

# LAGAR

NEWSLETTER NO. 27, JANUARY 2005

## FROM THE CHAIRS

LAGAR had a successful and productive meeting at the annual SAA meeting in Boston last August. The approximately 30 people who attended participated in a valuable discussion about how to use the \$1000 we received for our work on the *Encyclopedia of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered History*; the consensus was to devote this money to forming an "outreach fund" to help pay for an archivist or archives student to attend the annual SAA meeting. A new male co-chair, Stephen Novak of the Columbia University Medical Center, was elected, replacing Dan May who had served two successful terms.

In addition, we decided to revive the defunct "Working Group" as a more formal Steering Committee to help govern the Roundtable. Besides the two co-chairs, it includes newsletter editor Sarah Demb; webmaster Susan Edwards; and members Jim Cartwright, Michael Kelly and Paula Jabloner. Thanks to all of them for volunteering their time and energy.

The History Project then presented an overview of its path breaking activities over the last decade including its pioneering LGBT history exhibit at the Boston Public Library.

Though you are receiving this issue in bleak mid-winter, it's not too early think about the 2005 SAA annual meeting to be held this year in très gai New Orleans, August 15-21. Besides the annual LAGAR meeting, SAA provides myriad opportunities to brush up on old skills, learn new ones, and to acquaint yourselves with your colleagues from around the country. We look forward to seeing you there!

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## REPOSITORY UPDATES

### San Francisco Public Library - *Reversing Vandalism*

In early 2001, San Francisco Public Library staff began finding books hidden under shelving units throughout the Main Library. The books had been carved with a sharp instrument: covers and inner pages were slashed and odd almond-shaped pieces were cut out. As the mutilated books began accumulating, staff recognized that most of the volumes were related to issues of gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgendered individuals, HIV/AIDS and women's health issues. Staff members united to help find and inventory the over 600 damaged books, as well as to observe the stacks waiting for someone to shove damaged books under a shelf.

Eventually the vandal was caught by a librarian, on her day off, who alerted Library Security. The perpetrator was arrested, charged and found guilty of a hate crime. When the reports of the crime hit the newspapers, an outpouring of support as well as offers to help replace the volumes came from sympathizers across the country.

After the damaged books were returned by the San Francisco Police Department, most of them were determined to be beyond repair and would be withdrawn from the collection. The volumes were digitally documented, but it was felt that discarding the books would only complete the vandal's crime.



*vandalized book*

Jim Van Buskirk, Program Manager for the Hormel Center, in conversation with local visual artists and Library staff initiated the process leading to the

Reversing Vandalism project. A public call for participation was circulated offering the destroyed books to artists, community members and interested individuals. Response to the project was immediate and intense. People quickly understood that this vandalism was not solely about gay and lesbian issues or even about books, but represented a social climate increasingly filled with fear and hate. Participants from more than twenty states, as well as Japan and France, contributed work in a wide range of media: works on paper, sculpture, assemblage, textiles, paintings, photography, even a working clock.

Using found objects in art has a long and rich history. Cubist artists Pablo Picasso and George Braque are considered among the first modern artists to use collage, assemblage, and/or found objects in their work. Other international artists include Surrealists Max Ernst and Joan Miro, as well as the German artists Kurt Schwitters, Hannah Hoch and Joseph Beuys. Americans include Joseph Cornell, Robert Rauschenberg, Betye Saar and Jay DeFeo. Books, or pieces of them, figure into many contemporary artists' work. "Altered books," the genre in which books are used as a medium in creating artwork, continues to increase in popularity and importance.



*mailing damaged books*

The use of art in response to tragedy or hate has an equally impressive history. Artists have always known intuitively that creating a visual image through any medium can produce physical and emotional benefits for both the creator and those who view it. Some of these artists' responses are whimsical, sad, angry or political. Many have created something beautiful from the shreds of a ruined book. Others added humor to the situation. Most impressive is the wide variety of responses. Using basically the same raw materials, artists have contributed an unexpectedly diverse range of expression as they participate in proselytizing the importance of reversing vandalism.

