

African-American and Third World Archivists Roundtable

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 8. No. 1

March 1994

HIGHLIGHTS OF AATWAR BUSINESS MEETING

AATWAR held its annual business meeting on September 4, 1993 in conjunction with the SAA Annual Conference in New Orleans. Co-Chair Beverly Cook presided and reported that the SAA Awards Committee agreed to recommend to SAA Council the establishment of a Minority Student Award. (SAA Council subsequently approved the recommendation. See page 5 for more details.)

AATWAR presented Brenda Banks with a small gift of congratulations on her selection as an SAA Fellow. Brenda (outgoing SAA Council liaison to AATWAR) thanked the membership for its support and introduced Waverly Lowell the new Council liaison.

Eddie Hedlin, SAA President and Maygene Daniels, SAA Vice-President/President Elect also dropped by the meeting to encourage AATWAR members to seek more participation in SAA.

Deborah Dandridge volunteered to serve as AATWAR co-chair for 1994-1995. Ms. Dandridge currently serves as field archivist for the Kansas Collection in the Spencer Research Library at the University of Kansas at Lawrence. She received a BA degree from Washburn University, a MA degree in history from Atlanta University, and is currently pursuing a doctorate degree in history from the University of Kansas. She is a member of the Academy of Certified Archivists and is active in the Kansas City Area Archivists and the Midwest Archives Conference.

Karen L. Jefferson reported on the New Orleans Black History Tour given by USA Hosts. A number of
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BRENDA BANKS - SAA FELLOW

Brenda Banks, Assistant Director of the Georgia Department of Archives and History has been elected as a Fellow of the Society of American Archivists (SAA), the highest award given to a member of the Society. Ms. Banks was one of eight persons to receive the award in 1993, and is the third African-American to receive the honor that now totals 114 Fellows. Dr. Harold Pinkett, retired archivist at the National Archives received the award in 1962 and Dr. Daniel T. Williams, Archivist at Tuskegee University in 1992. The award recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the archival profession. Ms. Banks certainly is a most deserving recipient for her long-time and ongoing service to SAA and to the profession.

Brenda Banks began her employment in the archival profession at the Georgia Department of Archives and History in 1973 where she has held several positions including preservation technician, archivist, and since 1989 - assistant director. In addition, Ms. Banks has served as archival consultant

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**PEOPLE, PLACES,
PROJECTS,
PUBLICATIONS &
EVENTS**

Dr. Dorothy Porter Wesley, Curator Emerita, Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University, was presented the National Historical Publications and Records Commission's (NHPRC) 1993 Distinguished Service Award. The award recognizes those individuals whose careers have demonstrated extraordinary commitment and achievement in forwarding the mission of the NHPRC to preserve and publish the nation's documentary heritage. Dr. Porter Wesley served as the head of the Moorland-Spingarn Collection from 1930 to 1973 and is author of numerous articles, bibliographies, and finding aids for the study of and research on African-American themes.

Ms. Beverly Cook, Co-chair of AATWAR, resigned her position as preservationist at the Vivian Harsh Research Collection to take the position of Assistant Curator in the Special Collections Division of the Harold Washington Library Center.

Mr. Marc Chery has been appointed Archivist/Librarian at the DuSable Museum in Chicago.

Ms. Deborra Richardson, Archivist, Duke Ellington Collection, Smithsonian Institution and former AATWAR co-chair, is co-author with Dr. Constance Tibbs Hobson of *Ulysses Kay: A Bio-Bibliography* published by Greenwood Press. Ulysses Kay, a renowned and much honored Afri-

can-American composer and conductor, is a Distinguished Professor at the Herbert H. Lehman College of the City University of New York. The book includes a biography of Kay, a chronological listing of his works and a complete discography up to the Spring of 1994.

Dr. Debra Newman Ham, Afro-American History and Culture Specialist in the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress is editor of the recently published, *The African-American Mosaic, A Library of Congress Resource Guide for the Study of Black History and Culture*. She also edited, *Black History: A Guide to Civilian Records in the National Archives* in 1984.

