

African-American and Third World Archivists Roundtable

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 6. No. 1

March 1992

REPORT FROM THE CO-CHAIR

Deborra Richardson

The AATWAR leadership recently submitted a summary report of activities and goals to the SAA office. The following are some of the highlights.

-The Newsletter mailing allotment (a supplement from SAA) has been raised to \$100.00. The balance of the support comes from the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University, and Afro-Info Inc.

-Four of the eleven proposals that AATWAR submitted to the SAA Program Committee last year were presented at the Annual Meeting. At least six proposals have been submitted for the 1992 meeting in Montreal. This year, we need AATWAR members to submit proposals for the 1993 SAA meeting to be held in New Orleans. The 1993 meeting will serve as a follow-up to the Fall 1986 MARAC Conference whose topic was "The Afro-American Heritage in Records." For the 1993 follow-up, "Where Do We Go From Here?," training sessions will update acquisition and appraisal techniques, funding sources, and the state of African American documentation. Information can be shared concerning historical editing projects and the African American Museum, and its effects on the collecting policies of existing African American repositories.

-The names of two AATWAR members were submitted as nominees for SAA Fellow. Regrettably, neither was accepted. Three names are being presented this year (1992-1993).

(See Report - page 6)

MONTREAL IN 1992

The Society of American Archivists 1992 conference will be held in Montreal, Canada September 11th -17th. The conference will coincide with the meetings of the International Congress on Archives (September 6 - 11); the Association of Canadian Archivists (September 11 - 16); and the Academy of Certified Archivists (September 11 - 17). The AATWAR meetings are tentatively scheduled for September 15th and 16th. The meeting in Montreal offers a unique opportunity to meet with archivists from around the world. Also, Montreal, the largest Francophone city in the world outside of France, commemorates its 350th anniversary this year, so there will be a variety of cultural events to add to the excitement. Start planning now to attend! Registration for SAA's annual meeting automatically includes complimentary admission to the other meetings. For more information contact the SAA, 600 S. Federal, Suite 504, Chicago, IL 60605 (312) 922-0140.

Table of Contents

Announcements	2
Co-Chair Report	2
Florida's Black Archives	3
Robeson Archives Visitor	4
Jobs	4
Certification Exam	6
Acquisitions	7
SAA Fellow Nominations	7

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Charles St. Vil, manager of the New York Times Archives, delivered a speech on "Newspaper Records as a Community Resource," at the American Journalism Historians Association convention in October 1991. St. Vil centered his talk on the growth and development of the Archives, which under his guidance was awarded the 1991 Isaiah Thomas Newspaper History Preservation Prize. This award is presented annually by the American Society of Newspaper Editors.



Diana Lachatanere, Head Archivist, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture has changed her address. It's now 4410 Broadway, Apartment 6E, New York, NY, 10040.



"Black Women: Achievement Against the Odds" - An Exhibit is currently available from the Florida Humanities Council's Resource Center. Twenty mounted posters (23" X 36") portray African American women who have changed the lives of African Americans through education, art, literature, medicine, civil rights and other subject areas. While the focus is on 18 personalities, a total of 120 women are featured in this hanging or free-standing exhibit from the Smithsonian Institution. To borrow this exhibit, contact the

Florida Humanities Council, 1718 East Seventh Avenue, Suite 301, Tampa, FL 33605, (813) 272-3473.



"To Achieve These Rights: The Struggle for Equality and Self-Determination in the District of Columbia, 1791-1978" opened at the Smithsonian Institution's Anacostia Museum in Washington, DC on January 19, 1992. The exhibit focuses on people, laws, methods of resistance used to change laws, and how events in Washington, DC proved to be a model for the country. The exhibition ends on July 26, 1992.



Photographers Donna Wells and Carlton Lewis presented two perspectives on life in Washington, DC in their exhibit, "Double Exposure," which appeared at the Martin Luther King Public Library in Washington, DC in October 1991. The exhibit featured images and events, residents and visitors to the capital city. Ms. Wells, former AATWAR Co-chair and archivists at Galluadet University Archives until 1991, became interested in photography while studying for a degree in art history at Hampton University.

Ms. Martha Ruff was appointed Head Librarian for the

(See Announcements - page 5)

MEET THE AATWAR CO-CHAIRS

Ms. Deborra Richardson, completing her last year as co-chair of AATWAR, is a native of Long Island, New York. She earned the Bachelor of Music from Howard University, Washington, D.C., and a Masters in Library Science from the University of Maryland.

Ms. Richardson is currently Archivist with the Duke Ellington Collection at the Archives Center of the Smithsonian Institution's Museum of American History in Washington, D.C. Prior to her appointment at the Archives Center, Ms. Richardson served as

(See Co-chairs - page 3)

The African-American and Third World Archivists Roundtable Newsletter is published twice a year. Questions? Contributions? Contact co-editors: Karen L. Jefferson and Joellen ElBashir, Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University, Washington, D.C., 20059, (202) 806-7480/PAX (202) 806-6405.

