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From The Chair: LA Confidential

By Susan Potts McDonald, Emory University

Like the seed catalogs that arrive to brighten the dead of winter, the program for SAA's 67th annual meeting arrived to brighten my spring. Each one of us can find a special meaning in this year's theme "Showcasing the Diversity of the Archival Enterprise." When I became an archivist, I never dreamed that I would take on so many distinct roles and work with such a broad spectrum of materials and subjects. The scope and breadth of the program sessions this year are truly indicative of the diversity of our profession.

For those new to the job or those who want to polish up on their skills, SAA continues to offer the "unplugged" seminars. This year you can attend sessions that address moving image archives, security, oral history, records management, outreach, privacy and confidentiality, and fund raising and grant writing.

You will also find four sessions in this year's program endorsed by our Steering Committee:

Thursday, 3:30-5:00pm: Models for Archival Cooperation. Three potential models for cooperative archival efforts will be described and evaluated. The speakers will discuss long-term achievements (both anticipated and unanticipated), the strengths and weaknesses of each model, and side benefits such as improved access, better communication, higher visibility, and greater legitimacy. The session will seek to present evidence to guide other repositories that are considering cooperative possibilities in the future.

Friday, 10:30am-12:00pm: Ethical Considerations of Acquisitions (Limited Enrollment). This limited-enrollment session will feature a panel of four experienced archivists and manuscript curators who will lead a discussion on ethical issues in acquisitions and appraisal work. The bulk of the session will be spent discussing case studies describing some of the ethical situations encountered in acquisitions/appraisal work, including those related to donor agreements, sensitive documents in accessioned material, third-party privacy concerns, and the impact of deaccessioning on donor relations, to name a few. To encourage audience participation, the case studies will be distributed in advance to all who pre-register for this session.

Friday, 1:00-2:30pm: Filling in the Margins: Documenting Extreme Social History. The voices of extremists, left and right, have played an important role in the American past. These voices also present a series of
challenges to the archivists and manuscript librarians charged with documenting their print and electronic presence. This session examines the ways in which major institutions collect and provide access to these often incendiary materials. Our Steering Committee member, Amy Cooper, is a presenter.

**Friday, 1:00-2:30pm: Saving Silverman: The History and Use of Motion Picture Collections.** The movie industry promotes the use of its pictures in research, but does it document the movie-making process? Two archivists will discuss their organizations' efforts to document the making and production of movies, and a third will discuss his use of archives in researching the role that nonconformist gender and sexual imagery played in promoting Hollywood during the early studio era.

I hope that all Manuscript Repositories Section members will attend this year's business meeting on Thursday, August 21 from 8:00 to 10:00am. The Steering Committee is very pleased to offer an informative and useful presentation on the USA Patriot Act. This federal legislation was passed in 2001 and expands law enforcement's surveillance and investigative powers. The law raises many questions for archivists and librarians regarding its impact on state and local privacy laws. Karen Benedict, a Fellow of the Society of American Archivists and chair of the SAA Committee on Ethics and Personal Conduct will guide us through an overview of the provisions of the act and help to prepare us should law enforcement officials approach us. Gregor Trinkaus-Randall, Preservation Specialist at the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners and author of several publications on archival security, will discuss the broader implications as they relate to information contained in our collections, which could potentially become targets for governmental scrutiny.

Our Past Chair, Peter Blodgett and the Nominating Committee, Joe Anderson, Su Kim Chung, and Amy Cooper have worked diligently to provide you with a wonderful slate of candidates for Vice-Chair and Steering Committee. Your only dilemma will be choosing among the excellent nominees. Please take the time now to review the candidate biographies that are included in this newsletter and come to our meeting ready to cast your ballot.

I look forward to seeing you at SAA!

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**Slate of Candidates Announced**

*Submitted by Nominating Chair, Peter Blodgett*

**Candidates for Chair (Choose one):**

**Cynthia Pease Miller**

*Education:* MAT in History, Wesleyan University, 1961; BA in History, Radcliffe College/Harvard University, 1959.


**Susan Hamburger**


*Professional Experience:* Manuscripts Cataloging Librarian, The Pennsylvania State University, 1994-present; Manuscripts Cataloger (grant project), Virginia Historical Society, 1993-1994; Manuscripts Cataloger (grant project), University of Virginia, 1992-1993; Archivist and Head, Description Section, Virginia State Library and Archives, 1989-1992; Associate University Librarian, Special Collections, Florida State University, 1981-1989.