--Sarah Demb, *Editor\**

**Review of 'Scandal in the Exhibit Hall' Session at SAA, Boston 2004**

On Saturday, 7 August 2004, from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m., Stephen Nonack, Libby Bouvier, and Mimi Bowling

made presentations on two exhibits of LGBT materials. Nonack and Bouvier worked on the exhibit "Public Faces, Private Lives" at the Boston Public Library in 1996. Nonack presented some of the details of the exhibit and the book which came from the exhibit. According to the Boston Public Library, the exhibit attracted over 50,000 visitors; yet pointedly, there was no review of the exhibit in the *Boston Globe*. Bouvier presented the background history leading to the establishment of History Project, the LGBT organization which sponsored the "Public Faces, Private Lives" and which still collects materials on the history of LGBT persons in the greater Boston area. History Project web site, <http://www.historyproject.org/>, has mounted exhibits concerning Blacks, Chicanos, as well as LGBT Youth. Currently they are working on documenting earlier history of LGBT people in Boston through oral histories of LGBT elders.

Mimi Bowling presented information on "Becoming Visible" an exhibition on the LGBT community at the New York Public Library. Bowling indicated that the library tried at the beginning to include "everyone." She concluded that there is not an LGBT community but an LGBT galaxy. The plans started by, primarily from LGBT curators and museums. Before long, institutions began withdrawing, and NYPL was left. Bowling cautioned that including everyone on one hand and doing it alone on the other are both doomed to failure. If you want an exhibit, take the middle road. Construct an advisory board of informed, involved individuals; work them very hard and *listen* to them. Bowling indicated that "Becoming Visible" drew 100,000 visitors, second only to the exhibit on the Dead Sea Scrolls at the New York Public Library. Concerning scandal, the exhibition of nudity, Bowling explained that they carefully selected images and locations within the exhibit, but did not censor. Nudity was included. The Library demanded only one change in the exhibit, and Bowling felt that that change was justifiable. On the first day of the exhibit, however, someone placed a sign at the entry indicating that some content may not be suitable for all ages. Following reactions from the community, the sign disappeared within ten minutes.

-- Jim Cartwright, *University of Hawaii at Manoa*

**Atlanta's Unspoken Past: Gay and Lesbian Oral History Exhibit**

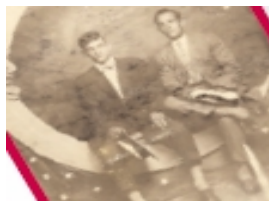
In July 2004, the Atlanta History Center began a lesbian and gay oral history project, funded in part by a grant from the Georgia Humanities Council. The project, *Atlanta's Unspoken Past*, focuses on lesbian and gay history and culture in Atlanta prior to the Stonewall riots in New York City in 1969. The oral histories will explore issues facing individuals who generally led guarded lives. These issues include marriage and family, loneliness and isolation, public

acceptance, and personal economic and political status. A significant and recurring theme in their life histories is the change over time in the social acceptance of gay men and lesbians by mainstream culture.



An exhibition based on the oral histories will open in May 2005 and run for three months. It will utilize commentary culled from the interviews; written and photographic materials; objects already held in the History Center's archives and museum; and other materials collected or identified during the project. The exhibit will emphasize those themes developed through the oral histories that relate to gay and lesbian self-identification during the era of the 1940s through the mid-1960s, and will highlight individual accomplishments and compelling personal stories. It not only documents the means of survival and ways of life of this frequently marginalized group, but also demonstrates the degree of group identity and cohesiveness, as well as diversity, within the community. Notions of race, gender, class, religion, and political affiliation are intimately tied to the exhibition's larger themes.

*Atlanta's Unspoken Past* will be installed in an 800-square-foot gallery located in McElreath Hall at the Atlanta History Center. This gallery is free and open to the general public Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM. There will be a public reception for the exhibition's opening and an in-house tri-fold brochure as an exhibition takeaway that will describe the project, provide a historical timeline, offer a bibliography and source guide, and list contact information for visitors interested in participating in the oral history project. The exhibition will also offer a survey to evaluate public response to issues and content presented in the exhibit.



To further the community's awareness of the History Center's preservation efforts, the Kenan Research Center (the archival repository of the Atlanta History Center) is establishing an advisory committee to function as a networking group. The History Center's Lesbian and Gay Historical Advisory Committee is

pleased to have LAGAR co-chairs Deborah A. Richards and Daniel B. May as members. For more information, contact Wesley Chenault at 404.814.4044 or [WChenault@AtlantaHistoryCenter.com](mailto:WChenault@AtlantaHistoryCenter.com).

