

African-American and Third World Archivists Roundtable

NEWSLETTER

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TWO HISTORIC MEETINGS FOR LIBRARIANS AND ARCHIVISTS

Karen L. Jefferson

Columbus, Ohio was the site of the first National Conference of African American Librarians, held September 4-6, 1992. Sponsored by the Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA), this was the first national meeting of Black librarians in sixty years. As many archivists working with African American documentation received the foundation of their training through library programs and work in library settings, this meeting was of interest to archivists.

Two sessions were specifically about archives: "Culture Keeping: The Plight of Archives in Black Colleges and Universities", and "African American Archives Project, Virginia Commonwealth University and Virginia Union University". A number of archivists attended the conference and a few archival institutions were represented among the exhibitors. The keynote speakers were Major R. Owens, Librarian and U.S. Congressman (NY); Augusta Alexander Clark, Librarian, Lawyer, and Councilwoman (Philadelphia); Gloria Naylor, award-winning author; and Randall Robinson, Executive Director, TransAfrica. Their testimonies on the importance of libraries to society, and the particular influence of librarians on their lives made one proud to be in the noble profession of librarianship. Attended by 400 participants, the conference was informative and inspiring and its success attests to the need for such a gathering. For those who missed this historic event, the

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AATWAR BUSINESS MEETING IN MONTREAL

Clifford L. Muse, Jr., Co-Chair

The AATWAR members attending the business meeting in Montreal reviewed and discussed several important issues relating to the Roundtable. The meeting started with the reading and adoption of the minutes of the Philadelphia business meeting. During an examination of the AATWAR 3-Year Plan, several suggestions were made to correct the plan. The membership strongly endorsed the idea of AATWAR members visiting Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) to talk to undergraduate and graduate students about careers in archives. The upcoming SAA meeting in New Orleans was viewed as an excellent opportunity to implement this idea. Several AATWAR members volunteered to contact HBCUs in the New Orleans area. The membership also supported the idea of sponsoring on a regular basis

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AATWAR MEMBERS MORE ACTIVE IN SAA THAN EVER

The following lists AATWAR members currently working in SAA. If you are interested in becoming more active in SAA contact SAA Vice-President, Ms. Edie Hedlin, FBIS/American Embassy PSC 801 Box 57, FPO AE 09498-4057.

SAA Council	Brenda Banks, Georgia Department of Archives and History, Atlanta, GA.
Program Committee 1993	Donald West, Archivist/Historian, Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture, College of Charleston, Charleston, SC.
Awards Committee 1993	Daniel T. Williams, Tuskegee University Archivist and newly-elected SAA Fellow, Tuskegee, AL. Thomas C. Battle, Director of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University, Washington, DC.
Goals and Priorities	Deborra Richardson, Archivist, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC.
Status of Women	Lynda DeLoach, Archivist, George Meany Memorial Archives, Silver Spring, MD. Wilda L. Willis, Archivist, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC.
Nominations Committee 1993	Wilda L. Willis
AATWAR Co-Chairs	Clifford Muse, Jr., Howard University Archivist, Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University, Washington, DC. Beverly Cook, Preservationist, Chicago Public Library, Chicago, IL.
AATWAR Newsletter Co-Editors	Joellen El Bashir, Senior Manuscript Librarian, and Karen L. Jefferson, Curator of Manuscripts Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University, Washington, DC.

WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU

AATWAR members are yearning for more news about other AATWAR members, their institutions and activities. The newsletter co-editors, in an attempt to meet this demand, are seeking news items of upcoming events as well as articles about past events. Exhibits, new projects and programs, recent acquisitions, promotions and other appointments, institutional profiles, births and deaths are some examples. Even if you think your information is not newsworthy, send it in anyway and let us decide. Please refer to the editors address listed below to send information. We look forward to hearing from you. The deadline for the August issue is mid-July; for the March issue, mid-February.

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/FAX (202) 806-6405.

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two students to attend the SAA annual meetings. The Roundtable will discuss with the SAA national office how this can be done most effectively. In addition, AATWAR members called for a new, revised membership directory containing biographical sketches for each member.

