

MANUSCRIPT REPOSITORIES NEWSLETTER

A Newsletter from the Manuscript Repositories Section of the Society of American Archivists

FALL 2017

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FROM THE CHAIR

*Ashley Todd-Diaz, Head of Special Collections and University Archives
Towson University*

It was great to see so many of you at this year's annual meeting in Portland! In addition to our usual business meeting, we enjoyed an engaging panel on the timely topic of teaching cursive to users. This topic was born out of a discussion at last year's meeting program that centered on the book *Teaching with Primary Sources*, part of SAA's Trends in Archives Practice series. With fewer and fewer schools now teaching cursive, there is an increasing number of researchers entering the archives who are unable to read handwritten documents. As archivists in manuscripts repositories, many of us encounter this challenge on a day-to-day basis and are very interested in how colleagues are responding. This year's program offered insight into ways three institutions are addressing this challenge with a range of users, including K-12 and college students, via exhibits, Transcribe-a-thons, and informational zines.

Looking forward over the course of the year, the steering committee is working on developing a few collaborative projects and conducting a section-wide survey to take the pulse of our members. The committee will be holding its next meeting towards the end of October, so please feel free to get in touch with me (atodddiaz@towson.edu) or any steering committee member if you have questions or suggestions for us.

Minutes from the annual meeting and the meeting of the steering committee are included below. Many thanks to our members at Williams College, AUC Woodruff Library Archives Research Center, Boston College, and the Black Metropolis Research Consortium for sending in news and interesting announcements. I hope you enjoy the newsletter!

MANUSCRIPTS REPOSITORIES SECTION ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Friday, July 28, 2017

11:15-12:30 pm

Approximately 200 attendees.

Welcome and Introduction – Jackie Dean, Section Chair

Reports

Nominating and Elections Committee – Anke Voss, Immediate Past Chair

Immediate Past-Chair Anke Voss reported on the work of the elections committee. Ballots for section elections was sent in June. The results of the election were:

Vice Chair/Chair-Elect – Alison Clemens, Yale University

Steering Committee:

- Sarah Bost, University of Arkansas Little Rock Center for Arkansas History
- Anne Jenner, University of Washington Libraries
- Rebecca Petersen May, Wake Forest University

Council Liaison report –Michelle Light

- Brenda Gunn will be the new liaison.
- Council issued a statement of concern about holding the 2019 meeting in Austin due to the discriminatory bathroom bill.
- An Independent Archives Section was approved.
- The Membership Committee conducted a survey to see how more people can get involved in leadership and will be incorporating suggestions into the upcoming strategic plan. They are encouraging everyone to volunteer to serve.

- There are revised guidelines for how sections can apply for funding for special projects.

Teaching with Primary Sources Unconference – Recap – Lori Birrell, Steering Committee

Lori Birrell recapped the third annual Teaching with Primary Sources Unconference sponsored by the Reference, Access, and Outreach Section. The unconference took place on Tuesday, July 25th 2017 at the Portland Art Museum and brought together over 150 archivists and educators. Details about the event are available at the unconference's website: teachwithstuff.org. Lori noted the unconference will happen again next year in Washington D.C., and that Heather Oswald and JoyEllen Freeman will be cycling into leadership roles for the Teaching with Primary Sources committee.

Other Affiliated Groups

OCLC Research - Jackie Dooley, Program Officer

- Chela Scott Weber has joined OCLC as Practitioner Researcher-in-Residence and is working on a white paper on issues in special collections and archives. A draft of the white paper has gone out to the SAA Leaders list and is also online; they are welcoming feedback.
- A new publication, *Demystifying IT: A Framework for Shared Understanding between Archivists and IT Professionals*, is available at OCLC's website.
- The Web Archiving Metadata Working Group is preparing best practices for descriptive metadata for web archives. The document will include the most important data elements and content for those elements, a literature review, and a review of 11 web harvesting tools that addresses how well you can extract descriptive metadata with each tool.
- Reissued a 10th anniversary edition of the white paper, *Shifting Gears*, which discusses efficient methods for large scale digitization.
- Invited questions and comments at Dooleyj@oclc.org

Program

Steering committee members Alison Clemens and Lori Birrell planned a program centering on teaching cursive to users. Alison noted that catalyst for this program was to see how different archivists have handled the challenge of users who are unfamiliar with reading handwriting. A panel of speakers (noted below) shared their experiences with teaching users about cursive and then opened the discussion for Q&A.

