

---

# Manuscript Repositories Newsletter

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

Summer 2010

---

## Highlights

From the Chair.....	1
Manuscript Repositories Section Election .....	2
News from Members.....	3

---

## From the Chair

---

*Sammie Morris*

### Section Meeting

Summer is here and the SAA annual meeting and conference is just around the corner! Be sure to mark your calendar for our section meeting on Thursday, August 12, 1:45-3:45pm. This year we will offer an exciting program on **The Manuscripts Marketplace**. Expert speakers will provide guidance on how to locate and acquire manuscripts.

The program will offer perspectives from both sides of the issue—the dealer and the archivist or manuscripts curator. A representative from the **William Reese Company**, a leading seller of manuscripts and rare books, will offer guidance on working with dealers. **Ron Becker**, Head of Special Collections at Rutgers University, will provide tips based on his years of experience in this arena.

Some of the topics the speakers will cover include using the manuscripts marketplace as a collection development tool, selecting a reputable dealer, building relationships with manuscripts dealers, how to buy, monetary appraisals, tax implications, competition between repositories, trends in the marketplace, and how the online environment has changed things.

The presentations will be followed by a question and answer period, and—back by popular demand!—we will have break out group discussions. An agenda for the meeting is available below. We hope you will join us and bring your questions, ideas, and discussion points for the benefit of the group.

### Annual Meeting

## SAA Manuscript Repositories Section Annual Meeting

Mariott Wardman Park, Washington DC  
Thursday, August 12, 1:45 PM - 3:45 PM

### **AGENDA**

1:45—Welcome, Introductions, Election Results

1:50—Announcements

2:00—Program, “The Manuscripts Marketplace”  
Representative from the William Reese Company  
Ronald Becker, Head of Special Collections at Rutgers University

3:00—Questions for Speakers from the Audience

3:15—Break Out Discussion Groups

3:45—Adjourn

### ***2010 Conference Sessions Relating to Manuscript Repositories***

The Steering Committee endorsed two session proposals, one of which was accepted and should be of interest to section members:

- *Friday, August 13, 2010, 8 – 9:30 AM “That Was Easy! Making Digital Archives a Pleasure to Use”*

---

## **Manuscript Repositories Section Election: Online Voting July 6-20, 2010**

---

*Mat Darby, Past Chair/Nominating Committee Chair*

Voting for the section election once again will take place online. The ballot will be accessible after July 6 by logging into SAA’s members-only page, <http://www2.archivists.org/members-only>, and clicking on "Group elections and online surveys" at the bottom of the page. Online voting will be open until July 20. (Members may request a mail-in ballot by contacting Mat Darby, Nominating Committee chair ([msdarby@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:msdarby@austin.utexas.edu) or 512.495.4691). Mail-in ballots must be received by August 1. Election results will be announced at the annual meeting.

In addition to electing a vice chair/chair-elect and three steering committee members, we will be electing an additional member to fill a vacancy on the committee. This year's candidates are:

*Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect*

- Elizabeth Russey Roke, Emory University
- Florence M. Turcotte, University of Florida

*Steering Committee Members, 2-year term [3]*

- Heather Ball, Livingstone Online Project / EuroRSCG Worldwide
- Ellen Doon, Yale University
- James M. Roth, John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum
- Renna Tuten, University of Georgia
- Anke Voss, The Urbana Free Library
- Melissa Watterworth, University of Connecticut

*Steering Committee Member, 1-year term [1]*

- Barbara De Wolfe, University of Michigan
- L. Rebecca Johnson Melvin, University of Delaware

For additional information on the education and professional experience and participation of the candidates, please go to <http://www2.archivists.org/groups/manuscript-repositories-section/2010-election-information>. Each candidate was asked to provide a statement detailing her/his qualities and strengths and what goals the section should accomplish during her/his term. I encourage you all to read these thoughtful, well-considered responses.

Thank you to Nominating Committee members Chris Burns, Deborah Dandridge, and Donna McCrea for their work in compiling this year's slate of candidates.

---

## News from Members

---

### **Important Faculty Collections Now Available**

*Jane L. Green, SUNY-Binghamton*

The late professor Albert A. Dekin, Jr.'s generous gift to the Binghamton University Libraries is an outstanding collection of rare and classic anthropological research and teaching materials. In addition to the books Dr. Dekin has donated to the Libraries, the Dekin Collection contains hundreds of ethnographic and archaeological investigative reports conducted for various federal agencies, in particular those published by the U.S. Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service (Alaska region). Many of these reports constitute a significant body of grey literature related to the study of polar and sub-arctic regions, which are not held by other institutions outside of Alaska. An example of one such report is the *Preliminary Archeological*

*Evaluation of the Southern Part of the Route of the Proposed Trans Alaska Pipeline System: Valdez to Hogan's Hill* by Frederick Hadleigh West and William Workman.

The Dekin Collection also contains thousands of photographs, slides, line drawings, and artifact catalogs from various archaeological and ethnographic projects that he directed in Alaska. Two of his projects were of major national significance: the Utqiagvik Archaeology Project, and the *EXXON Valdez* Archaeological Damage Assessment Project. The Utqiagvik Archaeology Project was conducted over three field seasons and was the largest and most complex archaeological excavation ever conducted in the North American Arctic. During the second field season, a 500-year-old house (Mound 44) containing the frozen remains of five individuals was discovered and excavated. The inhabitants died as a result of an *ivu* or ice override, which collapsed the house and fatally trapped those sleeping inside it. The excavation of Mound 44 resulted in an archaeological snapshot of Kaklignmiut culture ca. 1500-1600 CE. The Dekin materials are currently being processed and cataloged.

In the mid 1960s, Peter Wexler, a talented theatrical scene designer, joined the faculty of Binghamton University's Theatre Department as a visiting professor. Mr. Wexler had studied and worked with some major figures in the field, including Rudolf Bing at the Metropolitan Opera and Don Watters, one of the founders of Binghamton University's theatre program. A large collection of Wexler's works, including blueprints, sketches, photographs, design notes, and correspondence covering his career from 1956 to 1969 have been transferred to the Libraries' Special Collections Department, and are in the process of being inventoried, organized and reviewed for preservation treatment. An important part of the project is the creation of an online finding aid to facilitate access to the rich variety of materials, and we also hope to create an archive of digital images documenting his work.

Mr. Wexler, who has designed for such entities as the Metropolitan, ABC Nightly News, and the New York Philharmonic, has lent his support to the project and already provided valuable information to help the process.

The Wexler and Dekin Collections are available for research by visiting Special Collections in the Glenn G. Bartle Library at Binghamton University.