*SAA Activities:* SAA liaison to ALA's Cataloging Committee on Description and Access, 2000-2004; Manuscript Repositories Section, Steering Committee, 1998-2000; Description Section, At-Large Representative, 1998-2000; Host Site Local Arrangements Committee, 1999 Pittsburgh meeting, 1998-1999.

*Activities in Other Archival Organizations:* Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference: Webmaster, 1996-present; Chair, Publications Committee, 1995-1999; Program Committee, Spring 1993, Spring 1998, Spring 1999 (Co-Chair), and Fall 2004 (Co-Chair).

**Steering Committee Candidates (Choose three):**

**James Cross**

*Education:* MA in History and MSLS from Case Western Reserve University, 1982. BA in History from Cleveland State University, 1979.


**Tom Hyry**


*Professional Experience:* Head Archivist for Arrangement and Description, Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library, 2000-present; Archivist, Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library, 1997-2000; Archives Assistant, Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan, 1996-1997.

*SAA Activities:* Member since 1996; Program Committee for 2001 annual meeting; Acquisitions and Appraisal Steering Committee, 2000-2002; Co-authored two articles and authored one book review published in American Archivist; Presentations at various annual meetings on appraisal of faculty papers, preservation of electronic records in manuscript collections, and the development of an on-line instructional tutorial.

*Activities in Other Archival and Related Organizations:* Member of the New England Archivists (Program Committee and Local Arrangements Committee, Fall 2001 meeting), 1997-present; Member of the Midwest
Archives Conference, 1997-2001; Member of the Connecticut State Historical Records Advisory Board, 2000-present; Member of the Executive Board of the Greater New Haven Labor History Association, 2001-present.

**Donnelly Lancaster**

*Education:* MA in History, Archival Studies Program, Auburn University, 2000; BA in History, Auburn University, 1995

*Professional Experience:* Archival Access Coordinator, W.S. Hoole Special Collections Library, The University of Alabama, 2001-present; Archivist, UAB Archives, University of Alabama at Birmingham, 1998-2001

*SAA Activities:* Annual Meeting Local Arrangements Committee, 2001-2002

*Activities in Other Archival and Related Organizations:* Society of Alabama Archivists: Nominating Committee, 2002; Executive Board, 2000-present

**Joel Minor**

*Education:* MS in Library and Information Science, University of Texas at Austin, 2002; BA in English, Dakota Wesleyan University, 1994.


*SAA Activities:* Treasurer, University of Texas at Austin SAA Student Chapter, 2001-02; Member of SAA, 2000-present.

*Activities in Other Archival and Related Organizations:* Member of Midwest Archives Conference, 2002-present.

**Theresa Salazar**

*Education:* MLS in Library Science, Columbia University, 1984; MA in English Literature, University of New Mexico, 1980; BA in Art History, University of New Mexico, 1977.


*SAA Activities:* Member, 1999-present. Presenter on Panel "Civil Rights and Disability Rights: Documenting Movements for Social Change" -- SAA 2002 Program


**Stephen C. Sturgeon**
**Education:** Ph.D. in History, University of Colorado at Boulder, 1998; MLIS with concentration in Archival Administration, University of California, Berkeley, 1993; MA in History, University of Colorado at Boulder, 1992; BA in History, Grinnell College, 1990.

**Professional Experience:** Manuscript Curator, Special Collections & Archives, Utah State University, 1999-present.

**SAA Activities:** Member of Manuscript Repositories Section; Reference, Access, and Outreach Section; Congressional Papers Roundtable; and Architectural Records Roundtable.


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**Harrah's Corporate Archives Donated To University Of Nevada Las Vegas Special Collections**

*By Su Kim Chung, University of Nevada Las Vegas*

Hundreds of photographs, publications, documents, and artifacts chronicling the 65-year history of Harrah's Entertainment Inc. are now are housed in UNLV Lied Library's Special Collections, thanks to a donation by the Las Vegas-based gaming company.

