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**ARCHIVAL HISTORY NEWSLETTER**

A Publication of the Society of American Archivists Archival  
History Roundtable

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JULY 1988

SAA ANNUAL MEETING

The Roundtable will hold its next meeting at the Society of American Archivists annual meeting in Atlanta from 11:15 am to 12:45 a.m. on Thursday, September 29, 1988. The roundtable will address the current state of the roundtable, and future plans and activities. Nancy Bartlett of the Bentley Historical Library, will discuss her work on 19th century French archival history. We look forward to seeing everyone.

At the 1988 SAA meeting in Atlanta there will be a roundtable-sponsored session titled "Archives and the South: A Select Historical Overview." Participants for that session are : Wylma Wates (South Carolina Department of Archives and History), chair; John David Smith (North Carolina State University), "The Historian as Archivist: U. B. Phillips and the Uncovering of Plantation Records," Alden Monroe (Alabama Department of Archives and History), "Thomas M. Owen Papers," and Roberta Copp (University of South Carolina, College of Library and Information Science), "The Historic Records Survey in South Carolina."

Other 1988 SAA sessions of possible interest to roundtable members are:

**Prominent Personalities:** The Life of Martin Luther King, Jr.

**20th Century Collecting -- Documenting Social Movements:** The Civil Rights of the 1960's Movement

**The Provenance of Provenance:** European Information Systems in the 19th Century

**Documenting Religious Radicalism:** Dorothy Day and the Catholic Worker Movement

**Modern First Ladies:** Their Documentary Legacy

**Long Road Back:** Vietnam Remembered

**The Stevens Papers:** A Work in Progress

**Tales of the Trail:** The Odysseys of Two Document Hunters (Ken Hechler and Leonard Rapport)

**Healthcare:** Archives Preserving Medical History

NEWS NOTES

During the past year Richard J. Cox has published four articles of relevance to archival history: "Alabama's Archival Heritage, 1850-1985," The Alabama Review 40, no. 4 (October 1987), pp. 284-307; "The Origins of American Religious Archives: "Ethan Allen, Pioneer Church Historian and Archivist of Maryland," Journal of the Canadian Church Historical Society 29 (October 1987), pp. 48-63; and "On the Value of Archival History in the United States," Libraries & Culture 23, no. 2 (Spring 1988), pp. 135-15; "American Archival Literature: Expanding Horizons and Continuing Needs, 1901-1987," The American Archivist 50 no. 3 (Summer 1987), pp. 306-323. Also appearing in this issue of The American Archivist was Michele Pacifico's "Founding Mothers: Women in the Society of American Archivists, 1936-1972" (pp. 370-389).

Managing Archives and Archival Institutions, edited by James Gregory Bradsher with a foreword by Frank Evans, will be published initially this September by Mansell Publishing Limited (London and New York). Chapter two of the book contains an essay on archival history by Bradsher and Pacifico.

This is the 6th summer of the Bentley Research Library's archival research fellowship program. Administered by the University of Michigan's Bentley Historical Library, this year's recipients are: Patricia Kennedy Grimsted, "Archival Development in Soviet Ukraine"; Joan Krizack, "Understanding the Nature of Hospitals and the Health Care Industry: The First Step in Documenting Hospitals"; Paul McCarthy, identification of major management elements requisite to the professional development of archivists as effective managers personally and as agents for programmatic development and change; Alden Monroe and Dathleen Roe, "Exploring Access by Function,"; Rodney A. Ross, "Why Administrative Histories: Answers for Archivists and Researchers;" Dennis Rowlely, "A Philosophical Analysis of the Principle of Provenance;" and "Provenance, information systems for archives, and the role of the archivist".

Members interested in presenting papers at meetings of the roundtable or at SAA sessions, or writing pieces for this newsletter, should contact Michele Pacifico. Michele has been appointed to serve on the SAA 1989 Program Committee. Also, be sure to let Michele know your professional activities.

Any individuals who wish to be added to the mailing list (and thus membership in the roundtable) should send the name and address to Michele.

THEN AND NOW

From The National Archives Hearings before the Committee on Expenditures in the Executive Departments House of Representatives Seventy-Fourth Congress Second Session January 17, 1936 (Washington, D.C. U.S. Government Printing Office, 1936):

"The Chairman [John J. Cochran]. Mr. Burlew [of the Interior Department] and I went into your reference room; I looked at Mr. Burlew but did not say a word. 'Absolutely inadequate.' That is what he said to me without my saying a word to him. The most people you could get in there would be 100 as a limit."

Mr. Conner [R.D.W. Connor, first Archivist of the United States] [responded]. One hundred and ten."(pp. 10-11)

"The Chairman. ...I was down to your place the other day.... You have a palace, and some of the officials and employees have more beautiful offices than has the President of the United States."  
(p. 15)

[no response from Connor]

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The next issue of this newsletter will feature a paper on the value of administrative histories by Roland Baumann and a paper on doing research into French archival administrative histories by Nancy Bartlett. It will also have more wonderful titbits from the 1936 National Archives hearings.

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The Archival History Newsletter is published each January and July by the SAA Archival History Roundtable. The Roundtable Co-Chairs and Newsletter editors are: Greg Bradsher, Michele Pacifico, and Rodney A. Ross. Greg and Michele can be reached at the Planning and Policy Evaluation Branch (NAAP), Room 404, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408, (202) 523-3214, and Rod can be reached at the Legislative Archives Division (NNL) National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408, (202) 523-3281. Any communications to be considered for inclusion in the newsletter should be sent to Michele by December 15 for the January issue and by June 15 for the July issue.