## **News from the Archives of American Art**

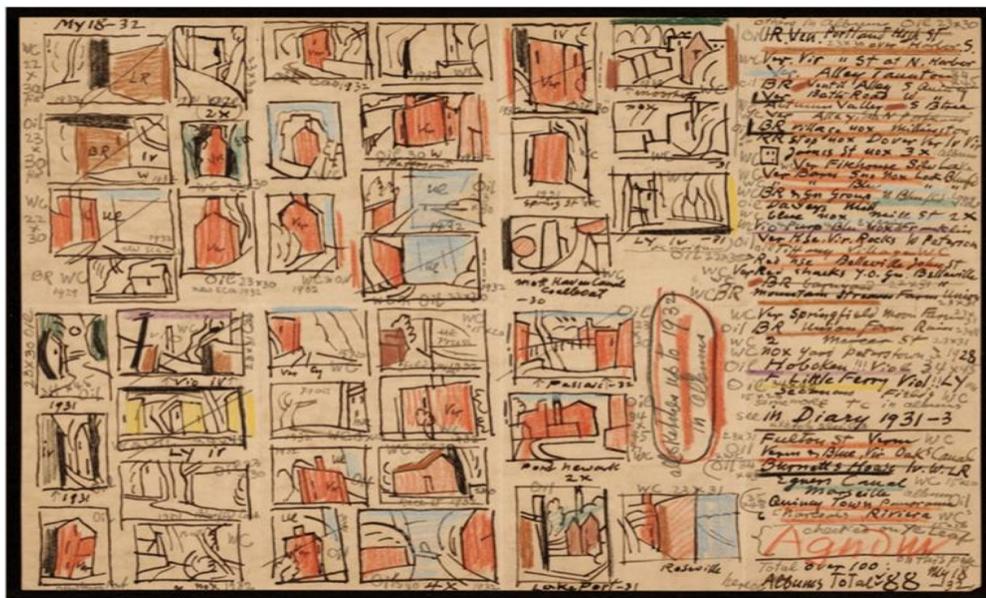
*Barbara Aikens, Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution*

*Lists: To-dos, Illustrated Inventories, Collected Thoughts and Other Artists' Enumerations from the Archives of American Art* is on exhibit in Washington, D.C. at the Archives of American Art's Lawrence A. Fleischman Gallery at the Smithsonian's Reynolds Center for American Art and Portraiture until September 27, 2010.

This exhibition celebrates a common document – the list – as a key to the lives of some of the most celebrated artists of the last two centuries. There are hundreds of thousands of lists in the Archives of American Art. This exhibition includes forty intriguing examples, from Leo Castelli's to-do lists to Oscar Bluemner's illustrated list of works of art.

Whether dashed off as a quick reminder or carefully constructed as a comprehensive inventory, this humble form of documentation provides insight into its maker's personal habits and decision-making processes. Pablo Picasso's itemized recommendations for the 1913 Armory Show and Alexander Calder's address book reveal the who's who of the Parisian avant-garde in the early twentieth century. In the hands of their creators, these artifacts sometimes become works of art in and of themselves.

A companion book to the exhibition, published by Princeton Architectural Press, includes an introduction by John W. Smith, director of the Archives, and an essay by Liza Kirwin, the Archives' curator of manuscripts. It is available for purchase in the museum store or through an online bookseller.



*Oscar Bluemner's Illustrated List of Artwork, 1932. Oscar Bluemner Papers. Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution*

The Archives of American Art has now launched eighty-seven fully digitized manuscript collections comprising over 920,000 digital images on its innovative Collections Online Web site. This digital collection represents 660 linear feet of archival materials. Built with computer programming on a powerful database platform, the interface provides users with a virtual reading room experience by offering online access to fully digitized collections in series/box/folder order. The EAD finding aid serves as both the online navigation tool and the only descriptive metadata for the digital files. Users view the collection by clicking on series and subseries titles, and folder headings. The contents of each folder are presented as thumbnail

images which can be enlarged for viewing and reading. Collections Online can be accessed at [www.aaa.si.edu/collectionsonline/](http://www.aaa.si.edu/collectionsonline/).

The Archives received a federal Save America's Treasures matching grant for \$250,000 to support the digitization of its oral history collections. The Archives began its oral history program in 1958 to record the life stories of the artists, collectors, dealers, and others who have shaped the visual arts in the United States. Today, fifty years and close to two thousand interviews later, the Archives' oral history program continues to build upon that visionary goal and has become a vital resource for the study of art, cultural, and social history. This grant will help preserve that resource for years to come.

The Archives will soon begin a major Minimal Level Preservation and Processing (MLP) initiative with funding provided by the Smithsonian's Collections Care Pool Fund. Over the next eighteen months, the Archives will contract with an archival services provider to minimally process and re-house thirteen collections of gallery records, ranging in size from twenty to over one hundred linear feet. Additional goals of this project are to track and document effective MLP tactics, the number of processing hours per linear foot, and develop internal EAD templates for MLP.

## **Connecticut Historical Society Receives Second NHPRC Grant**

*Barbara Austen, Connecticut Historical Society*

Building upon the success of the last year and a half, the Connecticut Historical Society (CHS) has been awarded a second grant from the NHPRC to continue cataloging the backlog. It is even possible that the backlog will be eliminated! The first grant started September 1, 2008, and since then, the Archivist and Project Archivist (with a little help from volunteers and other staff) have cataloged more than 1,600 items. Our goal had been 900 collections in two years; so we might actually double that number by August 31.

At CHS, we have taken the rather radical step of using MPLP on nineteenth century and even some eighteenth century manuscript collections in order to meet the goals of the grant. It was a challenge for the archivists on the project not to reorganize and re-house all of the collections, but that was decidedly not part of the grant. We were simply cataloging. However, we have made note of which collections need additional processing, in hopes of obtaining another grant to fully process several important collections (William Samuel Johnson comes to mind—he represented Connecticut in the British Court of Chancery against claims made by Native Americans that their lands had been unfairly seized).

We continually discover interesting items that few if any of us knew were in the collection. For example, we have cataloged several account books related to provisioning and clothing the Continental troops during the Revolution, and two books related to calico printing and dying, complete with fabric samples. The Project Archivist posts weekly descriptions of some of those

finds on our library blog at <http://manuscripts.wordpress.com>. The records we create are available through the online catalog at our web site <http://www.chs.org>.

## **Virtual Exhibit Shows an Innovator's Legacy**

*Jordan Patty, George Mason University*

For the past six months, Special Collections & Archives has been hard at work investigating new technologies for delivering online exhibits of our extensive holdings. Of particular interest to us has been the Omeka web design tool, developed by George Mason's Center for History and New Media. Omeka allows historians and archivists to develop compelling online exhibits through the use of a powerful database, with the freedom to customize its visual appearance on the web. We began experimenting with Omeka in 2009, launching *An Aviator's Story: Items from the Leonard H. Clark Military History Collection*. It can be found online at [http://sca.gmu.edu/exhibit/clark\\_exhibit.html](http://sca.gmu.edu/exhibit/clark_exhibit.html). Our latest exhibit, completed in June 2010, is a more extensive project, entitled *Attacking Complex Problems: The Life and Work of Dr. John N. Warfield*. It can be found online at <http://warfield.gmu.edu/>.

Dr. John N. Warfield (1925-2009) spent nearly two decades on the faculty of George Mason, and is best remembered as the head of the University's Center for Interactive Management (CIM). The CIM used cutting edge methodologies and computer technologies to assist organizations in solving complex problems – highly complicated, multi-layered issues that Warfield liked to call “messes.” Clients ranged from government organizations such as the Department of Defense and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), to major corporations such as Ford Motor Company. Warfield's groundbreaking work in Systems Science laid the foundation for this “Interactive Management” approach, which remains in use around the world today. Prior to his work at George Mason, his early career at a number of prestigious universities included a broad and fascinating range of projects, from construction of an early computer, to research on top secret military technology.