Donald West resigned as Archivist at the Avery Research Center for African American History and Culture, College of Charleston, SC and is now an instructor of U.S. and African American history at Trident Technical College in Charleston. **Oliver Smalls**, University Archivist for the College of Charleston is currently serving as Acting Director of the Avery Research Center.

The 400 ancestral remains from the **African Burial Ground** in Manhattan, NY have been transferred to Howard University for historians, anthropologists, and biologists to study the origins of the people and the physical quality of life created in slavery. After the research is completed the remains will be returned to their original burial site in Manhattan where the land has been declared a national landmark. As a ceremonial tribute to commemorate the arrival of the

remains, Howard University held a day-long celebration on November 5, 1993 called, *The Ties That Bind: The African Burial Ground, Reflecting the African Presence in the Diaspora*. The activities began with a symposium and exhibition and concluded with African drumming, libation, incantations, and a processional from the Rankin Chapel to the Cramton Auditorium where African dancing, storytelling, other performances, and a reception were given. For more information about the research project contact: Dr. Michael Blakey, Howard University Department of Anthropology, (202) 806-5323.

The National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO) held its second archival training workshop for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in Washington D.C. on March 23-27. The workshop is funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Representatives from
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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.

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

REFLECTIONS OF A NAME

Debora A. Saito

In 1986, the SAA Minorities Task Force was recognized by the SAA as a full fledged roundtable. At its annual meeting in New York, there was discussion on changing the name from "minorities". Some members felt the term "minorities" was too inclusive (anyone could be a minority of some sort), that it was offensive, or that it was otherwise unsuitable. A name which reflected the composition of its membership was needed.

I'll never forget the experience of walking into the room where this discussion was held, only seven years ago. At the time, I was the Business Archivist for the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association, and had traveled a long way to attend the meeting. When I opened the door and walked in, conversation stopped, there was dead silence. Being the only non-African American in the room, several people pointed to me and exclaimed, "See!, She's why we have to expand the name to include more than just African Americans!!" From there, the discussion quickly led to the inclusion of "Third World Archivists", I guess, for the benefit of other American archivists of color, including myself. (It should be noted, however, many would argue the case that not all Asia is included in the United Nations definition of "third world").

It's important to recognize the efforts and vision of those archivists active in the Minorities Task

Force prior to 1986. They kept the interest of archivists of color alive and they prevailed on the white majority of SAA to recognize the needs and interests of non-white professional archivists. They spearheaded the efforts from which we now benefit. In 1986, this group of activists sought proposed names from its membership for the newly formed roundtable, to little or no avail. The outcome, the African American and Third World Archivists Roundtable and the acronym, AATWAR, has been with us throughout these seven years.

At the 1993 SAA meeting AATWAR meeting held in New Orleans, I asked to be placed on the agenda in order to propose a change from AATWAR to another name. I propose a name change for several reasons. First, I believe the "Third World Archivists" portion of the name is misleading. It conjures up the image of archivists working and residing in third world countries. This image does not address the broader issues of "American" archivists of color. Second, if part of our goal is to educate our fellow archivists about who we are, we need to identify "us" and make us known. Part of the goal is, I believe, to include and welcome new members. I do not believe that our current name actually does this. My last reason is rather personal in nature. My father was an active pacifist, and I, too, have pacifist leanings. So from a personal standpoint I would like to see the acronym a bit less militant, for we are not "at war" - if anything we are united by our ethnicity, by causes which rise above

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SHOULD AATWAR CHANGE ITS NAME (AGAIN!)

