Annual Report to SAA Council, 2009

The Science, Technology and Healthcare (STHC) Roundtable is a forum for archivists with interest 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. It provides STHC archivists opportunities to network, virtually and electronically, and provides SAA a medium to respond to national and international archival issues on behalf of the STHC community.

Roundtable Officers, 2008-2009

Co-Chairs
Tim L. Pennycuff, Senior Co-Chair (University of Alabama at Birmingham)
Stephen E. Novak, Junior Co-Chair (Columbia University Medical Center)

Newsletter
Ewa Basinska (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), Editor

Webmaster
Rose Roberto (University of Leeds)

Steering Committee
R. Joseph Anderson (American Institute of Physics)
Ewa Basinska (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)
Jean Deken (Stanford Linear Accelerator Center)
Janice F. Goldblum (The National Academies)
Russell A. Johnson (University of California, Los Angeles)
Joan Echtenkamp Klein (University of Virginia Health System)
Jodi Koste (Virginia Commonwealth University)
Suzanna Long (Missouri University of Science and Technology)
Nancy McCall (Johns Hopkins University Medical Institutions)
Stephen E. Novak (Columbia University Medical Center)
Tim L. Pennycuff (University of Alabama at Birmingham)
Rose V. Roberto (University of Leeds)
Paige L. Smith (Southern Research Institute)
Paul Theerman (National Library of Medicine)
Judith A. Wiener (Ohio State University)
John Zwicky (American Academy of Pediatrics) – deceased March 2009

2009 SAA Annual Meeting Report

STHC endorsed two session proposals for the 2009 Annual Meeting, the maximum number of endorsements allowed to the Roundtable. One of the two sessions was selected for the Austin program. Nancy McCall (Johns Hopkins Medical Institute), a member of the STHC Steering Committee, proposed and chaired the following: "Preserving Digital Research Data in the Health Sciences" (Session 308).

We are also happy to report that a paper given in an STHC-endorsed session at the 2008 SAA meeting in San Francisco was recently published in the UK's Journal of the Society of Archivists as "British Slave Trade Legacies: Technology intersecting Culture." The paper and the article were written by Rose Roberto, a member of the STHC Steering Committee.

2009 STHC Roundtable Meeting Report

The annual meeting of STHC Steering Committee and the Roundtable's annual meeting were held at the Hilton Austin on August 12, 2009. Thirty-two people attended the Roundtable meeting.

Stephanie Bordy and Alex Jasinski from the Harry Ransom Center of the University of Texas presented the program: "Science Among the Humanities: History of Science Collections at the Harry Ransom Center." In a heavily illustrated PowerPoint presentation, Bordy and Jasinski spoke on the Center's collection of books, manuscripts, maps, and artifacts that span the past 600 years. These collections document scientific advancement in a multitude of disciplines and represent some the world's most renowned thinkers including, Johannes Kepler (1571-1630), Sir J.F.W. Herschel (1792-1871), Owen Richardson (1879-1959), Albert Einstein (1879-1955), and many more. They provided a brief overview of some of the Center's more extensive holdings within five overarching categories: Photography, Cartography, Physics and Mathematics, Biology and Related Disciplines (Medicine, Psychology, and Botany) and Astronomy.

Also during the Roundtable meeting, Judith A. Wiener (Ohio State University) was unanimously elected STHC Co-Chair for 2009-2011. Stephen E. Novak (Columbia University Medical Center) remains as Senior Co-Chair through 2010. Three people are rotating off membership in the Steering Committee: Jean Deken, Russell A. Johnson, and Suzanna Long. Another member of the Steering Committee, John Zwicky, passed away in March: the Roundtable dedicated the 2009 meeting to John's memory and remembered his contributions to STHC and SAA. The Co-Chairs issued a call for nominations and/or volunteers to serve in the four vacant Steering Committee positions; these vacancies should be filled during the fall.

The Co-Chairs reported a membership in the STHC Roundtable of 175, with 187 subscribers to the STHC listserv (numbers as determined by communication with SAA staff or as found on the Roundtable's page on the SAA website).