## NEWS – INSIDE SAA

**The LAGAR-proposed session “Making 'Us vs. Them' into 'We'” has been accepted for the SAA Annual Meeting in New Orleans, 2005. Start buying those beads already!**

### LAGAR Steering Committee Minutes

Attended: James Carson, Jim Cartwright, Sarah Demb, Michael Doyle, Susan Edwards, Paula Jabloner, Michael Kelly, Catherine Miller, Stephen Novak.

- 1 SAA 2005 Program Proposal ideas:
  - a) Novack will follow up a session on collecting the records of on-going/active organizations
  - b) Jaboner will follow up a session on collecting recent records in the computer industry and other sectors
  - c) Cartwright will follow up a session on New Orleans organizational records in culture and business including Carnival 'crews', the Amistad Collection, GLBT orgs, etc. He will get in touch with Lee Miller at Tulane University. This session could possibly be co-endorsed by the Performing Arts Roundtable, People of Color Roundtable, etc.

### 2 Scholarship Fund Disbursement

The fund will be used to support attendance at SAA 2005 and will be available to applicants who are either a. students with an interest in GLBT archives or, b. an archivist (professional or paraprofessional) at a GLBT community archives. Applicants need to write a letter of application expressing their interest and reasons for attending the conference and 2 letters of reference. The successful applicant must attend the LAGAR Meeting and submit a brief article on their experience to the LAGAR newsletter. A committee made up of 3-5 members of the steering committee will review applications and choose the recipient. The LAGAR co-chairs will appoint this committee by January 2005. Applications will be due by the end of April so that a decision can be made by May. Notice of the scholarship will be placed by the scholarship committee in regional newsletters, *Archival Outlook* and on relevant listservs by February 2005.

### 3 LAGAR By-laws

Novak will disseminate the by-laws to Steering Committee members for review.

#### 4 LAGAR website

Jabloner and Novak will draft updated content for the website. This content will include: a link to essential archival suppliers (see the Museum Archives website's *Museum Archives Manual* Resource List to be mounted shortly), an introduction to the roundtable, issues regarding GLBT archives and archivists (ie continuity in organizations, how to deal with GLBT materials, etc) and links to relevant organizations. LAGAR members will be encouraged to submit photos from their archives for the website.

#### 5 5 Female Co-Chair Nominations

Deborah Richards has asked that we solicit nominations in plenty of time for next year.

#### 6 6 LAGAR Newsletter

Demb will solicit collections and repository updates for the newsletter from members. The Roundtable minutes will also be published in the next newsletter.

#### LAGAR Meeting Minutes 5 August 2004

Matt Beech of the Program Committee spoke to the Roundtable about proposals for next year's meeting. Proposals are due from members on 8 October and from roundtables (once they have sponsored them) by 22 October. There is a proposal tip sheet on the SAA web site to help make your proposal a success. There are 60 sessions available; last year there were 120 proposals. There are 35-37 endorsement units (roundtables and sections); proposals that have multiple endorsements are more successful. Make sure your session participants are committed before you submit proposals.

Lee Miller of the New Orleans Host Committee reminded us that the meeting will be in the third week of August at the Riverfront View Hilton. A great location for your SOs/families, bring 'em along.

Frank Boles is our Council Liaison. Frank says the council is our fiend! Newsletters produced by the Council are no longer in paper form. LAGAR's annual report is due to the Council on 31 December. Council should be aware of any fund raising projects before we contact donors. As of 1 July 2005, \$99.99 will potentially be available to each Section and Roundtable.

Stephen Novak was elected as male co-chair for two years. Deborah Richards is the female co-chair. The Steering Committee is comprised of the two co-chairs, the Newsletter Editor (Sarah Demb), the Webmaster (Susan Edwards) and members at large Michael Kelly, Paula Jabloner, and Jim Cartwright.

It was resolved that the \$1000 received from the sales of the Lavender Legacy Guide be used as a

Scholarship Fund to benefit a community archivist or archives student for the amount of the SAA 2005 Conference registration, to be known as the Lesbian and Gay Archives Outreach Fund. The resolution was made by Stephen Novak and seconded by Jim Carson. It was passed unanimously.

It was noted that any revisions to the LAGAR by-laws must be submitted to Council at least 60 days before the New Orleans meeting.

Susan Edwards announced that the web site (<http://www.archivists.org/saagroups/lagar/home.htm>) was recently updated and comments should go to her at [sedwards@salemstate.edu](mailto:sedwards@salemstate.edu). She would like to add a Primer for Community Archives to the site.

The meeting was adjourned after The History Project's lively presentation.

