

African-American and Third World Archivists Roundtable

NEWSLETTER

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October, 1989

Moorland-Spingarn Research Center Celebrates 75th Anniversary

Karen L. Jefferson

December 19, 1989 will mark the 75th year of the establishment of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center. Located on the campus of Howard University in Washington D.C., Moorland-Spingarn is recognized as one of the world's largest and most comprehensive repositories documenting the history and culture of people of African descent. (Howard University, a historically Black college founded in 1867, is comprised of 18 schools and colleges with a student population of 13,000 students.) The collection was initiated upon the gift of the personal library of Dr. Jesse E. Moorland (1863-1940). Clergyman, alumnus and Board of Trustee member of Howard University, noted bibliophile and collector, Dr. Moorland also served for 25 years as Secretary to the YMCA's Colored Men's Division. Dr. Moorland donated his collection of some 3000 items of "books, pictures, statuary etc, on the Negro and Slavery", for he believed that Howard University was "the one place in America where the largest and best library on this subject [Black history and culture] should be constructively established". On December 19, 1914 the Board concurred and announced the formation of "The Moorland Foundation, A Library of Negro Life."

Two milestones in the history of the development of MSRC are the appointment of Dorothy Burnett Porter as librarian in 1930, and the purchase of the Spingarn Collection in 1946. Mrs. Porter (now Dr. Dorothy Porter Wesley), served as librarian for the collection for 43 years. Her efforts and dedication transformed a small special collection into an internationally known research center. It was her skills in acquisitions that enabled Howard University to acquire the coveted Spingarn Collection. Arthur B. Spingarn (1878-1971), civil rights attorney, and a founder and president of the NAACP, was an avid collector of Black history. His collection of 30,000 plus books, photographs, sheet music and manuscripts was the culmination of a 35 years global search. The acquisition of the Spingarn Collection added further prestige to the growing collection at Howard, and in recognition of this important addition the library's name was changed to the Moorland-Spingarn Collection.

(See MSRC - page 3)

SAA Meets in St. Louis October 25-29th

Joellen El Bashir

St. Louis is the site of the 53rd Annual Meeting of the Society of American Archivists. Certainly this historic city's magnificent Gateway Arch inspired the conference theme: "Gateway to the 90's." Appropriately many of the sessions address present and future archival concerns: automation and the electronic transmission and storage of information; documentation strategy; and state-of-the-art conservation/preservation practices.

This year the Program Committee made a concerted effort to include not only experienced presenters, but many first-time presentors as well, thus assuring a diverse and representative pool of participants. The Committee reports that the 1989 program has a "higher number of session participants with minority backgrounds than any previous program." Sessions of note because of minority participation and/or focus are as follows:

- 25SF Preserving History: A Shared Responsibility of the Archival Institutions and the Community
- 23 Thinking Back: The Recollections of Four Senior Archivists
- 29 Documenting Contemporary Social Protest Movements

(See St. Louis - page 2)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

MSRC	1
St. Louis Meeting	1
From the Editor	2
Party Time in St. Louis	3
Harvard Guide	3
People	4
Sara Dunlap	4
Archivists are Certified	5
Proposals for 1990	5

From The Editors



We'd like to thank all those (named and unnamed) who have contributed to this issue of the Roundtable newsletter. And we again invite our readers to contribute. Though the deadline dates for publication may seem precarious, do not let this discourage your participation. Be assured that at least two issues will be distributed annually. To simplify matters we suggest you mail any information of interest any time throughout the year. We will edit the information to reconcile the time in relation to the publication of the newsletter to reflect past, present or future. Job announcements, and recent acquisitions are of particular interest, but often we do not receive enough entries to include in the newsletter. Also, we encourage articles highlighting some of our pioneer archivists. The continued success of the newsletter is largely dependent on your participation. Please take a little time from your busy schedule to share some information. We want to hear from you!

(St. Louis - from page 11)

- 42 Is Experience the Best Teacher? Training Programs for Archivists
- 58 The Legacy of Black Photographers: Documenting the Visual World
- 74 Recruiting Minorities into the Archival Profession
- 86 Working Without Paper: Oral History as the Critical Link
- 89 "Mining the Forgotten": Documenting Black Women's History
- 92 "Clio n Bits": The Archival Record of Early Information Processing in the Local Government.

