

**Society of American Archivists  
Publications Board  
Virtual Meeting | August 11, 2023**

**MINUTES**

**In attendance:** Stacie Williams (Publications Editor and Chair), Peter Botticelli, Sarah Demb, Colleen Hoelscher, Melissa Nerino, Heather Oswald, Yvette Ramirez; Outgoing members Sarah Keen and Monika Lehman; ex officio member Amy Cooper Cary (*American Archivist* Editor); and SAA staff members Abigail Christian and Hannah Stryker.

**Unable to attend:** Sarah Coffman, Cyndi Shein, Hallel Yadin; Dana Lamparello (Outgoing member); Dominique Luster (Council Liaison)

**I. Welcome and Thanks** – Stacie Williams

- a. Publications Editor and Chair Stacie Williams welcomes new Board members Melissa (Missy) Nerino, Heather Oswald, and Hallel Yadin. Williams also thanks outgoing members Sarah Keen, Dana Lamparello, and Monika Lehman for their work.

**II. Board Discussion: Audit of Book Publications**

- a. Yvette Ramirez and Sarah Coffman (not present) have audited 95 active SAA books to see what topics are being covered and who is writing them. The Board previously did a readership survey in 2016. Ramirez and Coffman’s audit explored author details, such as what degrees, institutions, and ethnicities are represented, as well as what topics books focus on. They looked at SAA’s active titles and their contributors to set expectations and determine who the Board should be reaching out to and what topics the Board should explore publishing next.
- b. Ramirez provided an overview of the first draft of the report which was sent to the Board last winter. They used Google Forms during this process and found that most publications were generated in batches during 2013, 2016, and 2020. They also found that most contributors are on average 10+ years into their career, and authors are affiliated to institutions as archivists or directors in more top-tier positions. Geographically, most contributors are from the Midwest, with the least amount of folks in the Southwest. Universities and cultural heritage institutions use our books the most.
- c. Discussion of findings: ([summary](#) and [survey tools](#)). Also of interest is the recent *American Archivist* Readership Survey, particularly the answers to questions about [what topics people want to read more of](#), and book sale reports from [FY22](#) and [FY23](#). SAA has published 15-20 new books in the last 4-5 years! Looking ahead, there are about 11 titles in the pipeline, which will be included in the final audit data.
- d. Ideas for next steps: Archives are the program’s primary audience, and audiences we seem to underrepresent include K-12 educators, genealogists, and the general public. We could encourage a call for proposals that speak of archival principles being accessible for all. We may want to survey the membership again about their engagement and needs from the Publications program. Like *Creating Family*

*Archives*, SAA's first public-facing book, we may want to continue developing publications for a general audience looking to understand their family heritage more. The audit will charge us forward for the next 5 years. Once the most helpful data has been isolated, we can encourage specific proposals.

- e. Direct comments or questions to Ramirez: [yramirez@umich.edu](mailto:yramirez@umich.edu)!

### III. Discussion of Proposals

- a. Congressional Digital Records (Revised Proposal)
  - i. This proposal came in just after the Annual Meeting. The Board had very few changes and accepted it with some revisions.
- b. Providing Access to Privacy-Protected Public Records (Proposal for Trends in Archives Practice Series)
  - i. The Board is still reviewing the proposal. The form that we use to access proposals may need to be revisited during the next meeting as it currently contains an error.
- c. Updates on Archival Fundamentals Series III
  - i. [\*Selecting and Appraising Archives and Manuscripts\*](#) Vol. 6 (Description: Covers a variety of approaches to selection and appraisal as well as emerging areas of inquiry and practice such as cultural competency and community archives. Aimed at a range of institutional profiles and records formats with case studies and real-life examples).
  - ii. [\*Introduction to Archives and Manuscripts\*](#) Vol. 7 (Description: Provides a broad introductory overview to the historical, philosophical, and theoretical foundations of the archival profession. The primary focus is on historical developments and theoretical directions within the United States, with broader themes that reflect the development of the profession globally. Contributes to ongoing discussions in the humanities over the purpose, nature, and future of archives.)
  - iii. Both are volumes that were on deck before Williams came on board, but the pandemic put them on hold as there were several delays for the authors. This summer, both authors withdrew from the project. For Vol. 6, potential new authors have been identified and Christian and Williams are in conversation about the direction of the book and potential contract. Upon further consideration, Vol. 7, which is an update of *Understanding Archives and Manuscripts*, may not need to be updated, considering the previous version's historical focus, which could stay in print. Or this volume could be updated in a different direction, with a more public-facing audience in mind (proposal forthcoming from Dorothy Berry).

### IV. Publications Program Updates

- A. [Publications Program Report](#)
  - A. SAA had a successful bookstore at the Annual Meeting, returning in-person first-time to the Expo Hall since before the pandemic. The book sale also continued online.
- B. [Pubs Editor Report](#)

- A. The Board has not signed any new contracts this year, so it's a good time for the Board to think about what to publish next and what it should commission.
- C. [Project Status](#)
- D. [American Archivist Editor Report](#) – Amy Cooper Cary
  - A. *American Archivist* editor Amy Cooper Cary encourages everyone to check out the [American Archivist Readership Survey article, "A Digital Odyssey."](#) in *Archival Outlook* as well as the [Intergenerational Conversations series](#) on the Reviews Portal.
  - B. The Spring/Summer 2023 issue of *American Archivist* came out in June. The Middle Eastern and North African Archives Special Section will be featured in the upcoming Fall/Winter issue.
  - C. Cooper Cary will be serving a second term as editor.