The panel:

- Bethany Fiechter, Indiana State Library, discussed the young readers center that teaches students about cursive, as well as primary and secondary sources
- Nancy Kaiser, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, shared details and lessons learned from the Transcribe-a-thon she helped sponsor

- Kelley Wooten, Rubenstein Library, Duke University, introduced the innovative communication method of informational zines (such as How to be a super researcher, available at <https://blogs.library.duke.edu/rubenstein/files/2016/04/archives-minizine.pdf>) and gave an interactive demo of how to make one

Following the program, Jackie closed the meeting.

MANUSCRIPTS REPOSITORIES SECTION STEERING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Friday, July 28, 2017

1:00-2:00pm

Present: Lori Birrell, Alison Clemens, Jackie Dean, Rory Grennan, Anne Jenner, Rebecca Petersen May, Ashley Todd-Diaz

Absent: Sarah Bost

The meeting opened with a welcome to new steering committee members and a discussion of the brief survey sent with the election ballot. Respondents noted they valued the section's programs, especially Jump In.

Goals and projects for 2016-2017. A primary topic discussed was the broad scope of the Manuscripts Repositories Section. Due to this broad scope, it was suggested that we consider potential partners to focus our projects this year. Possible ideas included a partnership with the Appraisal Section on how to learn enough to appraise a variety of materials; a partnership with the SNAP Section to host a conversation between project archivists and managers or a discussion surrounding how to nurture project archivists. There was also a suggestion to form a discussion around the value of generalists and whether generalism is dead.

Other projects discussed included conducting a membership survey for the section, considering the new affinity group model. A survey would help take the pulse of the current section membership and determine what priorities our members have. It was acknowledged that we cannot wait for the survey results before deciding on projects for this year since it takes a while to code data.

A partnership with the Membership Committee's Career Development Subcommittee was also discussed to offer services throughout the year for CV/resume review for members, and/or position description review for organizations.

Finally, we determined that we would hold regular steering committee meetings beginning in September to start planning for the year.

NEWS FROM MEMBERS

Turkish Missionary Papers Available for Research

*Katie Nash, College Archivist and Special Collections Librarian
Special Collections, Williams College*



LUTHER RICHARDSON FOWLE PAPERS

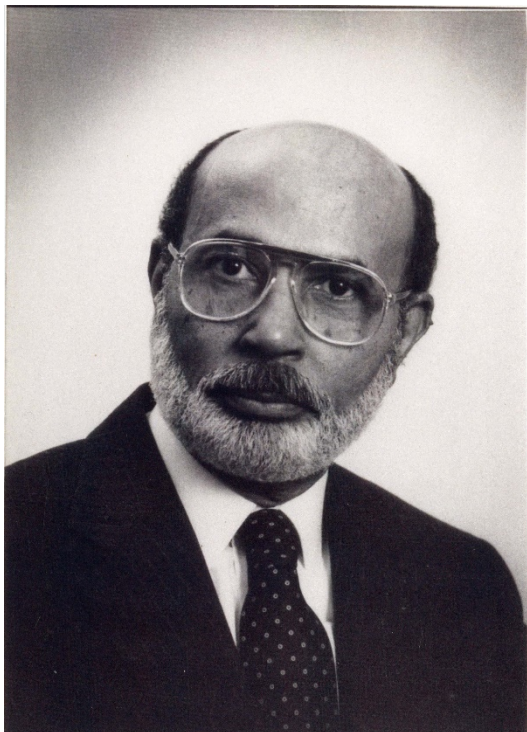
This summer, Brianna Chillious served as an Archives Intern for Williams College Special Collections in Sawyer Library, and processed a recent donation of the Luther Richardson Fowle (Williams 1908) Papers. Fowle was a missionary and treasurer for the American Board of Commissioners on Foreign Missions. Drawing on his diplomatic skills and knowledge of the language and customs of Turkey, Fowle served as Secretary and President of the Turkish YMCA and American Attaché from 1917 to 1919. The Fowle Papers contain unique materials, including a majority of his correspondence with family while working in Turkey, artifacts that Turkish archaeologists collected from the Ankara province, and Turkish journals, posters, newspaper clippings and photographs that documented his

travels in the Near East. The [finding aid for this collection](#) is available through the Williams ArchivesSpace instance. Please be sure to visit the website specialcollections.williams.edu. Brianna is a library & archives graduate student at the University at Albany in New York and will receive her master's degree this fall. For more information, please contact us at specialcollections@williams.edu.