"We are thrilled that Harrah's chose to donate these materials to UNLV," said Peter Michel, director of Special Collections. "Harrah's has a long history in Nevada and in the gaming industry. Having its corporate archives housed at UNLV is a valuable research asset for UNLV, enhancing its already established position as an international center for the study of gaming and the gaming industry.

"The collection is extensive and eclectic," Michel said. "It contains corporate publications and communications, financial reports, publicity and advertising files, entertainment publicity, newspaper clippings, film, videotape, and a variety of promotional items carrying the company logo. Anyone wanting a window into the growth and changes in the gaming/hotel/resort industry over the years will find this corporate collection invaluable."

The collection donated to UNLV also contains extensive material about founder William Harrah's large antique car collection and his historical game and playing card collection.

Harrah's began in 1937 when William F. Harrah opened a bingo parlor in Reno. Harrah's went on to play a significant role in the development and defining of gaming resorts and venues across the nation. Today, it is one of the nation's largest gaming companies, operating 26 casinos in 13 states, including seven in Nevada.

The collection is part of the Gaming Studies Research Center housed in the library's Special Collections division.

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**Preservation of Hemingway Papers in Cuba**

*By Kathryn Jacob, Schlesinger Library*

The Rockefeller Foundation has awarded $75,000 to fund the first phase of a two- to three-year project to promote the preservation of an important collection of Ernest Hemingway's papers that remain in Cuba.

The project represents an important partnership among the American Council of Learned Societies/Social Science Research Council, the Hemingway Museum at Finca Vigia outside Havana, the Center for Research
Libraries in Chicago, the John F. Kennedy Library in Boston, the National Archives of Cuba, the National Council of Cuban Cultural Patrimony, and the Cuban Ministry of Culture.

The project aims not only to preserve the materials, but also to create the conditions for their proper storage at Finca Vigia, Hemingway's home, allowing broader on-site access. Once the project is complete, the Kennedy Library will work with the Cuban curators in broadening access as much as possible by cataloging the materials and making the descriptions available on-line.

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**St. George's School Dedicates Its Archives**

*By Kathryn Jacob, Schlesinger Library*

St. George's School, a small coed boarding school in Middletown, Rhode Island, has made a big commitment in terms of saving its more than one hundred-year history with the recent dedication of the Gilbert Y. Taverner Archives, named for the school's former Associate Chaplain, faculty member, School historian, and first archivist.

In addition to the documents, letters, publications, and images one would expect to find in such a facility, the Taverner Archives is also the repository for many of the School's historical objects, including the fur coat of founder and first headmaster John B. Diaman. The new four-room facility has already proved to be a powerful magnet, drawing in carefully saved letters home to mothers and fathers from long ago and artifacts from alumni across the country, according to School Archivist John G. Doll.

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**Opening of Francis Paul Prucha Papers**

*By Matt Blessing, Marquette University*

Marquette University will honor one of its most distinguished faculty members on October 2, 2003, when it opens the Francis Paul Prucha, S.J. (Society of Jesus), Archives Reading Room. A Jesuit priest, Father Prucha has published 25 books and is internationally known for his expertise in the American West and American Indian policy. Widely respected as a model of the teacher-scholar, Prucha also helped establish Marquette's rich research collections documenting Catholic Indian missions. The Prucha Reading Room is located on the third floor of the new John P. Raynor, S.J., Library.

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**Georgia Textile History Resources**

*By Pam Hackbart-Dean, Georgia State University*

The Southern Labor Archives has recently launched the Georgia Textile History Resources website at [http://www.library.gsu.edu/spcoll/labor/GTR/index.html](http://www.library.gsu.edu/spcoll/labor/GTR/index.html) The website includes a list of online resources related to Georgia's rich textile history—both in-state as well as out of state sites. These resources incorporate museums, archives, exhibits, historic sites, and online-only sources.

We hope that this site will continue to grow and provide increased access to the textile heritage of Georgia. If you know of any links to online presentations/papers on the textile industry in the state; to additional archives, libraries, and museums that hold collections related to the industry; to textile companies with a significant Georgia presence; or to any other Georgia textile-related sites, please contact the Southern Labor Archives.

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**Manuscript Repositories Section**

[Leadership list](http://www.archivists.org/saagroups/mss/summer2003.html)

*News items, articles, letters to the editor, and comments are welcome.*
Next deadline: October 1, 2003

Send to Pam Hackbart-Dean