## OTHER NEWS

**On Saturday 30 October, a flash flood** swept through the University of Hawaii [LAGAR member Jim Cartwright's workplace] at Manoa campus in Honolulu. The flood crested at about six feet on the ground floor of the main library, where the government documents and map collections, as well as our technical services departments, are located. The force of the flood water was so great that it knocked out walls, broke windows, moved fully loaded map cases, and knocked over stacks. Fortunately, the flood occurred at 8:00 p.m. and the library was closed. The few people inside were able to escape. Needless to say, the collection suffered extremely heavy damage. Almost everything was under water as only the top shelves of the few stacks left standing are dry. Very little of the collections will be salvageable. Staff will be working to rebuild the collections over the coming months and years. Manoa has been a federal depository since 1907 and a regional since 1977, as well as a United Nations depository. If at all possible, Manoa requests that you hold onto large runs of material on your withdrawal lists, as they will undoubtedly be requesting documents on a grand scale. Advice to others should they find themselves in similar unfortunate situations: Make sure you have your staff members' phone numbers at home so in an emergency you can reach everyone to make sure they are safe and to mobilize people for disaster response. Back up your office computer and take the disks home with you. All of our computers went swimming.

-- Gwen Sinclair, Head of Government Documents & Maps  
University of Hawaii at Manoa Library, temporary e-mail:  
[ouz09ges@earthlink.net](mailto:ouz09ges@earthlink.net).

**Rainbow History has started a web log** ('blog') for comments, discussion, academic queries, questions, and answers about Washington, DC's GLBT history. You can find it at <http://dcglbthistory.blogspot.com/>. Items can be posted on the 'blog or emailed to [blog@rainbowhistory.org](mailto:blog@rainbowhistory.org) for posting. The 'blog provides an opportunity for remembering events, persons, and issues not otherwise covered by the local glbt press. Feel free to use it also as a suggestion box for research and topical discussions that you would like Rainbow History to undertake.

### **Mandeville-Gamble to Head Special Collections at the NCSU Libraries**

LAGAR member Steven Mandeville-Gamble has been appointed Head of the Special Collections Research Center at the NCSU Libraries, effective December 1, 2004. He will provide vision and leadership for a growing program of special collections and archives, working closely with faculty, researchers, and administrators, and serving as the leading point of contact for the Research Center's benefactors. In this key leadership role, he will provide strategic management of collections, policy, budget, and personnel. He will also be involved with the renovation and expansion of the Special Collections space and the opening of an attractive new reading room and gallery.

Mandeville-Gamble has extensive professional experience in special collections and archives. He currently holds the position of Assistant Head of Special Collections at Stanford University. Under his leadership, Stanford implemented new procedures for cataloging manuscripts and archival materials. Mandeville-Gamble oversaw the transition to SIRSI's Unicorn system, and he authored the procedures and cataloging manuals that are currently in use. Under his management and supervision, Stanford University Libraries converted 100 percent of its finding aids to its manuscripts collections to EAD and published them on the web, in conjunction with the Online Archives of California.

Mandeville-Gamble holds the Masters of Library and Information Studies degree from the University of California, Berkeley, the Master of Arts Degree in Sociolinguistic Anthropology from the University of Michigan, and the Bachelor of Arts Degree in Cultural Anthropology from Stanford University. He is a member of the Society of American Archivists and the Society of California Archivists, and is a contributing author to the /Handbook of American Women's History/, 1st and 2nd editions.

Mandeville-Gamble was one of the earliest adopters of EAD in the country, and has been an active member and contributor throughout his career on various committees and working groups that have shaped the adoption of the EAD standard.

### **International Conference of GLBT Libraries, Museums, Archives, and Special Collections, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA, October 13-15, 2005**

An **International Conference of GLBT Libraries, Museums, Archives, and Special Collections** will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota USA on October 13, 14, and 15, 2005. This conference will provide a unique opportunity to gather and discuss issues of importance to GLBT communities and organizations. The conference has been planned to run parallel to the World InterPride Conference, the International Association of Lesbian and Gay Pride Coordinators which draws hundreds of participants from six continents.

The conference is sponsored and hosted by the University of Minnesota's **Jean-Nickolaus Tretter Collection in Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Studies** and **The Quatrefoil Library**, a member-supported LGBTQ lending library in St. Paul, Minnesota that promotes understanding, diversity, history, and value of LGBTQ communities and publications.

