

MANUSCRIPT REPOSITORIES NEWSLETTER

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

SUMMER 2019

Contents

FROM THE CHAIR.....	2
SECTION LEADERSHIP ELECTION INFORMATION.....	3
NEWS FROM MEMBERS.....	7
Margaret Herrick Library completes processing of the Thelma Ritter and Joseph Aloysius Moran papers	7
Boston College's John J. Burns Library announces two newly processed manuscript collections, the Raymond G. Helmick, SJ papers and the Terence Winch papers	10
SECTION LEADERSHIP.....	11

FROM THE CHAIR

*Alison Clemens, Assistant Head of Arrangement and Description,
Manuscripts & Archives, Yale University Library*

Dear Section members,

I hope you're all well and enjoying the start of summer! Believe it or not, the SAA Annual Meeting in Austin, Texas is fast approaching, and I'm looking forward to seeing some of you then.

The Steering Committee is working on finalizing plans for our 2019 Section meeting in Austin. As you may know, we've spent the past few months gathering information from Section members on your experience with and interest in development work. We thank you all for your feedback and thoughts, and based on your responses, we're looking forward to offering programming on development work in manuscript repositories.

We're delighted to announce that we'll have a panel of archivists and development officers, ! and the following esteemed colleagues have agreed to serve as panelists:

- Maggie Gilburg, Director of Development, Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas
- Gary Mathews, Director of Alumni and Church Relations and a member of the Institutional Advancement team, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary !
- Kristy Sorensen, Associate Director of the Library and Head of Archives and Records Management, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary
- Steve Murray, Director, Alabama Department of Archives and History

We're currently soliciting questions from you for our panelists to answer in Austin. If you'd like to submit a question, please share it here by **Friday, July 5: [2019 Manuscript Repositories Section Meeting Questions](#)**. There will also be an opportunity for an open question and answer session at the end of the panel.

This is sure to be an interesting and informative meeting, so please mark your calendars for Saturday, August 3 from 3:15-4:30 if you plan to be in Austin! We know that not everyone will be able to join us in Austin, so we'll ask attendees to tweet with the hashtag #saams2019 so that folks can participate remotely. We'll also keep an eye on that hashtag for questions during the open Q&A portion of the panel.

Best wishes,
Alison

SECTION LEADERSHIP ELECTION INFORMATION

The following SAA members are running for positions on the Manuscript Repositories Section Steering Committee. As a reminder, elections will be held by electronic ballot four weeks before SAA's annual conference in Austin, TX, July 31 – August 6, and winners will be announced at the Section meeting at the conference.

Vice-chair / Chair-elect

[Danielle Butler, Archivist, Butler Center for Arkansas Studies](#)

I am currently an archivist at the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, the Arkansas history and genealogy department of the Central Arkansas Library System, in Little Rock, Arkansas, where I am ASpace administrator. I completed an undergraduate degree in History at Ouachita Baptist University in 2014 and completed a Master's in Public History at UA Little Rock in 2016. I became a Certified Archivist in 2016. I previously served as project archivist for a CLIR Digitizing Hidden Collections Grant for three participating manuscripts repositories and as project archivist for a Japanese American Confinement Sites digitization grant.

I currently serve as Vice-President of the board for the Arkansas Women's History Institute, Vice-Chair of the Site Selection Committee for the Society of Southwest Archivists, and as a member of the Access Practices & Outreach sub-committee of the DLF Born Digital Access Working Group. I enjoy serving these organizations and growing professionally in these roles. I would love to extend that service, in greater part, to SAA. Over the past four years of membership, I have watched SAA engage with issues of diversity, technology, and outreach in a changing archival world. Manuscripts repositories are uniquely situated to create a more inclusive archival record, engage our diverse stakeholders more intentionally, support the cultivation of diverse workplaces, and fully embrace technological innovation in ways that institutional archives aren't. I hope in serving as Vice-chair/Chair elect for the Manuscripts Repository section of SAA, I can assist the section in facilitating discourse and action around these initiatives.