Karen L. Jefferson

At the 1993 AATWAR business meeting in New Orleans several members raised the question of whether AATWAR should change its name. AATWAR is an outgrowth of the SAA Minorities Task Force which resulted in the establishment in 1987 of the Minorities Roundtable. Many members of the roundtable thought the term "minorities" was too broad and had a negative connotation. Thereupon, the roundtable called on its membership to come up with a more appropriate name. Although the issue inspired lively discussion during two annual business meetings, suggestions for names were few and none of the names offered seemed adequate for all those the roundtable is to represent. Finally, at the New York meeting in 1988, the name AATWAR was chosen. There it was recognized that the name was a compromise and did not represent well all those the roundtable wanted to reach out to. In fact, it was noted that those of Asian and Hispanic descent and especially Native Americans would likely not find "Third World" an apt description for their heritage. In an effort to make clear its intent, the roundtable established a statement of purpose, which is printed on the last page of every newsletter. It reads: "The Roundtable's purpose is to: identify and address the concerns of archivists of African, Asian,

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twenty schools were selected to participate in this basic training workshop. Instructors for the workshop were SAA and AATWAR members **Brenda Banks**, Georgia Department of Archives and History, and **Daniel Williams**, Archivist, Tuskegee University. **Clifford L. Muse Jr.**, Howard University Archivist, **Dorothy Porter Wesley**, Curator Emerita, Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, and **Ann Shockley** Archivist, Special Collections-Fisk University made presentations. Ten of the twenty schools will be selected for site visits and can apply for \$1000 grants to help in the development of their archival programs.

The **San Francisco African American Historical and Cultural Society** celebrated its 30th year as an incorporated organization and social institution. Its mission is to support the development of an art gallery, research library, and archives to preserve and promote the experiences and contributions of African Americans, particularly in the Bay Area. The California Librarians Black Caucus - Northern Chapter has been instrumental in obtaining funding for the archival preservation and cataloging of the Society's rare books, manuscripts, photographs, monographs on California pioneers, and its special collections on the civil rights movement in San Francisco and the Black Panther Party. Members of the Caucus have organized a Black Librarians Advisory Committee to support the Historical Society's part-time librarian and to

develop plans and funding for its research library and archives.

The **Virginia Historical Society** has begun its "African-American Manuscripts Access Project," funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. The project will support the creation of automated descriptive records of the African-American materials among the Society's manuscript collections. Contact E. Lee Shepard, Senior Archivist, Virginia Historical Society, PO Box 7311, Richmond, VA 23221-0311 (804) 358-4901.

Howard University has obtained a grant to locate records identifying African American sailors so that their names can be entered into the National Park Service's "Civil War Soldiers System." If anyone has specific documents or photographs regarding African American sailors who served in the Union Navy, please contact Dr. Joseph Reidy, Department of History, Howard University, Washington, D.C. 20059, (202) 806-6815.

The Moorland-Spingarn Research Center (MSRC) will sponsor its **6th Annual Dorothy Porter Wesley Lecture**, Friday, April 22, 1994. The guest speaker will be Dr. Mary Lenox, Dean of the School of Library and Informational Science at the University of Missouri, Columbia. Preceding the lecture is a forum, which covers topics of current interest to the library/archival community. For more information contact Ms. Jean Currie Church, *(See People - page 7)*

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persons who took the tour were angered by how little of the tour focused on Black history and the poor interpretation of Black history given by the tour guide. Ms. Jefferson agreed to write a letter to USA Hosts and SAA about the matter. [In response to Ms. Jefferson's letter, she received two letters of apology from SAA and a commitment that in the future an SAA Host Committee member will be assigned to review the content of each tour.]

Donald West, 1993 SAA Program Committee member, reported that AATWAR submitted 10 proposals and 7 were accepted. This represented the most proposals submitted by a unit of SAA and the most proposals accepted from one unit.

Deborah Saito raised the issue of changing the name of AATWAR, which sparked lively discussion. (For a fuller discussion of this matter see page 3.)

Following the meeting a special presentation was made by Bob Smith, Project Director, and Taronda Spencer, Project Archivist, for the African American Educational Archives Project. Part of the project is to survey archival collections at 99 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). The survey will facilitate a guide to the collections at HBCUs and an automated database of the survey results available through RLIN, OCLC, and Internet. For more information about the project contact Bob Smith (313), 577-8165.

THREE AWARDS FOR MINORITY STUDENTS

**Beverly A. Cook
and
Karen L. Jefferson**

The Society of American Archivists, the Midwest Archives Conference, and the Kansas City Area Archivists have established awards to encourage more minorities to enter the profession.

