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**Please join us for the  
SAA Manuscript  
Repositories  
Section Meeting:**

**Boston, Massachusetts  
10:00 A.M.-Noon  
Thursday, August 5,  
2004**

## Manuscript Repositories Newsletter

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### From the Chair: Bean Town or Bust By Pam Hackbart-Dean, Georgia State University

It's hard to believe it has been a year since we were "spotlighting archives" in LA, and now we're gearing up for Boston! I always look forward to congregating with the members of the Manuscript Repository Section. This is a chance to meet old friends and make new ones, to rejoice in recent successes and commiserate about continuing challenges. Our meeting is a wonderful opportunity to get to know your colleagues in order to build a network and support group for ideas and advice.

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 copyright, archival management, literary manuscripts, electronic records, ownership issues, tips on strengthening SAA session proposals, and how to get the most out of SAA.

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

**Thursday, August 5 (1:45-3:15) The Impact of the USA PATRIOT Act on Archives and Archivists.** The USA PATRIOT Act allows federal authorities secretly to access patron records of libraries, archives, and repositories. The Act's impact on users, donors, and others concerned about privacy and surveillance, as well as archival administration, could be massive. An archivist, a librarian, and a legal expert will consider the relevance and effect of the USA PATRIOT Act, examine what related professionals have done, and consider what future course the archival profession should follow.

**Friday, August 6 (11:00-12:30) History Versus Heritage: When Archives Challenge Popular Beliefs.** When new evidence within archival materials challenges popularly held beliefs, controversy can result. As stewards of the evidence, archivists find themselves at the crossroads of history and heritage. Two speakers will discuss material offering a different spin on Davy Crockett's death at the Alamo and a different look at the Great Schism in Methodism. The last speaker will examine history and heritage and why controversies such as these do matter in a larger cultural context.

**Friday, August 6 (12:30-2:00) The Perfect Is the Enemy of the Good: Re-thinking the Problem of Backlogs.** Almost every archives faces the never-ending problem of backlogs of unprocessed and under-processed materials. The presenters will describe the initiatives that address the backlog problem by reporting on a survey methodology used to set processing priorities and develop processing plans; a strategy used to determine appropriate levels of arrangement and description for backlogged collections; and the Association of Research Libraries' "Exposing Hidden Collections" initiative, a profession-wide effort to develop new approaches to reducing backlogs.

**Friday, August 6 (4:00-5:30) Archives Unplugged: Literary Manuscripts.** Literary manuscripts have long been treated as the "second-class citizen" of the archival community. But repositories of all types house literary collections. Through lectures, discussion, and case studies, this session

will cover a variety of topics, including acquisition and appraisal; reference and access; copyright and intellectual property; privacy and ethical issues; processing and cataloging; and other issues unique to the administration of literary collections.

**Saturday, August 7 (10:00-11:30 a.m.) Crafting a New Approach to Scrapbooks.** Scrapbooks may be the terror of archival conservators, but the contents are often the delight of researchers. This session will examine the place of scrapbooks within archival collections, their special preservation concerns, and their unique value to researchers. Participating speakers will include an archivist, a conservator, and the co-author of a forthcoming book about scrapbooks. The popular scrapbooking trend will also be discussed, with its implications for curation, future donation, and research.

I hope that all Manuscript Repositories Section members will attend this year's business meeting on Thursday, August 5 from 10:00 am to noon. The Steering Committee is very pleased to offer an informative and useful presentation on collecting the history of an endangered industry. With textile mills closing in increasing numbers, it is imperative that archives work together and with other kinds of institutions to preserve the heritage of this important American industry. Clare Sheridan from the American Textile History Museum, and Gray Fitzsimons from Lowell National Historical Park will discuss the current and potential research in the field of textile history, the challenges of collecting in this area and the need for collaborative efforts.

Our Past Chair, Susan Potts McDonald, and the Nominating Committee, Thomas Hyry, Theresa Salazar and Steve Sturgeon, 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!

## **Slate Of 2004 Candidates Announced *Submitted by the Nominating and Elections Committee***

### **Vice-Chair/Chair Elect (choose one)**

#### **Amy Cooper Cary**

**Education:** MS, Information with Archives and Records Management concentration, University of Michigan, 1999. MA, Comparative Literature with Translation concentration, State University of New York at Binghamton, 1988. BA, French and English, University of Michigan, 1985.

**Professional Experience:** Special Collections Librarian, University of Iowa, 2001-present. Archivist and Special Collections Librarian, University of South Dakota, 1999-2001. Archives Assistant, University of Michigan, May-November, 1999.

**SAA Activities:** Awards Committee-Philip M. Hamer-Elizabeth Hamer Kegan Award subcommittee, 2003-present. American Archivist Editorial Board, 2003-present. Manuscript and Repositories Section, Steering Committee, 2002-2004. Women Archivists Roundtable (WAR), Co-Chair, August, 2000-2002, Steering Committee, August 2002-2003.