The membership supported the idea suggested by SAA President, Anne Kenney, that the Roundtable participate in the SAA mentoring program. Prospective SAA groups to participate in the program include the Membership Committee, the Committee on the Status of Women, the Gay and Lesbian Roundtable and AATWAR.

Eddie Hedlin, SAA Vice-President, requested that more AATWAR members seek to be represented on SAA committees. She said that it is competitive, but suggested members should not be shy about making their interests known. A resume and a request to serve on a specific committee should be sent to Ms. Eddie Hedlin, FBIS/American Embassy, PSC 801 Box 57, FPO AE 09498-4057.

During the business meeting it was further reported that 50 per cent of the AATWAR proposals coming out of the 1991 brainstorming session were approved. The 1992 conference program reflected the success of our efforts. The 1992 brainstorming session had 21 attendees with many exciting proposal ideas for 1993.

PEOPLES, PLACES AND PROJECTS

Help the North Carolina Museum of History tell the story of African-Americans in North Carolina. The museum is planning two major exhibits in the next three years and needs artifacts. Objects made and used by Black North Carolinians from 1600 through today are needed, especially those before 1865. These could include photographs, letters, diaries, Bibles, books, farm implements or trade tools, clothing, buttons, quilts, furniture, kitchenware, toys, dolls, drawings. If you have or know someone who has any of these items, please contact the African-American Artifact Committee, N.C. Museum of History, 109 E. Jones Street, Raleigh, NC 27601-2807 or call Minnie Bridges at (919) 782-7415.

Brenda Banks, of the Georgia Department of Archives and History and SAA Council mem-

SAA has established a Task Force on Sections and Roundtables. The Task Force will exist for 18 months and will consist of a chair, 3 Council members, and 5 leaders. The Task Force will examine how these constituents work, their needs, reporting structure, formal procedures, attendance, and other relevant issues.

Beverly Cook was elected AATWAR Co-Chair for 1992-94. Ms. Cook is a native of Chicago, Illinois. She earned her Bachelor of

History from the University of Illinois, Chicago Campus; and a Masters in Library Science from Rosay College in River Forest, Illinois. Ms. Cook is currently the Preservationist for the Vivian Harsh Research Collection at the Chicago Public Library. Prior to this, she served as the Archivist for the Manuscript Repository at Harsh. She has a special interest in conservation and promoting public awareness of the importance of the past.

ber, headed a working group responsible for the National Archives and Records Administration and the Library of Congress in the Clinton/Gore Transition Team's review of executive branch and other federal agencies. Assisting Brenda were SAA President Anne R. Kenney and Executive Director Anne Diffendal. They joined other members of the Arts and Humanities Task Force, part of the Education, Labor, and Arts and Humanities "cluster" in Washington, D.C., during the week of December 14. They met with agency officials and Congressional staff, identifying substantive and administrative issues and problems confronting the agencies. They then prepared a report to be included in briefing books for senior officials of the new administration.

Brenda Banks has also been appointed the new NAGARA representative on the National History Council.
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next conference will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin August 5-7, 1994.

Complementing the BCALA conference was a meeting specifically focussed for archivists. "Assessing the History and Future of African American Documentation Initiatives" was the theme of the two day meeting held in Durham, North Carolina January 22-23, 1993. Sponsored by the North Carolina African American Archives Group and the State Historical Records Advisory Board of North Carolina the conference was a preliminary step in the planning for a survey of African American resources in the state. The purpose of the conference was to assess various African American documentation models and experiences from across the United States and learn from those successes and failures. The survey is to assess the conditions and publish a guide to North Carolina African American documentary resources.

