

National Archives and Records Administration
Washington, DC 20408

August 12, 1987

Dear Archival History Roundtable Colleague:

We want to begin this newsletter by thanking you for responding so fully to our questionnaire. A summary of the results are included on pages 2-3.

The remainder of the newsletter contains a "news" section and a tentative agenda for our roundtable meeting in New York City. The meeting will be held Thursday, September 3, from 11:15 till 12:45. If you have anything you would like to add to the agenda, please let us know.

It appears, based upon your comments and encouragement, that there is enough interest to keep the roundtable functioning. Our mailing list contains over 70 names and the SAA Council has increased our budget from \$50 to \$75. We are quite willing to continue working together to put out newsletters and carry out the goals of the roundtable. But we believe at the meeting there should be an election of a coordinator(s). This will allow the roundtable to deal more effectively with the Council.

In our February 13, 1987, newsletter we indicated that we would include a membership listing with the August newsletter. Unfortunately, because of its size, we will not be able to provide this listing in this newsletter. We will, however, be passing out copies at the meeting and will send one to anyone sending us a self-addressed legal-size envelope.

We look forward to seeing you in New York.

Sincerely,

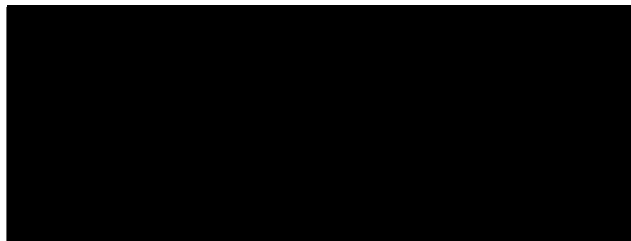


James Gregory Bradsher



Michele F. Pacifico

Rodney A. Ross



Below is a partial results of questionnaire on SAA Roundtable on Archival History (27 responses) compiled by Rod Ross:

1. Names for the newsletter included the following:
Considerings; More Lore: Newsletter of the Archival History Roundtable; Archival History Newsletter; Archives, Government & Culture; Clio's Roundtable; Archivista; Archival History News; Archival History; Archist; Archihist; Archivhist; "Muses and Reflection", "How on earth did we get to this point?"; Camelot Chronicle; Archival Historian; Mnemon; Tabularia; Scrinia; Roundtable for Students of Archival History. The winner (with two votes): Archival History News.
2. What ought the newsletter include, with total votes following each possibility out of 27 responses: short articles (18), bibliography (23), essays (7), biographical sketches (14), and works in progress (19). Other possibilities: book reviews, abstracts of archival history articles in foreign journals, photos, notices of current research, continually updated membership list, lists and/or short descriptions of manuscript sources for archival history, fellowship possibilities, and short notices. Twenty-two persons responded in the affirmative that they'd be willing to write for the newsletter. Four persons warned against making the newsletter too elaborate.
3. On the question of special projects of the 27 persons returning the questionnaire there were 16 votes for a bibliography and 13 votes for a reader of historical essays. Of persons expressing approval for both, preference seemed to be for the bibliography as a first priority. Several persons sounded notes of caution: neither project should be attempted unless there was lots of interest; if a bibliography were to be done, it should be done well; gaining a publisher for a reader should be a prerequisite for a reader project; publication of a reader lay outside the jurisdiction of the roundtable. Other suggestions for the roundtable: organizing occasional sessions at annual meetings; putting together a questionnaire for the compilation of a dictionary of archival biography; recommending standards in historical instruction for archives history and archives use if there were to be a reader one person said it should consist solely of previous published pieces, 3 said "newly commissioned" and 17 said both.
4. The matter of the roundtable serving as a clearinghouse for SAA program proposals elicited some interest with 15 of 27 persons saying "yes", 3 "no", and 9 "don't know, blank, no comment, maybe, possibly and perhaps". While 15 persons indicated a willingness to be program participants; proposed topics covered the spectrum of archival history.
5. The possibility of an oral history project received a favorable response from only 9 persons. Several people expressed the idea that it might be considered at a later date. Three individuals warned that it shouldn't be an ad hoc enterprise, but

rather should be well conceived with an adequate financial commitment for its success.

6. On the idea of personal financial contributions to create a newsletter operating fund in excess of the \$50 per year the SAA will give the roundtable, a majority of persons said they might respond favorably with a maximum contribution of \$5.00 from any one individual.

HERE AND THERE.... Roland Baumann's "Archives & Manuscripts of Pennsylvania" will be included in A Guide to the History of Pennsylvania, edited by Francis J. Bremer and Dennis B. Downey, to be published by Greenwood Press in 1988. Also to be published in 1988 is Managing Archives and Archival Institutions (Mansell Publishing Limited), edited by Greg Bradsher. One of the chapters in the book will be a history of archives administration, written Greg Bradsher and Michele F. Pacifico. Bradsher's article on the "Federal Field Archives: Past, Present, and Future" appeared recently in the Government Information Quarterly (vol. 4, no.2, 1987). Frank Cook has submitted an article to The American Archivist on College and University Committees. Jackie Goggin is writing a biography of Carter G. Woodson. Mark H. Jones plans to submit to Connecticut History the paper he presented at the Spring 1986 meeting of the Association for the Study of Connecticut History, "George Symour Godard and the Transformation of the Connecticut State Library, 1899-1936." Florence Bartoshesky Lathrop is writing on business records processing at the Harvard Business School and how it infleunced the processing of other records. In September Lawrence J. McCrank plans to attend the International Conference at Catholic University of Nijmegen, the Netherlands, where he will speak on codicological mss. descriptive standards. Michele Pacifico's article, "Founding

Mothers: Women in the Society of American Archivists, 1936-1972," will be published in a future issue of The American Archivist.

M. T. Rhinelanders is a Ph.D. candidate in the History of the Book at Boston University. Rod Ross is completing an entry on Waldo Leland for the Dictionary of American Biography. In August John David Smith travels to London on a research grant for a study on George H. Moore, the New York Public Library's first librarian. Dale Alexander Stirling is working on Archival Development in Alaska to be published as Heritage North Publications in History No. 5.

TENTATIVE AGENDA - Archival History Roundtable

New York City, September 3, 1987, 11:15-12:45.

- I. Greetings and Introductions (Greg Bradsher)
- II. Origins and Activities of the Roundtable (Michele Pacifico)
 - A. Background
 - B. Newsletters
 - C. Financial Status
- III. Review of the Survey and Discussion (Rod Ross)
 - A. What the Survey "Told Us"
 - B. Possible Projects
 - 1. Bibliography
 - 2. Collection of Essays
 - 3. Dictionary of Archival Biography
 - 4. Planning and Coordinating SAA sessions
 - 5. Other

Break

- IV. Future Plans (Greg Bradsher)
 - A. Newsletters
 - B. Next Roundtable Meeting
 - C. Election of Roundtable Coordinator(s)
 - D. Other
- V. "Works in Progress" (Rod Ross)
 - A. Jackie Goggin "J. Franklin Jameson and the Development of Humanistic Scholarship in America"
 - B. Lee Stout "The WPA Records Survey in Pennsylvania"
- VI. Summary Discussion (Michele Pacifico)