The challenge in developing this exhibit was to mold an extensive collection of highly sophisticated, technically complex documents into an exhibit that would place his achievements into context. We wanted to tell not just the story of his work, but to give a sense of the man behind the ideas. Dr. Warfield's wife Rose was of critical importance to us in this effort, and generously allowed us access to a treasure trove of photos of his early life, copies of which now reside in our collection. In developing this new exhibit, we have carefully selected photos and documents from each period of Dr. Warfield's life, and molded them into what we believe is a comprehensive and compelling celebration of the over sixty-year career of an intriguing individual. We hope you will take the time to look at our exhibit, and learn about an important contributor to the George Mason legacy.

## **New Digital Projects at the Louisiana Research Collection**

*Eira Tansey, Tulane University*

The Louisiana Research Collection (LaRC) at Tulane University has recently completed several new digital collections, which are being hosted on the LOUIS Digital Library Web site. Two of those come from LaRC's Carnival collection, and the other from the recently acquired Alfred S. Lippman Collection.

The two Carnival digital collections consist of material from the Mistick Krewe of Comus, one of New Orleans' oldest Carnival krewes. The 1873 "Missing Links" collection features the complete detailed costume designs of that year's parade. The "Missing Links" parade was an important event in New Orleans' Mardi Gras history, becoming one of the first major parades to use satire and political commentary. Many of the images depict figures related to the Civil War and Reconstruction, such as Ulysses S. Grant, Benjamin Butler, and Louisiana Governor Henry Warmoth. Also depicted are notable figures such as Charles Darwin, and Algernon Badger, head of the Metropolitan Police.

The second Carnival collection features the Mistick Krewe of Comus' 1910 float designs. This collection comprises the complete set of float design drawings by Jennie Wilde for the 1910 Comus Mardi Gras parade in New Orleans, Louisiana. Jennie Wilde (1865-1913) was an artist who designed floats for many New Orleans Mardi Gras parades, including the Mistick Krewe of Comus and the Knights of Momus. The theme of the 1910 Comus parade was the prophet Mahomet (Muhummad) and related subjects. These images are believed to be tracings from the original designs, possibly as a presentation copy to Comus captain S.P. Walmsley.

The Alfred S. Lippman Postal Covers collection features Civil War period postal covers. These postal covers were part of a larger donation from Lippman in 2009. Postal covers are envelopes with printed designs commemorating an event, person, or cause. These postal covers were created during the Civil War in support of the Union, with one postal cover in support of the Confederacy.

All of the collections can be found at

<http://www.louisianadigitallibrary.org/index.php?institution=Tulane%20University>.

## **Brown Brothers Harriman Collection Processed**

*Celia Hartmann, New-York Historical Society*

The Brown Brothers Harriman Collection (1696-1973, 1995; bulk 1820-1968) has been processed, supported by funding from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC). The Collection, amassed principally as research material to support the publication of *Partners in Banking* for the firm's 150th anniversary in 1968, includes some of the naturally occurring records of Brown Brothers Harriman and its predecessor companies'

business activities, and papers from some of those companies' partners. These include original, photocopied, and transcribed correspondence; ledgers and account books; records of international business transactions; daybooks, correspondence, and diaries of Brown Brothers' partners, both personal and professional; scrapbooks; newspaper and magazine clippings, and other publicity materials; prints, photographs, and other visual materials including a portfolio commissioned from photographer Walker Evans; audiotapes; artifacts; and a reference library of published and privately printed material about the Brown family, its business interests, and other background information.

An EAD finding aid for the collection is available at <http://dlib.nyu.edu/findingaids/html/nyhs/brownbrothersharriman.html>.

The N-YHS Reading Room is open Tuesday through Friday from 10 am to 5 pm (June-August) and resumes Saturday hours in September. For more information, please contact the manuscript reference department by phone at 212-485-9265 or by e-mail at [mssdept@nyhistory.org](mailto:mssdept@nyhistory.org). Visit the Library and other finding aids online at: <https://www.nyhistory.org/web/default.php?section=library>.

## News from SJSU Special Collections & Archives

*Danelle Moon, San José State University*



*Image courtesy of the John C. Gordon Photographic Collection, San José State University Library, Special Collections & Archives.*

San José State University is completing a two-year basic cataloging grant from the NHPRC to process over eighty collections related to the history of the university and personal and organizational records. This project has resulted in new access to our archival holdings through OCLC and the Online Archives of California. We recently applied for an NHPRC detailed processing grant, which was awarded in May. The grant award of \$99,709 will enable SJSU to fully process the John C. Gordon Photographic Collection and the Ted Sahl Photographic Collection. The grant will provide the funding needed to improve access to these collections, and will result in the preservation and digitization of 500 nitrate panorama negatives that depict the agricultural history of Santa Clara County, California.



*San Francisco Freedom Day Parade, undated. Image courtesy of the Ted Sahl Collection, San José State University Library, Special Collections & Archives.*

## **A New Guide for the Jared Potter Kirtland Collection at CWRU**

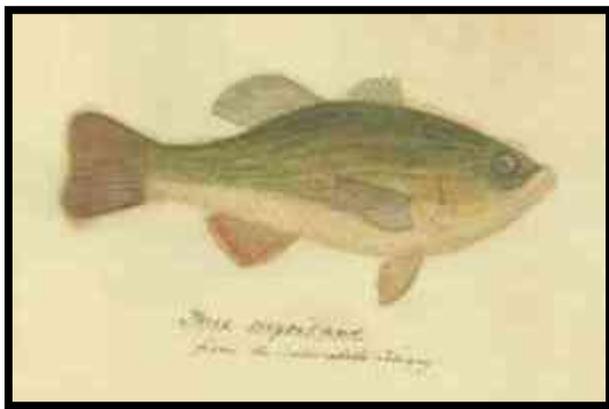
*Nora Blackman, Case Western Reserve University*

The Special Collections Research Center at the Kelvin Smith Library of Case Western Reserve University is pleased to announce the creation of a new guide to the Jared Potter Kirtland Collection. Gathered from donations made by family members, friends, and local researchers, the collection includes manuscript lecture notes and notebooks created over the course of Kirtland's career as a professor of medicine and in his lifelong study of the natural sciences.

Dr. Jared Potter Kirtland was born in 1793 in Wallingford, Connecticut. He spent his youth studying horticulture and botany before expanding his interest into the field of medicine. In 1813, he entered the first class of the medical department of Yale College, while also receiving private lessons in botany, geology, mineralogy, and zoology. He received his medical degree from Yale in 1815, and his highly diverse professional life began.

Kirtland had a long and successful career practicing medicine in Connecticut, and later, Ohio. It was in Ohio that he began to teach as well; first at Cincinnati's Medical College of Ohio, then at Willoughby Medical College. In 1844, along with Drs. John Delamater, Horace Ackley, and John Cassals, he founded the Medical Department of Western Reserve University, also known as the Cleveland Medical College. He remained at the Medical College as a professor of Theory and Practice of Medicine until his retirement in 1864. Today, the medical school he helped found, the Case Western Reserve School of Medicine, is ranked twentieth out of 146 in the *U.S. News & World Report* national survey and maintains the highest ranking among Ohio medical schools.

