

Date:

8/27/2017

Name of Section:

Archival History Section

Officers:

Kelly Kolar, Chair

Alexander Poole, Vice Chair/Chair Elect

Adam Mosseri, Steering Committee Member (and co-chair of *Archival History News*)

Ashley Stevens, Steering Committee Member

Ciaran B. Trace, Steering Committee Member

Annual Report Drafted by:Eric Stoykovich, Outgoing Chair (and co-chair of *Archival History News*)**Report from annual meeting:**

- Number of attendees: 52¹ signed in
- Election results:
 - Alexander (Alex) Poole elected Incoming Vice Chair/Chair Elect
 - Adam Mosseri elected Steering Committee Member
 - Ashley Stevens elected Steering Committee Member
 - Ciaran B. Trace elected Steering Committee Member
- Summary of meeting activities:
 - Welcome and introductions (~5 min.)
 - Presentations and panel discussion (~80 min.) on the history of Russian and Ukrainian archives, including presentations by Dr. Kelly Kolar and Dr. Volodymyr Chumachenko (Kansas State University), moderator Dr. Leah Goldman (Reed College)
 - Announcements from Council, Erin Lawrimore (Council Rep.)
 - Closing

Completed projects/activities:

- AHS's Bibliography of Archival History (new titles compiled and edited by the Steering Committee) and updated as of end of July 2017:
<http://www2.archivists.org/groups/archival-history-roundtable/bibliography-of-archival-history-now-available>
- AHS's Readers' Guide on Russian/Soviet Archives
- Explored the possibility of creating a presence on Academia.edu, ResearchGate, and Mendeley, but Steering Committee decided by spring 2017 not to pursue these at-cost options for making archival history more known among the wider academic community.
- Chair (Eric Stoykovich) represented AHS at D.C. Archives Fair (October 5, 2016), held at Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of American History.

¹ Possibly, a 5-year high in attendance: 2014 (25); 2015 (18); 2016 (28); 2017 (52).

- October 3, 2016: the AHS steering committee voted to designate the Vice Chair/Chair-Elect (Kelly Kolar) as the AHS representative to *Information and Culture: A Journal of History*, to serve the remainder of a one-year term until the end of the AHS section meeting at the SAA Annual Meeting in August 2017.
 - June 2017: Ballot Referendum was passed by members. The Revision to Standing Rules reads: "The Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect will serve a coterminous one-year term as the representative of the Archival History Section on the Advisory Board of the journal *Information and Culture: A Journal of History*."
 - Incoming Vice Chair/Chair-Elect Alexander Poole will serve as representative on the Editorial Board of *Information and Culture*, from July 27, 2017, to August 15, 2018.
- Updated spreadsheet entitled "Opportunities for Cooperation," set up on October 28, 2016, to identify areas where SAA groups could work together. While not an official document, the spreadsheet could be useful to AHS. Vice-Chair added to the spreadsheet, particularly with the hopes of attracting interest in the AHS newsletter from the Business Archives Section and contributions to the AHS bibliography from the International Archival Affairs Section.
- Retrieved 13 of the 14 known print issues of the Archival History Roundtable newsletter (1987-2000) from the SAA archives, at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee archives, which provided digital scans. Chair redacted addresses and watermarked these PDF copies, and uploaded them to the SAA-AHS microsite.
- February 2017: Wrote a FY18 Request for Funding from SAA Council, to support a "Best Archival History Article." May 2017: SAA Council turned down the proposal to create a separate Archival History Award, but encouraged the AHS to either re-write the Leland Award to include archival history articles or starting a section-endorsed award. June 2017: Steering Committee pursued the possibility of creating a section award, but development of award was tabled until new leadership could work further on the details.
- January 2017: Discovered the website where AHRT annual reports from 2003-2010 can be accessed.

Ongoing projects/activities of the AHS:

- Contacted the Research Division of the American Historical Association, which is charged with furthering "the history profession's relationship with archivists and librarians, repositories and archives, and various agencies of government on matters pertaining to scholarly research." (<https://www.historians.org/about-aha-and-membership/governance/divisions/research>)

In December 2016, a Vice-President of the Research Division of the American Historical Association, Dr. Edmund Russell, replied via email that "collaboration" between the AHA and SAA "would be appropriate and valuable. The Research Division of AHA writes letters, and AHA Council issues public statements, in favor of preserving historical records and making them accessible. It is important that historians and archivists, who have shared interests, work together. It is good to know whom to contact at SAA when issues arise."