For those of us still debating certification (we've missed the deadline for Certification by Petition!), Session 47 may provide information to make that decision easier. It addresses the impact and implication of the Certification Examination.

And the AATWAR meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 26, 11:15am - 12:45pm. Please make attendance at this meeting a priority. It is the sole opportunity for us to meet formally to discuss ideas and common problems.

On a lighter note, this year's conference offers a number of tours of the archival, cultural and historical sights of the city of St. Louis as it celebrates its 225th anniversary. Of interest are the Cahokia Indian Mounds; the Katherine

Dunham Museum; the St. Louis Sports Hall of Fame; and many historic sites highlighted in the Downtown Walking Tour. "St. Louis after Dark" seems promising too!

We hope you will take full advantage of the Conference to learn and to network. We also hope that you will become inspired to be an active participant in the profession and in SAA. Help us to meet the challenge from the Program Committee to maintain, if not surpass, the growing level of minority participation in future SAA meetings. You can help meet this challenge by submitting program ideas for the 1990 SAA Conference (see enclosed form). If you have ideas but they are not complete or you do not know enough people for a session, submit your ideas to the AATWAR Roundtable. We will try to match them with the suggestions of others to come up with a finished package. Please note the deadline for proposals is November 10, 1989.

If you are not a member of SAA and therefore have not received the 1989 Program booklet for the St. Louis meeting, it is not too late. Call the SAA office in Chicago to request conference information, (312) 922-0140. The SAA Annual Meeting is open to non-members; and there is also a one-day registration fee for those interested in limited participation.

See You In St. Louis

DIRECTORY OF ETHNIC PROFESSIONALS TO BE PUBLISHED

The first ever "comprehensive" **Directory of Ethnic Professional in Library and Information Sciences and Related Career Fields** is scheduled for publication in March 1990 by Four-G Publishers, Inc. The directory will include personal, educational, career and professional data about past and current professionals of African, Asian, Asian/Pacific, Caribbean, Hispanic and Native-American descent. This listing will be a most valuable resource for networking, and assist in identifying qualified and experienced professionals in the broad field of information sci-

ence. A copy of the data sheet for entry into the **Directory** is inserted in this newsletter. Please share with other professionals who may wish to be included in the directory. The absolute deadline for inclusion in the **Directory** is October 31, 1989, so complete and send in your data sheet immediately. For more information about the **Directory** contact the editor, Dr. George C. Grant, Four-G Publishers, Inc., P.O. Box 2249, Winter Park, FL 32790-2249, (407) 646-2676.

Party Time in St. Louis!

You're invited to an all nite jam session at the SAA Meeting in ST. Louis, Friday, October 27th. The place and time will be announced at the AATWAR meeting, Thursday, October 26, 11:00am - 12:45pm. The details will also be posted at the SAA information table or bulletin board. Or just ask one of the AATWAR co-chairs! BYOB (Bring your own brown bag!), and your thinking cap. This is a brainstorming party to draft proposals for submission to the 1990 Program Committee. It promises to be a happening event, as well as a productive one!

(MSRC - from page 1)

Upon the retirement of Dr. Porter in 1973, the Board of Trustees agreed to the restructuring of the collection to broaden its scope and scholarly impact. In the next ten years, under the direction of Dr. Michael R. Winston, the reorganized Moorland-Spingarn Research Center experienced significant increases in its budget, physical facilities, staff size, programs, and holdings (particularly in the area of primary source materials). Today, the Center's holdings include a library collection totalling over 150,000 books, hundreds of titles of periodicals, and an extensive collection of ephemera in its vertical files. The Center's services include photography and photoduplication laboratories. One key project for the in-house microfilm laboratory staff is to microfilm the subscriptions of 200 titles of Black newspapers published in the United States, Africa, South America, and the Caribbean. The Manuscript Division holdings include over 400 collections of personal and family papers, and organizational records, totalling over 6000 linear feet; as well as 1000 oral histories; 10,000 recordings; 4000 pieces of sheet music; and 50,000 photographs and illustrative images (excluding the thousands of photographs maintained

