

THE ACADEMIC ARCHIVIST
Newsletter of the College and University Section
Society of American Archivists

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FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Colleagues:

I hope you have all had a good summer! I am looking forward to our meeting in Chicago on Thursday, August 25th from 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM.

Becky Schulte has been working hard to ensure that we have a great section meeting. This year we will have three presentations. Jackie Esposito and Michelle Belden of Penn State University will discuss the development of the Curation Architecture Prototype Services (CAPS) project at Penn. Jennifer King of Mount Holyoke College will inform us about the NHPRC start up grant on electronic records at Mount Holyoke.

During the meeting we will also welcome our newly elected officers and thank those whose terms are over. Becky Schulte will become Chair, and Chris Prom and Jay Gaidmore will finish their terms on the Steering Committee. I hope you are able to join us! If not, please keep an eye on the Section's website for the meeting minutes.

In December, I wrote to let you know that Chris Laico had informed me that this term was his last year of service as the editor to *The Academic Archivist*. Michelle Sweetser has agreed to become our new editor and will start after the annual meeting. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Chris for everything he has done for the Section and the newsletter. He has been an excellent editor, and I truly appreciate all his work.

It has been a pleasure being your chair, and I hope to see as many of you as possible in Chicago.

Best always,

Tamar

Tamar Chute
Chair, College and University Archives Section

IN THE NEWS

California: Stanford Receives CLIR Grant to Document Mexican American and Latino Civil Rights

Stanford University Libraries' Manuscripts Division in the Department of Special Collections has received a grant from the Council on Library Information Resources (CLIR). With funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, CLIR's "Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives" will allow Stanford to hire a project team to arrange and describe two major collections documenting Mexican American and Latino civil rights in the United States. This two-year project focuses on the records of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund and the papers of California Rural Legal Assistance.

The first collection to be processed will be recent addenda to the records of the Mexican American Legal Defense & Educational Fund (MALDEF). Two early accessions of MALDEF (1,200 linear feet), received between 1984 and 1995, were processed and made available to researchers in 1996 (*See*, online guide at: <http://www-sul.stanford.edu/depts/spc/guides/m673.html>). MALDEF was incorporated in 1967 and has evolved into one of the most influential and effective organizations working to protect the civil rights of Mexican Americans and Latinos throughout the United States. The MALDEF records, that are currently unprocessed and inaccessible, date from 1984-2002 and total 2,108 linear feet. Included in the collection are administrative records, special project files, media, and litigation case files focusing on issues such as employment discrimination, education, reproductive, and voting rights.

The second collection that the processing team will work on is the California Rural Legal Assistance organization (CRLA). Founded in 1966, CRLA is a legal advocacy organization for the rural poor in California, focusing primarily on issues faced by Mexican American migrant workers. This collection, spanning from 1966 to 2004 and totaling 329 linear feet, contains administrative records, project files, press releases, clippings, and case files. Many of the materials in this collection provide additional insight into the legal issues confronted by MALDEF, including those related to bilingual education and the rights of undocumented immigrants.

The CLIR grant will be used to arrange and describe this material in order to make it accessible to researchers. This work began in March 2011 and will be completed by March 2013. At the end of the project finding aids for both collections will be made available through Stanford's finding aids site and the Online Archive of California. The MALDEF finding aid will include the original description, description for the newly processed material and also the audio-video material processed this past summer by Crystal Rengal, an intern from New York University's Moving Image Archive and Preservation Program.

(Submitted to the A&A List by Glynn Edwards, Principal Manuscripts Processing Librarian, Special Collections, Stanford University Libraries, Stanford, CA.)

Georgia: Georgia State University Awarded \$90,000 NHPRC Grant to Digitize PATCO Records

The decertification of the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization (PATCO) stands as a watershed in American labor history and continues to inform labor-management relations in the United States to this day. Researchers interested in studying PATCO's records will soon have access to them online.

The National Historic Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) has awarded a grant in the amount of \$90,000.00 to Georgia State University Library to digitize portions of this controversial union's records and make them available online. The PATCO records are already part of Georgia State's Southern Labor Archives. Work on the project is expected to take approximately 20 months; at its completion, all scanned documentation (about 179,000 pages of text) will be searchable for free. The project began in April 2011.

The Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization (PATCO) spent the 1970s struggling to improve the American air traffic control system and the working conditions of its members. When numerous bruising negotiations with the FAA could not provide an adequate response to their needs, the union, under more aggressive leadership, went on strike on August 3, 1981. Despite receiving PATCO's support during his election bid, President Ronald Reagan responded to the strike by firing more than 11,000 air traffic controllers and decertifying the union.