Jared Potter Kirtland's life encompassed much more than teaching medicine. Throughout his career, he shared his love of natural history and science. In 1845, he founded the Cleveland Academy of Science, which became the Kirtland Society of Natural History in 1865, forerunner of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. On his farm in East Rockport, Ohio (now Lakewood), Kirtland developed a wide array of agricultural advances that he shared generously with his neighbors and the world. He died there in 1877 leaving behind a legacy of dedication to enhancing our knowledge of humankind and the world we live in.



*Image from Box 1, folder 2, The Jared Potter Kirtland Collection. Illustrations of fish, pencil drawing with water color wash in Kirtland's hand, ca. 1839 with caption "H\_\_ nigricans. From the Naturalists' Library."*

## **Minnesota Historical Society Awarded NHPRC Basic Project Grant**

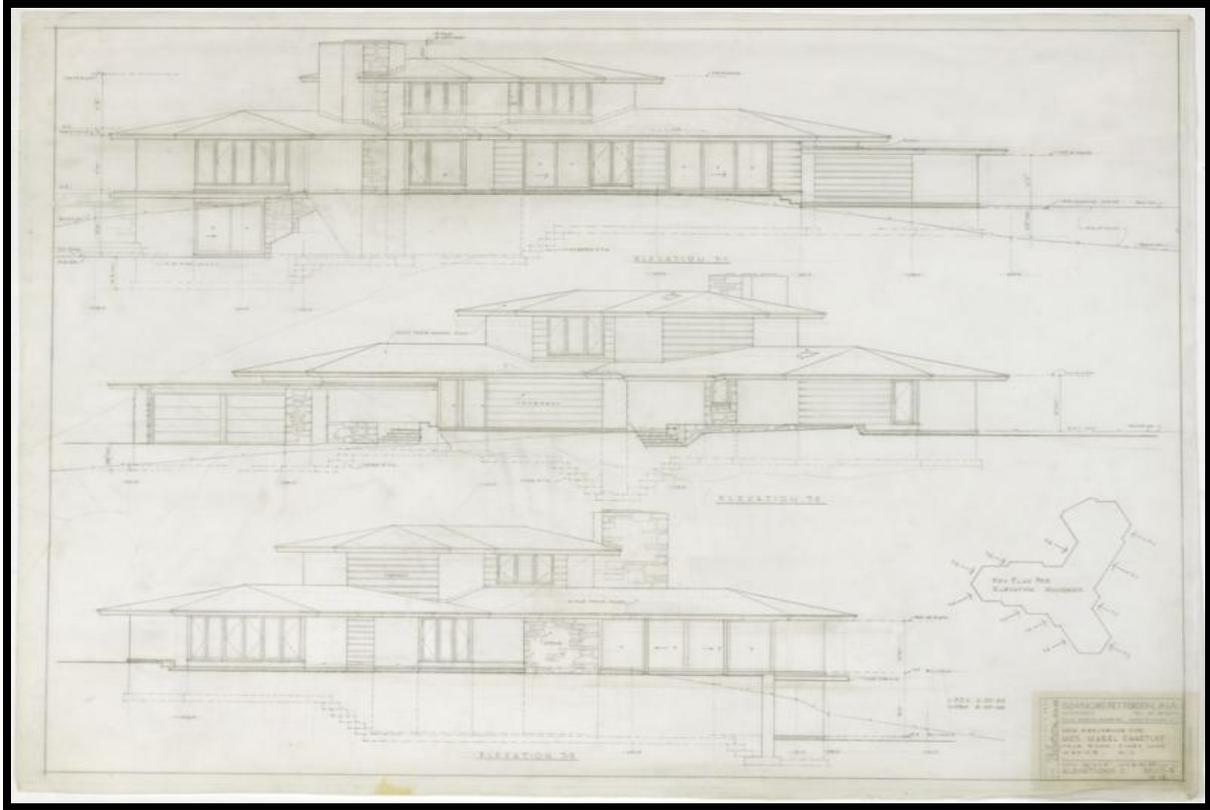
*Dennis Meissner, Minnesota Historical Society*

The Minnesota Historical Society (MHS) is pleased to announce its receipt of a Basic Project grant from the NHPRC in the amount of \$193,357, which will significantly support, by hiring three archival processors, a \$500,000, 18-month project to process the Society's unprocessed archival collections. The project targets a 4,600 cubic foot aggregation of government records and manuscript collections, which are largely hidden from our audiences. By arranging and describing these collections and series to generally accepted minimal standards, using economical practices that are now well tested, we expect to make our archival holdings web-discoverable, and to increase reading room use at MHS significantly. The project will become the focus of the archival processing staff's work through 2011. Project staff expect to produce or revise at least 500 MARC21 catalog records and 300 EAD finding aids over the course of the project. A retrieval analysis of archival materials has been underway for the past year and will be used to help evaluate the audience impact of rapidly exposing more archival materials to web-scale discovery and access. We are grateful to the NHPRC for giving us this opportunity to get our backlog off the pallets, onto the stack shelves, and into the audience discovery space.

### **The Eleanore Pettersen Architectural Collection, 1915-2003 (bulk 1950-2000)**

*Sherrie Bowser, Virginia Tech*

The International Archives of Women in Architecture at the Special Collections Library, Virginia Tech is pleased to announce that the Eleanore Pettersen Architectural Collection has been recently processed. Pettersen's collection (296 cu.ft.) encompasses fifty years of project files, sketches, drawings, blueprints, models, and photographs representing approximately 600 designs.



*Swartley Residence, Pine Lakes, in Wayne, New Jersey. House plan elevation by Eleanore Pettersen. Image courtesy of the Eleanore Pettersen Architectural Collection, Ms2003-018, Special Collections, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Va.*

Eleanore Pettersen was a pioneer in the field of architecture. Following her graduation from Cooper Union in 1941 with a certificate in architecture, Pettersen apprenticed under Frank Lloyd Wright until 1943. After leaving the communal environment of Wright's Taliesin, she worked on various projects including the National Defense Research Committee in Princeton, N.J., the Tennessee Valley Authority, and with architect Arthur Rigolo in Clifton, N.J. In 1950, Pettersen became one of the first women licensed as a practicing architect in New Jersey. Two years later in 1952, she transformed a 200-year-old barn into a home and office, becoming the first woman in that state to open her own architectural firm.

Pettersen was the first woman appointed to the New Jersey State Board of Architects, in 1975, and she served as president of that board for two years. Pettersen primarily designed residences in New Jersey, but she was also active in civic and professional organizations like the Altrusa Club of Bergen County and the American Institute of Architects Board, which elected her New Jersey's first female regional director, serving from 1986 until 1989. In 1991 she became a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects.

Among her clients were former President Richard Nixon and jazz artist George Benson. She was extremely proud of her involvement with the luxury townhouse community, Bear's Nest, in

Park Ridge, New Jersey. It was developed in phases during the 1980s and 1990s, and each of the approximately 200 units had custom design features.

