

African-American and Third World Archivists Roundtable

NEWSLETTER

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August 1992

SAA MEETS IN MONTREAL

The 56th Annual Meeting of the Society of American Archivists convenes in Montreal, Canada, September 11-17, 1992. This year SAA is meeting in conjunction with the International Congress on Archives, the Association of Canadian Archivists and the Association des archivistes du Quebec. The theme: "Archives: A Global View," hopes to "expand our vision and help archivists look beyond the individual document, the collection, the institutions and the Society to a 'global' context."

Of particular interest to the AATWAR membership might be the following sessions:

28 "All Roads Lead to Canada." (Clifford L. Muse, Jr., AATWAR Co-Chair and Howard University Archivist)

36 "After the Flood: Lessons in Disaster Prevention, Recovery and Planning." (Brenda Banks of the Georgia Department of Archives and History)

46 "2020 Vision: Social and Cultural Trends." (Debra Newman Ham of the Library of Congress comments)

53 "Financial Management in Hard Times". (Thomas C. Battle, Director of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center)

65 "The Emergence of African American Museums as Research Centers." (Donald West, Avery Research Center, and Steven Newsome of the Anacostia Museum)

70SF "Documenting African American History: Taking It to the Streets." (Ruth Edmond Hill of the Schlesinger Library and her hus-

(See Montreal - page 4)

DAN WILLIAMS - SAA FELLOW

Daniel T. Williams, University Archivist, Tuskegee University, has been elected a Fellow of the Society of American Archivists. Dr. Williams is only the second African American to be named a Fellow in the history of the organization. Dr. Harold Pinkett, retired archivist at the National Archives and former editor of The American Archivist, was elected a Fellow in 1962. Criteria on which nominees are evaluated include "appropriate academic education, and professional and technical training; a minimum of seven years of professional experience in any of the fields encompassed in the archival profession; writing of superior quality and usefulness in advancing the Society's objectives; and contributions to the profession through work in and for the Society." Fellows are elected by a three-quarters vote of the Committee, and the total number of Fellows may not exceed five percent of the SAA membership.

For nearly 25 years, Dr. Daniel T. Williams has served Tuskegee University as University Archivist. In 1987 he was also appointed Curator for the

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Indianapolis Museum of Art is planning an exhibition of five African American artists: John Wesley Hardrick, Felrath Hines, William Majors, William Edouard Scott and Hale Woodruff. If you have any original paintings or drawings by these artists or photographs or correspondence relating to them, please contact Harriet Warkell at the Indianapolis Museum of Art, 1200 West 38th Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46208-4196, (317) 923-1331 ext. 137 or FAX (317) 926-8931.

Race Contacts and Interracial Relations: Lectures on the Theory and Practice of Race - Alain LeRoy Locke, edited and with an Introduction by Jeffrey C. Stewart, was published recently by the Howard University Press and the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center (MSRC). Locke (1885-1954), the first African American Rhodes Scholar, was appointed to the Howard University faculty in 1912 and served until his retirement in 1953.

Although the Alain Locke Papers in the Manuscript Division of the MSRC have been the subject of much research in recent years, that research has focused primarily on Locke's involvement in the arts and humanities and their flowering during the Harlem Renaissance. Relatively little attention had been given to Locke's other intellectual and scholarly activities until now. The editor, Jeffrey Stewart, is currently assistant professor of history at George

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LIBRARIANS SEPT. 4-6

The Black Caucus of the American Library Association is sponsoring a National Conference of African American Librarians in Columbus, Ohio September 4-6, 1992. More than sixty years have passed since there has been such an effort to bring together African-American librarians in a national gathering. The first library conference was held March 15-18, 1927 at Hampton Institute. A second conference was held at Fisk University November 20-23, 1931. This efforts seeks to reach librarians from all 50 states, Canada, and the Caribbean, with an expectation that over 500 librarians, publishers, authors, and library school students will attend.

"Culture Keepers: Enlightening and Empowering Our Communities" is the theme of the con-

Mason University. He is also editor of Alain Locke: A Research Guide, and The Critical Temper of Alain Locke: A Selection of His Writings on Art and Culture.

Construction of the Atlanta-Fulton County Public Library's new Auburn Avenue Research Library is underway. Officials recently unveiled the cornerstone during ceremonies celebrating the branch's construction. The four-story library, which will emphasize research and study of African American culture in the southeastern U.S., is due to open in 1993.

ference and a topic in tune with the concerns of archivists. As many African-American archivists are trained through library science programs and many archivists work in library settings, this conference offers information relevant to archivists. Issues to be addressed at the conference include funding, recruitment, mentoring programs, cultural diversity, automation, oral history, genealogy, censorship, marketing, publishing, employment opportunities and career advancement strategies, and the plight of archives at Black colleges and universities. Keynote addresses will be given by Congressman Major R. Owens (D-NY); award winning author, Gloria

(See Conference - 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 Jaelen ElBashir, Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University, Washington, D.C., 20059, (202) 806-7480/FAX (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.