[Leslie Van Veen McRoberts, Head of Special Collections, Michigan State University](#)

Leslie Van Veen McRoberts is the Head of Special Collections at Michigan State University. Prior to joining MSU, she served as the Local History Archivist at the Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture at Salisbury University, a Processing Technician at the Walter Reuther Library of Labor and Urban Affairs, and the Eastern Michigan University Archives. She earned a Master of Science in Historic Preservation with a Historic Administration concentration from Eastern Michigan University, a Master of Library and Information Science and a Graduate Certificate in Archival Administration from Wayne State University. Currently, she serves on MARAC's Diversity and Inclusion committee, and the Local Arrangements

Committee for the Cambridge, MD fall conference. Previously, she served as a co-chair and steering committee member of SAA's Women Archivists Section (WArS).

I would like to participate in an active role as the vice-chair/chair-elect for the Manuscripts Repository section. Building relationships amongst seasoned colleagues, new professionals, and students is critical to the success of any repository. Opportunities created among colleagues can foster new and innovative ideas which have the ability to generate a more profound experience within the organization. By joining the leadership of the manuscript section, I hope to increase participation by gauging the immediate and long-term needs of the membership; we all need mentorship, to be encouraged, and support from others in and around the profession.

Steering Committee

[Laura Bell, Archivist, Special Collections & Archives, RLB Library, University of Baltimore](#)

Currently I am an Archivist in the Special Collections & Archives at the University of Baltimore where my main responsibilities involve collection management and collection processing, as well as archival accessioning and the creation of online finding aids. I also develop physical and digital exhibits, coordinate social media outreach, work with students and volunteers on archives projects, and am part of the library's digital preservation task force. Before my current position, I worked and interned in university archives and special collections, and in government and museum archives and libraries. I earned my Master of Library Science (MLS) degree with a Specialization in Archives and Records Management from Indiana University, Bloomington in 2018 and my B.A. degree in English from St. Mary's College of Maryland in 2014.

I have been a member of SAA since 2016 and am currently the Students and New Archives Professionals (SNAP) Section (SNAP) Section, Ex-Officio, New Professionals Blog Editor. Last year, I presented at the 2018 SAA Research Forum during the Annual Meeting. During graduate school I was Vice-President (2016-2017) and later President (2017-2018) for the Student Chapter of Society of American Archivists at Indiana University, Bloomington. I have enjoyed participating in SAA and am excited for the opportunity to contribute further as a member of the Manuscript Repository Section Steering Committee.

[Patrick Dollar, Processing Archivist, UNC Greensboro](#)

Patrick Dollar received his MLIS from UNC-Chapel Hill in 2015, with a concentration in Archives and Records Management. He also earned a BA in English and Journalism from UNC-Chapel Hill in 2010 and an MA in English from UNC Greensboro in 2012. Since 2017, Patrick has worked as the Processing Archivist for the manuscript collections at UNC Greensboro's Martha Blakeney Hodges Special Collections and University Archives. He also serves as the department's systems administrator for ArchivesSpace and for the Born Digital Records Management System. Prior to becoming Processing Archivist, Patrick worked at UNC Greensboro's Special Collections and

University Archives on a two-year processing project, as a student worker, and as a volunteer. He has held other archival and library positions at the State Archives of North Carolina, Duke University, and UNC-Chapel Hill.

I am excited to run for a position on the Steering Committee for SAA's Manuscript Repositories Section. I have worked with manuscript collections for over 5 years, and as a new professional, I want to increase my participation in SAA and to foster the profession. I previously served on the SAA Career Development Subcommittee and am active in the Society of North Carolina Archivists (SNCA). Thank you for your consideration.

[Ryan Lee, Curator of 19th Century Mormon and Western Manuscripts,
Brigham Young University](#)

Ryan Lee is the curator of 19th Century Mormon and Western Manuscripts in the L. Tom Perry Special Collections at Brigham Young University's Harold B. Lee Library. He has held this position since September 2013. Prior to working at BYU, he was an archivist and metadata specialist at the LDS Church History Library in Salt Lake City from 2008-2013. Ryan received an MLS with a specialization in Archives and Records Management from Indiana University in 2006. Ryan is an active member of the Conference of Intermountain Archivists (CIMA) where he is currently serving as Treasurer. He is also a Certified Archivist as of 2011.