Conference speakers, representing many of the major collections and initiatives on documenting African American history and culture, outlined past efforts, present status, and future objectives. Conference attendees filled in the gaps with information about other projects during the question and answer period. Institutions from the east coast, southern states and mid-west were well represented, while there were no representatives from the western states. Presentations were made about

efforts and projects at Black Archives History and Research Foundation of South Florida (Miami), Fisk University Special Collections, Kentucky State Oral History Commission, University of Kansas, Margaret Walker Alexander Center (Jackson State University), Minnesota Historical Society, Amistad Research Center, Balch Institute, United Negro College Fund, African American Educational Archives Project (Wayne State University), National Afro-American Museum (Wilberforce, OH), National African-American Museum (Smithsonian Institution), Black Women's Oral History Project (Radcliffe College), Auburn Avenue Special Collection (Atlanta Fulton Public Library), Schomburg Center, the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, and initiatives in the state of North Carolina. Appropriately, the keynote speaker for the conference was the renown historian and Professor Emeritus at Duke University, Dr. John Hope Franklin. He graciously credits the resources in archives and the assistance of archivists in the research for his many publications enlightening society on the contributions and experiences of African-Americans.

The sessions were information packed and scheduled non-stop from 8:30am - 9:00pm, with meals and refreshments provided. Most attendees did not venture outside the conference site, for every break was used to network. Those with

Hope to See You in New Orleans
For the SAA 57th Annual Meeting
August 31 - September 5, 1993
Join in the Dialogue and Festivities
Start Planning Now to Attend!

more stamina continued the dialogue into the midnight hours. A few earlier arrivals took advantage of the Black history tour of Durham that focussed on Stagville Center, a 71 acre plantation/historic site that includes the Horton Grove Slave Quarters built in 1851. The conference closed with a tour of the Hayti Heritage Center and a reception at the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Co. Approximately 150 persons attended the conference, most archivists and a few researchers, collectors, and history buffs. Hopefully North Carolina will end its project the way it began, with a follow-up meeting to report on its efforts and continue the dialogue among archivists working with African American documentation.

For those not lucky enough to attend these two conferences, do not despair - the proceedings to both meetings are to be published! Also, the BCALA is soliciting proposals for the 1994 Milwaukee meeting (an opportunity for more archivists to participate). To find out more about the Columbus meeting, the proceedings, and the 1994 meeting contact: Mr. Alex Boyd (201) 733-7780. For more information about the conference, proceedings, and the North Carolina state-wide survey contact: Ms. Linda Simmons-Henry (919) 560-6024.

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torical Publications and Records Commission; and was recently appointed to the International Council on Archives (ICA) Committee on International Archives.

Thomas C. Battle, Director of the Moorland-Spangarn Research Center at Howard University, was recently appointed by the Secretary of the Interior to the Underground Railroad Advisory Committee. The purpose of the Committee is to advise the Secretary of the Interior on matters relating to the study of the Underground Railroad, its routes and operations in order to preserve and interpret this aspect of American history. He also delivered the keynote address for the Wreath-Laying Ceremony commemorating the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., sponsored by the Department of the Interior, National Park Service on January 15, 1993 at the Lincoln Memorial. The theme was "Living the Dream: Let Freedom Ring, Building Bridges of Understanding." This program was part of the 10th annual observance of King's birthday as a Federal holiday at the Lincoln Memorial.

Sulé Greg C. Wilson is the Project Coordinator/Director of the African American Index

Project at the National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution. The African American Index Project (AAIP) is a data base and book-form publication of African American related holdings in the collections of the National Museum of American History, the National Museum of Natural History, the Anacostia Museum, and the National Portrait Gallery. The index is available to the public. It was initiated by the late John Kinard, founder and first Director of the Anacostia Museum.

Indexed objects include musical instruments, photographs, tools, shackles, memorabilia from the Negro Baseball Leagues, and examples of both folk and fine arts. The AAIP data base is housed within the Museum of American History's main computer system, and can be accessed through a wide variety of descriptors. For additional information contact Sule at the National Museum of American History, 14th st. and Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20560/ (202) 786-2970.

The **George Meany Memorial Archives** has a new exhibit on A. Philip Randolph commemorating the 100th anniversary of his birth and documenting his lifetime achievements as a trade

unionist and civil rights activist. For more information contact Lynda DeLoach at the Archives, 10000 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland 20903/ (301) 431-6400.