Harvard Develops Guide to Afro-American Research Materials

A subject guide to original Afro-American research materials in the Harvard University Libraries is being developed by Harvard and Radcliffe curators. This cooperative effort consists of a two-phased approach involving a search of the Research Libraries Information Network (RLIN) and follow-up visits to Harvard archival and manuscript repositories to identify materials not in the RLIN data base.

can history in the Harvard College Library and an earlier guide to Afro-American sources published in 1978. Collections at Harvard relating to the Black experience in the United States, Africa, and the Caribbean include organizational records, slave documents, oral histories and personal papers of writers, scientists, and political leaders. The subject guide in-

The guide will provide quicker access not only for students and faculty at Harvard but for outside scholars as well.

The RLIN data base and Harvard's own union catalog, HOLLIS, contain records from over 50 of Harvard's libraries and museums. The guide project utilizes improved subject analysis, one of the results of entering descriptions into RLIN. As part of the first phase, the data base was searched for personal and corporate names, as well as Library of Congress subject headings, such as Afro-American women, slavery, abolitionists, civil rights, etc. In the second phase additional materials, especially photographs and ephemera, and small collections not entered into RLIN will be identified. Libraries that did not contribute records to RLIN will also be searched.

The project has benefited from a recent guide to microforms on Afro-Ameri-

cludes entries on Lydia Maria Child, William Stanley Braithwaite, William Lloyd Garrison, Martin R. Delany, Mary Eastwood, the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, the American Freeman's Inquiry Commission, Roscoe Conkling Simmons, and the Black Womens Oral History Project.

The guide will provide quicker access not only for students and faculty at Harvard but for outside scholars as well. The project staff are interested in learning about any similar guides that other institutions have done. For more information contact Ms. Elizabeth Pessek, Harvard University Archives, Pusey Library, Cambridge, MA 02138, (617) 495-2461.

within the manuscript collections). The Howard University Archives houses the official records of the University currently totalling over 2000 cubic feet. And the Howard University Museum collects, exhibits and makes available for loan its unique collection of Black Americana and artifacts from the Caribbean and Africa.

The collection continues to grow at a rapid pace and the present challenge for Director, Dr. Thomas C. Battle and the Center staff is to acquire a new facility to house this tremendous collection, and to computerize the records on the collections for easier access and more efficient administrative control.

People

Ms. Jean Church has accepted the position of Manuscript Librarian, and Ms. Avril Madison has accepted the position of Oral History Librarian at the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University, Washington D.C.

Ms. Brenda S. Banks, Chairperson for the SAA 1990 Program Committee, was recently promoted to Assistant Director of the Georgia Department of Archives and History (GDAH). In this capacity she will serve as administrative head of the Reference and Preservation Division.

Ms. Lynda DeLoach, Archivist at the George Meany Memorial Archives in Silver Spring, MD, has been elected to serve on the SAA 1990 Nominating Committee. And, Ms. Donna Wells has been appointed to serve on the 1990 Program Committee.

In celebration of the sesquicentennial of the invention of photography, Ms. Maricia Battle, Prints and Photographs Librarian at the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, has curated the exhibit, Selected Views: A "Showing of Images by Local Black Photographers." The exhibit is on display at The Sumner School Museum and Archives (17th & M Steets NW) in Washington D.C. from September 8 - October 11th. Photographers featured in the exhibit were included in the recently released publication by Ms. Deborah Willis-Thomas, *An Illustrated Bibliography of Black Photographers, 1940-1988*. Ms. Battle, Ms. Willis-Thomas (Photograph Librarian for the Schomburg Center, New York), and Mr. Brian Jones (one of the photographers in the exhibit), will be panelists in the SAA program session, "The Legacy of Black Photographers."



Sara Dunlap Jackson: Research Archivist, National Archives

Joellen El Bashir

Sara Dunlap Jackson is frequently cited as one who knows the historical material in the National Archives better than any other individual—particularly in the areas of western, military, social and Black history. By generously sharing her knowledge Sara Jackson has become well known and respected by historians and scholars throughout the United States.