**Activities in Other Archival Organizations:** Midwest Archives Conference: Program Committee Co-Chair, Fall 2004 meeting, Nominating Committee, 2003-2004, Archival Issues Editorial Board, May 2002-present, Program Committee member, Spring 2002 meeting. American Library Association RBMS Committee on the Interlibrary Loan of Rare and Unique Materials, 2002-present. South Dakota State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB), 2000-2001.

#### **Cynthia Ghering**

**Education:** MA in Information: Archives and Records Management, University of Michigan, April 1999; BA in English, Minors: History, Practical Writing, Western Michigan University, April 1991.

**Professional Experience:** Head, Manuscripts and Audiovisuals, Ohio Historical Society, 2000-present. Collection Access Coordinator, Ohio Historical Society, 1999-2000. Simmons Intern, Henry Ford Museum, 1997-1999.

**SAA Activities:** Manuscript Repositories Section, Steering Committee, 2001-2003.

**Activities in Other Archival Organizations:** Society of Ohio Archivists, Public Information Committee, 1999-2003.

### **Steering Committee [Choose two]**

#### **Beth Bilderback**

**Education:** MA in Public History (Archives Management,) University of South Carolina, 1993; BA in American Studies, Salem College, 1984.

**Professional Experience:** Assistant Manuscripts Librarian, South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina, 1993-present. Archivist, South Carolina Folk Life Program, McKissick Museum, University of South Carolina, 1992-1993. Curator, Moravian Museums and Tours, Bethlehem, Pa., 1986-1989. Museum Consultant, Moravian Historical Society, Nazareth, Pa., 1984-1989.

**SAA Activities:** Visual Materials Section, Liaison with Architectural Records Roundtable, 1997-present.

**Activities in Other Archival Organizations:** South Carolina Archival Association: Treasurer, 1999-2001; Chair, Membership Committee, 1999; Steering Committee, 1999.

#### **Maria R. Estorino**

**Education:** MS in Library Science with a concentration in Archival Management, Simmons College, 2000; MA in History and certificate in Public History, Northeastern University, 1998; BA in History, Loyola University, 1995.

**Professional Experience:** Archivist and Digital Resources Librarian, Cuban Heritage Collection, University of Miami Libraries, 2003-present. Project Director, CHC Digital, Cuban Heritage Collection, University of Miami Libraries, 2001-2003. Museum Consultant, San Carlos Institute (Key West), 2000-2001. Library Assistant, Massachusetts Historical Society, 2000. Archives Assistant, Northeastern University Archives and Special Collections Department, 1997, 1999-2000.

**SAA Activities:** Member since 2001 (Manuscript Repositories Section and Visual Materials Section).

**Activities in Other Archival Organizations:** Society of Florida Archivists: Treasurer, 2001-present. Florida State Historical Records Advisory Board: Board Member, 2002-present. Rare Books and Manuscripts Section, Association of College and Research Libraries: Member, 2003-present. Midwest Archives Conference: Member, 2004-present.

#### **Lynn Eaton** (formerly Lynn Eaton Pritcher)

**Education:** MLS, with concentration in Archives, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, 1997; MS in College Student Personnel Services, Miami University, 1988; BA in English, James Madison University, 1986.

**Professional Experience:** Technical Services Archivist, Hartman Center for Sales, Advertising & Marketing History, Rare Book, Manuscript & Special Collections Library (RBMSCL), Duke University, 2000-present. Project Director, The Archives of Outdoor Advertising, RBMSCL, Duke University, 2000-2003. Project Manager, Emergence of Advertising in America (digital project), RBMSCL, Duke University, 1998-2000. Project Manager, Ad\*Access (digital project), RBMSCL, Duke University, 1997-1998.

**SAA Activities:** Standards Committee, 2002-2005.

**Activities in Other Archival Organizations:** Society of North Carolina Archivists: Education Committee, 2003-present; Member-at-Large, Executive Committee, 1999-2000; Program Committee Member, 1997-1999.

**Tara Laver**

**Education:** MLS, Louisiana State University, 1996; B.A. in History and Mass Communications, Louisiana State University, 1994.

**Professional Experience:** Assistant Curator for Manuscripts, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, Louisiana State University Libraries, 2000-present. Archivist, Delta State University Archives, Delta State University, 1997-2000. General Librarian, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, Special Collections, Hill Memorial Library, Louisiana State University, 1997.

**SAA Activities:** SAA Description Section, At-large Representative, Steering Committee, August 2001-2004. Key Contact for Membership for Louisiana, 2003-present. Key Contact for Membership for Mississippi, 1999-2000.