PROTEST AGAINST DESTRUCTION OF AFRICAN BURIAL GROUND

Amal A. Muhammad

Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture was the forum for a meeting held on June 18, 1992 by the Archivist Round Table of New York, Inc. (ART) on the African Burial Ground. In 1991 Archaeologists began excavating at a construction site in Lower Manhattan where the General Services Administration had planned to build a Federal building. To this date excavators have removed more than 400 skeletons believed to be primarily those of Africans and their descendants. These remains are currently housed at Lehman College in New York City where forensic specialists will begin analysis. The area from which the bones were removed was designated on maps of the 18th century as the "Negroes Burial Ground", and is believed to date from 1712 to 1785. At another site nearby, but separate from the cemetery, archaeologists found close to 2 million ceramic artifacts. During the 18th and 19th centuries, this area was populated by a significant number of peoples of African descent.

The meeting, "Archaeology at Foley Square - the Negro Burial Ground", was led by a panel of six speakers, including architects, archaeologists, anthropologists, and individuals from Mayor David Dinkins' office and the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission. Their presentations, including visual media, vividly described a cemetery that is rich in

skeletal remains and some artifacts which, when analyzed, could change the writing of the history of Africans in colonial New York. Significant evidence of the presence of Africans in the area since the 1600s was presented as background information. There is no dispute among those concerned with the issue, from politicians to the grassroots, that the African Burial Ground must be preserved and declared a National Historic Landmark; and that the dead should be memorialized. Furthermore, the African American community considers it essential that peoples of African descent be involved at all levels in any decision-making and activities regarding the cemetery.

At the end of July, Mayor Dinkins asked the Federal government to stop construction and halt further excavations; and asked a city commission to hold public hearings on whether to give landmark status to the cemetery. As a member of Senator David Paterson's Task Force for the Oversight of the Negroes Burial Ground, I strongly urge you to write letters to representatives of New York City and State governments to express the urgency of according our ancestors the humane respect they deserve. Historians are asking questions about the child-mortality rate, the diets, medical care, diseases and the customs of 18th century Africans in colonial America.

Let us not allow the answers to these questions to remain buried by unauthorized destruction of/or construction on this historic site.

Demands of the Task Force:

1. Reinterment of the remains on the site.
2. Designation of the site as a National Monument or National Historic Landmark.
3. A public hearing for the participation of interested parties on the future of the site.
4. Reparation for the remains destroyed and lost during construction.

Letters can be sent to:

Sen. Daniel Moynihan, 405
Lexington Ave., NYC 10174;
Congressman Ted Weiss, 262
7th Ave., NYC 10001;

Mayor David Dinkins, City
Hall, NYC 10007;

Mr. William Diamond, Re-
gional Director, General Services
Admin., 26 Federal Place, NYC
10278.

(Conference - from page 2)

For those who cannot attend this historic meeting, published proceedings will be made available at a future date. For more information about the conference contact: Sylvia Sprinkle-Hamlin, Conference Chairperson, Forsyth County Public Library, 660 West Fifth Street, Winston-Salem, NC 27101, (919) 727-2556.

**PROGRAM
PROPOSALS FOR THE
1993 SAA
CONFERENCE IN NEW
ORLEANS**

**Clifford L. Muse, Jr.
AATWAR Co-Chair**

The 1993 SAA Program Committee is encouraging the development of program sessions in four particular areas for the New Orleans Conference: (1) "address topics in ways that cut across traditional boundaries, with integrated presentations; (2) generate sessions for groups that have not traditionally seen SAA as being responsive to their interests; (3) generate 2020 Vision follow-up sessions; and (4) generate sessions of special interest to archivists working in Central and South America."

During our traditional AATWAR "brain storming" meeting, which is held during the SAA Conference, a number of us get together to think about and discuss possible program proposals that can be submitted the SAA Program Committee. For those AATWAR members who will not be attending the 1992 Montreal conference, you can still make an important contribution toward this goal. Please send me your specific suggestions for relevant program sessions. Any comments you wish to make will be greatly appreciated.

Contact me at the Howard University Archives, Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University, Washington, D.C. 20059; (202)806-7479/7498; FAX: (202) 806-6405.

(Danny - from page 1)

General Daniel "Chappie" James Memorial Hall. He holds the rank of Associate Professor of Library Services and Associate Professor of History at Tuskegee. Since 1978, he has held membership on the National Historical Publications and Records Commission for the State of Alabama and he serves as a member of the Alabama Historical Commission's Black Heritage Council and Review Board and the Alabama DeSoto Commission. His consultant work includes service to the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress, the Photographic Division of the National Archives, and the National Park Service at Harpers Ferry, West Virginia.