The Conference will be held at the University of Minnesota Andersen Library -- Minnesota Library Archives Center.

All workshops and classes will be included in your conference registration. Plenary sessions, keynote speakers, and workshop breakout sessions will be available on a wide-variety of topics.

This conference is presently under development. Please email Mark Ranum, [mranum@hclib.org](mailto:mranum@hclib.org), to express an interest in presenting or attending.

### **Make a Gift to the LGBT Religious Archives Network**

Although many persons think that Stonewall marked the beginning of the modern LGBT rights movement, there are many stories of LGBT religious activism predating 1969. Do you know that:

a. In 1946, a group of gay and lesbian people at Sacred Heart Church in Atlanta were denied communion because they refused to admit that their lives were an "abomination to God." In protest, these persons came forward to receive communion for several Sundays and stood silently at the altar as the priests passed them by. This protest led to the organization of one of the first known LGBT religious groups in the U.S.--almost sixty years ago.

b. In 1960, Congregational pastor Robert Wood published the first book in the U.S. to affirm homosexual persons from a religious perspective--Christ and the Homosexual. Wood even dared to

publish his photo on the book jacket. All 5,000 printed copies were sold.

c. On January 1, 1965, San Francisco police raided a gala dance benefiting the newly-formed Council on Religion and the Homosexual; several leaders of the event were arrested. Religious leaders were outraged and held a press conference the next day to blast the police and city for this repression. This event sparked the mobilization of a widespread LGBT rights movement in San Francisco.

d. In 1966, a young gay Mormon, David-Edward Desmond, founded the United Order Family of Christ in Denver. This break-off Mormon congregation--for young gay men only--practiced a unique form of communalism in which members "held everything in common."

These are but a few of the many valuable stories of LGBT religious movements from the distant past that are in danger of being lost to history. The LGBT Religious Archives Network (LGBTRAN) is the one organization that is working to ensure that these stories are preserved for future generations. Can you help us in this effort?

Your gift of \$100, \$500, or \$50--whatever you are able to give--will help LGBTRAN forge ahead to recover and preserve the many stories of ground-breaking efforts by early LGBT religious leaders.

To make a gift--you only need to click on this link, [www.lgbtran.org/DonateLink.htm](http://www.lgbtran.org/DonateLink.htm) with your credit card in hand. It takes 2-3 minutes to send a tax-deductible gift that will be charged to your credit card.

Or you may wish to send a check. Simply make a check payable to "LGBTRAN" and mail it to: LGBTRAN c/o Chicago Theological Seminary 5757 S. University Avenue Chicago, IL 60637

Our goal for this year is to raise at least \$10,000 in gifts from LGBTRAN Friends and Partners. Thanks to the support of dozens of persons like you, we are already more than halfway to that goal. With your help, we can reach this goal by the end of the year.

Thank you for joining our effort to keep alive the stories of the LGBT religious pioneers who paved the way for us and the multitude of LGBT religious movements that thrive today.

-- *Mark Bowman, LGBTRAN Coordinator*

**"Faithfully yours" Immersed in Progressive History: An Interactive Scrapbook of Elisabeth Freeman, Suffragette, Civil Rights Worker, and Militant Pacifist. Jan. 21- Feb 13, 2005.** Cooperative Gallery, 213 State Street, Binghamton, NY 13901; (607) 724-3462. [www.ElizabethFreeman.org](http://www.ElizabethFreeman.org). For

more information: Peg Johnston, 724-9218, 785-3429 Voice mail 11; E-mail: [PegJohnston@stny.rr.com](mailto:PegJohnston@stny.rr.com).

Elisabeth Freeman was a fiery suffragette, a dedicated civil rights worker, and a militant pacifist during the first decades of the last century and visitors to Faithfully Yours will get to walk through a re-creation of her life's scrapbook at the Cooperative Gallery 213 from Friday Jan. 21st to Sunday Feb. 13th. Special events connected to the show include a Gallery Talk about the exhibit at 1 pm Sat. Jan 22nd and a reception to follow until 4 pm, First Friday Art Walk Feb. 4th from 3-9 pm and a Closing "tea" Sunday Feb. 13th. Students, historians, and interested people may also visit the installation of Elisabeth Freeman material by appointment with Gallery artist, Peg Johnston.