In running for a member of the Steering Committee of the Manuscript Repository Section, I look forward to the opportunity to mingle with other archivists in manuscript repositories and explore the challenges that we all face, which may differ from other members of SAA. These challenges might include donor relations, collection development for manuscript collections, interaction with document dealers, primary source literacy, outreach in an academic setting, and many others. These challenges and how to address them are not usually taught in current Library and Information Science programs, so manuscript curators are left to learn them through on-the-job experience. While these can be helpful, I believe these issues should also be addressed for fully in the annual meeting and in workshops and other learning opportunities provided by SAA. And, I feel like in recent years these needs are not being met, and offerings for continued education are lacking. I would welcome the opportunity, as a member of a leadership organization like the Steering Committee, to aid in increasing these offerings throughout the profession, and to continue partnering with other organizations, like ACRL and RBMS, to ensure that manuscript curators and archivists are properly trained and feel confident in their unique roles and positions within the profession.

[Lori Myers-Steele, Collections Archivist, Berea College Hutchins Library,
Special Collections and Archives](#)

Education: Graduate Certificate in Archival Studies, East Tennessee State University (2012); MA Culture and Colonialism, National University Ireland, Galway (1998); Teaching Certification, University of Wisconsin-Madison (1996); BS Political Science, Texas Christian University (TCU) (1991).

Professional Experience: Collections Archivist, Berea College Hutchins Library, Special Collections and Archives (2014-Present); Project Archivist, Berea College Hutchins Library, Special Collections and Archives (2012-2014).

As Collections Archivist at Berea, I curate manuscript collections: appraising, arranging, describing, preserving, and providing access to materials related to the study of Southern Appalachia and the Berea area. Additionally, I curate the Berea College records and serve as the college's records manager. Responsible for maintaining our content management system, I have recently completed the migration and input of all collection finding guides and accessions into our system. I instruct numerous sessions with undergraduate classes and provide one-on-one consultations for our students. I provide general reference services and promote student, faculty, and researcher use of collections through instruction, workshops, and student, staff, and faculty initiatives.

SAA participation: SAA member since 2012. Member various SAA sections.

Other Activities: Midwest Archives Conference (MAC) member, 2012-present; Kentucky Council on Archives (KCA) member, 2012-present; Archon Users Group, member 2017-Present

[Ronald Rozzell, Archivist, Butler Community College](#)

I live in Kansas. I read books. I like history. Archiving is a pretty great job.

Education: MLIS with a concentration in Archives from Emporia State University

Professional Experience: internship at Kansas Historical Society, Archivist at Butler Community College

SAA Participation: SAA member since 2014, currently taking DAS and A&D classes for certification, Certified Archivist Exam passer

Enough about me, right? I work at a community college currently. I am the head/sole archivist at the college and am building an archive from the ground up. I am very interested in getting involved in SAA and very interested in Manuscripts. I believe that getting a position in the committee would be very beneficial to me and I would show my gratitude through my work and dedication.

Thanks.

NEWS FROM MEMBERS

Margaret Herrick Library completes processing of the Thelma Ritter and Joseph Aloysius Moran papers

Francesca Krampe, Special Collections Archivist, Margaret Herrick Library

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' [Margaret Herrick Library](#) has completed processing the [Thelma Ritter and Joseph Aloysius Moran papers](#). The manuscript collection encompasses 29.1 linear feet and contains extensive material covering the careers of actress Thelma Ritter, best known for her work in *All About Eve* (1950), *Rear Window* (1954), *Pillow Talk* (1959), and *The Misfits* (1961), and her husband, Joseph Aloysius Moran, an advertising executive at Young & Rubicam. The collection is notable not only for Ritter's extensive personal correspondence to her husband while she was away from her New York home during numerous film productions of the 1950s, but also for significant documentation of her lesser known work in stock theater in the 1920s and as a script writer for war bond radio advertisements during World War II.

Acquisition of the collection was announced in the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and the Academy Foundation's Annual Report, 2005-2006. That report was digitized, OCR'd, and uploaded into the [Margaret Herrick Library Digital Collections](#), where it was found by a researcher several years later. Once the collection was requested, processing began in late 2016. The collection totaled 26 boxes and had arrived in considerable disarray, with much material loose in the box.