- *Goal 1: Advocates for archives and archivists by expanding awareness of their activities and value in the wider academic community*

- Printed and distributed first ever print edition of the Archival History Section’s “Bibliography of American Archival History” to attendees of D.C. Archives Fair. Added entries and published expanded version of *AHS’s Bibliography of Archival History* on the SAA microsite (July 2017).
 - *Goal 3: Foster and disseminate research in and about the field.*
- Revised “Select History of the World’s Archives, 1588-1898” bibliography. 2017 Update: Over 30 new bibliographic entries (including titles from Italy, Croatia, Sweden, Belgium, and Russia) were added, though work on other geographic areas will require further development before distribution to AHS members and the public.
 - *Goal 3: Provides resources for advancing scholarship in the field of archival history*
 - *Goal 4: Meets members needs in finding sources pertaining to archival history*
- December 2016: Received Final Report of the Archival History Section Publication Working Group (led by Dr. Robert Riter), which disbanded after much appreciated work. In January 2017, the Steering Committee proposed and approved “that the Archival History Section move forward with the creation of an Archival History Newsletter” and selected WordPress “as the main platform for Archival History Newsletter.” Opened call for volunteer editors in March 2017.

In May 2017, the Steering Committee announced that the Section's newsletter will soon be revived, under the title *Archival History News*. Eric Stoykovich and Adam Mosseri volunteered to serve as co-editors of Archival History News, beginning May 2017, with their term ending August 12, 2018 (with the possibility of a year-long extension as approved by the AHS steering committee).

June 2017: Co-editors developed & publicized “Author Submission Guidelines.”

July 2017: Outgoing and Incoming Chairs agreed that the *AHN* co-editors should produce a report for the Steering Committee every two months. The report will explain how many external submissions have been received, how many are approved for publication, how many internally-written (written by co-editors and intern) are ready for publication, and what efforts are being done to spur readership.

 - *Goal 2: Provide content, via education and publications, that reflects the latest thinking and best practices in the field.*
 - *Goal 3: Foster and disseminate research in and about the field.*
 - *Goal 4: Facilitate effective communication with and among members.*
- January 2017: SAA Intern proposed and submitted to SAA Council.

June 2017: SAA Internship filled by Rebecca Leung, who will assist with *Archival History News* implementation and editorial support. Rebecca will serve until August 2018.

 - *Goal 2: Support the career development of members to assist them in achieving their goals.*
- Maintenance of Twitter account (<https://twitter.com/archivalhistory>): 122 Tweets, 71 Following, and 280 Followers since April 2015.

March 2017: Interacted with history interest groups attached to IMLS and ALA.

- *Goal 1: Educate and influence decision makers about the importance of archives and archivists.*
- *Goal 2: Deliver information and education via methods that are accessible, affordable, and keep pace with technological change.*
- Researched the 30-year history of the Archival History Roundtable, 1986-2016 in three ways: (1) Assembling list of past chairs and their dates of service – still in progress; (2) Distributed a questionnaire to the still-living former AHRT chairs – received 3 answers out of 14 individuals contacted; (3) Made digitally accessible copies of older print version of AHRT newsletters. The first printed issue (dated February 1987) has been located by former AHRT co-chair, Gregory Bradsher, but a digital copy has not yet been received from the UWM archives.
 - *Goal 1: Educate and influence decision makers about the importance of archives and archivists.*
 - *Goal 3: Foster and disseminate research in and about the field.*

New projects/activities; Initiatives associated with the 2014-2018 Strategic Plan:

- With help from SAA intern, survey the members of other SAA sections for their awareness and interest in contributing to or reading *Archival History News*.
 - *Goal 4: Facilitate effective communication with and among members.*
- Create a section-endorsed “Best Archival History Article.”
 - *Goal 2: Support the career development of members to assist them in achieving their goals.*
- Explore the possibility of posting lists of currently offered college-level or graduate courses, or possibly syllabi, devoted mainly to the history of archives.
 - *Goal 4: Provides members with ready online resources pertaining to archival history*

Questions/concerns for Council attention:

- At least one member of the current Steering Committee wishes that "SAA would give more of a nod to history in their announcements for the annual meeting and call for proposals. The language often seems to be couched in looking to and imagining the future- something that is difficult if we don't know our past."