"I inherited a huge scrapbook of clippings, photos, and letters about the work of a progressive activist," said Peg Johnston. "I am re-creating much of this material so that people can explore it first hand--I want people to touch it, read the letters, and get caught up in the thrill of encountering original sources." Elisabeth Freeman was most engaged in the suffrage cause, organizing and agitating for women's right to vote both in England and in the U.S. She also spoke out extensively against the lynching of blacks in the South on behalf of the NAACP. She opposed war prior to the First World War and after the U.S. entered the war, she worked to ensure civil liberties at home. "It is fascinating to see the evolution of some of the same social issues that we struggle with today," comments Johnston.

"I especially want to reach out to students and others who want to experience history, not just read about it. Books are just not enough to understand what it was like," according to Peg Johnston the curator of the exhibit. "Faithfully Yours", which was how Elisabeth Freeman always signed her letters, is also a family affair. Freeman is the aunt of Ruth Freeman Johnston who kept the Freeman papers for her daughter Peg. Ruth Freeman Johnston is also available to interpret some of the exhibit for visitors.

For more information, visit [www.ElizabethFreeman.org](http://www.ElizabethFreeman.org) or contact Peg Johnston at (607) 724-9218.

### **GLBT Historical Society Internship Program**

The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Historical Society (GLBTHS) in San Francisco invites applications from undergraduate and graduate students for internships with the Historical Society. The GLBTHS is a community-based archives and museum dedicated to preserving the histories of GLBT communities in Northern California. For 20 years, the GLBTHS has maintained one of the worlds largest collections of primary source material about gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender history. The mission of the GLBTHS is to work to increase public

understanding, appreciation and affirmation of the history and culture of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and other sexual minority individuals and communities.

This internship program provides students with the opportunity to gain valuable hands-on experience working with a community based non-profit historical organization. While open to all undergraduate and graduate students, this program would mostly benefit students working toward degrees in history, American Studies, Women's Studies, LGBT and Queer Studies, Museum Studies, and/or library or information management. Each intern can design a program that closely aligns with their academic needs while also serving the particular and critical needs of the Historical Society. At minimum, interns will be expected to:

- assist with providing access to the historical society's archives and museum for the general public and professional researchers, including but not limited to staffing our research room and galleries, paging and re-shelving archival materials and handling basic research questions
- assist with daily operations of the historical society, including but not limited to facilitating mailings to its members, assisting with the organizations record keeping needs, and updating/maintaining the historical society's databases

Depending on training and need, interns may also be asked to provide research assistance for archives staff, assist with the museums rotating exhibits, give public tours of the archives and museum, and help archivists with the processing of collections. These particular tasks will require particular training, which will be provided to interns depending on their academic programs and the needs of the Historical Society.

Each intern will work directly with a staff member or one of the co-chairs of the archives committee to develop an internship work plan, which will include a training timetable and a job description. While this internship is un-paid, students will be expected to commit a minimum of 3-5 hours per week over the course of a 3-5 month period for this internship, depending on the particular needs of the students program. Volunteering opportunities beyond the time frame of the internship are available for students interested in continuing their work with the Historical Society beyond the internship period. Arrangements for academic credit at their home institutions are the responsibility of each student and not of the Historical Society.

**Eligibility** - This program is available to all students completing a degree at the undergraduate or graduate level. Ideally, undergraduates should be in their junior or senior years at the time they begin their internships.

**How to Apply** - To apply, complete an internship application form, available from the Operations Manager, Jacob Richards. He can be reached at 415-777-5455 ext. 5# or by emailing [jacob@glbthistory.org](mailto:jacob@glbthistory.org)

**Questions?** Inquiries about the internship program can be directed to Jacob Richards or David Reichard, Co-Chair of the Archives Committee by e-mail at [david\\_reichard@csumb.edu](mailto:david_reichard@csumb.edu).

**Writer Needed** - The editor of the Encyclopedia of Women's Folklore and Folklife is looking for a writer with a background in folklore/anthropology/cultural studies/gender studies for an entry on Transsexual Folklore. If you're interested please contact Dr. Liz Locke at [lizlocke@earthlink.net](mailto:lizlocke@earthlink.net)

## In Memoriam

### **R Jackson Armstrong-Ingram**

On Thursday, October 21, I received a call from Jackson Armstrong-Ingram's sister who lives in Ireland, but who was visiting him in his home in Las Vegas, that he had passed away the night before, after a short illness. This came as quite a shock to me, since I had seen him in Los Angeles earlier that month. Of course, he had various health complaints, and he was never physically very strong, but he seemed fine to me then and we had an enjoyable visit.