The finding aid for the Eleanore Pettersen architectural collection can be found [online](#).

For more information about the International Archive of Women in Architecture, visit: <http://spec.lib.vt.edu/IAWA/>.

## **News from the Schlesinger Library: Newly Processed Collections (October 2009-June 2010) Available for Research**

*Katherine Kraft, Radcliffe Institute, Harvard University*

The records (1930-2005) of the **Berkshire Conference of Women Historians** contain correspondence; administrative records; conference files, including paper and panel proposals and evaluations; photographs; and t-shirts. The organization was founded in 1930 by historians Louise Fargo Brown (Vassar College) and Louise Ropes Loomis (Wells College) in response to women's sense of marginalization at the American Historical Association's annual meetings. Initially called the Lakeville History Group, members changed the name to the Berkshire Conference of Women Historians (BCWH), since most of the meetings took place in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. The BCWH was created to "facilitate [the] exchange of ideas and foster friendship among women historians," at first through their annual collegial business retreat for members, and later through their conferences on the history of women, which started in 1973. This conference, held every two to three years, continues to attract scholars from throughout the United States and abroad. It offers historians an opportunity to network with colleagues, present their research on women's history, and discuss their work with other historians. The BCWH sustains an activist role in supporting women's history and women historians' place in the historical profession, sponsors book and article prizes, and funds graduate fellowships. The 36.25 linear feet of records were processed by Mary O. Murphy and Laura Peimer. The finding aid is available [online](#).

The papers (ca.1929-2009) of attorney and women's rights activist **Sonia Pressman Fuentes** contain four linear feet of material that provides insight into the professional and personal life of the first woman attorney in the Office of General Counsel at the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunities Commission (hired in 1965), and a founding member of the National Organization for Women in 1966. After a nearly forty-year legal career, served in both government and the corporate sector, Fuentes pursued her interest in writing, publishing autobiographical stories and a 1999 memoir, *Eat First -- You Don't Know What They'll Give You: The Adventures of an Immigrant Family and Their Feminist Daughter*. The collection includes articles by and about Fuentes, correspondence, audiovisual materials, and transcripts of speeches. The collection was processed by Laura Peimer. The finding aid is available [online](#).

Author, lecturer, educator, poet, and activist **Blu Greenberg** (1936- ) was born in Seattle, Washington, and grew up in Far Rockaway, New York, in a traditional Orthodox Jewish home. A forerunner in the movement to bridge the gap between feminism and Orthodox Judaism since 1973, Greenberg was co-founder and first president of the Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance (JOFA) and has served on the boards of numerous Jewish and feminist organizations. Her papers (1936-2006) contain 33.2 linear feet of correspondence, articles, lecture and speech notes, conference programs, meeting minutes, research files, clippings, photographs, and audiovisual material documenting her varied activities, including her work on the first and second International Conference of Feminism and Orthodoxy and the establishment of JOFA. The papers were processed by Jessica Tanny. The finding aid is available [online](#).

**Katharine Wolcott Toll**, a 1935 graduate of Wellesley College, was the first woman winter sportswriter for the *Boston Post*. Recruited to the WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service), where she served from 1942 to 1946, Toll returned to the *Boston Post* after the war as staff reporter (1946-1954). In 1954, she left the paper to work on behalf of refugees, and in 1958 earned her master's degree in social work. The twenty linear foot collection (1809-2004) includes correspondence, drafts, notes, diaries, medical records, and photographs documenting Toll's personal life and her work as a reporter and social worker. The papers also document the lives of her parents, Charles Hansen and Mayes Martin Toll, as well as other family members. The collection was processed by Johanna Carll through the generosity of the Radcliffe College Class of 1955. The finding aid is available [online](#).

The papers (1920-2004) of **Nan Robertson**, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and writer whose professional career began in post-war Europe in 1948 and spanned more than fifty years, contain five linear feet of personal and professional papers, including correspondence, reader letters, drafts, photographs, audiovisual materials, and samples from her more than 1,200 articles for the *New York Times*. Robertson joined the *Times* in 1955 as a women's news reporter, then moved on to become a general assignments correspondent covering politics, government, and culture in New York, Washington, and Paris. In 1983, she won the Pulitzer Prize in feature writing for "Toxic Shock," a *New York Times Magazine* article chronicling her own nearly fatal struggle with toxic shock syndrome. Robertson retired from the *Times* in 1988 and went on to publish two full-length books: *Getting Better: Inside Alcoholics Anonymous*, and *The Girls in the Balcony: Women, Men, and the New York Times*. She also served as a visiting professor at the Journalism School at the University of Maryland before fully retiring in 1999. Robertson died of heart disease in Rockville, Maryland, on October 13, 2009. The papers were processed by Mary O. Murphy. The finding aid is available [online](#).

The additional records (1877-2004) of the **Women's Educational and Industrial Union**, a non-profit social and educational agency in Boston, Massachusetts, consist of nearly fourteen linear feet of correspondence, annual reports, departmental reports, advertising, clippings, photographs, publicity and program material, documenting the services the organization provided to women, the elderly, and the disabled, including employment training, counseling and mentoring, and job placement, among others. Some materials are also included from the Union's shops, which provided additional income used to fund the Union's programs and

services. The collection was processed by Mark Vassar and Emily Brown. The finding aid is available [online](#).

The records (1966-1991) of the **Project on Equal Education Rights (PEER)** consist primarily of the records of PEER's analysis of the enforcement of Title IX of the 1972 Education Amendments, documented in their publication, *Stalled at the Start: Government Action on Sex Bias in the Schools*. Included are copies of Title IX complaints for 1972 through 1976; legislative hearing files; interviews with the staff of the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (which was responsible for enforcement), students, parents, teachers, and school administrators; forms; and information on the study's methodology. The collection (22.94 linear feet) also documents PEER's other work, including projects on computer equity, and efforts to encourage teenage girls to stay in school, and includes grant applications, reports, and conference proceedings. Processing of this collection by Cat Lea Holbrook and Susan Earle was made possible by gifts from the Mary Mitchell Wood Manuscript Processing Fund, the Steiner Book and Manuscript Processing Fund, and the Zetlin Sisters Fund. The finding aid is available [online](#).

In the 1970s, **Ann Pecora Diamond** lived on a commune led by psychologist Betty Grover Eisner in Santa Monica, California, and supported Eisner during a 1976 wrongful death suit against her. From 1984 to 1993, Diamond worked as a development officer at the Yale University School of Medicine. She was fired in 1993 and sued Yale for gender and age discrimination. Diamond's twenty-five linear foot collection (1897-2009) includes correspondence, diaries, calendars, financial records, and legal documents, documenting her life as a member of the commune, her friendship with Betty Eisner, her relationship with her parents, and her lawsuit against Yale University. The collection was processed by Johanna Carll through the generosity of the Radcliffe College Class of 1955. The finding aid is available [online](#).

