

# RAO Newsletter



SOCIETY OF AMERICAN ARCHIVISTS'  
REFERENCE, ACCESS & OUTREACH SECTION

Summer 2012 | Issue 20

## President's Message

Have we got an annual meeting for you!

This year's RAO annual meeting is on **Thursday, August 9** from **3:30-5:30**. For those of you who will be at the SAA conference in San Diego – note the day and time and plan on being there.

We will have a fairly short business meeting, about half an hour. There will be short reports from all of the committees, a report from our SAA Council liaison (Terry Baxter), announcement of and welcome of the new vice chair and steering committee, and the passing of the torch to the incoming RAO chair, Jill Severn.

Most of the meeting will be turned over to our "Marketplace of Ideas." We have 9 Hot Topics and other presentations/discussions for you to choose from. The marketplace will offer participants lively discussions regarding key issues and trends, and will connect you with others. You will progress through the marketplace at your own pace by moving through moderated conversations, poster presentations, mini lectures, and more. You can try to hit them all, or zero-in on just a few that interest you most. The RAO Steering Committee hopes that every "shopper" leaves the market with a bag full of new tricks, new ideas, and new contacts.

The RAO Steering committee is eager to test the marketplace concept as a new approach to making section meetings fun, engaging, and useful for members. It is also interested in finding new ways to gather ideas and interests of members that can inform future ventures of the RAO Section. There will be several opportunities for shoppers to share their satisfaction with the market's goods and services.

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**Kathryn Otto**  
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## To Market, To Market, Jiggety-jig!

### The 2012 RAO Marketplace of Ideas

Imagine a colorful vibrant marketplace filled with exotic and amazing things, thronging with people haggling, dealing, debating, laughing, and shouting. Now, imagine that this marketplace sells ideas and approaches to all the things that you do or hope to do as an RAO archivist, and everything is free! This Marketplace of Ideas is exactly what the RAO steering committee has planned as the centerpiece of the 2012 Membership meeting in San Diego. Shoppers will be able to move through the marketplace at their own pace stopping in to a stall to view a demonstration, listen to a mini lecture, and/or deliberate hot topics in reference, access, and outreach.

Vendors at the marketplace include:

- A National Online Repository for Lesson Plans Hot Topics Discussion
- Northwest Digital Archives Initiatives Mini Lecture
- National History Day Toolkit Presentation and Discussion
- Social Media/23 Things for Archivists Hot Topic Discussion
- RAO's Teaching with/about Primary Sources Hot Topic Discussion
- Navigating Minimal Processing and Public Services Hot Topic Discussion
- Accessibility of Archives Hot Topic Discussion
- Lending Archival Materials Hot Topic Discussion

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### Papers of Eleanor K. Grimm, assistant to American College of Surgeons founder Franklin Martin

Eleanor K. Grimm, long recognized by the American College of Surgeons (ACS) as pivotal in capturing and recording the history of the first 50 years of the ACS, now has 3 volumes of what we call her “retirement scrapbooks” scanned and available for viewing in PDF format as links on the ACS Archives web page, <[www.facs.org/archives](http://www.facs.org/archives)>.



*Eleanor K. Grimm, 1951*

ACS founder Franklin Martin, hired Grimm in 1913, the year of the College’s founding. Grimm quickly became his right-hand person and trusted assistant from the earliest years of the College’s development. Her influence was felt throughout Martin’s reign, but possibly even more after his death in 1935 when she served as the secretary to the Board of Regents and, in effect, chief administrative officer, until her retirement in 1951. Friendly with all the founders and other leaders of the ACS during its first 50 years, Grimm’s correspondence with many of them such as the Mayo brothers, George Crile, Albert Ochsner, Allan Kanavel, Ernest Codman, Alfred Blalock, Owen Wangensteen, Frederick Besley, John Bowman, Malcolm McEachern and many others is documented here, arranged in her books alphabetically by correspondent. This correspondence will yield information about these leaders in surgery in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century that has not been available before, as well as new insights on the history of the ACS and about Miss Grimm herself. The links to the archival descriptions of both her History Notebooks done for the College and her Personal Papers can be found on the ACS Archives website <[www.facs.org/archives](http://www.facs.org/archives)> under “Online Resources.” The correspondence can be accessed by free text searching and browsing.