Digitizing the PATCO records is part of Georgia State University Library's ongoing effort to redefine itself by providing numerous resources, quality research assistance, modern technology and a welcoming setting. Today, the library is truly universal on campus; it is the center that unites the entire university.

For more information, please contact Barbara Petersohn, Digital Projects and Grants Librarian, Georgia State University Library at or bpetersohn@gsu.edu.

(Submitted to the A&A List by Traci Drummond, Archivist, Southern Labor Archives, Special Collections & Archives, Georgia State University Library, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA.)

Massachusetts: Joan Krizack receives Champion of Freedom Award

Joan Krizack, University Archivist and Head of Special Collections, received a Freedom House Champions of Freedom Award on April 5, 2011. The award recognizes Joan for preserving the historical records of Freedom House in Northeastern University's archives, including digitizing the Freedom House photographs and making them available online: <http://www.lib.neu.edu/freedomhouse/>.



Joan Krizack (center) receives her award, Gail Snowden (right) presents with Kwabena Abboa-Offei (left), Freedom House Board Chair.

Freedom House was founded in 1949 by African American social workers Muriel S. and Otto P. Snowden to centralize community activism in the fight for neighborhood improvement, good schools, and harmony among racial, ethnic, and religious groups in Roxbury, MA. Freedom House Awards are given annually to outstanding individuals, non-profit organizations, and corporations in recognition of their commitment to diversity, educational achievement, and business development.

(Submitted by Kirsten Forsberg, Marketing & Event Planning Co-Op, Northeastern University Libraries, Boston MA.)

Michigan: *On the Banks of the Red Cedar* provides Online Access to Michigan State University History

On the Banks of the Red Cedar provides online access to documents, images, film, and audio materials related to the history of Michigan State University. The site, open for use by MSU faculty, staff, students, alumni, and the public, combines collections from the MSU Archives and Historical Collections, the MSU Libraries, the MSU Museum and other departments around campus.

On the Banks (<http://onthebanks.msu.edu>) provides a unified site where anyone can search for information about MSU's history, including such topics as –

Exhibits highlighting:

- Barnett Rosenberg's research and the discovery of cisplatin (<http://onthebanks.msu.edu/Exhibit/1-6-8/barnett-rosenberg/>);
- The history of campus energy use including the MSU power plants (<http://onthebanks.msu.edu/Exhibit/1-6-A/history-of-campus-energy-use/>);
- Facts about the influence of the Civil War on the Michigan Agricultural College (the original name for Michigan State University) in the areas of enrollment, financial aspects, and the effort to retain the Morrill Land Grant that ensured the permanence of the college (<http://onthebanks.msu.edu/Exhibit/1-6-7/civil-war-sesquicentennial/>);

- Diversity at MSU through its Student Organizations (<http://onthebanks.msu.edu/Exhibit/1-6-0/student-organizations/>); and
- Documentation of one of the first student activism movements (known as the Orange Horse affair) which follows the protest of the non-renewal of faculty contracts at the College (<http://onthebanks.msu.edu/Exhibit/1-6-2/student-activism/>).

A **Timeline** of important dates in the History of MSU from 1850-2009: (<http://onthebanks.msu.edu/Timeline/>)

Collections including:

- Meeting Minutes of the MSU Board of Trustees beginning with the earliest minutes from 1855 (<http://onthebanks.msu.edu/Collections/>);
- The Sesquicentennial Oral History Project which took place from 1999-2005 and documents the lives and careers of MSU presidents, faculty, staff and trustees. Completed for the 150th anniversary of the founding of MSU, the project includes audio interviews which supplement the written records (<http://onthebanks.msu.edu/sohp/>); and
- *The M.A.C. Record*, MSU's newspaper which was first published in 1896 and is a reliable source of campus events, alumni information and faculty advice to students (<http://onthebanks.msu.edu/Object/1-4-420/the-mac-record/>).

Classroom Resources such as:

- The Saint's Rest Project outlining the excavation of remains of MSU's first dormitory by more than 20 undergraduate students in the Department of Anthropology (http://anthropology.msu.edu/saints_rest_gallery/). With supervision from faculty and graduate students, the project allowed participants to relive some academic history, to look at the beginnings of this great land-grant institution, and to recapture their collegiate roots.
- The History of Sport in America highlights Spartan athletics from the early 1880s student-run field days and the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) to the rise of MSU as a national football powerhouse in the Twentieth century: historical images of college athletes, their contributions to the history of collegiate sports in the United States, and information from the past on the origins, development and achievements of Spartan athletics (<http://sports.history.msu.edu/>).

(Submitted by Mary Grace, MSU Archives & Historical Collections, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI.)