The records (1974-2002) of **New Words**, a women's bookstore, contain twenty-eight linear feet of correspondence, financial records, printed material from feminist publishers and presses, advertisements, memorabilia, and videotapes. Founded in 1974 by optician Mary Lowry and graduate student Gilda Bruckman, New Words was the country's oldest, continuously-run women's bookstore until 2002. Located in Cambridge, Massachusetts, New Words was managed by an all-woman collective that included Rita Arditti, Jean MacRae, Laura Zimmerman, Doris Reisig, Joni Seager, Kate Rushin, and Madge Kaplan. During its early years, New Words carried approximately 500 titles written only by women. It would grow to carry 8,000 titles, rotated three to four times a year, written by or for women. With the expansion of women's writing and publishing, New Words played a key role in making such material available to readers locally, nationally, and internationally. It also offered music by women artists, and served as an informal women's community center and host to author readings and other events. In 2002, faced with the rise of competition from superstores and internet sales, New Words closed its doors in order to reinvent itself as the non-profit Center for New Words. The Center's mission is to "foster and enhance the expressive and intellectual culture of women that flourishes at the intersection of literacy, books, culture, activism, and politics." The collection was processed by Mary O. Murphy. The finding aid is available [online](#).

The additional papers (1888-1988) of political and social activist **Florence Luscomb** (1887-1985) consist of three linear feet and include photographs, correspondence, statements, flyers, datebooks, audiotapes and transcripts of interviews with Luscomb and speeches by her. Of special interest are notes for the 1892 People's Party platform drafted by her mother, Hannah Skinner (Knox) Luscomb. The papers document a lifetime of activism, ranging from Luscomb's work with the Progressive Party and labor unions to her investigation as a subversive by government committees in Massachusetts and New Hampshire during the McCarthy era. The collection was processed by Anne Engelhart. The finding aid is available [online](#).

The papers (1929-1991) of **Robin Morgan**, author (poet, novelist, playwright, political theorist, and anthologist), radical feminist, and activist, contain 11.5 linear feet of material, consisting largely of files concerning the production of the book *Sisterhood Is Global*. Additional material consists of subject files regarding a number of topics and their relation to feminism, and drafts of several of her books of poetry, political theory, and fiction. The collection was processed by Mark Vassar. The finding aid is available [online](#).

The papers (1970-2005) of transgender activist and counselor **J. Ari Kane-DeMaio**s contain approximately twelve linear feet of correspondence, writings, notes, photographs, meeting minutes, and printed materials that provide insight into Kane's work on behalf of the transgendered community since the early 1970s. Included is documentation on the Outreach Institute of Gender Studies, founded by Kane in 1975 to advance the understanding of gender identity and role development and to foster education in all aspects related to the phenomenon of gender and human sexuality. Of note are photographs and programs from the Institute's Fantasia Fair, an annual event for crossdressers, transsexuals, and transgenderists in Provincetown, Massachusetts. The collection was processed by Laura Peimer. The finding aid is available [online](#).

**Grace Ellery Channing** was an author, World War I correspondent in Italy, and political conservative. A lifelong friend of feminist intellectual Charlotte Perkins Gilman, and the second wife of Gilman's first husband, Charles Walter Stetson, a painter, she helped raise Gilman and Stetson's daughter, Katharine Beecher (Stetson) Chamberlin. The 1.67 linear foot collection (1884-1976) contains letters to Channing, Stetson, Chamberlin, and other members of the Channing family. Letters include news of friends and family; discussion of politics, including Channing's dislike of Franklin D. Roosevelt; financial matters, including the administration of the estates of Gilman and Mary Channing Wood, and Channing's attempts to gain recognition for Stetson's painting and Chamberlin's role as steward of her mother's literary estate. Also included are a small number of financial records, address books, and photographs, as well as a letter and two poems by Gilman, and one letter to her. The collection was processed by Johanna Carll through the generosity of the Radcliffe College Class of 1955. The finding aid is available [online](#).

The additional papers (1892-1945) of birth control and sex education advocate **Mary Ware Dennett** (1872-1947) consist of one linear foot of material, including family and general correspondence, printed flyers, pamphlets, announcements, and clippings. Of special interest

are tender letters to her sons; correspondence with her doctor documenting a number of health issues and Dennett's interest in homeopathic remedies; and general correspondence centering upon birth control, sex education, peace, and other causes close to her heart. The finding aid is available [online](#).

The additional papers (1914-1989) of **Mary Steichen Calderone**, physician and pioneer in the field of sex education, include biographical material, correspondence, speeches, conference files, writings, audiotapes, photographs, and clippings related to her work at Planned Parenthood and the Sex Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS). Also included are correspondence, minutes, and syllabi related to her work as an adjunct professor at New York University and as a committee member of several organizations, including the United States Consortium of Sexology and the White House Conference on Children and Youth. The 19.31 linear foot collection was processed by Mark Vassar. The finding aid is available [online](#).

The papers (1888-2008 ) of Episcopal priest and member of the "Philadelphia 11" **Katrina Martha Swanson** (1935-2005) contain 31.69 linear feet of sermons, subject files on the ordination of women priests, church files, photographs, family papers, correspondence, audiotapes, and videotapes. The collection was processed by Stacey Flatt. The finding aid is available [online](#).

Founded in 1921 with the merger of the Association of Collegiate Alumnae and the Southern Association of College Women as the first national organization of university women, the **American Association of University Women** sought to further women's education and career goals. The AAUW **Massachusetts State Division** was formally established in Natick in 1930 and currently includes fourteen active branches. Its additional records (1921-2007) include 22.5 linear feet of bylaws and constitutions; reports; minutes and related material; correspondence; membership lists, directories, and handbooks; announcements and mailings; conference and workshop material; financial records; committee and program records; fellowship records; publications; scrapbooks; photographs; audiovisual material; memorabilia; and clippings. The collection was processed by Bridgette A. Woodall. The finding aid is available [online](#).

The records (1970-1999) of the **Association of American Law Schools, Section on Women in Legal Education** contain two linear feet of records consisting of histories, by-laws; correspondence; reports and resolutions; program planning material; membership lists; questionnaires and statistics; newsletters; audiotapes and clippings. In 1970, the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) established the Special Committee on Women in Legal Education in response to petitions by women law students with "concern for equality of opportunity in legal education, including professional placement." Through the leadership of Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Shirley R. Bysiewicz, the committee became the Section on Women in Legal Education (SWLE) in 1973. The SWLE has actively addressed issues facing women law students and faculty, including matters of financial aid, child care concerns, and part-time employment, and has collected and disseminated statistical data on women in legal education, established networking groups, drafted major resolutions and reports on the treatment of women in the

legal profession, and sponsored workshops on issues concerning women in the law. The collection was processed by Bridgette A. Woodall. The finding aid is available [online](#).

The papers (1967-2007) of **Naomi Weisstein**, pioneer in cognitive neuroscience, feminist, and author, contain seven linear feet that include personal correspondence, memoirs, fiction writing, and materials relating to health and feminist activities. Additional materials relate to Weisstein's scientific research through correspondence, writings, and research data. The collection was processed by Jessica Tanny through the generosity of the Radcliffe College Class of 1968. The finding aid is available [online](#).