For more information, contact **Susan K. Rishworth**  
Archivist, American College of Surgeons | Chicago, Illinois  
312-202-5270 or [srishworth@facs.org](mailto:srishworth@facs.org)

### Message from President, continued

Have ideas, content, or suggestions for the RAO Section newsletter? Send them to [raonews@gmail.com](mailto:raonews@gmail.com) or to Lisa Sjoberg, Communications Liaison, at [sjoberg@cord.edu](mailto:sjoberg@cord.edu).

The final half hour of the meeting will bring us all back together to see how RAO can incorporate what percolates up from the discussions. For example, do we want to establish a new committee or working group based on a need that is identified. Another thing we’ll do at the end is take a straw vote on whether RAO might want to formally support the new Guidelines for Interlibrary and Exhibition Loan of Special Collections Materials.

For more information on the “vendors,” visit the RAO Marketplace wiki: <http://raomarketplace.pbworks.com/>. And watch the wiki after the annual meeting because we’ll be posting the PowerPoint presentations and notes taken at each discussion, there will be chances to volunteer, and the opportunity to continue the discussion via the comment feature.

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## National Grant Will Save Rare Films of Richmond Urban Life

Virginia Commonwealth University Libraries has been awarded a grant from the National Film Preservation Foundation to preserve select films from the Harris H. Stilson film collection.



Grants were awarded to 35 projects in 22 states, including preservation of a newly discovered film by composer John Cage. VCU is the first university in the commonwealth to receive a grant from the National Film Preservation Foundation. (For more information, see the press release posted at <http://www.filmpreservation.org/about/PR-2012-06-12>).

Stilson (1868-1934) was a Richmond streetcar conductor, later a motorman, and amateur photographer and film documentarian. His films offer a rarely-seen visual record of Richmond 1929-31. Highlights of the collection are street scenes of black and white citizens, streetcars and buildings and leisure life at Byrd Park and Shields Lake.

“The Stilson work is a unique treasure,” said Wesley J. Chenault, head of Special Collections and Archives at James Branch Cabell Library. “Film footage of the city is rare and our research suggests that these films are among the oldest, if not the oldest, held by any local or regional cultural institution in the commonwealth.”

Adding to the historic value are provenance and documentation. The donor is the filmmaker’s great-granddaughter, Kitty Snow. Recognizing the importance of this record, she has actively worked to locate and preserve Stilson’s collection, which includes some 3,000 photographs and negatives that document the ordinary lives of Richmonders, including African American and Jewish communities and individuals from his streetcar routes. It also contains meticulous records – ledgers, receipts, notes – that identify who and what Stilson captured through his lenses. Snow says her great-grandfather “was the poor man’s photographer, selling pictures for 20 cents to pay for his cameras, film, and developing materials. He was also an innovative photographer, hand-coloring and even inserting a missing relative’s face into a family portrait, sort of an early ‘Photo shopped’ picture.”

A selection of his images is the subject of Snow’s forthcoming book “From a Richmond Streetcar.” The film collection at VCU Libraries represents his only known surviving film work. VCU Libraries is working with Snow to acquire the photographs, negatives and personal papers, which will add immense historical depth and context.

The Kodacolor films in the collection will be the first to be preserved. Introduced for 16 mm film in 1928, this Kodak brand was associated with an early color process known as lenticular. After being cleaned and preserved, the films will be made available for public research and use in Special Collections and Archives at James Branch Cabell Library and online through VCU Libraries Digital Collections.

The film collection is expected to have broad research interest to scholars, students, documentarians and others interested in early 20<sup>th</sup> century urban life, Virginia and Richmond history, race relations, urban studies, architectural history and more.

