



Science, Technology & Health Care

a society of american archivists roundtable

Annual Report to SAA Council, 2005

The Science, Technology and Healthcare Roundtable provides a forum for archivists with interests and/or holdings in science, technology and health care; presenting opportunities to exchange information, solve problems, and share successes. At the Roundtable's annual meeting in New Orleans we elected a new co-chair, Janice Goldblum, and we welcomed a former chair, Suzie Long, back to the Steering Committee.

The Roundtable's regular programs and activities (the annual newsletter; website; listserv; Roundtable annual meeting program; and review and endorsement of STHC-theme sessions for the SAA annual meeting) remained strong during 2004-2005. In addition, the co-chairs appointed a committee of the three past Roundtable chairs (Jean Deken, chair; Lisa Mix, and Russell Johnson) that developed an STHC Leadership Handbook that outlines Roundtable practices and procedures in order to insure consistency and continuity.

In addition to the members of the Handbook Committee, we would like to extend special thanks to Ewa Basinska, Rose Roberto, and Russell Johnson, who are STHC's newsletter editor, web liaison and webmaster; and listserv owner/administrator respectively. Their ongoing work insures that the Science, Technology and Health Care Roundtable represents a vital resource to its members throughout the year, not just at the time of the annual meeting.

Archival Elements

The annual STHC newsletter, Archival Elements, edited by Ewa Basinska, contained articles by Joan Warnow-Blewett ("Documenting Modern Physics; An Eyewitness Account"), Graham Howard ("Boundary Work and Collection Development"), and John Zwicky ("Breastfeeding and the American Council of Pediatrics"), as well as announcements and notices from science, technology, and health care archivists and repositories. Archival Elements has been distributed online since ca.1997, and the past six issues are available at <http://www.archivists.org/saagroups/sthc/aelements2005.html>.

Website

STHC Webmaster Rose Roberto updates the Website (<http://www.archivists.org/saagroups/sthc/index.html>) regularly as new information becomes available. The site currently includes a description of the STHC, a list of steering committee members, publications (including the new leadership handbook, a HIPAA resource page, meeting minutes, and current and past newsletters), and a link to the Roundtable listserv.

Listserv

Our listserv (sthc-l@lists.ucla.edu) celebrated its ninth anniversary in August 2005. It

currently has 206 subscribers, which is four times the number of participants who usually attend the STHC annual meeting. The listserv has been particularly useful for spreading the word about new appointments, job openings, exhibitions, collections and services; and serving as a forum in which to identify and discuss issues and develop programs for the SAA annual meeting. Owner/administrator Russell Johnson periodically reposts announcements and other information that appeared originally in other sources.

SAA Annual Meeting Sessions

STHC endorsed six sessions for the 2005 SAA Annual Meeting, and four were accepted by the Program Committee: "Documenting the Physical Universe, 1905-2005;" "Hidden Treasures: Strategies for Broadening Archival Access via Visual Materials Depicting Women and Minorities;" "Controlling Human Reproduction: Documenting the Post-WWII Revolution;" and "Beyond the Obvious: Finding Social History in Institutional Records." Most of our session recommendations were not approved in 2004, and we were pleased that more than half of the sessions that we endorsed for 2005 made it to New Orleans.

Leadership Handbook

In the late 1990s the Roundtable instituted a new leadership structure with two co-chairs replacing the former single chair. Each co-chair serves one two-year term to insure rotation in leadership, and the co-chairs' terms overlap to provide continuity. The structure has worked well, insuring regular turnover in leadership and the introduction of fresh ideas. However, the advantages have come at the expense of occasional breakdowns in continuity, and the Handbook (http://www.archivists.org/saagroups/sthc/STHC_Leaders_Handbook.pdf) is designed as a reference source on standard policies and practices for the co-chairs and steering committee.

Annual Steering Committee and Roundtable Meeting

The Business Meeting was held on August 16, 2005 and the Roundtable's Annual Meeting was held the next day. The Annual Meeting attracted 50 participants and featured talks by Barbara Paulson, Paul Theerman, and Melissa Gottwald (see minutes at <http://www.archivists.org/saagroups/sthc/MeetingMinutes2005.pdf> for more information).

Respectfully submitted,

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Co-Chairs
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