The Wiley S. Bolden Papers are now open for research at the Atlanta University Center Robert W. Woodruff Library's Archives Research Center

*Brittany Newberry, Processing Archivist
Archives Research Center, Atlanta University Center Robert W. Woodruff Library*

Dr. Wiley S. Bolden worked as an educator, administrator, and psychologist in Georgia. While obtaining his doctorate in clinical psychology, Dr. Bolden worked at Clark College (now Clark Atlanta University) as a professor of psychology. He would later serve as Chairman of the Psychology Department and Dean of Faculty and Instruction at Clark College. In 1962, he was one of two African American licensed psychologists in the State of Georgia. During his time as



WILEY S. BOLDEN PAPERS

an educator and administrator, Dr. Bolden worked on the Cooperative Experimental Summer School project, served as the Vice President of Academic Affairs at Morris Brown College, worked as a professor of Educational Foundations at Georgia State University, served as acting president at Savannah State College, and was involved with organizations such as the Georgia State Board of Examiners of Psychologists and the Southeastern Education Laboratory.

He took an active role in the education of future psychologists and the community by serving in various roles and professional organizations. In 1978, he was the first African American to serve as a member of the Georgia State Board of Examiners of Psychologists and later as President of the Board. He also served on the Board of Trustees for Carrie Steele-Pitts Home, Inc. as president, secretary, and committee chair. He is a life member of the American

Psychological Association, the Southeastern Psychological Association, and the Georgia Psychological Association. Additionally, he is a member of the American Association of Black Psychologists and a Fellow in the American Association of State Psychology.

The Wiley S. Bolden Papers span the years from 1924 to 2013 with the bulk of the collection dating from 1947 to 2013. The collection includes materials related to his time at Clark College, Georgia State University, Savannah State College, and Morris Brown College. The collection also consists of materials pertaining to his memberships with various professional psychological associations and community organizations. It includes personal materials, such as writings by Bolden, family photographs, and memorabilia. A large portion of the collection consists of scrapbooks, which contain newspaper clippings on the integration of schools in Atlanta and other areas of Georgia in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Significant topics of the collection include higher education among African Americans, African American psychologists, minority health professionals, college administrators, college educators, and school integration. The materials in the collection complement other holdings of the Archives Research Center on similar topics, such as the *Asa G. Hillard, III Papers* and the *Benjamin E. Mays Papers*.

For more information on the *Wiley S. Bolden Papers*, view the finding aid [here](#), and contact us at archives@uctr.edu or 404.978.2052.

Yeats and Shaw Collections Reopened at Burns Library, Boston College

Stephanie Hall, Archives Assistant; Annalisa Moretti, Archives Assistant; Kathy Williams, Senior Reference Librarian/Bibliographer

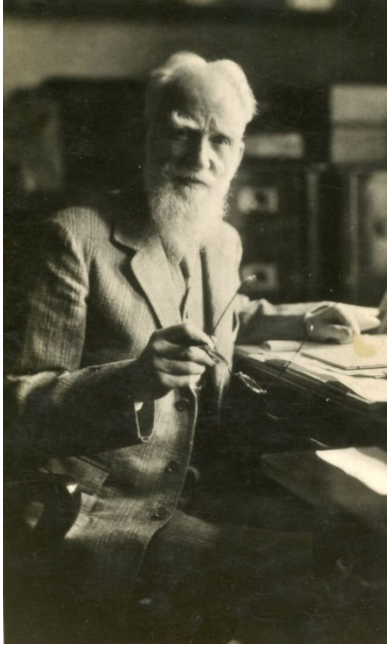
John J. Burns Library, Boston College



"LOVE AND DEATH," NOTEBOOKS, 1884, BOX 13, FOLDER 1-5, BOSTON COLLEGE COLLECTION OF YEATS FAMILY PAPERS, MS.1986.054. JOHN J. BURNS LIBRARY, BOSTON COLLEGE. GARY WAYNE GILBERT, PHOTOGRAPHER.

The [John J. Burns Library](#) at Boston College holds both published and unpublished works by and about Irish Nobel Laureates W. B. Yeats and Bernard Shaw. These materials are now more discoverable and accessible, which is significant because, even today, their poems, plays, and essays continue to be performed, studied, and revisited.

