

## ABOUT ARCHIVES MONTH PHILLY

Archives Month Philly (AMP) is a local instantiation of American Archives Month, a national initiative held annually in October to raise public awareness about the value of historical records and the work that archivists do. Local Archives Month efforts were first initiated in Philadelphia in the 1990s and revived in 2013 as “Archives Month Philly.” Organized by the Delaware Valley Archivists Group (DVAG) in conjunction with participating institutions, Archives Month Philly is a volunteer-led effort, from event-planning and website maintenance, to social media and promotion.

Two types of events, **centerpiece events** and **coordinated, independent events**, make up the majority of the Archives Month Philly program. Centerpiece events involve multiple institutions and are intended to stand out as highlights of the month-long festival. AMP volunteers play a strong role in developing the 3-5 centerpiece events per season. Coordinated, independent events are developed independently at local institutions and submitted for inclusion in the AMP program. **Ongoing exhibitions**, also developed independently and submitted to the program, complete the Archives Month Philly calendar.

In 2015, Archives Month Philly included 4 centerpiece events, 16 coordinated, independent events, and 6 ongoing exhibitions. 30 institutions hosted or participated in one or more event or exhibition, which ranged from open houses and behind-the-scenes tours to screenings, workshops, lectures, and much more. Nearly 800 people attended AMP programming throughout the month of October, a substantial increase over 2014. To date, Archives Month Philly has 327 Facebook and 181 Twitter followers and has been featured on local event listings Uwishunu and Philly Fun Guide.



## CENTERPIECE EVENTS

### **Nerd Nite Philly**

**Participating institutions:** Historical Society of Pennsylvania; Chemical Heritage Foundation; Drexel University College of Medicine Legacy Center.

Archivists took over the popular bar-based monthly lecture series, Nerd Nite Philly, at Frankford Hall. Topics included early modern inks and pigments (Lisa Berry Drago, Chemical Heritage Foundation), the history of cursive handwriting and its relevance to modern society (Tara O'Brien, Historical Society of Pennsylvania), and women in medicine with a focus on primary source research (Matt Herbison, Drexel University College of Medicine Legacy Center).

*Approx. attendance: 90*

### **Philadelphia Lantern Slide Salon**

**Host institution:** Wagner Free Institute of Science

**Participating institutions:** American Philosophical Society; Athenaeum of Philadelphia; The Franklin Institute; The Friends Historical Library of Swarthmore College; The Scott Memorial Library of Thomas Jefferson University; The University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology.

The 2015 Philadelphia Lantern Slide Salon showcased glass lantern slides from the special collections of 7 Philadelphia institutions projected from an historic lantern projector in the Wagner's Victorian-era lecture hall. The presentations covered diverse ground, from entertainment and instruction, to travelogues and botany lectures.

*Approx. attendance: 150*

### **Philly History Quizzo**

For the second annual Philly History Quizzo, archivists and local history enthusiasts took over National Mechanics to test their knowledge of the City of Brotherly Love.

*Approx. attendance: 60*

### **Archives Month Philly Film Screening**

**Participating institutions:** Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books, and Manuscripts (University of Pennsylvania); Hagley Museum and Library; The University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology; History Making Productions; Philadelphia City Archives; German Society of Pennsylvania, Fairmount Park Historic Resource Archives.

A screening of 8 recently digitized films, from local repositories, at PhilaMOCA. Thanks to the generosity of NFL Films, five of these works were transferred to digital files and are now accessible to the public. Representatives from the participating organizations were on hand to discuss the films.

*Approx. attendance: 35*

## COORDINATED, INDEPENDENT EVENTS

Barbara Bates Center for the Study of the History of Nursing at Penn

### **Barbara Bates Center for the Study of the History of Nursing Open House & Tour**

100 Years in Nursing History exhibited the rich history of the nursing profession beginning in 1915 and will include photos and selections from the archives of the Bates Center.

*Approx. attendance: 10*

Bryn Mawr College

### **Personal Digital Archiving Day**

Increasingly our possessions and our communications are no longer material, they're digital and they are dependent on technology to make them accessible. As new technology emerges and current technology becomes obsolete, we need to actively manage our digital possessions to help protect them and keep them available for years to come. This is also becoming the case with Bryn Mawr College's institutional memory and our own personal materials.

*Approx. attendance: 12*

Free Library of Philadelphia

### **Meet the Free Library of Philadelphia Special Collections**

The Free Library held an open house where attendees learned more about the seven fantastic special collections at Parkway Central.