The **She's Nobody's Baby** collection (1980-1987) consists of records assembled for the production of *She's Nobody's Baby*, a 1981 Peabody Award-winning documentary by the Ms. Foundation for Education and Communication in association with the Home Box Office cable network. The three linear feet of materials include correspondence, scripts, budgets, photographs, materials relating to a companion book, and a 16 mm film. The collection was processed by Jessica Tanny through the generosity of the Radcliffe College Class of 1968. The finding aid is available [online](#).

The **Concerned United Birthparents** is a national birthparent support and adoption reform organization formed in Massachusetts in 1976. Its records (1946-1999) consist of 15.85 linear feet of material, and include administrative records, correspondence, publications, clippings, project files, and videotapes related to the organization's work providing a support system for birthparents who have relinquished their children, willingly and unwillingly, and its work on legislative reform. Also included are items gathered for the organization's newsletter, the *CUB Communicator*. Numerous letters written for publication in the newsletter contain detailed personal experiences of both birthparents and adoptees. The collection was processed by Mark Vassar. An electronic finding aid is available [online](#).

**Caroline Drayton Phillips**, a member of New York's prominent Astor family, was the wife of career diplomat William Phillips. Her fourteen linear foot collection (1897-1961) contains sixty-four diaries and accompanying material, including correspondence, photographs, news clippings, and a variety of ephemera, including theater programs, seating charts, and social calling cards. A lifelong diarist, Phillips chronicles life as a socialite, her marriage to William Phillips and family life with their children, and traveling throughout Europe and living abroad. She had an insider's view of Washington, D.C., politics and gossip, particularly during the Woodrow Wilson and Franklin D. Roosevelt administrations. Among his many posts, William Phillips served as ambassador to Italy on the eve of World War II. Phillips' diaries reflect the tensions of pre-war Italy and describe William's diplomatic work with the Italian government and his efforts to dissuade Mussolini from allying with Germany, as well as his interactions with the Vatican. The collection includes letters from Phillips' cousin Waldorf Astor, friend Sybil Cuffee Cutting and her daughter, Iris Cutting Origo, and Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt. The collection was processed by Paula Aloisio through the generosity of the Radcliffe College Class of 1957. The finding aid is available [online](#).

**Rockport Lodge**, a vacation house for working women of low and moderate income, opened in 1907. Its records (1906-2007) consist of 19.6 linear feet of material, including minutes and by-laws, correspondence, financial records, lodgers' reservation records and membership cards, brochures, scrapbooks, photographs, and videotapes. The collection was processed by Susan Earle with a gift from Clara Schiffer. The finding aid is available [online](#).

On May 17, 1988, approximately 3,400 Harvard University employees (82 percent of whom were women ) from six campuses voted in a National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) sanctioned election to be represented by the **Harvard Union of Clerical and Technical Workers**, an affiliate of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME). The election made HUCTW the largest union of clerical and technical workers at any private university in the United States. Its collection of approximately fifty linear feet contains records (1967-2005) relating to this crucial election and union work following its establishment, as well as efforts of labor organizing at Harvard University throughout the 1970s and early 1980s. Materials include correspondence, administrative files, organizing campaign material, contract negotiations, publicity, photographs, audiotapes, videotapes, and memorabilia. The records were processed by Mary O. Murphy and Laura Peimer with a gift from Clara Schiffer. The finding aid is available [online](#).

Feminist film maker **Ariel Dougherty** (1947- ) was a co-founder of the feminist film cooperative Women Make Movies, worked in several women's arts organizations, and was an advocate for funding the work of women artists. The 10.34 linear feet of her papers (1946-1993) include correspondence; diaries; scripts, photographs, contracts, and other material related to her filmmaking; organizational records of Women Make Movies; files relating to artists' organizations and women artists' organizations; and artwork. A collection of her films will be processed separately. The collection was processed by Jenny Gotwals with support from the Radcliffe College Classes of 1950 and 1956. The finding aid is available [online](#).

The eight linear feet of addenda to the records (1970-2002) of **Boston N.O.W.** include meeting minutes and other materials documenting the activities of the executive board, standing committees, and task forces; reports; flyers; programs; photographs, and clippings. The members of the Boston Chapter of the National Organization for Women have played a key role in shaping public discourse and policy in Massachusetts since late 1969. Through political and legislative activities, they work to educate the public through rallies, forums, workshops, and demonstrations. Boston NOW brings a feminist voice and vision to a wide variety of issues addressing the economic, political, social, and personal dynamics that affect women's everyday lives. The collection was processed by Jessica Tanny through the generosity of the Radcliffe College Class of 1968. The finding aid is available [online](#).

**Grace Zia Chu**, Chinese American culinary instructor and author, introduced the art of Chinese cooking to an American audience. Her .83 linear feet of papers (1941-1986) include awards; biographical documents and correspondence; recipes and menus from classes; clippings; materials from demonstrations and lectures; and a short film based on her cookbook, *The Pleasures of Chinese Cooking*. Through clippings and typewritten speeches, the collection also

documents her earlier career as a diplomatic military attaché's wife and as vice-president of the World YWCA. The collection was processed by Jessica Tanny through the generosity of the Radcliffe College Class of 1968. The finding aid is available [online](#).

The records (1950-2000) of **the Fishermen's Wives of Gloucester (Association)**, known familiarly as the Gloucester Fishermen's Wives Association, document the group's history, as well as significant issues affecting the fishing industry in New England, North America, and globally, and illuminates unique challenges of women in the fishing industry, and the concerns of fishermen's daughters, mothers, and wives. Referring to themselves informally as "the Wives," a group of primarily Sicilian-American women (many first-generation immigrants) formed the organization in 1969. With their husbands offshore on fishing trips, often for extended periods of time, the Wives assumed responsibilities that traditionally had been divided according to gender. The group became a tireless and formidable force that raised awareness of issues in the fishing industry and championed the rights of small fishermen. They lobbied for federal legislation to prohibit oil drilling in Georges Bank, and to protect American fishermen by passing fisheries conservation and management legislation; held cooking demonstrations to promote using fish species (e.g., calamari and herring) popular in Sicilian cooking but uncommon in American; and forged ties with other leaders in the fishing industry around the world to protest oil drilling, overfishing, and pollution. The group also created two sister organizations: Gloucester Fishermen's Wives Memorial (1982), and Gloucester Fishermen's Wives Development Programs (1995). The collection (twenty-six linear feet) includes correspondence; staff notes; drafts of writings; research; grant proposals; oral histories; maps; audiotapes; videotapes; photographs; and clippings. It was processed by Marilyn Morgan through the generosity of the Radcliffe College Class of 1958 and the Ardis B. James Fund. The finding aid is available [online](#).

All of these finding aids are available on Harvard University's OASIS Web site.

## **Reference and Processing Collaboration Group of the RAO Section Update**

*Casey Babcock, City University of New York*

The Reference and Processing Collaboration Group of the Reference, Access, and Outreach Section has recently updated its stated goals and objectives. The charge of the group is to gather and share information on customized levels of processing with particular emphasis on public services. The members of the group are volunteers and represent a broad range of constituencies.

Responsibilities of the group include:

- Compiling a bibliography or literature review relevant to the levels of processing proposed by Greene and Meissner.