New York: Marist College Awarded \$104,000 from NHPRC to Digitize Lowell Thomas Images

A \$104,000 grant from the National Archives will allow Marist College to continue its work digitizing the archives of the late broadcast pioneer and explorer Lowell Thomas, providing access to the general public at any time anywhere around the world.

The funding from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) will pay for a full-time project archivist and four student assistants to digitize the photographic materials in the collection and will make the collection available on the Internet through the finding aid for the Lowell Thomas Papers and via IBM's information management software, Content Manager. The project is expected to be completed by April 30, 2013.

When finished, the Lowell Thomas Papers Digitization Project will have scanned approximately 36,164 images, including 8,000 glass plate negatives, 6,500 lantern slides, 13,000 photographic prints, 300 stereopticon cards, 1,800 film negatives, 750 postcards, 5,000 35mm slides, and 64 travelogue posters.

"This is an internationally significant collection that goes well beyond the scope of Thomas's career as one of our nation's best-known journalists, entrepreneurs, and explorers", said John Ansley, archivist and director of special collections at Marist. "Greater availability to this collection would allow for greater discussion concerning much of our history during the 20th century and our country's current situation in the Middle East. The results of this project would be made freely available to all interested researchers and educators".

The archives recently became a major research source for Simon & Schuster Editor in Chief Emeritus and author Michael Korda's latest book, *Hero: The Life and Legend of Lawrence of Arabia*, released in mid-November 2010. Korda credits John Ansley, Project Archivist Angelo Galeazzi, and Marist for "giving (him) such valuable access to the films, photographs, and manuscripts, which contain a treasure trove of material about Lawrence".

The collection tells the story of the life and career of Lowell Thomas as he became one of America's most prominent newsmen, explorers, and entrepreneurs. Included in the collection are several thousand photographs and slides from all parts of the world, including Arabia, Palestine, Afghanistan, India, New Zealand, Malaya, New Guinea, Africa, and Tibet.

As one of America's most prominent travelers, Thomas was able to incorporate his journeys into stories and documentaries in both filmic and literary forms, two genres that are also major parts of the collection. In addition to material related to T. E. Lawrence, the archives include Lowell Thomas Travelogues, photographs, film, scrapbooks, and artifacts from his trip to Tibet, and background and administrative material relating to one of Thomas's biggest endeavors, "Cinerama".

Thomas was the 1981 Marist Commencement speaker and was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree. Three months later, he died at his home in the Dutchess County town of Pawling. The Thomas estate deeded his archives and memorabilia to Marist. Some items are on display in the gallery of the college's Lowell Thomas Communications Center, with the remainder of the archives housed in Marist's James A. Cannavino Library.

(Submitted to the A&A List by John Ansley, Head of Archives and Special Collections, Cannavino Library, Poughkeepsie, NY.)

New York: The Pan Am Flight 103/Lockerbie Air Disaster Archives at Syracuse University gets a Digital Make-over.

The Syracuse University Archives has hired an Assistant Archivist devoted entirely to the Pan Am Flight 103/Lockerbie Air Disaster Archives. Thirty-five students studying abroad with Syracuse University were killed in the terrorist bombing in 1988. The Archives was established in 1990 to memorialize the victims and to collect materials on the event and its aftermath. The newly appointed assistant archivist, Cara Howe, will undertake a complete reprocessing of all the materials held in the Pan Am 103 Archives. This re-processing will include a re-model of the Pan Am 103 Archives' website in preparation for upload of EAD finding aids, which will contain digitized photographs as well as documents. Ten collections have been processed and EADs are complete and ready for upload; three of these contain digital objects. The website will go live in August, 2011 and EADs will continue to be uploaded as they are available. Visit the website at <http://archives.syr.edu/panam/>.

(Submitted Cara A. Howe, Assistant Archivist for Pan Am 103/Lockerbie Air Disaster Archives, Syracuse University Archives, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY)

Virginia: The University of Virginia is Searching for George Washington

The Papers of George Washington is a documentary editing project at the University of Virginia that has been engaged since 1968 in publishing a comprehensive edition of Washington's correspondence. Letters written to Washington as well as letters and documents written by him are being published in our volumes. In order to take advantage of recent acquisitions and new archival technology, we are currently conducting a document search to update our holdings. If you have any Washington-related manuscript material, including correspondence, notes, financial documents, items written on his behalf, deeds, etc., please contact our office.

These documents are vital to the success of our project, and we would be very grateful to your institution for helping us in this process. We have contacted most institutions that have provided documents to us in the past. However, we would like to reach out to institutions or private owners that may have Washington material they have never shared with us. If you would like more information about the Papers of George Washington, please visit our website at <http://gwpapers.virginia.edu>. If you have Washington-related

manuscript material, please contact our office by e-mail at gwpapers@virginia.edu, by phone at (434) 924- 3569, or by mail at:

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