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*Created by the U.S. Congress in 1996 to save the nation’s film heritage, the National Film Preservation Foundation is affiliated with the Library of Congress’s National Film Preservation Board. It awards basic preservation grants to nonprofit and public institutions for laboratory work to preserve culturally and historically significant films.*

For more information, contact **Wesley J. Chenault**  
Head, Special Collections and Archives  
Virginia Commonwealth University Libraries | Richmond, Virginia  
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## Register now for the 2012 Midwest Archives Conference Fall Symposium!

### Engaging Students & Teachers: Integrating Primary Sources in K-16 Curricula October 18-20, 2012 Cincinnati, Ohio

Registration is **now open** for the 2012 Midwest Archives Conference Fall Symposium to be held **October 18-20, 2012**. The Symposium is titled "Engaging Students & Teachers: Integrating Primary Sources in K-16 Curricula," and it will gather archivists and educators to learn and discuss methods for connecting students with primary sources. Expert speakers will provide hands-on opportunities to work with primary sources, develop assignments and lesson plans using primary sources, and dialogue about best practices.

The Symposium will be held at the Radisson Hotel Cincinnati Riverfront in Covington, Kentucky. The hotel is located directly across from Cincinnati, Ohio on the Ohio River and near I-71/I-75.

**To register online** and for information on accommodations, please visit the Midwest Archives Conference website at <http://www.midwestarchives.org/2012-fall-symposium>.

#### Questions about the MAC Fall Symposium? Contact the Co-Chairs:

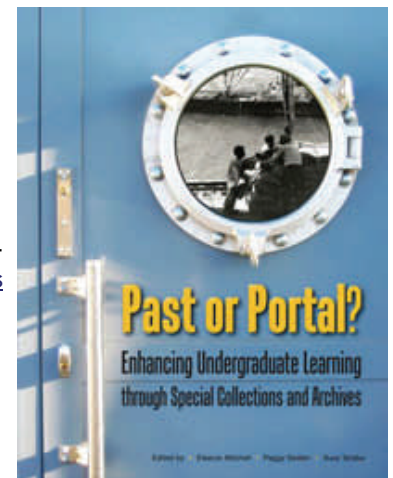
Anne Ryckbost, Local Arrangements Chair, at [ryckbosta1@nku.edu](mailto:ryckbosta1@nku.edu)

Lisa Sjoberg, Program Chair, at [sjoberg@cord.edu](mailto:sjoberg@cord.edu)

## Looking for Resources about Teaching with Primary Sources?

The SAA Reference, Access, and Outreach Section's Teaching with Primary Sources Working Group is pleased to disseminate a bibliography that compiles resources focusing on the use of primary sources in elementary, secondary, and collegiate classrooms. This bibliography is an ideal resource for archivists who wish to learn more about utilizing primary sources in interactions with teachers, faculty, and students. Teachers at all levels will also benefit from this bibliography as the works included offer theoretical and practical information on using primary sources as pedagogical resources and how archivists can assist with maximizing student learning. The full bibliography is available at this link: <http://www2.archivists.org/groups/reference-access-and-outreach-section/teaching-with-primary-sources-bibliography>

The bibliography includes works such as the newly released ***Past or Portal? Enhancing Undergraduate Learning through Special Collections and Archives***, edited by Eleanor Mitchell, Peggy Seiden, and Suzy Taraba.



#### RAO Steering Committee

**Kathryn Otto**, Chair (University of Wisconsin-River Falls)

**Jill Severn**, Vice Chair/Chair-Elect (University of Georgia)

**Gregory Kocken**, Member (University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire)

**Mary Manning**, Member (University of Houston)

**Alison Stankrauff**, Member (Indiana University South Bend)

**Tanya Zanish-Belcher**, Member (Iowa State University)

**James Gerencser**, Immediate Past Chair (Dickinson College)

**Jan Blodgett**, Web Liaison (Davidson College)

**Lisa Sjoberg**, Communications Liaison (Concordia College)

**Terry Baxter**, Council Liaison (Multnomah County Records Program)