- Soliciting repositories for processing manuals. (The group is currently soliciting examples of processing manuals and any processing-relevant policies.)
- Surveying archivists regarding repositories' processing and public services practices and summarizing and synthesizing survey results, processing manuals, literature, and other appropriate resources and information.
- Proposing assessment measures and models to judge the impact of customized levels of processing on users and public service archivists.
- Offering models, workflows, or other means for public service archivists and other repository staff to benefit collections and users.
- Fostering communication within the working group and the larger archival community while work is underway via appropriate means that allow and encourage communication, collaboration, and feedback.
- Maintaining an appropriate tool to document the working group's results and encouraging collaboration from outside of the working group.
- Actively participating in reviews of the group's progress and purpose and making recommendations for appropriate further actions.

The working group will strive to provide timely updates to appropriate SAA constituent groups, other organizations, and the larger community of archivists as appropriate. At least two updates must be provided annually to the steering committees of endorsing sections including one in advance of and/or at the annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists. These reports will then be made available in whole or abridged form as appropriate at a minimum via the section blog, newsletter, and/or listserv as well as via any additional communication mediums (wiki, blog, etc.) established by the working group.

The goal of the working group is to serve an advisory role. All of the products we generate are intended to benefit the larger archival community and users of repositories. If you have any thoughts or suggestions, please contact co-chairs Shannon Bowen Maier ([sebowen@uwyo.edu](mailto:sebowen@uwyo.edu)) or Daniel Santamaria ([dsantam@princeton.edu](mailto:dsantam@princeton.edu)), or Manuscript Repositories section representative Jackie Dean ([jdean@email.unc.edu](mailto:jdean@email.unc.edu)).

## **Papers of Radio Broadcaster and Music Educator, Robert Sherman, Open to Researchers at the University of Maryland**

*Cassandra Berman, University of Maryland*



*Image courtesy of the Robert Sherman Collection, Michelle Smith Performing Arts Library, University of Maryland.*

The Robert Sherman Collection is processed and available for use at Special Collections in Performing Arts at the University of Maryland's Michelle Smith Performing Arts Library. Robert Sherman, son of pianist Nadia Reisenberg and nephew of thereminist Clara Rockmore, is a renowned radio broadcaster, author, and educator whose career spans the 1950s to today. He is best known for hosting numerous programs on WQXR in New York, including "Woody's Children," "The Listening Room," and "Young Artists Showcase." As an author, Sherman has written columns for the *New York Times* as well as books about music, including several co-authored with Victor Borge. Among the most significant holdings in the collection are the comprehensive recordings of his broadcasts and correspondence with numerous renowned artists including Rockmore, Pete Seeger, Aaron Copland, Henry Cowell, and Leopold Stokowski. The finding aid is available online (<http://hdl.handle.net/1903.1/9381>); questions should be directed to Curator of Special Collections in Performing Arts, Vincent Novara, at [vnovara@umd.edu](mailto:vnovara@umd.edu).

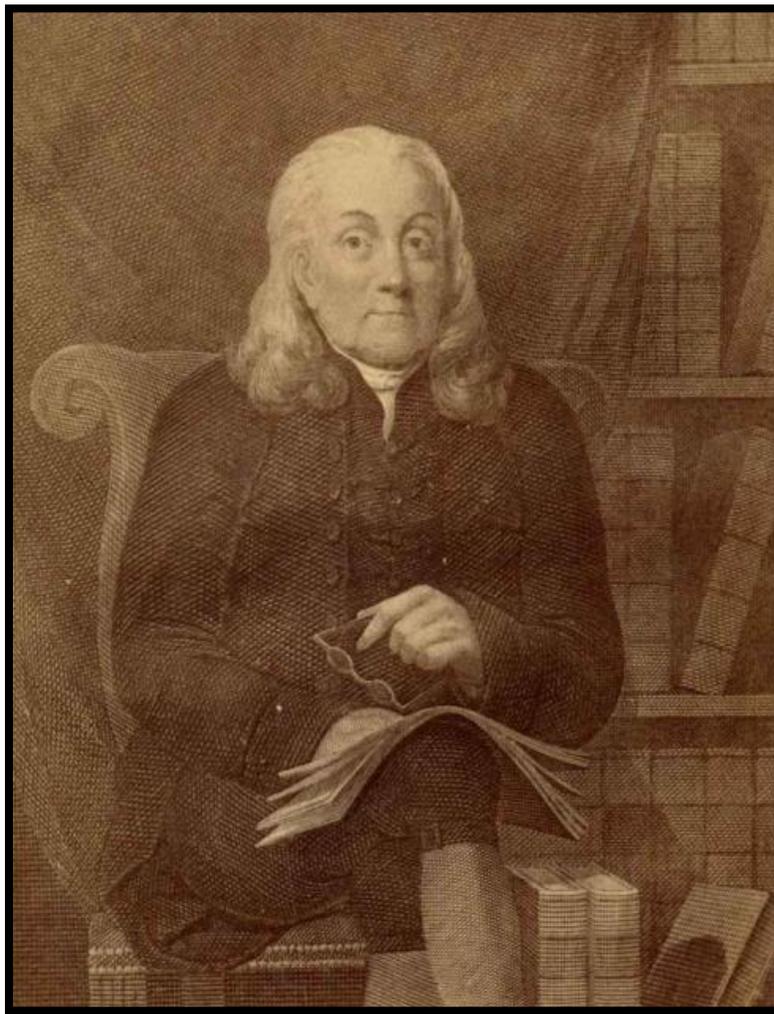
### **Innovative Historical Student Database Funded**

*Linda M. Hocking, Litchfield (Connecticut) Historical Society*

The Litchfield Historical Society invites you to participate in an exciting new project. In September 2009, the Society began a two-year venture to create an online searchable database of all documented students of Litchfield Female Academy and the Litchfield Law School.

Funding for the project is provided by the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the Council on Library and Information Resources, and the Connecticut Humanities Council.

The database, known as the Ledger, will present the stories of these institutions, their founders, and students. In 1784, Tapping Reeve opened the Litchfield Law School, the first in America. It attracted over 1,200 students from thirteen states and territories to study in Litchfield. Graduates formed a network of leadership and influence that encompassed public service, business, and other areas of American life. In 1792, Sarah Pierce founded a pioneer institution of female education in America. Her innovative curriculum of academic, practical, and ornamental courses expanded the world of the estimated 3,000 girls who attended the Litchfield Female Academy over its forty-one year history.



*Tapping Reeve, undated. Image courtesy of the Litchfield Historical Society.*



*Sarah Pierce, undated. Image courtesy of the Litchfield Historical Society.*

The words, artwork, and personal belongings of the students and instructors will be brought together with biographical and genealogical information from a variety of repositories and private collections. The Society seeks information about any related collections of archives or artifacts. For further details about the project, a complete list of students, or to submit information to be included please contact the curator, Julie Frey, at [curator@litchfieldhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:curator@litchfieldhistoricalsociety.org) or the archivist, Linda Hocking, at [archivist@litchfieldhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:archivist@litchfieldhistoricalsociety.org).

For more information about the Litchfield Historical Society, please see <http://www.litchfieldhistoricalsociety.org>.