*Approx. attendance: 22*

Haverford College

### **Personal Digital Archiving Workshop**

Our personal and professional records are now primarily digital, and our lives are geared toward constant sharing of these works from our own scholarly output to family photos. The complexity of these growing collections in every sphere of our lives cannot be overstated. The Quaker and Special Collection's Personal Digital Archiving Day Workshop welcomed those with an interest in ensuring long-term access to personal collections and archives. This workshop shared best practices for creating, managing, and preserving personal digital records, and also discussed issues that affect personal digital archiving practices such as copyright, privacy, and security.

*Approx. attendance: 20*

Historical Medical Library of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia

### **“Monsters: Fabled and factual – A look at the meaning of ‘monster,’ 1500-1900”**

What is a monster? Today, one often thinks of large, fantastical – and often frightening – creatures when one hears the word ‘monster.’ The meaning of ‘monster’ has changed seemingly little over the years. However, at one time, ‘monster’ was used also to describe people with medical anomalies, not just fabulous creatures out of legends.

As part of Archives Month Philly, The Historical Medical Library of The College of Physicians of Philadelphia displayed materials that explore what it meant to be a ‘monster’ in the 16th through the early 20th centuries and how the use of the term has changed – at least in the medical world.  
*Approx. attendance: 30*

Library Company of Philadelphia

**Unlacing the Victorian Woman**

This interactive performance unveiled the mystique of ladies fashion in the Victorian era. The “Victorian Striptease” was an opportunity to experience first-hand the trials and tribulations of women’s fashion.

*Approx. attendance: 115*

Monmouth County Archives

**Archives and History Day**

This year’s annual event included a History Forum, 62 exhibit tables hosted by history organizations, awards presentations, and a history game with prizes, as well as a tour of the Monmouth County Archives. Attendees were also able to view the exhibit, New Jersey in Focus: The World War I Era, 1910-1920.

Othmer Library of Chemical History (Chemical Heritage Foundation)

**Othmer Library Open House**

For one night only, the Othmer Library of Chemical History opened its vaults to the public to discover the hidden treasures within.

*Approx. attendance: 70*

Philadelphia Department of Records, City Archives

**Celebrating PhillyHistory’s 10th Birthday!**

The good folks at PhillyHistory.org celebrated their 10th anniversary with a panel discussion that featured PhillyHistory staff, bloggers, and public users. The panel discussed PhillyHistory's creation and development, lessons learned from ten years of maintaining a digital history project, and plans for making historic images available online for years to come.

*Approx. attendance: 35*

Presbyterian Historical Society

**Presbyterian Historical Society Open House**

This open house featured curios from the museum’s collection and a performance using a newly-restored portable miniature organ used by missionaries in the American West!

*Approx. attendance: 40*

Rosenbach Museum & Library

**Rosenbach Hands-On Tour: Banned Books**

From the Canterbury Tales to Ulysses, the Rosenbach's collection is full of books that have been banned, challenged, or censored. This tour discussed the controversies surrounding these books, and celebrated our freedom to read.

Swarthmore College, Friends Historical Library

**Personal Digital Archiving Day**

Personal digital archiving is taking steps (small or big) to ensure your family memories, personal and professional papers are safe from disaster, human error, or everyday digital wear and tear.

*Approx. attendance: 25*

Union League of Philadelphia, Heritage Center

**BLIND PIGS AND BATHTUB GIN**

This Prohibition-themed walking tour, led by Bob Skiba, began at City Hall and ended with a pop-up exhibit at the Heritage Center of the Union League of Philadelphia. Sponsors: Heritage Center, William Way LGBT Center, MARAC-PA, PACSCL.

University of Pennsylvania, Kislak Center for Special Collections, Rare Books and Manuscripts

**The Paper Menagerie: Animals on the Page in the Kislak Center's Special Collections**

Fearsome beasts and fluffy friends alike leaped from the pages of the Kislak Center's special collections as the cataloging staff hosted an evening safari that included vicious lions, colorful fish, beautiful bugs, and even a few zoological mysteries.

*Approx. attendance: 30*

WHYY

**Fresh Air Archives**

Fresh Air with Terry Gross, an award-winning weekday magazine of contemporary arts and issues, is produced by WHYY in Philadelphia and distributed nationally by National Public Radio (NPR). The hour-long interview show is currently adding metadata to its archives to make it more widely available for research and scholarship. This behind-the-scenes tour of WHYY studios offered attendees a chance to listen to selected "gems" from Fresh Air Archives, and talk to the producers of the program about their use of archives for research and production.

*Approx. attendance: 40*

William Way LGBT Community Center, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts

**DIY Archives Workshop**

Hands on workshop on how to assess, arrange, restore and archive personal memorabilia, photos and objects.