Though well-known to audiences as a beloved character actress of the 1950s and 1960s, Ritter led a full and fascinating life before appearing in her first film in 1947. Throughout the 1920s and early 1930s she performed with several stock theater companies and in 1927 married fellow actor Joseph Aloysius Moran. The collection contains more than two dozen programs for shows from Ritter and Moran's respective work in stock, including a number of shows the two appeared in together. Though Ritter's work in film often showcased her appeal as a wise-cracking supporting player, her stock theater credits prove she was capable of performing in a variety of roles and genres.

When work in stock dwindled for both, Moran found work writing radio advertisements for Young & Rubicam. Since a significant portion of the collection concerns his work in advertising, it was determined that the collection would be named for both Ritter and Moran. Moran's business papers contain correspondence with Gertrude Berg and Eddie Cantor, whose



Figure 1: Thelma Ritter and Joseph Moran

radio shows were sponsored by clients of Young & Rubicam, as well as more than 100 commercial scripts for the radio shows “The Eddy Duchin Show” and “Helen Hayes Theater,” among others.

Ritter was also highly involved in her husband’s work for a time. In the 1940s, following the birth of their two children, Ritter gradually returned to acting by performing in radio, sometimes voicing commercials scripted by her husband. During World War II, she joined her husband in Young & Rubicam’s work for the United States government by co-writing numerous

radio scripts selling war bonds for such shows as “Over Here” and “Treasury Star Parade.” The collection contains more than three dozen commercial scripts clearly credited to Ritter and Moran.

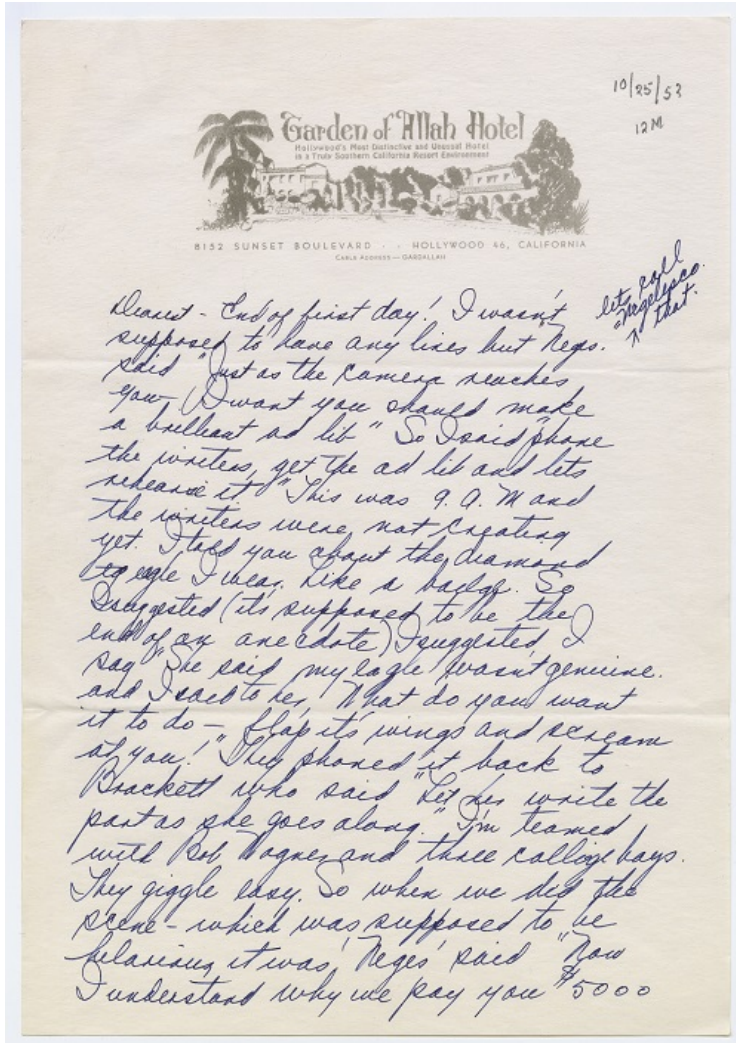


Figure 2: Handwritten letter from Thelma Ritter to her husband while shooting Titanic with director Jean Negulesco, October 25, 1952