I am afraid that his passing was also a great surprised to his family. Besides his sister, he leaves behind two sons: Conan and Tiernan, who live in Indiana. They are all scrambling around trying to take care of his personal affairs

I had known Jackson for many years, since the early 1980s. I always found him to be a brilliant intellectual, a careful scholar, and a conscientious archivist. He was a very close friend, and he had an endless capacity to fascinate me with his passion for research into Bahá'í history. But, of course, his research interests did not stop there. He had an encyclopedic knowledge of vast areas of Middle Eastern history and anthropology, European culture, and American history, as well. He was also well known and well published in his own field of archival preservation and research.

I do not have much information on his life, and all I can offer here are the facts that I can remember from my many informal conversations with him. He was born in Northern Ireland to a Protestant family, I believe. He grew up in Ireland, where he became a Bahá'í. He was also married there at a young age. He attended the Queen's University in Belfast, and he pursued a Ph.D. there.

Actually, his doctoral work was one of the great disappointments of his life. He had completed his

doctoral dissertation on the development of music and devotions in the early American Bahá'í community. The dissertation was eventually published as volume four in the STUDIES IN BABI AND BAHÁ'Í RELIGIONS series under the title of *Music, Devotions, and Mashriqu'l-Adhkar*. (Jackson was a frequent contributor to the series. His most recent article was published in volume fourteen.) In any case, his advisor at Queen's University was happy with his work and wrote to him to say that he would accept the dissertation. Unfortunately, the advisor died suddenly before he could complete the paperwork, and the doctorate was thrown into limbo. Another committee was formed some time later to review the case, and on the advice of an outside reviewer the doctorate was denied. Jackson spent much time on appeals and international correspondence to resolve this matter in his favor, but he was not successful.

I don't know when he moved to the United States with his family. But he did work in the Bahá'í National Archives in Wilmette, Illinois, for a few years before moving on to other jobs. His career as an archivist was certainly distinguished. When he moved from the Midwest, separating from his wife (and eventually divorcing), he took a position with the Nevada State Library and Archives in Carson City. He then moved to the Henderson Municipal Archives, also in Nevada. He was briefly hired as the State Archivist of Alaska. Unfortunately, that position did not last very long. As the Alaska winter set in, Jackson found that he could not tolerate the weather there and he had to return to the Las Vegas area for health reasons. Most recently he had been a consultant to the Riverside, CA, city archives. He was deliberately trying to keep his formal work schedule to a minimum in order to devote himself to research and writing.

He certainly accomplished that. His most recent article, "The Shah, the Skirt, and the Ballet: A Menage à Trois, or Just Ill-Founded Gossip?" in *Qajar Studies*, Vol. IV (Rotterdam, 2004) was a brilliant and witty inquiry into the notion that Nasiru'd-Din Shah, after his first visit to Europe, ordered the women in his harem to wear short skirts in imitation of the ballet dancers he had seen. Jackson was able, within a few pages, to demonstrate that this is a silly and unsubstantiated myth that cannot possibly be true.

He had recently taken up working on a Ph.D. again and had enrolled in Leiden University as the first step toward writing a new dissertation.

He was also working on a book for Kalimat Press, a second volume of *Written in Light*, with photographs of 'Abdu'l-Bahá in the Holy Land. I hope that this book can eventually be published posthumously. He had spent a great deal of time conducting research for and writing on this book. I remember being startled by how emotionally invested he was in it. He once told his friends that he had been working with a photograph of the funeral of 'Abdu'l-Bahá in the Holy Land. In the picture, he noticed that there was a group of poor

Palestinian women who had come into the street to observe the funeral procession. They were wearing only the ordinary Arab smocks that the masses could afford. However, he could clearly see in the photo that they were weeping hopelessly and beating their heads with their fists and he himself fell into tears at the realization of what 'Abdu'l-Bahá must have meant to the poor people of Akka and Haifa.

He also had a number of other research projects in mind. We had, at one time, outlined ideas for eight or ten books that he would have liked to have completed.

In any case, Jackson's untimely passing is certainly a great loss to Bahá'í studies. I hope that his library and his papers can be preserved and deposited in an archive somewhere for the benefit of future scholars. They will certainly find there a treasure chest of materials gathered over a lifetime of diligent research.

