July 17, 2018

**Prospectus: Design Records Special Section for American Archivist**

The *American Archivist* Editorial Board proposes coordinating a special section in an upcoming 20XX issue of the Society of American Archivists’ (SAA) journal, *American Archivist* (AA)**.** The journal features research articles, case studies, perspectives, and international scene pieces as well as reviews of the professional literature, archival technologies, and resources. The 20XX version would be a special section within the journal, rather than a full special issue devoted solely to design content archives.

**Special Section Contents**

The section would include an introduction (author to be determined) and three-to-four articles. The proposed articles might come from:

1. Member(s) of the Art Libraries Society of North America, especially special interest groups such as the Fashion, Textile, and Costume SIG
2. Member(s) of the Special Libraries Association, Division on Social Sciences and Humanities
3. Member(s) of the Visual Resources Association
4. Member(s) of the International Council on Archives Section of Literary and Artistic Archives
5. Member(s) of SAA’s own Design Records Section

**Special Section Benefits**

Karen Trivette, AA Editorial Board member and member of the SAA Design Records Section, Cal Lee, editor of AA, and Teresa Brinati, SAA Director of Publications have discussed the special section and see many benefits to including a special section on design records in the AA. First, many SAA members are not familiar with the important work and projects that design records archivists are undertaking and publishing about their holdings and associated work; such content in the AA will help share information about the work of designers and their allied practitioners to SAA members and global readers of the journal, as well. Second, work will be published in a refereed journal and information about designers and their archives will be readily accessible through the journal and its readers on JSTOR and Hathi Trust. Third, this may encourage other design records archives staff to consider publishing articles, analysis, and reviews in AA, to reach a broader audience about the work of designers and their allied practitioners.

**Special Section Coordination and Schedule**

Cal Lee is the editor of the *American Archivist* and is reviewing the publication schedule. In January, Cal and Teresa Brinati will work to set schedules and coordinate the special section and to select a guest editor for the special section.

The publication schedule currently requires a three to four-month period for the SAA Editorial Board review and revision by the authors. Journal publication requires this comment period to be completed several months before the issue date. The schedule is generally as follows:  for spring/summer, the content should be reviewed and revised by the previous November, and for winter, the content should be ready by May.