



## Annual Report to SAA Council, 2006

The Science, Technology, and Healthcare (STHC) Roundtable is a forum for archivists with interests and/or holdings in the natural and social sciences, technology, and health care. STHC provides a means for its members to exchange information, solve problems, and share successes. STHC is a roundtable within the Society of American Archivists (SAA) and, as such, serves as an advocate for its members interests, provides avenues of communication, and engages in special projects.

The Roundtable's regular programs and activities (the annual newsletter, *Archival Elements*; Web site; listserv; Roundtable annual meeting program; and review—and endorsement, when relevant—of STHC-themed sessions for the SAA annual meeting) remained strong during 2005-2006. The STHC Leadership Handbook, created in 2005 and available on the STHC Web site, proved its usefulness in insuring consistency and continuity in Roundtable practices and procedures.

We would like to extend special thanks to STHC members Ewa Basinska, *Archival Elements* editor; Rose Roberto, Webmaster; and Russell Johnson, listserv owner/administrator. 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 2006 annual STHC newsletter, *Archival Elements*, edited by Ewa Basinska, contained articles by Ze'ev Rosenkranz ("The Einstein Papers Project: The Documentary Edition of Albert Einstein's Writings and Correspondence"); Jean Marie Deken ("Documenting the Physical Universe: Preserving the Record of SLAC from 1962 to 2005"); Ellen More ("Changing the Face of Medicine: One Historian's Experience as a Curator"); Lesley W. Brunet ("Documenting Cancer Medicine and Science at The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center"); "Joan Warnow, a Memoriam" by Joe Anderson; as well as announcements and notices from science, technology, and health care archivists and repositories, news about the 2006 Roundtable annual meeting program and STHC-themed SAA sessions, and a message from the STHC Co-Chairs. *Archival Elements* has been distributed online since ca.1997, and the past seven issues are available at <http://www.archivists.org/saagroups/sthc/aelements2005.html>.

### **Web Site**

Webmaster Rose Roberto updates the STHC Website regularly as new information becomes available (<http://www.archivists.org/saagroups/sthc/index.html>). The agendas for the STHC Annual Meetings and information about the programs are posted on the Web site prior to the meetings. The site currently includes a description of the STHC, a list of steering committee members, publications (including the Leadership Handbook, a HIPAA resource page, annual meeting minutes, and current and past newsletters), and a link to the Roundtable listserv.

## **Listserv**

Our listserv, STHC-L (the Science, Technology and Health Care Archives Forum; [sthc-l@lists.ucla.edu](mailto:sthc-l@lists.ucla.edu)), celebrated its tenth anniversary in August 2006. 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. List administrator Russell Johnson periodically reposts announcements and other information that appeared originally in other sources.

## **SAA Annual Meeting Sessions**

One session was submitted on behalf of STHC, "Science and Society: In Their Own Words." Several STHC members informed the STHC Co-Chairs that they had submitted proposals on their own. The Steering Committee did not vote on these proposals or rank them, as endorsements and rankings were not required nor encouraged for the 2006 Annual Meeting. We were disappointed that the STHC-submitted session was not selected by the Program Committee, who said it was an excellent proposal, but that there was no room. It became the program for the STHC Annual Meeting, instead. We have found non-selected sessions to be a wonderful source for providing educational, substantive programming at the STHC Roundtable Meeting. For each SAA Annual Meeting a listing of sessions of interest to STHC members is posted on the Web site and available as a handout at the STHC Roundtable Annual Meetings.

## **Annual Steering Committee and Roundtable Meetings**

The STHC Steering Committee Meeting was held on August 2, 2006, and the Roundtable's Annual Meeting was held the next day. The Annual Meeting attracted 52 participants. The program was "Science and Society: In Their Own Words." Joan Echtenkamp Klein (Historical Collections, University of Virginia Health Sciences Library) discussed a unique collection of letters to an antebellum Southern physician that voices patients' perceptions of illness and the Web site that makes the original letters available and provides context for them. Marc Rothenberg (The Joseph Henry Papers Project, Smithsonian Institution) discussed how researchers utilize the ten published letterpress volumes, the website, and over 130,000 documents in the Henry Papers database for research ranging from education reform in Japan to technological innovation in the lighting industry. Walter Hickel (History of Medicine Division, History Associates Incorporated and National Library of Medicine) highlighted the Joshua Lederberg papers and online archive, with particular attention to Lederberg's extensive role in science, space exploration, and national security policy. Alison Oswald (National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution) chaired the session. Programs for STHC Roundtable annual meetings tend to be cohesive, thought-provoking offerings of interest to our members, mainly because they have been submitted to the SAA Program Committees as fully fleshed-out session proposals. Rejection by SAA Program Committees means that we use them for our programs whenever feasible.

## **STHC Governance**

At the Roundtable's 2006 Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, we elected a new Co-Chair, Paul Theerman. At the STHC Steering Committee Meeting we appointed Russell Johnson as a new member of the Steering Committee. 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. The Leadership Handbook ([http://www.archivists.org/saagroups/sthc/STHC\\_Leaders\\_Handbook.pdf](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.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Echtenkamp Klein (University of Virginia Health Sciences Library)  
Janice Goldblum (The National Academies)  
Co-Chairs 2005-2006  
Science, Technology, and Healthcare Roundtable

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