Internationally speaking, Dr. Williams was a member of the U.S. Delegation to the World Congress on Archives in Moscow in 1972; in 1983, he was a participant in the French Language Program in Guadeloupe, French West Indies; and served as an Exchange Professor at the University of Dakar in Senegal, 1985-86.

His most important contributions, however, have been in the the preservation of the history of African Americans. He is Archives Coordinator for Black colleges in Alabama, under the sponsorship of the Alabama Council on Higher Education (ACHE). He holds membership on the boards of the Booker T. Washington Papers Project at the University of Maryland; the Margaret Walker Alexander National Research Center for the Study of the 20th Century African American, Jackson State University; and the Black

Archives, History and Research Foundation of South Florida, Inc. in Miami, Florida.

He is a consultant for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Social Change in Atlanta; the Martin Luther King, Jr. Papers Project at Stanford University; the George Washington Carver National Monument in Diamond Grove, Missouri; and the Booker T. Washington National Monument in Hardy, Virginia.

A frequent conference participant, Dr. Williams has also served on various SAA committees, including the Awards and Program Committees and the editorial board of The American Archivist. In 1989, Dr. Williams became a member of the Academy of Certified Archivists.

Congratulations, Danny!



(Montreal - from page 1)

band, Hugh Morgan Hill
[Brother Blue]

The annual AATWAR business meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 16, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. The election of a new Co-Chair to replace outgoing Co-Chair, Deborra Richardson, will top the agenda of this important meeting.

See you in Montreal! Join in the celebration of the city's 350th Anniversary. We hope you remembered to brush up on your French!



AFRICAN-AMERICAN AND THIRD WORLD ARCHIVISTS ROUNDTABLE



56th Annual Meeting of the Society of American Archivists

September 2 - 5, 1993

Sheraton Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana

GUIDELINES FOR PROPOSALS TO THE 1993 SAA PROGRAM COMMITTEE

The 1992 Program Committee invites submission of program proposals for the meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, September 2 - 5, 1993. This proposal form is designed to facilitate **fully developed sessions**. Fully developed proposals have a better chance of being adopted.

Proposals should:

- ▼ be limited to 75 words;
- ▼ identify the targeted audience;
- ▼ address issues of importance from several perspectives; and
- ▼ allow for adequate coverage of the session topic in the time allowed.

The Program Committee encourages proposals that may include, but are not limited to, the following formats:

- ▼ **Traditional:** Open session: two-hour timeframe consisting of two to three fully prepared papers of 15 to 20 minutes each and a comment and discussion period.
- ▼ **Work-in-Progress:** Open session: two-hour timeframe consisting of two to three presentations of 15 to 20 minutes each, describing on-going research topics, and at least one hour for feedback and discussion.
- ▼ **Panel Discussion:** Open session: two-hour timeframe consisting of a panel of 3-5 individuals providing a variety of theories or perspectives on the given topic.
- ▼ **Point/Counterpoint:** Open session: two-hour timeframe designed to give two distinct perspectives on a specific issue; the chair serves as moderator for the panel and facilitates discussion.
- ▼ **Workshop:** Limited enrollment: two-hour timeframe; an interactive session, usually designed to teach or refine archival skills.
- ▼ **Seminar/Roundtable:** Limited enrollment: two-hour timeframe; usually designed as a directed discussion among archivists sharing a common experience or preparation.
- ▼ **Special Focus Session:** Open session: one-hour timeframe designed to highlight innovative archival programs, new techniques, and research projects; audience participation is significant.

These guidelines are suggestive. Please note that archivists who participate in the program must register and secure institutional or personal funding. Nonmember non-archivists are eligible for complimentary registration upon request.

1993 Program Committee Members: Elaine Engst (Chair), Cornell University; Jackie Dooley, Getty Center for the History of Art and the Humanities; Karen Garlick, National Archives and Records Administration; Mark Greene, Minnesota Historical Society; Raimund Goerler, Ohio State University; Jean Hrichus, Chase Manhattan Bank; Carla Kemp, University of Florida; Katharine Morton; Timothy Murray, University of Delaware; Brent Thompson, Latter Day Saints Church; Diane Vogt-O'Connor, Smithsonian Institution Archives; Bill Walker, Aids History Project, University of California-San Francisco; Donald West, Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture.

Send all proposals to Elaine Engst, Division of Rare Books and Manuscript Collections, 2B70 Kroch Library, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York 14853, fax (607) 255-9346.