**Activities in Other Archival Organizations:** Society of Southwest Archivists: Local Arrangements Committee, 2005 Annual Meeting (Baton Rouge) 2003; Scholarship Committee, 2003-; Newsletter Editor and Publications Committee Chair, February 2001-July 2003; Local Arrangements Committee, 2003 annual meeting (New Orleans). Southern Archivists' Conference Planning Committee, 2000, 2004. Louisiana Archives and Manuscripts Association: President, 2003-present; Vice-President/President Elect, 2002; Local Arrangements, 2001, 2003; Executive Board, 2000-2002.

**Fernanda Perrone**

**Education:** M.L.S. Rutgers University (1995); D. Phil. History Oxford University (1991); M.A. History McGill University (1987) B.A. History and English Literature McGill University (1984).

**Professional Experience:** Archivist (Manuscripts Department) and Head, Exhibitions Program, Special Collections and University Archives, Rutgers University, 2001- present; Project Archivist, Rutgers University, 1995-2000.

**SAA Activities:** Co-Chair, Women's Collections Roundtable, 1993-1997; Meeting Navigator; Presenter and Session Chair.

**Activities in Other Archival Organizations:** Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference: Chair, Finding Aids Committee, 2003-2004; Local Arrangements Committee, Spring 2000; Member, Education Committee, 2002-present; Workshop Coordinator, Fall 2003.

**Jill Severn**

**Education:** M.A. in History, University of Georgia, 1996; Certificate of Graduate Study in Museum Management, University of South Carolina, 1994; B.A., history, Mount Holyoke College, 1988.

**Professional Experience:** Access and Outreach Archivist, Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies, University of Georgia, 2001-present. Processing Archivist, Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies, University of Georgia, 2000-2001. Assistant Processing Archivist, Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies, University of Georgia, 1997-2000. Project Curator, McKissick Museum, University of South Carolina, 1993-1994.

**SAA Activities:** Congressional Papers Roundtable Steering Committee 2000-2002; Congressional Papers Roundtable Preservation Taskforce 2001-2003.

**Activities in Other Archival Organizations:** Society of Georgia Archivists: Chair, Membership Committee, 2000; Secretary, 2001-2002. National Forum on Archives and Continuing Education (NFACE), Recorder, 2000.

## **Huntington/BYU Mormon Manuscript Cataloging Project**

### ***By Peter J. Blodgett, Huntington Library***

Among its extensive resources documenting the history of the North American West, the Huntington Library possesses perhaps the finest collection of Mormon manuscripts and imprints outside of Utah. Of particular significance is the Mormon File, a synthetic arrangement of manuscripts containing hundreds of microfilms, bound photostats and typescripts as well as original holographs. These documents run the gamut from individual letters and brief

life histories to lengthy diaries, journals and autobiographies spanning decades. Assembled in large part nearly sixty years ago under the auspices of successive grants from the Rockefeller Foundation, the Mormon File took shape as part of a larger project to record the history of the American Southwest. Taken as a whole, the Huntington's Mormon Americana now encompasses nearly every phase of the history of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints from the era of the founder, Joseph Smith, through its migration to Utah's Great Salt Lake Valley to its efforts to colonize the Intermountain West.

Since the 1950s, succeeding generations of historians studying the Mormon experience have made extensive use of the Huntington's resources. The Mormon File, for instance, with its rich reservoir of documents, has offered detailed insights into all aspects of daily life in the Mormon commonwealth from the perspectives of men and women, immigrants and old-stock Americans, farmers and town dwellers, recent converts and second-generation believers. Unfortunately, the sheer bulk of the Mormon File and the pace at which its contents were acquired in the late 1940s and early 1950s significantly hampered the Huntington's efforts to provide consistent in-depth cataloging and thus hindered the most efficient use of these documents. Recent developments, however, have begun to address these problems.

Discussions during 2002-2003 between the Huntington and Brigham Young University led to an agreement to establish a collaborative cataloging project because of the importance of the Huntington's collections to the study of Mormon history. Between July 2003 and February 2004, a grant from BYU's Religious Education program supported a special cataloging position at the Huntington. Under the supervision of Peter Blodgett, the Huntington's Curator of Western Americana, project cataloger Mitch Toda undertook single-item processing of a core group of Mormon File items to produce standardized descriptions and subject indexing of each piece. Nearly sixty records for individual manuscripts or small groups of items have been added to the RLIN database and will be downloaded into the Huntington's INNOPAC online catalog. Completion of this project has dramatically enhanced access to a notable portion of the Huntington's Mormon manuscripts, not only for scholars of the Mormon experience but also for students of the trans-Mississippi West in the nineteenth century as well. With such important groundwork laid for the future, we look forward to pursuing further opportunities to bring the rest of the Mormon File's contents up to the same standards.

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## Manuscript Repositories Section

### [Leadership](#)

**News items, articles, letters to the editor,  
and comments are welcome.**

**Next Newsletter deadline: October 1, 2004**

**Send to [Cynthia Pease Miller](#)**

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