Future visitors to the **National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center in Wilberforce, Ohio** will be able to learn more about Dr. Carter G. Woodson by taking a peek into his life and by visiting a Woodson Room in the museum. Dr. Woodson, educator, author, editor, and administrator, organized the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (now ASALH) in 1915. Through this organization he launched the campaign for "Negro History Week" in 1926, believing that a better understanding of African-American history would foster greater respect for the Black community. Thanks to the ASALH and others, some of Woodson's personal belongings are now housed at the NAAMCC. Visitors will be able to see the NAACP Spingarn Medal awarded to Dr. Woodson in 1926; some of his clothing; a typewriter, table lamps, a Victrola and other furniture. The NAAMCC hopes to receive a conservation grant to restore and preserve the artifacts before they are exhibited.

"Beyond Category: The Musical Genius of Duke Ellington," an exhibition celebrating the achievements of one of America's greatest composers, musicians and innovators, opens April 29 at the Smithsonian's Na-
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LAST CALL!

June 11, 1993 is the last day to submit applications to take the 1993 examination to become a certified archivist. For more information call the Academy of Certified Archivists, (312) 922-0140.

PROFILE: THE COMMITTEE FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY OBSERVANCES

Flashette Shirer

The Committee for African American History Observances presents arts and cultural activities designed to promote, among all Coastal Carolinians, pride in and an appreciation for the contributions of African Americans to the larger society. The organization began in 1978 as an interracial group of citizens in Georgetown, South Carolina whose aim was to plan and implement activities for Black History Month. Attention was given to high quality activities felt to strengthen racial pride among African Americans, to foster greater appreciation of African American achievements among whites, and to fill a void in cultural programming which existed in Georgetown County. A series of films, discussions of books by and about African Americans, small concerts, poetry readings and other similar activities were organized and held at the Georgetown Library.

After two years, it was apparent that the group was evolving as a major arts provider for the county, and that there existed a need to reach wider audiences. In 1981, The Committee declared itself independent of the County Library. Board membership was expanded to include better representation from across county, economic, and social lines. Larger concerts, exhibits, and other events were implemented throughout the year and held at various community facilities. In 1986, the organization

acquired a neglected building on the campus of Howard High School; and several students and adults from the community did minor repairs to facilitate occupancy. Two years later, the building underwent major renovation.

The four major program areas of the Committee for African American History Observances are Visual, Literary and Performing Arts, African American History and Culture, Enrichment for Youth, and The Arts for Senior Citizens. Publication of the "Living Legends Calendar", which features photographs and biographical sketches of outstanding men and women of Georgetown County; a summer lecture/concert series; and the annual Kwanzaa Celebration are featured aspects of the African American History and Culture program thrust.

The membership is composed of individuals, fraternal/social organizations and businesses which give financially on an annual or lifetime basis to help fund the many programs sponsored by the Committee. The membership meets annually to review and evaluate programs. For further information contact Flashette Shirer, Executive Director, The Committee for African American History Observances, P. O. Box 1507, Georgetown, SC 29442/(803) 546-1974

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tional Museum of American History in Washington, DC, and continues through September 6. A 4,000 square-foot exhibit, "Beyond Category" includes memorabilia, musical instruments, posters, photographs and musical manuscripts from the Smithsonian's Duke Ellington Collection. The exhibit is organized by the Museum of American History's Division of Musical History and the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES). The exhibition will be on display in several cities in the U.S. through the summer of 1996. For more information call SITES at (202) 357-2700.

The complete transcripts of 66 oral histories from the **Black Women Oral History Project at the Schlesinger Library**, Radcliffe College were published by Meckler in December 1990. The set of ten volumes of facsimiles of the transcripts was edited by the Library's Audio-Visual Coordinator, Ruth Edmonds Hill, former Project Director. The set is being marketed to libraries for \$995.

For more information contact Dr. Hill at the Schlesinger Library, (617) 495-8647.

**MOORLAND-SPINGARN
LAUNCHES BOOK
SERIES**

In cooperation with the Howard University Press, the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center has embarked on a long awaited publishing venture. The project will feature materials from the collections of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, and will be published as the "Moorland-Spingarn Series". Such materials will include unpublished manuscripts and re-publication of materials out-of-print.

