



NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Jenny Schooley
312.606.0722 or jschooley@archivists.org

George Bain Inducted as a Fellow of the Society of American Archivists

CHICAGO—Retired archivist George Bain will be inducted as a Fellow of the Society of American Archivists (SAA) during a ceremony on August 26, 2011, at *ARCHIVES 360°*, the 75th Annual Meeting of the Society of American Archivists in Chicago. The distinction of Fellow is the highest honor bestowed on individuals by SAA and is awarded for outstanding contributions to the archives profession.

After earning a PhD in history from the University of Minnesota, Bain spent his entire career in Ohio, working for 10 years in the Local Government Records Program for the Ohio Historical Society (State Archives), and for 20 years as head of the Robert E. and Jean R. Mahn Center for Archives and Special Collections at Ohio University Libraries, where he retired in 2007. At Ohio University, he was lauded for his “holistic view of archives” and for “opening up the profession” to his students and younger colleagues.

Bain’s interests and service are vast and varied. He served for eight years as editor of SAA’s Performing Arts Roundtable newsletter, and for 28 years also has worked tirelessly with colleagues in SAA’s Reference, Access and Outreach Section, coaxing, leading, encouraging—and living outreach. “Any archivist in Ohio will tell you that Archives Month is celebrated because of George Bain,” said one of his nominators. “Even after his so-called retirement, George took on the Preserving the American Historical Record, or PAHR, bill as a cause—and successfully got Ohio Congressmen as sponsors. For his entire career, George put others first.”

Bain is a regular contributor to local, regional, and national archival periodicals. Important early contributions are required reading, especially those in the area of outreach, such as “The Joys of Archival Work,” (*Ohio Libraries*, January-February 1991). His analysis of state archival law, from his days as a government records archivist, is described by one colleague as a “milestone” document in telling the story of state archives in the United States (“State Archival Law: A Content Analysis” in *American Archivist*, Spring 1983).

Bain has also been active in the Society of Ohio Archivists and the Midwest Archives Conference. “George is both—and more—an ambassador extraordinaire for archives and archivists—crossing ages and disciplines and collections and venues to work on behalf of the profession, not to feed his ego, but because his intellect and heart told him it was the right thing to do,” said another nominator. “Yet it is his actions, which have spoken most loudly.”

Bain is one of eight new Fellows named in 2011. There are currently 170 Fellows of the Society of American Archivists.

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Founded in 1936, the Society of American Archivists is North America’s oldest and largest national archival professional association. SAA’s mission is to serve the educational and informational needs of more than 6,000 individual and institutional members and to provide leadership to ensure the identification, preservation, and use of records of historical value. For more information, visit www.archivists.org.

17 NORTH STATE STREET, SUITE 1425 | CHICAGO, IL 60602-4061 USA

TEL 312.606.0722 | TOLL-FREE 866.SAA.7858 | FAX 312.606.0728 | WEB www.archivists.org