The Society of American Archivists (SAA) award was first proposed by AATWAR at the 1992 annual business meeting in Montreal. AATWAR was concerned about the effect of the shrinking number of library schools on minority recruitment into the archival profession. (Many minority archivists have library science degrees and the library profession is often the way minorities enter the archival profession.) In an effort to encourage awareness of and interest in the archival field by minority students, AATWAR proposed that SAA fund a scholarship for two minority students to attend SAA's annual conference. In 1993, the SAA Council voted to set up an endowed fund where the yearly income provided money for the scholarship. The Minority Student Award will include full conference registration and tickets to the opening banquet and closing luncheon.

Applicants must be of African, Asian, Hispanic, or Native American descent and currently enrolled full or part-time in a postsecondary educational institution. Preference will be given to full-time students possessing a min-

imum GPA of 3.0. The selection committee of the Minority Student Award will review the applications and forward recommendations to the SAA Awards Committee for approval. The Committee is chaired by one AATWAR co-chair; one AATWAR member; Chair of the Awards Committee; and an SAA member selected by the SAA Vice President/President Elect. All applications must be submitted to the Committee by June 1 of each year. The award will first be offered for the 1994 SAA meeting in Indianapolis, IN. Requests for additional information and application forms should be made to co-chair of the SAA Awards Committee, Dr. Thomas Battle, Moorland-Spangarn Research Center, Howard University, Washington, D.C. 20059 (202) 806-7241, (202) 806-6405 fax.

SAA's 1993-94 Annual Giving Campaign is dedicated to raising money for the Minority Student Award. In order for this to be a viable and enduring award, we, the AATWAR membership, must show our support. Send your contributions payable to the Society of American Archivists, 600 S. Federal, Suite 504, Chicago, IL 60605 and indicate that your donation is for the Minority Student Award.

The Midwest Archives Conference (MAC) has established an annual \$500 tuition scholarship for minority students in graduate archival education programs. The scholarship program was first suggested by Michael Flug and Beverly Cook of the Vivian G. Harsh Research Collection on Afro-American History and Literature in the Chicago Public Library, as a response not only to the lack of ethnic diversity in

the archival profession, but also to expressions of interest in the archival field by patrons of their institution.

Designed to assist minority students and diversify MAC membership and the archival profession as a whole, the scholarships will first be offered for the 1994-95 academic year. The MAC Council has authorized funding for one scholarship in each of the two coming academic years. Applicants must be of African, Asian, Hispanic or Native American descent and must be accepted into or currently enrolled in a graduate, multi-course program in archival administration. In addition to a completed application form, each applicant must provide a transcript from their current academic institution, a resume, and an essay outlining their interests and future goals in archival administration. For applications and further information contact Eric Pumroy, Chair, MAC Education Committee, (317) 274-0464.

The Kansas City Area Archivists Minority Internship Program provides a \$1500 stipend for a minority student enrolled in a two or four year college program with a strong interest in the field of history. The internship is designed to provide exposure to the archival profession through a ten week program working at one of nine area research institutions. The student will work twenty hours per week with duties assigned in the areas of acquisitions and appraisal, arrange and description, preservation, reference, and outreach. The application deadline for the summer of 1994 is March 18th. For more information, contact: Deborah Dandridge (913) 864-4274 or Nancy Hulston (913) 588-7243.

PARTICIPATION IN SAA & ACA ON THE RISE

The following lists minority participation in the Society of American Archivists and the Academy of Certified Archivists. If you are interested in becoming more active in SAA or ACA contact SAA Vice-President, Maygene Daniels (202) 842-6175 and ACA President James Rhoads (206) 676-1235.