The AATWAR Newsletter is produced by Afro-Info Inc., and financially supported by the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center and the Society of American Archivists.

BLACK ARCHIVES OF SOUTH FLORIDA CELEBRATES 15TH YEAR

Valerie Riles

The Black Archives, History and Research Foundation of South Florida was incorporated in 1977. In preparation for the celebration of the U.S. Bicentennial, Dorothy Jenkins Fields, a reading teacher and school librarian, conceived and developed the concept of the Black Archives for Miami/Dade County. She was concerned that material about the contributions of African Americans to the development of Dade County was unknown and therefore unavailable to school children.

Developed in conjunction with the Dade County Public's social studies program, resources and services from the Black Archives are available to all students throughout the year.

newspapers. Researchers are assisted afternoons, Monday through Friday, by appointment. Some finding aids are available and others are being developed to provide increased access to the collections.

The Black Archives, a private, non-profit organization, is primarily a manuscript/photo-graphic repository. Other collections include reference books, architectural drawings, oral history tapes, sound recordings, video tapes and films, microfilm and

Inquiries are welcome. Contact Valerie Riles, Administrator, Black Archives Foundation, Caleb Community Center, 5400 N.W. 22nd Avenue, Miami, FL 33142, (305)638-6064, 5729.

**AATWAR
MEMBERSHIP
DIRECTORY
AVAILABLE**

The preliminary edition of the AATWAR Membership Directory, compiled by Carol Rudisell, Associate Librarian, University of Delaware Library, was distributed at the SAA meeting in Philadelphia in the Fall of 1991. If you are a member of both AATWAR and SAA, you can receive a copy of the Directory by contacting Carol at (302) 451-2432. Thank you, Carol, for a useful resource, eagerly awaited by the membership.

(Co-chairs - from page 2)

Music Librarian at the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center at Howard University, and Art Specialist for the Montgomery County (Maryland) Public Library System.

Dr. Clifford L. Muse, Jr., a native of Hightstown, New Jersey, began his first year as AATWAR co-chair at the SAA annual meeting in Philadelphia in the Fall of 1991. Dr. Muse received the Bachelor of Arts degree from Hartwick College in Oneonta, New York; the Masters of Arts and Ph.D degrees in History from Howard University, Washington, D.C.

Currently the University Archivist at the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center at Howard University, Dr. Muse's previous experience includes Archivist with the Office of Presidential Libraries and Nixon Presidential Materials Project, National Archives and Records Administration; and Acting Director of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center.

The Co-Chairs bring to their duties a wealth of archival experience and knowledge; as well as an active concern for the AATWAR membership and its future direction.

ARCHIVIST FROM PAUL ROBESON ARCHIVES, BERLIN, GERMANY VISITS UNITED STATES

Ms. Christine Naumann, archivist for the Paul Robeson Archives, in Berlin Germany is visiting the United States from September 1991 - June 1992. Ms. Naumann received a fellowship from the American Association of University Women to research transatlantic influences on artistic productions and their reception in Germany in the first half of the twentieth century. In pursuing her research, Ms. Naumann, based her efforts in Washington D.C. at the Library of Congress and the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center.

She has also visited the Hampton University Archives, and will visit the Charles Blockson Collection (Philadelphia) in March and the Schomburg Center (New York City) in April.

The Paul Robeson Archives was established under the auspices of the Academy of Arts in Berlin, German Democratic Republic in 1965. Paul Robeson was much admired by the German people for his anti-fascist stance and his strong support for human rights, racial equality and social justice. He visited the GDR several times and received numerous honors. The Archives, established with the written permission of Paul Robeson, collects, preserves, and makes available for research materials documenting his life, career, and achievements.

Ms. Naumann became the archivist for the Robeson Archives in 1987. In addition to her duties in administering the collection, she has prepared exhibits, given lec-

tures and slide presentations, and has served as an advisor for films on Paul Robeson. During her visit to the United States Ms. Naumann has given slide presentations, as well as formal and informal discussion about the Paul Robeson Archives. This is Ms. Naumann's second visit to the United States. She visited for a brief tour of several cities in October 1990, just at the start of the dismantling of the Berlin Wall.



[The Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University is the repository for the Paul and Eslanda Robeson Papers. The Schomburg Center also has a collection on Paul Robeson.]

JOBS * JOBS * JOBS

Archives and Description Coordinator, Baker Library, Harvard Business School/ Responsible for arrangement, description and preservation of historical information (archival, print, electronic)/ Master's degree; 5 years' experience; familiarity with PC databases/ Contact Mary Ann Johnson, Human Resources, Harvard Business School, Boston, MA 02163, (617) 495-6116.

