)

d. **Board feedback:** Feedback from Board members welcome.

Email [reviewseditor@archivists.org](mailto:reviewseditor@archivists.org) or suggest resources to review through this [Google Form](#). Editors particularly are looking to expand reviews of foreign-language publications. If there are ideas about how to do this or titles worth pursuing, please suggest.

### III. CORDA AND A\*CENSUS II COLLABORATION

- A. **CORDA Roadmap:** CORDA is designing a road map to help us think about how people can research, study, and publish on archival literature. They will engage SAA Sections, Committees, and Boards for feedback, and would specifically like to have a joint meeting with the Editorial Board for our feedback in the fall. Board should give

thought to the topics we see coming up recently, such as archival education and the hidden work of archives.

- B. **A\*CENSUS II:** The two surveys for archivists and archival administrators have closed and now the A\*CENSUS II Working Group's Dissemination Committee is considering how to share this work. For the first census, analysis and interpretation was published in the 2005 issue of *American Archivist*. As the journal is now digital, it is possible to publish an A\*CENSUS issue with ongoing content being added to it all year as it becomes available (a kind of digital basket for A\*CENSUS-related content), starting in Spring/Summer 2023. These submissions will go through a peer review process and editorial review.

#### IV. PEER REVIEW

Upcoming [Peer Review Forum](#) with SAA Publications on May 19. A handout with good examples of peer review and an outline of how to get involved will be distributed—and Board members are welcome to share it too. There are many challenges with getting people to agree to do a peer review; hopefully this event will remove barriers in participation.

#### V. PREVIOUS TO-DO'S

**TO DO #1 (Cooper Cary):** Provide Board members and especially peer reviewers with examples of solid peer reviews so that people know what to aim for. Done—see examples [here](#).

**TO DO #2 (Ahmed, Christian, Cooper Cary, and Hankins):** Meet to discuss special section on Middle East and North Africa Archival Collections. Other Board members may continue to [share information about potential special sections on spreadsheet](#).

**TO DO #3 (Amy Cooper Cary):** Finalize language for opt-in on reviewer identity in Editorial Manager to share with the Board; send to SAA staff for implementation.

**TO DO #4 (Cooper Cary, Hering, Hung, Lacher-Feldman, and Matienzo):** Cooper Cary will connect with members to create a bibliography about what's been written about the journal's and SAA's history. [Goal for 86:1]

**TO DO #5 (Cooper Cary):** Review formatting of the rubric so that visual clues encourage explanation rather than brief comments, and write an introduction for the rubric which stresses the purpose and value of the responses, especially for reviewers not on the Board.

Board members can send examples of other good rubrics or suggestions for additional/revised questions to Cooper Cary.

**TO DO #6 (Cooper Cary):** Develop a draft set of questions for the readership survey.

#### V. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting will be Friday, July 22, 2022, 10:00 – 11:30 am CT. More info to come.