

**Society of American Archivists
Publications Board
Virtual Meeting | April 29, 2022**

MINUTES

In attendance: Stacie Williams (Publications Editor and Publications Board Chair), Kristin Harpster, Colleen Hoelscher, Sarah Keen, Yvette Ramirez, and JoyEllen Williams; *ex officio* member and Amy Cooper Cary (*American Archivist* Editor); and SAA staff members Abigail Christian, Julia Pillard, and Jackie Price Osafo.

Unable to attend: Sarah Coffman, Sarah Demb, Dana Lamparello, Monika Lehman; and Cyndi Shein; *ex officio* member Dominique Luster (Council Liaison)

I. WELCOME AND STAFF TRANSITIONS – Jackie Price Osafo

- a. As shared on the Board’s listserv, former Director of Publishing Teresa Brinati’s last day with SAA was April 15; she has accepted a position in the corporate sector. Abigail Christian is the Interim Director as we consider the program’s staff needs and next steps.
- b. Julia Pillard joined SAA’s Publications program team on April 25 as the new Marketing and Communications Specialist. Hailing from Colorado, Julia has an MA in English literature from the University of Colorado at Boulder and a background in academia and craft publishing. We’re excited to have her on board!
- c. Please bear with SAA staff. We have other a few other staff transitions happening as well and appreciate members’ grace and patience as we “keep our trains moving.”

II. REVIEW OF REVISED PROPOSALS – Stacie Williams and All

- a. A reminder of the process for revised proposals: If the proposal had minor revisions, Board members will check the new proposal against the Board’s original assessment form to ensure that requested revisions were met. For revised proposals with major revisions, the Board will not fill out the assessment form again but instead will collectively make comments on a Google doc. Then we’ll discuss as a group during the next Board meeting. If a new Board member has joined between the time of the first proposal and the second proposal, they should still fill out the assessment form for the second proposal.
- b. **Discussion on *Remedy, Rectify and Reconstruct: Case Studies in Inclusive and Reparative Archival Description Efforts* by Katherine Wisser**
 - i. This proposal was resubmitted with minor revisions and overall the Board is excited to move forward, as this book has the potential to “go the distance” for both primary and secondary audiences.
 - ii. Board members had wanted to see different institution types listed and contributors from diverse identities. In this version of the proposal, the Board recognized some names from diverse communities, but could be more explicit and/or address representational diversity in the introduction and framing of the book.
 - iii. In addition, some institutions may not be able to implement some of these efforts due to things outside their control, such as political issues over book bans, etc. The Board would like the book to address this in the intro as well.

- iv. The peer review process for this manuscript will be another place where we can be intentional about selecting people from diverse identities and repositories to give feedback on how these case studies can be applied to an array of institutional types and also reflect marginalized viewpoints.

TO DO #1 (Williams and Christian): Share Board's feedback with Katherine Wisser and initiate contract.

c. Discussion of *Writings of John Fleckner, with Commentaries by Younger Archivists, edited by Randall C. Jimerson*

- i. This is the second proposal submitted by Jimerson and Fleckner. Overall, the Board still felt hesitancy about this proposal or felt that it could move forward but was a low publishing priority.
- ii. There is some hesitancy about the wide relevancy of this book, and therefore its difficulty to market. This book does fall in a similar "thought leadership" category as *Archival Values* or "*All Shook Up*," which in general is a category that doesn't sell as well as manuals but is still an important contribution to the professional literature. However, *Archival Values* had more contemporary engagement with and application to the profession today, and so felt more relevant. "*All Shook Up*" was co-published with the Association of Canadian Archivists and so had a larger marketing audience.
- iii. Cooper Cary pointed out that Fleckner's work was very important for thinking about Native American archives and materials in particular, which continues to be a topic of interest today. Perhaps the book could be shaped more around today's engagement with Indigenous communities, although if so than a co-author from the Native community would be appropriate.
- iv. As the proposal stands now, perhaps a different format is needed. The Board recognizes the value of this work, but is not sure that book sales would justify a book form. Could this dialogue happen in another format, perhaps an interview on the *Archives in Context* podcast, or a series of conversations in *American Archivist* or a panel discussion event? These formats would also help people engage with these ideas more "in the moment," than in the years-long process it takes for a book to be written.

TO DO #2 (Williams, Christian, Cooper Cary): Discuss with Jimerson and Fleckner other formats.

III. PUBLICATIONS PROGRAM EVENTS

- a. The Publications Board sponsored the [Archival Virtue Book Discussion](#) on April 21. More than 100 people attended, and the recording has been shared. There were many great questions from participants, and about 20 copies of the book were sold.
- b. The [Peer Review Forum](#), co-sponsored with the *American Archivist* Editorial Board, will take place May 19. More than 100 people are registered.
- c. The One Book, One Profession event on *Reference and Access for Archives and Manuscripts* by Cheryl Oestricher has been postponed until October. Date TBD.