



Annual Report to SAA Council, 2003

The STHC Roundtable provides a forum for archivists with similar interests or holdings in science, technology and health care, presenting opportunities to exchange information, solve problems, and share successes. The roundtable's web site is maintained by Webmaster Rose Roberto, and can be found at <http://www.archivists.org/saagroups/sthc>. The site provides a virtual meeting place for STHC, with links to its mission statement, steering committee member list, newsletter, and listserv information.

The roundtable's newsletter, *Archival Elements*, was available chiefly online, via the SAA website, but was distributed in hardcopy to members who requested that format. Editor Ewa Basinska included information about the annual meeting; announcements and news from roundtable members; information about STHC, reports on conferences and workshops of interest to roundtable members; and articles by John F. Bluth (JPL Historical Sources, 1936-1958: The Army Years); Rose V. Roberto (JPL Stories: Profile of a Successful Program); Jeffrey Mifflin (Archivists and Artifacts: The Custodianship of Objects in an Archival Setting); and Karen Jean Hunt (Transatlantic Searching: Sarah Parker Redmond, an early African American Female Physician).

Our listserv, STHC-L, administered by Russell Johnson at UCLA, turned 7 years old in August 2003. STHC-L provides a forum for archivists working at institutions in the natural, physical, and social sciences, technology, and the health sciences. It includes announcements, inquiries, and discussion on access to historical sources and their use and interpretation. The relatively quiet list delivers a message on average every two or three days to 225 subscribers. It has been particularly useful for spreading the word about new appointments, job openings, exhibitions, collections and services; and in serving as a forum in which to identify and discuss issues and to develop programs for the SAA annual meeting. The list administrator reported that there were nearly 200 attempts per month in 2003 to post Spams without subscribing; these attempts were automatically rejected by the host server at UCLA. The list is still unmoderated, but subscription requests are now authenticated and approved by the list administrator. This prevents automated programs from subscribing (using common ListProc list processor commands), posting Spams or virus-laden messages, and unsubscribing.

At the SAA 2003 Annual Meeting in Los Angeles CA, STHC elected two new Steering Committee members (Juliet Demeter and Tim Pennycuff, for 3-year terms) and a new Co-Chair (R. Joseph Anderson, for a 2-year term). The STHC annual business meeting also welcomed new members, and introduced the members of the Steering Committee to those in attendance. At the meeting, STHC members unanimously approved a resolution asking SAA Council to endorse the new International Union for the History and Philosophy of Science (IUHPS) project to create an Online Dictionary of National History of Science Bibliographies and Archival Sources. The meeting program was a discussion, chaired by Lisa Mix from UCSF, of archival repositories' compliance with the Privacy Rule of the

Health Information Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). Archivists from three other academic health centers—Nancy McCall from the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, Steve Novak from Columbia University Medical Center, and Tim Pennycuff from the University of Alabama at Birmingham—each presented an overview of the policies their repositories have implemented, and an assessment of how these policies in practice meet or do not meet the challenges of the HIPAA legislation.

STHC sponsored or co-sponsored five program proposals for the SAA 2004 meeting in Boston MA, one of which was accepted as a session for the meeting. The Roundtable followed SAA's new procedure for ranking endorsed program proposals, and has been more than a little disappointed in this outcome of the new procedure.

Plans for 2003-2004 include working on local outreach efforts for the 2004 meeting in Boston and professional outreach and collaboration with related professional organizations (such as ALHHS—Archivists and Librarians in the History of the Health Sciences).

The STHC Roundtable's 2003-2004 Steering Committee members are:

- R. Joseph Anderson (American Institute of Physics), *Co-chair*
- Ewa Basinska (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), *Newsletter Editor*
- Jean M. Deken (Stanford Linear Accelerator Center), *Co-chair*
- Juliet Demeter (UC, Berkeley)
- Janice F. Goldblum (National Academy of Sciences)
- Joan Echtenkamp Klein (University of Virginia, Charlottesville)
- Jodi Koste (Medical College of Virginia/Commonwealth University)
- Dan Lewis (Huntington Library)
- Lisa Mix (UCSF)
- Stephen E. Novak (Columbia University)
- Timothy L. Pennycuff (University of Alabama, Birmingham)
- Rose Roberto (Natural History Museum, London), *web liaison*
- Yvonne Wilson (National Archives and Records Administration)
- John Zwicky (American Academy of Pediatrics; American Society for Clinical Pathology)

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Marie Deken (Stanford Linear Accelerator Center) and
R. Joseph Anderson (American Institute of Physics)
Co-Chairs
Science, Technology and Health Care Roundtable