On December 18, 1992, celebrating the 78th anniversary of the founding of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, a reception was held to launch the book series. The first three books of the series were featured: *Black Bibliophiles and Collectors: Preservers of Black History*, edited by Elinor Des Verney Sinnette, W. Paul Coates, and Thomas C. Battle; *Race Contacts and Interracial Relations*, by Alain Locke, and edited by Jeffrey C. Stewart; and *Modern Negro Art*, by James A. Porter, with a new introduction by David C. Driskell. Welcoming remarks were made by Howard University President, Dr. Franklyn G. Jenifer. Dr. Thomas C. Battle, Director of the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, and Ambassador O. Rudolph Aggrey, Director of the Howard University Press spoke on the occasion. Dr. Jeffrey Stewart and Dr. David Driskell reminisced briefly about their experiences with Howard Univer-

sity and the personal importance of the publications to them. Upon the close of remarks Drs. Driskell and Stewart were available to autograph books.

Black Bibliophiles and Collectors is a selection of presentations made at the symposium of the same name, sponsored by Moorland-Spingarn in 1983. This publication includes a wealth of information about early and present day collectors, and suggestions for how to care for collections. *Race Contacts* are unpublished lectures of Alain Locke (1885-1954), from his personal papers housed in the MSRC Manuscript Division. Dr. Locke was a professor of philosophy and education at Howard University. He is most known as one of the pivotal figures in the Harlem Renaissance, and as editor and contributor to *The New Negro*. Dr. David Driskell acclaims Dr. James A. Porter as the preeminent scholar and Porter's *Modern Negro Art* the classic work on African American art. Dr. James Porter (1905 - 1970) was the first African American academician trained as an art historian, and was a professor of art, Chairman of the Art Department, and Director of the Gallery of Art at Howard University. He was married to Dorothy Porter, the head of the Moorland-Spingarn Collection from 1930 - 1973. The Moorland-Spingarn Research Center has the first edition of *Modern Negro Art* (1943), and the reprint edition (1969), as well as the original printing blocks for the images of the art work that appeared in the book.

**SITES OF FUTURE
SAA MEETINGS**

Join us at SAA in the following cities:

New Orleans
Aug. 31 - Sept. 5, 1993
Sheraton New Orleans

Indianapolis
September 5 - 11, 1994
Westin Hotel

Washington, DC
Aug. 25 - Sept. 3, 1995
Mayflower Hotel

San Diego
September 1 - 8, 1996
Sheraton Harbor Island

For more information, contact:
Society of American Archivists
600 S. Federal, Suite 504
Chicago, Illinois 60605
(312) 922-0140

The 1992 edition includes both the 1943 and 1969 preface written by James Porter.

Librarians and collectors should keep their eyes open for future publications in the Moorland-Spingarn Series. The books are available from Howard University Press, 1-800-441-1303.



AFRICAN-AMERICAN AND THIRD WORLD ARCHIVISTS ROUNDTABLE

The African-American and Third World Archivists Roundtable was established in 1987 as an interest group within the Society of American Archivists. The Roundtable's purpose is to: 1) identify and address the concerns of Archivists of African, Asian, Hispanic, and Native American descent, 2) promote wider participation of said archivists in the archival profession, and 3) promote the preservation of archival materials that pertain to people of color. Co-chairs: Beverly Cook, 6913 So. Vernon, Chicago, IL 60637 (312) 873-0975; Clifford Muse, Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University, Washington, D.C. 20059, (202) 806-7480.

The Society of American Archivists (SAA), founded in 1936, is a professional association of individuals and institutions interested in the preservation and use of archives. Its membership includes individuals serving government, academic institutions, businesses, churches, libraries, historical societies, museums, and professional associations in more than sixty countries. Through its publications, annuals meetings, workshops, and other programs, SAA provides a means for contact, communications and cooperation among archivists and archival institutions. Society of American Archivists, 600 S. Federal, Suite 504, Chicago, IL 60605, (312) 922-0140.

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