PROPOSALS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY OCTOBER 9, 1992.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN AND THIRD WORLD ARCHIVISTS ROUNDTABLE

SAA Program Proposal 1993

Please type. Deadline: Postmarked by October 9, 1992

Proposed by: _____

Institution: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: () _____ Fax: () _____

For Committee Use

Number: _____

Postmarked: _____

1. Session Title: _____
2. Type (check one):

<input type="checkbox"/> Traditional	<input type="checkbox"/> Work-in-Progress	<input type="checkbox"/> Panel Discussion
<input type="checkbox"/> Point/Counterpoint	<input type="checkbox"/> Workshop	<input type="checkbox"/> Seminar/Roundtable
<input type="checkbox"/> Special Focus		
3. If this proposal is submitted on behalf of an SAA group, give name of group: _____

PARTICIPANTS:

(circle one) Chair / Comment / Leader _____
 Institution: _____
 Mailing Address: _____
 Phone: _____ Fax: _____
 Paper Title: _____

Contacted/Agreed
to Participate?

Yes
 No

SAA
Member

Yes
 No

Name: _____
 Institution: _____
 Mailing Address: _____
 Phone: _____ Fax: _____
 Paper Title: _____

Yes
 No

Yes
 No

Name: _____
 Institution: _____
 Mailing Address: _____
 Phone: _____ Fax: _____
 Paper Title: _____

Yes
 No

Yes
 No

Name: _____
 Institution: _____
 Mailing Address: _____
 Phone: _____ Fax: _____
 Paper Title: _____

Yes
 No

Yes
 No

4. Description of Proposal, attach additional sheet if necessary (75 word limit, see Guidelines):

5. Audiovisual Requirements

PROPOSAL TO RECERTIFY ARCHIVISTS

Karen L. Jefferson, CA

The Academy of Certified Archivists (ACA) is moving forward in planning how its members can recertify. The ACA was established in 1989 and today there are 784 certified archivists, "CA", from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, and five foreign countries.

From the inception of certification of archivists, it has been an accepted principle that archivists must keep abreast of new developments and maintain basic skills to remain effective. In this context, the ACA has been working steadfastly to develop a program for the recertification of archivists. A proposal for "certification maintenance" is now under discussion and outlines two options to renew certification: 1) by successfully completing the certification examination; or 2) by submitting an application that outlines activities engaged in to keep abreast of developments in archival theory and practices. The application will designate points for various activities requiring a total accumulation of a minimum of 100 points to renew certification. The proposed areas of activities are employment, education, participation in professional associations, writing, publishing, and/or editing archival related subject matter.

The ACA Board is seeking comments on the certification maintenance proposal. A forum will be held in Montreal, Canada,

KWAME NKRUMAH PAPERS WILL OPEN FOR RESEARCH SEPTEMBER 21

In commemoration of his birth, the papers of Kwame Nkrumah (1909-1972), first President of Ghana, author, and Pan-Africanist, primarily document his activities during his post-presidential exile in Conakry, Guinea. Nkrumah was ousted from office in a 1966 coup. The collection was donated, beginning in 1984, by June Milne, Nkrumah's literary executrix and former research assistant. In 1986 she was able to retrieve files and papers from Villa Syli, Nkrumah's residence while in Guinea. The following year she donated these papers, known as the "Conakry Archive," to the Moorland-Spangam Research Center, Howard University. Included in the Conakry Archive are Nkrumah's correspondence, cables, and Ghanaian radio reports and photographs.

Researchers wishing to use the collection should call (202)806-7480 for an appointment.

on September 16th, coinciding with the annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists. And copies of the proposal have been mailed to all certified archivists. Copies are also available to any interested parties by request to the ACA Secretariat: 600 S. Federal, Chicago, IL 60605. Let your voice be heard. Review the proposal and send your comments to the ACA Board.

THE ANNETTE PHINAZEE ARCHIVES

The Annette Phinazee African American Archives and Resource Center, under the auspices of the North Carolina Central University School of Library and Information Sciences' African American Resources Program, opened in October 1991. The Archives, housed in the Hayti Heritage Center of Durham (N.C.), is a memorial to the late Annette Phinazee, former Dean of the Library School. Established in 1976, two core collections of the Archives are: the William Tucker Collection and the North Carolina Center for the Study of Black History.

The William Tucker Collection, established to promote the contributions of African Americans to children's literature, is named for the first American of African descent known to have been born in the U.S. The collection includes notes, working drafts, typescripts, correspondence and autographed books.

The North Carolina Center for the Study of Black History was established in 1987 to enhance the history of North Carolina by discovering, collecting, organizing and preserving those archival materials which document the contributions of North Carolinians of African descent."

(This was excerpted from an article by Benjamin Speller published in the BCALA Newsletter, Spring 1992)

For more information, contact Doris Williams (919) 560-5168.