*Approx. attendance: 7*

## MULTI-DAY EXHIBITS

Barbara Bates Center for the Study of the History of Nursing at Penn

### **100 Years in Nursing History**

100 Years in Nursing History exhibited the rich history of the nursing profession beginning in 1915 and included photos and selections from the archives of the Bates Center.

College of Physicians, Mütter Museum

### **Vesalius On The Verge: The Book and The Body**

December 31st marked the 500th birthday of the “Father of Modern Anatomy” Andreas Vesalius. In 1543 Vesalius published *De humani corporis fabrica* (On the Fabric of the Human Body), a series of seven books based on the dissection and research he conducted while at the University of Padua. To this day the *Fabrica* is still considered a masterpiece of both medical and anatomical literature. This exhibit features an edition of the *Fabrica* book as well as other works by Vesalius and specimens highlighting his accomplishments in the field of anatomy.

Library Company of Philadelphia

### **Fashioning Philadelphia: The Style of The City, 1720-1940**

Home to modest Quakers, prosperous free blacks, well-heeled international transplants, and working classes of all sorts, Philadelphia was once the country's most cosmopolitan city. Observers remarked that our tastes were as refined as those of Paris and London. In addition to being known for stylish residents, Philadelphia gained a reputation as a manufacturing powerhouse by the 19th century. This exhibition tells the largely unheralded story of the city's contributions to the early fashion industry, from the early-18th through the mid-20th century.

Union League of Philadelphia, Heritage Center

### **Exhibits at The Heritage Center of The Union League of Philadelphia**

*1865: Triumph and Tragedy* explores the last six months of the Civil War in Philadelphia and the country. *Love of Country Leads* chronicles the history of the Union League of Philadelphia from its founding in 1862 to the present.

William Way LGBT Community Center

### **Gay Love On Display: Taking On the APA**

This exhibit recreated 1970s gay rights display booths from American Psychiatric Association conferences.

### **Defiant Archives: Trans Histories of Existence, Resistance, and Brilliance**

The exhibit shared a collection of archival and personal items with a focus on the history of transgender activism in Philadelphia, curated and collected by local trans community members.

## **SEEN AND HEARD AT ARCHIVES MONTH PHILLY 2015**

Historical Medical Library of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia  
**“Monsters: Fabled and factual – A look at the meaning of ‘monster,’  
1500-1900”**



“Archives Month Philly is so important to the profession...for the fact that it exposes the general public to what archives and special collections are. It gives the public a chance to peek behind closed doors, see amazing materials, and learn about what archives and special collections do and why they’re so important and how they can be an integral part of a community.” --- Chrissie Perella, Archivist, College of Physicians of Philadelphia

Othmer Library of Chemical History (Chemical Heritage Foundation)  
**Othmer Library Open House**



“Thank you for a great event tonight! I'm still awed that we got to handle these treasures with (much reverence and) our bare hands. So awesome!!!” --- Event attendee

“The Open House was a wonderful event...I think we made the point that the Othmer Library's collections are a great centerpiece for CHF programming and a big draw!” --- Ronald Brashear, Director, Othmer Library of Chemical History

Free Library of Philadelphia  
**Meet the Free Library of Philadelphia Special Collections**



“I may as well just sleep @Free Library. Awesome rare book event for @ArchMonthPhilly.” ---  
@ameliaexmachina on Twitter

Wagner Free Institute of Science  
**Philadelphia Lantern Slide Salon**



“This event was wonderful! The Wagner is a beautiful space and I enjoyed hearing from many different presenters on the subject matter.”

“The presentations by the various historical and archival societies has me thinking about the different ways people recorded their activities during the early part of the 20th century.”

--- Event attendees

WHYY Public Media Station  
Fresh Air Archives



“I couldn't get enough of the tape archive! Can you read all these names??!! #freshairarchives @ArchMonthPhilly.” --- @visiblehistory on Twitter

## KEEP IN TOUCH

Planning for Archives Month Philly is active year-round and we're always looking for additional help brainstorming new ideas, coordinating with event hosts, spreading the word about Archives Month Philly. Need inspiration for an Archives Month event? Visit our website and social media channels for a closer look at our programming. Have an upcoming event or exhibition you'd like to promote? E-mail us and we'll spread the word on Facebook and Twitter!

**E-mail:** [archivesmonthphilly@gmail.com](mailto:archivesmonthphilly@gmail.com)

**Website:** [archivesmonthphilly.com](http://archivesmonthphilly.com)

**Facebook:** Archives Month Philly

**Twitter:** @ArchMonthPhilly

**Hashtag:** #ArchivesMonthPHL