She began her career at the National Archives in 1944 as an Archival Assistant, having graduated from Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina the previous year. She was one of the first Black women to be employed at the National Archives in a professional position. For years Ms. Jackson worked in the Military Records Division, where in that maze of government documents concerning America's involvement in warfare prior to the 20th century, she made herself indispensable. Ferreting out pertinent but obscure documents became her speciality. Students and other researchers were told to "go see Sara Jackson, she knows where everything is in the Archives." Letters were directed to her: Did she know if a certain set of records contained material on the "Buffalo Soliders"? Are there any Abraham Lincoln letters in Record Group 109? Her reputation followed her to the National Historical Publications Commission (now National Historical Publications and Records Commission), where she has worked since 1968.

While her role and responsibilities at the National Archives increased over the years, her official position remained the same, Archival Assistant. It was in relatively recent years that she was re-classified as Research Archivist. This action was due in part to the supportive letters of thanks and appreciation accorded her by grateful scholars. A survey of the acknowledgement sections of books published in the last 30 years on the early U.S. military history would reveal almost

invariably the author's indebtedness to Sara Jackson.

In 1976, Ms. Jackson was awarded the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Humane Letters in Recognition of Unusual Service to Humanity by the University of Toledo. The accompanying citation reads: *During more than a quarter century you have encouraged and assisted hundreds of aspiring scholars whose research has brought them to the National Archives. You have been their guide, their mentor, and their friend through your knowledge and enthusiasm, and because you are, as one of them puts it, "a superb human being."* In 1985 she received the Western History Association Award of Merit for Distinguished Contributions to the Cause of Western History. She has served on the Advisory Council of the U.S. Army Military Institute, and the Department of the Army Historical Advisory Committee (1976-1980). She has also served on various advisory committees of the National Park Service and the Marine Corps; and was on the Executive Council of the Southern Historical Association from 1985 to 1987.

Over the years, Ms. Jackson acquired stature as a historian in her own right. Her research in African American history in general, and on Henry Flipper, the first Black graduate of West Point, in particular, is significant. As a member of the Editorial Selection Board of the *Arno* and *New York Times* publications, *The American Negro: His History and Literature*, she wrote numerous introductions to the reprints. She is author of many articles and book reviews in both the historical and archival fields. She is co-editor, along with Roger Bruns and Mary Giunta, of *Am I Not a Man and a Brother, The Anti-Slavery Crusade of Revolutionary America, 1688-1788* (published by Chelsea House in 1977). In addition to lecturing and participating

(See Sara - page 5)



**54th Annual Meeting of the Society of American Archivists
August 30 – September 3, 1990
Westin Hotel, Seattle, Washington**

GUIDELINES FOR PROPOSALS TO 1990 SAA PROGRAM COMMITTEE

The 1990 Program Committee invites submission of program proposals for the meeting in Seattle, Washington, August 30 – September 3, 1990. The proposal is designed to accommodate fully developed sessions, but we also welcome proposals for individual presentations or suggestions for session topics.

Session proposals shall be judged on the following criteria: 1) do they address issues of importance from a variety of perspectives? 2) can the topics be adequately addressed in the time allowed? and 3) do they appeal to a broad audience while focusing on particular conditions or needs?

• **Open Sessions** may be of two types. The *traditional session* of two or three speakers offers participants the opportunity to present fully prepared papers of 15 to 20 minutes duration. Each paper should identify the issue and the perspective of the author, the research methodology used, and the conclusions or hypotheses reached. The role of the chair/commentator is to stimulate thoughtful discussion, allowing sufficient time for audience participation within the two-hour period.

The 1988 Program Committee also encourages the development of shorter sessions featuring *work-in-progress presentations*. Two or three participants will present 10–15 minute introductions to research topics, outlining the critical questions to be answered, presenting their research strategies, and suggesting anticipated results. The presentation should stimulate discussion by offering the speakers a forum for presenting tentative findings at a stage where audience feedback can be particularly valuable. Work-in-progress sessions will be scheduled for an hour each, with half of the time reserved for discussion.