-- Anthony Lee, B'hai Library Online\*

#### **Willie Walker 1949 – 2004**

Willie Walker, a founding member of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society (GLBTHS), died of cancer and complications from Hepatitis C at 6:40 a.m. on September 29, 2004. Though Walker had been living at Coming Home hospice in the Castro, at the time of his death he was visiting his sister, Barbara L. Estinson, in Spokane, Washington. Barbara and Kezia and Jesse Vernon, his niece and nephew, were with Walker when he passed. His San Francisco family, many of whom were part of his care circle during his final years of illness, and his many friends across the country mourn Walker's passing.

Walker was born in Fort Worth, Texas on February 11, 1949. He spent much of his youth on the move, living for short periods in South Carolina, Tennessee, Missouri, and West Texas. In 1967 Walker moved to Three Forks, Montana. After graduating from Grand Forks high school he enrolled at the University of Montana, though he dropped out before finishing. Walker spent a number of years working odd jobs including a stint in the forestry service. During this time he contributed articles to RFD and other gay liberation papers and helped put out *Borrowed Times*, a New Left publication. In the late 1970s, Walker helped establish and run the Butte-Silver Bow Archives in Butte, Montana. After returning to school in the mid 1970s, Walker earned a degree in nursing; he eventually worked on Ward 5A at San Francisco General, the so-called "AIDS Ward."

In 1981 Walker moved to San Francisco where he became a member of Solidarity and a served on the board of the Pride Parade. A year after arriving in the Bay Area, Walker joined the San Francisco History Project, a group that included Alan Berube, Jo-Anne Castillo, Jeffrey Escoffier, Eric Garber, Gayle Rubin,



and several other scholars. Over the next two decades Walker continued to contribute to the field of gay and lesbian studies, including writing several articles on the history of gay male erotica. His last publication was an introduction for Thomas Waugh's *Lust Unearthed: Vintage Gay Graphics from the DuBek Collection*. At the time of his death, Walker was working on a book entitled *Male Beauty: Great Photographers of the Physical Culture and Physique Movement, 1920 - 1970*. Always ready to share his knowledge and insight with others, Walker is thanked in countless book and article acknowledgements.

Walker was among the founders of the GLBT Historical Society (then called the San Francisco Gay and Lesbian Historical Society), which was established in 1985. When few other institutions, public or private, were collecting GLBT materials, Walker and his colleagues devoted themselves to that task. "We believe," Walker would later write, "that if queer people do not preserve our own history, most of it will simply disappear." Walker's dedication to the GLBTHS was remarkable. In fact, for the first five years of the organization's existence the GLBTHS archives were housed in Walker's apartment.

When the archives moved out of Walker's apartment he followed, serving as the organization's archivist for a number of years. In the late 1980s, Walker earned a Masters in Library Sciences from the University of Berkeley, with a focus on archival management. His accomplishments as an archivist are legion: he helped plan and wrote the guide for a microfilm collection of Bay Area GLBT publications including *The Sentinel*, the *Bay Area Reporter*, *The Ladder*, *The Mattachine Review*, *Vector*, *Amazon Quarterly*, *Sonoma County Lesbian and Gay News*, and the *Bay Times*; led workshops in archival methods; developed a database (in conjunction with his friend Eric Garber) of GLBT sites in San Francisco; assisted thousands of researchers; and played a key role in curating a number of GLBTHS exhibits including "Making a Case for Community History," and "Queer and Kinky Danger: Art of San Francisco's Leather/SM/Kink Worlds." Walker was forced to stop working in 2000 due to illness. Walker's papers, which include his research files, photograph collection, letters, journals, and other personal papers have been deposited in the archives that he devoted so much of his life to. Walker has requested that memorials be sent to the GLBTHS or to Hospice by the Bay. Walker leaves behind a large number of friends and family. In addition to his sister in Spokane, a brother, his mother and several nieces and nephews survive him. His father and one sister predeceased him as did his partner, Enrique Hermosillo, who died of complications from HIV in 1997. In addition to his biological family, Walker leaves behind hundreds of friends in the Bay Area and beyond.

A reception honoring Walker's life was held at the GLBTHS on Saturday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

\* some items have been culled from on-line published sources; permission to reprint has been sought

**Please help contribute to the LAGAR Newsletter by submitting articles on LAGAR activities, repository updates, news and other announcements. Photos (jpg format) are most welcome. The next issue will be available on 20 June 2005. Deadline: 5 June 2005.**

**-- Sarah Demb, Editor**