A call was made for program proposals for the 2010 SAA meeting in Washington, DC.

STHC Projects

I. *Archival Elements:* The STHC newsletter, Archival Elements, was posted online to the STHC website in PDF format in late July prior to the 2009 SAA meeting in Austin. This year's edition marks the ninth and final issue to be edited by Steering Committee member Ewa Basinska. Basinska has graciously agreed to remain as assistant to new editor Elizabeth Phillips who has assisted with the newsletter the past few issues. The STHC Roundtable thanks Ewa and Elizabeth for all of their work on our behalf.

This year's *Archival Elements* contained articles:
   1. American College of Surgeons Digital Collections by Susan Rishworth.
   2. Rose Roberto's book review of *Darwin's Sacred Cause: Race, Slavery, and the Quest for Human Origins* by Adrian Desmond and James Moore.

Shorter submissions from science, technology and health care archivists included announcements on collection development, web projects, new facilities, the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Boston Children's Hospital, and forthcoming conferences.

II. Website: STHC Webmaster Rose Roberto updates the website (http://www.archivists.org/saagroups/sthc/index.html) on a regular basis and as new information becomes available. Agendas for the Roundtable and the Steering Committee meeting were posted online prior to the Austin meeting, as was the 2009 issue of Archival Elements (see above). The website currently includes:
   - description of STHC
   - list of Steering Committee members with contact information
   - annual meeting minutes, 2005-2008
   - Archival Elements newsletter, 2000-2009
   - STHC Report to Council, 2002-2003, 2005-2008
   - STHC Leadership Handbook
   - HIPAA resource page
   - information on subscribing to the SAA hosted STHC listserv

III. Listserv: On October 31, 2008, the independent STHC listserv hosted at UCLA and administered by Steering Committee member Russell Johnson was decommissioned and the SAA-hosted STHC listserv became the official means of communication for the Roundtable. An archive of the old listserv (1996-2008) has been preserved at UCLA and is available via a link on the STHC website. While the listserv is not a heavily trafficked venue, members of the Roundtable do post on occasion with news and other questions and the listserv is used by the officers to issue calls for SAA paper proposals, for discussion of STHC program ideas, and for other Roundtable-related business.

Of concern to the Roundtable Steering Committee is the reliability of the SAA-hosted listserv. In August of 2009 one of the Co-Chairs attempted to post a message about the Roundtable meeting in Austin, only to find that the SAA system claimed he was not subscribed to the list. (This despite the fact that this Co-Chair had been a listserv member since 2008, had posted several messages to the listserv as recently as May, and had received listserv messages as recently as June) Upon discovery of this situation, the Roundtable was notified by SAA staff that: "the STHC list was not properly synchronized with the member database. Out of about 170 members/list participants, only 37 were

subscribed to this list. We have run a script that resychronizes the list." [SAA staff message to the STHC listserv on 08/04/09]. The STHC Steering Committee will monitor the listserv situation during the coming year.

IV. SAA Program: As noted above, one STHC-endorsed session was selected for the 2009 Austin program and one of the papers presented in an STHC-endorsed session at the 2008 San Francisco meeting has recently been published.

V. SAA Council Petition: In January STHC voted unanimously to sign a petition presented for the February 2009 SAA Council meeting. This petition requested a reduction in the previously announced membership requirements for individual roundtables. At the February meeting, Council revised the Council Handbook to indicate roundtables would be required to have 25 members rather than the 50 previously adopted. STHC had opposed the requirement of 50 members from the beginning.

VI. Warnow-Blewett Award: The Roundtable continues its discussion and work toward the establishment of the proposed Joan Warnow-Blewett Award for excellence in archiving in areas of science, technology or healthcare, as proposed by Steering Committee member Jean Deken of the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center. Discussion and planning will continue over the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim L. Pennycuff (University of Alabama at Birmingham)
Stephen E. Novak (Columbia University Medical Center)

Co-Chairs
Science, Technology and Healthcare Roundtable
September 21, 2009