

**Society of American Archivists
Publications Board
Virtual Meeting | December 10, 2021**

MINUTES

In attendance: Stacie Williams (Publications Editor and Publications Board Chair), Sarah Demb, Kristin Harpster, Colleen Hoelscher, Sarah Keen, Dana Lamparello, Monika Lehman; *ex officio* member Amy Cooper Cary (*American Archivist* Editor), and SAA staff members Teresa Brinati and Abigail Christian.

Unable to attend: Sarah Coffman, Yvette Ramirez, Cyndi Shein, and JoyEllen Williams, *ex officio* member and Dominique Luster (Council Liaison)

I. PROPOSAL FOR ARCHIVES IN THE IMAGINATION

Board members were split between rejecting the proposal and revising and resubmitting it. It is a different kind of project than SAA typically publishes, as an artistic interpretation in thinking about archival work. Almost all Board members said this was a very low publishing priority for SAA; many said it may be better suited for a different format than a book, such as an online compilation. This proposal more broadly asks the Board: Is there room for SAA to publish more creative or interpretative work that is related to the archives field? Board members responded:

- a. What kind of marketing budget do we have, and do we have staff capacity/skills for this particular project? It has a broader reach and different genre than our typical books. For a previous public-facing book, *Creating Family Archives*, SAA did need to work with a larger marketing budget and outside marketing consultants.
- b. Would a partnership with a more commercial or arthouse publisher be viable? This book will be extraordinarily expensive, especially with image reproduction and the high quality materials needed to make it work. This is not a book we would make money on if we published by ourselves. What agreement could we work out with them?
- c. Who do we think the market for this book is? A lot of SAA's books are about how to do archives works. SAA books are often read at work and purchased with institutional funding. This book would not fall under that category for many people.
- d. There is still the concern about not knowing the quality of submissions. Is this an anthology of really talented writers writing about archives—and can we get that kind of talent? Or is it more of a literary journal for archivists wanting to flex their creative muscles? Could this be a blog in which we can observe the kinds of submissions coming in? Can it be tied to COPA's oral storytelling initiative, *A Finding Aid to My Soul*? The Publications Board has sponsored an Archives Short Fiction Contest in the past, in which a panel of SAA members selected a winner to receive \$250 and publication in *Archival Outlook*. Is this something we do again or work with this group to share creative submissions via the magazine?
- e. Because of the above concerns about SAA's budget, the market for this book, and a low publishing priority, those present all voted in favor of not publishing *Archives in the Imagination* at this time.

II. Other Updates:

- a. *Archival Virtue* by Scott Cline recently released. Available in the [SAA Bookstore](#).
- b. *Managing Business Archives*, edited by Sarah Polirer, is with the printer, expected release in January.
- c. *Museum Archives* is in page proofs and copyediting stage.

- d. *Decolonizing Archives*, the next book in the Archival Futures series, is in the writing stage.
- e. There is potential for two primary source two books, shepherded by Lamparello and Harpster, both in development to be in conversation together, and could be promoted together.
- f. Contracts issued for *Making Our Mark: How Archivists of Color Changed the Landscape of SAA* and *Primary Source Literacy Activity Ideas: 550 Measurable Learning Outcomes*.
- g. Next Publications Board meeting will be **February 11 at 12:00 pm CT**.
- h. To Do's from previous meeting:

To Do #1 (Brinati, Christian, Ramirez): Connect to discuss data collection project to audit SAA titles.

To Do #2 (Brinati, Christian, Keen, JoyEllen Williams, and Coffman): Connect to devise plan for One Book, One Profession book launch.