Associate Curator for African American History, Western Reserve Historical Society/ Responsible for developing holdings relating to the history of the African American

community of Northeastern Ohio, processing collections, supervising interns and volunteers/ Degree in American history with archival or library experience/training/ Three-year, grant-funded position/ Salary commensurate with training and experience/ Send resume to Kermit Pike, Western Reserve Historical Society, 10825 East Boulevard, Cleveland, OH 44106-1788, (216) 721-5722.

Archives and Records Manager, Paul G. Blazer Library, Kentucky State Uni./ Administer the University Archives and Special

Collections Unit; appraise, collect, preserve, organize and describe the official records of historical value of the University; develop and implement policies for the preservation of Library and archival records; promote use of special and archival collections/ M.L.S. or Master's degree in history with course work in archival management; background in African American studies preferred/ Salary commensurate with experience and qualifications/ Contact Karen McDaniel, Director of Library Services, Kentucky State Uni., Frankfort, KY 40601, (502) 227-6852.

(Announcements - from page 2)

Henry Lee Moon Library and NAACP Civil Rights Library and Archives in January 1992. Before accepting the position at the NAACP, Ms. Ruff worked at the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore MD. The NAACP Libraries and Archives were established in 1988. Research is by appointment only. For more information contact Ms. Ruff: NAACP Archives 4805 Mt. Hope Dr., Baltimore, MD 21215 (410) 486-9126.

The Western Reserve Historical Society has received a three year grant of \$150,000 from the Cleveland Foundation to reestablish its African American Archives program. The archives program was established in 1970 but lost momentum in the mid-1980's due to a lapse in funding. Part of the grant monies will be used to hire a full-time resident archivist responsible for the collecting and cataloging of historical materials and make them available for research, publication and exhibition, as well as serving as a liaison to the community. The archives program has a strong support group in the assistance of the African American Archives Auxiliary. This group initiated the efforts to re-activate the archival program and will now focus on raising a \$400,000 endowment fund to help ensure the continuation of the archival program after the grant expires.

The Directory of Ethnic Professionals in Library and In-

formation Science is now available. (Data sheet forms were included in the October 1989 issue of the AATWAR Newsletter.) The Directory cites about 1,800 library and information science professionals of African American, Asian American, Hispanic and Native American descent spanning the period 1890 to 1990. The Directory was compiled by George C. Grant, editor of the Newsletter of the Black Caucus of the American Library Association, from a pool of more than 14,000 practicing, retired, and deceased professionals. In addition to biographical and career data, the Directory includes a cross index by employer and alma mater. To order contact Four-G Publishers, Inc. P.O. Box 2249, Winter Park, FL 32790-2249. Cost: \$52.95 + \$4.00 shipping and handling.

The Library of Congress celebrated Black History Month with an exhibit on Carter G. Woodson (1875-1950), the founder of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (now Afro-American Life and History), and Negro History Week (now Black History Month). The exhibit, "Moving Back Barriers: The Legacy of Carter G. Woodson," will be on display in the foyer of the Madison Building from February 6 - April 26, 1992.

Congratulations to the Amistad Research Center at Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana on its twenty-fifth anniversary.

In celebration of Black History Month and the 125th anniversary of Howard University, the exhibit, "A Stronger Soul Within A Finer Frame: Portraying African-Americans in the Black Renaissance," was on display at Howard University's Founders Library. The exhibit is organized by the Touring Exhibitions Program, University of Minnesota Art Museum, Minneapolis; and features works from the Archie Givens Memorial Collection. Accompanying the exhibit are two smaller displays prepared by the staff of the Howard University Libraries and the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center; "Artists of the Harlem Renaissance" and "Arthur P. Davis: Caretaker of the African-American Literary Tradition." Exhibits feature materials from Howard University.

The first publication of a fourteen volume set of The Papers of Martin Luther King Jr. is now available from the University of California Press. This five hundred page text entitled, **Called To Serve: January 1929 - June 1951**, contains previously unpublished documents including letters King wrote to his parents during his childhood and early adulthood. Other King Project publications include *The Student Voice: 1960-1965*, Greenwood Press, 1990; and *A Guide to Research on Martin Luther King Jr.*, and the *Modern Black Freedom Struggle*, Stanford University Libraries, 1990.

**ARCHIVISTS CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION
TO BE HELD SEPTEMBER 1992**

The Academy of Certified Archivists will give its next examination on September 14, 1992. The exam sites are for Montreal Canada (coinciding with the annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists); Atlanta, Georgia; Chicago, Illinois; Salt Lake City, Utah; Washington, D.C.; and Arlington, Texas. There are now 784 certified archivists from all 50 states and the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Canada, England, Japan, Philippines and New Zealand.