Program Committee 1994	Lynda DeLoach, Archivist, George Meany Memorial Archives, Silver Spring, MD
Committee on Legal and Legislative Issues	Donna Wells, Prints & Photographs Librarian, Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University, Washington, D.C.
Awards Committee, Co-chair	Thomas C. Battle, Director, Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University, Washington, D.C.
Awards Sub-Committee, Colonial Dames Scholarship Award	Karen L. Jefferson, Program Officer, NEH, Division of Preservation & Access, Washington, D.C. Carol Rudisell, Associate Librarian, University of Delaware Library, Newark, DE
Committee on Goals and Priorities	Deborra Richardson, Archivist, Duke Ellington Collection, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.
AATWAR Co-Chairs	Beverly A. Cook, Archivist, Special Collections Division, Harold Washington Center, Chicago, IL Deborah Dandridge, Archivist, Kansas Collection, Spencer Research Library, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS
AATWAR Newsletter Co-Editors	Joellen El Bashir, Acting Curator, Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University, Washington, D.C. Karen L. Jefferson
Committee on Automated Records & Techniques	Lynda DeLoach
Committee on the Status of Women	Lynda DeLoach Carol Rudisell
International Archival Affairs Committee	Daniel T. Williams, Archivist, Tuskegee University, Tuskegee AL Clifford L. Muse, Jr, Archivist, Howard University, Washington, D.C.
ACA Nominations 1994	Wilda Logan Willis, Archivist, Records Appraisal & Disposition Division, National Archives, College Park, MD
ACA Board of Regents	

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Hispanic, and Native American descent; promote wider participation of said archivists in the archival profession; and promote the preservation of archival materials that pertain to people of color." Anyone who supports this purpose is accepted as a member of AATWAR.

It should be noted that the majority of the membership for AATWAR is not comprised of archivists of African, Asian, Hispanic and Native American descent, but rather are white archivists. The membership also includes a large number of librarians, historians, collectors, and museum professionals. Many of you who receive the newsletter may wonder if you are a member of AATWAR. All those who are on the mailing list for the newsletter are considered members. However, only AATWAR members who are paid members of SAA are eligible to vote and hold office.

As anticipated, the name question has again surfaced as an issue among the membership, therefore, AATWAR again calls on its membership to address this matter. We are asking that members send a written statement of your thoughts: Should AATWAR Change Its Name? If no, why not? If yes, why? Also please give suggestions for a better name. Send or fax your response by June 30, 1994 to AATWAR Newsletter or fax to (202) 806-6405. Although some of you have expressed yourselves verbally at the AATWAR meeting, we ask that you now express your position in writing. We look forward to hearing from you!

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Chief Librarian, MSRC, Howard University, Washington, DC 20059 (202) 806-7479.

The Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA) will hold its second **National Conference of African American Librarians** in Milwaukee, WI on August 5-7, 1994. The theme title is, Culture Keepers II: Unity through Diversity. For more information contact the conference chairperson, Estelle M. Black, (815) 965-8731 work, (815) 965-0688 fax. The proceedings from the first national conference held in Columbus, OH September 4-6, 1992 have been published and are available from the BCALA. To order contact BCALA Newsletter Editor, George Grant, (407) 646-2676 work, (407) 646-1515 fax.

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"form", subject matters, or political persuasion. We are a voice from which the larger segments of SAA benefits.

It was pointed out that many in SAA recognize AATWAR's mission and that a quick and/or hasty name change may bring about a signal of triviality or a flippant attitude - something none of us want. Hence, the need for discussion or dialogue regarding a name change.

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to her alma maters Spellman College and Clark-Atlanta University, and to the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Social Change. Also, she has been an instructor in continuing education programs for archival theory and practice for SAA, Georgia Archives Institute, Virginia State Library and Archives, and the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education. A member of SAA since 1973, Ms. Banks has presented numerous papers, served on several committees, was on Council from 1990-93, and is currently a candidate for Vice-President. She is active in the National Association for Government Archives and Records Administrators and the Society of Georgia Archivists. Two of her most recent contributions to the profession are participation on the Clinton Administration Transition Team and as one of the White House Advisors on the National Archives. Brenda is noted for her commitment to excellence and her ability to get the job done. Congratulations Brenda!

My suggestions for a new name are: make it HAAPIN (Hispanic, African, Asian, Pacific Islander, Native); HAPA (Hawaiian word meaning "mixture" or half); AOC (Archivists of Color - previously suggested and discarded); EC (Ethnicity Coalition); EM (Ethnic Minorities); AAC (American Archivists of Color); CC (Cultural Coalition).