• **Limited-Enrollment Sessions** are those which involve extensive interaction among participants or the use of a demonstration that is ineffective with a large audience. They may take the form of a *workshop* designed to teach archival skills or a *seminar/roundtable* for directed discussion among persons sharing a common experience or preparation. Proposals should describe the skills to be taught, techniques to be employed, issues to be addressed, and/or advanced preparation to be assigned.

• **Special Focus Sessions** are designed to highlight innovative archival programs, new techniques for the archival profession, and archival research projects. Presenters at each one-hour session should attempt to involve the audience in commentary, role-playing, or demonstration, and make wide use of audiovisuals. Special Focus Sessions will run concurrently with open sessions and will not have limited enrollment.

These guidelines should be viewed as suggestive, not restrictive. We welcome creative suggestions for sessions that do not necessarily fit any one of the formats above.

Members of the committee are: Brenda Banks (Co-Chair), *Georgia Department of Archives and History*; Waverly Lowell (Co-Chair), *National Archives-Pacific Sierra Region*; Elizabeth Adkins, *Kraft Archives*; Arthur Breton, *Smithsonian Institution*; Scott Cline, *Seattle Municipal Archives*; Daria D'Arienzo, *Amherst College*; Maggie Kimball, *Stanford University*; Brenda Marston, *Cornell University*; Paul McCarthy, *University of Alaska at Fairbanks*; Alden Monroe, *Alabama Department of Archives & History*; Joan Schwartz, *National Archives of Canada*; Tim Slavin, *Archdiocese of Chicago*; Christine Ward, *New York State Archives & Records Administration*; Donna Wells, *Gallaudet University Archives*.

Send all proposals to Brenda Banks, Georgia Department of Archives and History, 330 Capitol Avenue S.E., Atlanta, Georgia 30334. Proposals must be postmarked by November 10, 1989.

SAA Program Proposal 1990

Deadline: Postmarked by November 10, 1989

Proposed by:
Institution:
Mailing Address:

Phone:

For Committee Use

Number: _____

Postmarked: _____

1. Session Title: _____
2. Open Session (traditional) _____ (work-in-progress) _____ ;
Limited-Enrollment Session (workshop) _____ ;
Special Focus Session (one hour in length) _____
3. Is this proposal submitted on behalf of an SAA group? If so, name of group: _____
4. Description of Proposal - see guidelines (use additional paper if necessary).

PARTICIPANTS

Check box if individual
has been contacted about
this session and has
agreed to participate.

SAA
Member

Chair/Comment/Leader:
Institution:
Mailing Address:

Phone:

Yes

No

Name:
Institution:
Mailing Address:

Phone:

Yes

No

Paper Title:

Name:
Institution:
Mailing Address:

Phone:

Yes

No

Paper Title:

Name:
Institution:
Mailing Address:

Phone:

Yes

No

Paper Title:

Data Sheet for Listings in the
Directory of Minority Professionals in LIS and Related Career Fields

Instructions:

- a. Print or type data clearly.
- b. List additional data for each item on a separate page.
- c. Please be specific, as data will not be verified.
- d. All data requested is optional.
- e. Only data provided will be cited in your entry.
- f. A prepublication copy of your entry will be provided on request.

Data Requested:

A. Name (*Last, First, Middle*): _____

B. Nationality: _____

C. Current Title/Employer/Dates/Address/Phone: _____

D. Type of Library/Agency: _____

E. Employment History (*Dates, Titles, Institutions*): _____

F. Employment status (*Active, Inactive, Retired, Retire/Active*): _____

G. Preferred Mailing Address (If other than your business address): _____

H. Education (*Degrees, Institutions, Dates, Majors, Honors*): _____

I. Professional Memberships, Appointments & Years: _____

J. Professional Publications, Exhibits, Creative Works: _____

K. Professional Awards, Honors, Fellowships, etc.: _____

L. Professional Specializations: _____

M. Areas of Consulting, Workshops, Lecturing, Speaking and Other Professional Presentations: _____

Authorization to Use Data:

- N. This data can be published in the Directory. Yes, No.
- O. This data can be maintained in a database for future editions. Yes, No.
- P. This data can be distributed as a database search output. Yes, No.
- Q. Please provide a pre-publication copy of my entry for review. Yes, No.