Applications and the \$50.00 application fee are due June 12, 1992. The \$50.00 application fee is applied toward the \$275 certification fee for those candidates successfully passing the exam. Eligibility to take the exam is one or more of the following:

* A master's degree with a minimum of nine semester hours of graduate study in archives administration and a minimum of one year of qualifying professional archival experience.

* Any master's degree with two years of qualifying professional archival experience.

* A bachelor's degree and three years of qualifying professional archival experience.

For additional information and to receive the 1992 ACA Candidate Handbook and Application, contact: ACA Secretariat, c/o Society of American Archivists, 600 S. Federal, Suite 504, Chicago, IL 60605, (312) 922-0140.

(Report - from page 1)

-There was some controversy at the annual SAA business meeting in Philadelphia over the proposed site of the 1996 SAA meeting: Salt Lake City, Utah. As a result of the ensuing discussions, the following resolution was passed at the AATWAR business meeting:

"Be it resolved that the African American and Third World Archivists Roundtable requests that as Council considers locations for the SAA annual meetings, the organization should be sensitive to social issues that are of concern to its members. AATWAR would

prefer that SAA go to San Diego, California for the 1996 annual meeting."

I am pleased to report that the 1996 annual meeting will be held in San Diego!

-Recruitment of minorities into the archival profession and into AATWAR continues to be our primary goal. One of our strategies will be to target graduate students by scheduling on-campus, in-class visits at pre-selected universities/colleges, possibly in conjunction with the annual SAA meetings. By the 1994-95 year, we would like to be in a position to sponsor a prospective recruit to

attend the annual meeting. Application for co-sponsorship can be made through SAA so that AATWAR members would not have to bear the entire cost.

-Dr. Clifford L. Muse Jr., Archivist, Howard University Archives, Washington, D.C. volunteered to serve as co-chair for 1991-93.

That's it in a nutshell. Cliff and I look forward to working with you til the Fall, at which time I am replaced by another AATWAR hopeful, while Cliff continues as Co-Chair.

ACQUISITIONS

The Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe College, Cambridge, Massachusetts, has completed a guide to its holdings of or about African-Americans. The Guide includes letters, photographs and other documents with manuscript collections and brief descriptions of the collections of African-American women. The Library is currently seeking a publisher for the Guide, however the final draft is available for use in the manuscript department.

Also, the Schlesinger Library has entered into a cooperative project with the Southwest Institute for Research on Women to transcribe and process more than 350 tapes of "Oral Histories of Low Income and Minority Women". These oral histories were collected by Fran Leeper Buss over the past

fifteen years, and include interviews with Hispanic women in the Southwest, Appalachian women in coal mining areas, and African American midwives in the south.

The Amistad Research Center, Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana has received a grant of \$79,644 from the U. S. Department of Education to process the records of the Federation of Southern Cooperatives and the Emergency Land Fund. The collection totals more than 600 feet of records and is the largest single manuscript collection held by the Center. The Federation was founded in 1967 (an outgrowth of the Civil Rights Movement) comprised of twenty-two cooperatives and credit unions, formed to provide service, information, technical assistance, training, research, resources, and advocacy for poor people in the rural South.

The Thomas Wyatt Turner Papers are processed and available for research at the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University. Thomas W. Turner (1877-1978) botanist, educator, and church activist, taught at Howard University for ten years and at Hampton University for 21 years. He is probably most noted for his efforts to eradicate discrimination in the Catholic Church. In 1925 Turner established the Federated Colored Catholics of the United States. Its objective was to intergrate Black Catholics into the corporate life of the church. Among the Turner Papers are two unpublished manuscripts; an unfinished autobiography, and a history of Black Catholics in the U.S.

AATWAR NOMINATES CANDIDATES FOR SAA FELLOW

At the 1990 business meeting of AATWAR held in Seattle at the annual SAA meeting, the membership expressed concerns that only one African-American archivist has ever been selected to be an SAA fellow. Dr. Harold Pinkett, now retired, worked as an archivist at the National Archives from 1942-1979, as editor of the American Archivist from 1968-1971; and was selected as an SAA fellow in 1962. In response to the concern expressed by the members attending the business meeting, Mr.

Donald West, Archivist, Avery Research Center for Afro-American History and Culture, College of Charleston, Charleston SC; volunteered to look into the candidate nominating process for SAA fellow. Mr. West, with the assistance of Ms. Paula Williams, an archivist for the United Negro College Fund, New York; prepared and submitted applications to nominate two AATWAR members as candidates for SAA fellow.

Although, the applications were not successful, Mr. West did

gain insight into the nominations process. The application process as explained by the instructions appeared to be quite straight forward and simple. However, it seems that there are some additional practices that one should be aware of to successfully promote an applicant. Mr. West has agreed to continue his efforts to nominate candidates.

Applications for three candidates are to be submitted by AATWAR this coming year.