Yeats is considered one of the best poets of the 20th century. The Burns Library holds many special editions of Yeats's published works; one example is [a very limited edition of "Easter, 1916,"](#) of which only 25 copies were printed by Clement Shorter, publisher and friend of Yeats. It was meant for distribution among Shorter's friends. All researchers are welcome to use the manuscript collection pertaining to Yeats that unites seven previously separate collections. The [Boston College collection of Yeats family papers](#) presents the correspondence and manuscripts of W. B. Yeats in the context of his artistic family and their creative endeavors. Included are papers of his father John Butler and brother Jack B. Yeats, who were both artists; his wife, Georgie Yeats; and his sisters, Elizabeth Corbet Yeats and Lily Yeats, as well as the records of their embroidery and printing business, Cuala Industries. Among the highlights are an [account of one of Lily Yeats's visions and related correspondence](#); notebooks and manuscripts of W. B.



PHOTOGRAPH OF BERNARD SHAW, 1929, BOX 5, FOLDER 14, SAMUEL N. FREEDMAN COLLECTION OF BERNARD SHAW, MS.2002.044. JOHN J. BURNS LIBRARY, BOSTON COLLEGE.

Yeats's poetry; correspondence between W. B. Yeats and his mistress, Margot Ruddock; and an embroidery by Lily Yeats and Brigid O'Brien.

Bernard Shaw, noted for his sharp wit and the ability to lampoon contemporary society, still holds the attention of audiences everywhere. Although he wrote in other genres, he is best known for his plays, including *Pygmalion*, *Joan of Arc*, and *Man and Superman*. The Burns Library holds many titles by or about Shaw, including a first edition of G. K. Chesterton's [George Bernard Shaw](#) (1909). Three archival collections regarding Bernard Shaw are also available for consultation. The [Samuel N. Freedman collection of Bernard Shaw](#) includes material relating to Shaw's life and his writing accumulated by Freedman over 40 years. Of particular interest are the pre-printed postcards Shaw was known for sending in response to frequently asked questions from his numerous correspondents. The [Charlotte Frances Shaw letters](#) cast light on the thoughts and experiences of Shaw's wife, while [letters received by actor Bernard Partridge](#) share insights into Bernard Shaw's thoughts on the 1894 production of his play *Arms and the Man*.

Andrea Jackson Named Executive Director of the Black Metropolis Research Consortium

*Andrea Jackson, Executive Director
Black Metropolis Research Consortium*

In September 2017, Andrea R. Jackson was named the new Executive Director of the Black Metropolis Research Consortium (BMRC). Housed at the University of Chicago, the 12-year-old BMRC is a consortium of more than 20 libraries, universities, and other archival institutions which contain materials documenting African American and African diasporic culture, history, and politics, with a specific focus on materials relating to metropolitan Chicago. Among many initiatives, the BMRC hosts a summer fellowship program for researchers and seeks to diversify the profession through archival internships for undergraduate students. Jackson comes to the BMRC with nearly 15 years of experience as a professional archivist –



ANDREA JACKSON

primarily acquiring, preserving, and making accessible the historical legacy and records of African Americans. She has found success in cultivating relationships across various constituencies, creating innovative programming, grant writing and implementation, and mentorship. Jackson enjoyed a rich career as Curator of Archives & Manuscripts, and – most recently – Department Head of the Archives Research Center at the Atlanta University Center Robert W. Woodruff Library, where she received the 2016 Library Leadership Award. She previously served as Project Archivist at Fisk University’s Franklin Library.

In alignment with Jackson’s strong interest in and advocacy for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), she was named a 2017 Digital Library Federation – HBCU Library Alliance Fellow. An alumna of Spelman College and New York University with a MA in United States History and Certification in Archival Management, she was also selected for participation in the 2017 Harvard Graduate School of Education Leadership Institute for Academic Librarians, and the 2011 Archives Leadership Institute. Jackson is the co-author of the 2016 article, “Funding the Future of African American Religion Archival Collections at the Atlanta University Center’s Robert W. Woodruff Library” in the *Journal of Theological Librarianship*, and she holds active membership within the Society of American Archivists – serving as Chair of the Mosaic Scholarship Selection Subcommittee, Society of Georgia Archivists, Chicago Area Archivists, and Association for the Study of African American Life and History.

SECTION LEADERSHIP

Ashley Todd-Diaz, *Chair*
Alison Clemens, *Vice Chair/Chair Elect*
Jackie Dean, *Immediate Past Chair*
Brenda Gunn, *Council Liaison*

Steering Committee Members:
Lori Birrell
Sara Bost
Jillian Cuellar
Rory Grennen
Anne Jenner
Rebecca Petersen May

THE DEADLINE FOR THE SPRING NEWSLETTER IS 1 MARCH 2018.