Person Providing Data: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

In order to assure inclusion in the Directory, data forms must be completed and returned, AT ONCE, to: FOUR-G Publishers, Inc., P.O. Box 2249, Winter Park, FL 32790-2249.

(You may duplicate and distribute this form to other minority professionals.)

Archivists are Certified

Karen L. Jefferson

The certification of archivists is now a reality. Despite some misgivings, the process to certify archivists was initiated on October 1, 1988, and the first phase, certification by petition, has succeeded beyond expectations. As reported in the SAA Newsletter (September 1989) nearly 270 petitions were received, of which 150 were approved and 130 paid in full. It is expected that the 260 successful petitions needed for the SAA to recover its investment in developing the procedures will be met. (For background information about certification see AATWAR Newsletter March 1989, and SAA Newsletters 1977 to present.)

September 30, 1989 was the last day for archivists to apply for certification by petition. Thereafter, archivists will have to take an examination to become certified. The first exam is scheduled for Thursday, October 26, 1989 in St. Louis, MO (coinciding with the SAA Annual Meeting). (The last date to apply to take the exam was September 20, 1989.) No announcements have been made as to when and where the examination will be held in the future. Some discussions at last year's SAA Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia suggested that initially the exam may be held only once a year coinciding with the SAA meetings, however other places and dates may be added as the process develops (possibly coinciding with regional archives meetings.)



The costs for certification is \$275.00; \$25 non-refundable application fee, and \$250 fee once certification is granted. There has been discussion about developing a fund to help those who may need assistance in meeting these costs. Also, archivists may consider inquiring to determine if their employer can provide financial assistance for certification fees.

Currently, the Interim Board of Certification has been responsible for developing and implementing the certification process. As the goal of 100 certified archivists has been reached, the

Interim Board will dissolve and the Academy of Certified Archivists will assume the responsibilities of developing and managing the certification process. (The Academy is comprised of all certified archivists.) The first meeting of the Academy is scheduled for Thursday, October 26, 1989 7:30pm - 10:30pm, at the St. Louis meeting. The meeting is open to all interested persons, however only certified archivists will be eligible to vote.

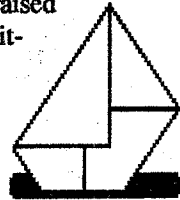
Certification is not limited to SAA members. A candidate handbook is available to answer questions about eligibility, and procedures for applying to take the exam. If you wish to find out more about the certification process you may contact the Society of American Archivists, 600 S. Federal, Suite 504, Chicago, IL 60605, (312) 922-0140.

she deserves honor and recognition, for she has given and continues to give generously of her time and vast archival knowledge to an entire generation of scholars, whose published works are the beneficiaries of her expertise.

A Call for Program Proposals for 1990 Meeting

Brenda Banks
Program Committee Chairperson

The 1990 SAA Annual Meeting will be held in Seattle, Washington, August 30 - September 3rd. The Program Committee is accepting program proposals, and invite your participation. The Committee is particularly interested in proposals that address the issues raised in the SAA Committee on Goals and Priorities (CGAP) which includes: automation, appraisal and documentation strategy, institutional evaluation, planning, communication, and the educational potential of archives. A copy of the program proposal form is inserted in this newsletter, and the deadline for submission of proposals is November 10, 1989. Proposals may be submitted through AATWAR Co-Chair, Donna Wells, (see address on back page of this newsletter), or sent directly to the Program Committee (see address on the proposal form). We look forward to receiving your ideas, suggestions and proposals.



REMINDER

Please attend AATWAR Meeting on Thursday, October 26, 1989, 11:00 am - 12:45 pm during the SAA Annual Meeting.

BE THERE!

(Sara - from page 4)

in professional conferences, Ms. Jackson has pursued graduate studies at the American University and Catholic University of America.

She admitted recently that her life has not been "all peaches and cream", but she enjoys her work. It is for this work that