Ritter’s film and television work is documented in the collection through production papers, clippings, correspondence, and a handful of scripts. Compared to many collections at the library, her film-related papers are limited. However, the collection is notable in that it contains Ritter’s own thoughts on various productions, recounted in her letters to her husband during filming. With her two children enrolled in school, and Moran still employed at Young & Rubicam, Ritter and her family were firmly established in New York. As a result, she often was alone in Hollywood while working and wrote Moran nearly every day. The handwritten letters contain Ritter’s candid opinions of her scripts, directors, and co-stars as well as her impressions of those she met socially.

Certain prominent productions, such as *Rear Window* (1954) and *The Misfits* (1961), are unfortunately not covered in her correspondence. Nevertheless, for the films that are discussed, Ritter’s letters offer a captivating account of Hollywood in the 1950s in the actress’ own inimitable voice. While musing over her sudden success, she remarks that it is “damned ironic that after beating around all these years for a 2 min spot announcement and chasing after small fry, all of a sudden big shots start pressuring you.” Her letters offer a

refreshing perspective of a woman in the film industry: newly famous and nearing fifty, managing her household from across the country, practical, with many years in stock behind her, yet still capable of being star-struck on occasion.

The collection also contains an assortment of correspondence from colleagues, including Doris Day, Debbie Reynolds, Barbara Stanwyck, and Gwen Verdon, among many others. Ritter's personal life is documented through material concerning her and her husband's work on behalf of their church and numerous charitable organizations. There is also substantial correspondence between Ritter, Moran, and the couple's two children, Joseph Anthony and Monica.

Following the completion of collection processing in October 2017, the Thelma Ritter and Joseph Aloysius Moran papers became the seventh most requested collection from the [Special Collections](#) department during the library's fiscal year for 2017-2018.

Boston College's John J. Burns Library announces two newly processed manuscript collections, the Raymond G. Helmick, SJ papers and the Terence Winch papers

Annalisa Moretti, Archives Assistant, John J. Burns Library, Boston College
Stephanie Hall, Archives Assistant, John J. Burns Library, Boston College

The [Raymond G. Helmick, SJ papers](#) relate to the professional life of Raymond Helmick, a Jesuit and Boston College professor, who dedicated his career to conflict resolution around the world. He focused primarily on conflicts involving Northern Ireland; Israel and Palestine; the Kurds in Iraq and Turkey; and Lebanon, while keeping in contact with many world leaders during times of crisis. Of note is his correspondence with Gerry Adams, Yasser Arafat, Raymond Edde, and multiple United States presidents. Manuscript drafts, articles, and reports document his efforts, as do photographs from Helmick's trips to conflict areas. Helmick's course lectures and other teaching materials about conflict resolution also highlight his involvement in world affairs and approach to sharing that experience with others. The papers provide a unique insight into his efforts in fostering peace throughout the world.

To learn more about Helmick and this collection, consult the finding aid:

<http://hdl.handle.net/2345.2/BC2016-047>

The [Terence Winch papers](#) document the life and work of Winch (1945-), an Irish-American writer and musician based in the Washington, D.C. area. Acquired in 2017, the Terence Winch papers provide a colorful look into literary and musical counterculture from the 1960s through today, presented in formats as wide ranging as handmade books, poetry reading flyers, and audiovisual recordings of literary events and concerts. In addition to manuscripts of poetry and fiction by Winch, it includes works by a school of DC poets known as "Mass Transit," which flourished in the 1970s. The papers also highlight Winch's musical pursuits, particularly his involvement in Celtic Thunder, a traditional Irish music band.

To learn more about the collection, read the finding aid: <http://hdl.handle.net/2345.2/MS2017-005>

SECTION LEADERSHIP

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

Steering Committee Members

Sarah Bost
Anne Jenner
Jennifer Motszko
Rebecca Petersen May
Nathan Saunders
Florence Turcotte

The deadline for the Fall Newsletter is 1 September 2019.