

# Archival Elements

Newsletter of the Society of American Archivists Science, Technology,  
and Healthcare Roundtable

## Contents

Summer 2009

Message From the Co-Chairs.....1

### Message From the Co-Chairs

**Tim L. Pennycuff**

University of Alabama at Birmingham

**Stephen E. Novak**

Columbia University Medical Center

Around and About Archives.....3

Conferences, Meetings, and Workshops.....6

Articles.....7

**Book Review: Darwin's Sacred Cause.....7**

You are cordially invited to attend the annual meeting of the Science, Technology, and Healthcare Roundtable on Wednesday, August 12th in Austin. We are scheduled to meet from 5:30 until 7:30 in Room 406 at the Hilton Hotel, the main SAA conference facility.

**American College of Surgeons Archives Digital Collections.....10**

The mission of the STHC Roundtable is to provide a forum for those working at institutions or those holding collections of material in the natural and social sciences, technology, and the health sciences. The Roundtable provides opportunities for members to discuss projects, share success stories, and explore methods to address common problems.

**John Zwicky - In Memoriam.....11**

We will take time during our meeting to remember John Zwicky, archivist at the American Academy of Pediatrics. A long-time member of the STHC Steering Committee, he passed away in March after a long battle with cancer. The program this year will be dedicated to John.

Notes about Authors.....12

**Steering Committee Members (2008-2009).....13**

Following our Roundtable business meeting, the program will include a presentation by Stephanie Bordy and Alex Jasinski from the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas at Austin: "Science Among the Humanities: History of Science Collections at the Harry Ransom Center." Please join us for this informative presentation.

In addition to Wednesday's meeting of the Roundtable, two sessions will be presented during the SAA conference that will be of interest to STHC members. "Preserving Digital Research Data in the Health Sciences," Session 308 on Friday, was sponsored by the STHC Roundtable and is

*(continued)*

chaired by Nancy McCall (Johns Hopkins University), a member of the STHC Steering Committee. Additionally, Session 703 on Saturday, "Braving the New World: Archival Explorers in Digital Terra Incognita," includes a paper by Suzanna Long (Missouri University of Science & Technology), an out-going member of the STHC Steering Committee. Be sure to attend these sessions and show your support for the science, technology, and healthcare-related topics!

We look forward to seeing all of you in Austin. It's hot and dry in Texas this time of year, and this year in particular, so stay cool and drink aplenty – beverage selection is totally of your own choice, of course!

### **STHC Roundtable 2009 Meeting**

**Wednesday, August 12, 2009, 5:30–7:30 P.M.  
Hilton Austin, Room 406**

*This meeting is dedicated to John Zwicky, long-time member of and advocate for STHC. John died in March following a lengthy battle with cancer.*

#### *Agenda*

#### **Welcome and Introductions**

#### **John Zwicky Remembrances**

#### **Approval of Minutes**

#### **SAA Council Representative**

#### **Program Committee Representative**

#### **Old Business:**

##### Reports

*Archival Elements* Newsletter: Ewa Basinska and Elizabeth Phillips, Editors  
STHC listserv: Tim Pennycuff  
STHC website: Rose Roberto, Web Liaison

Election of new STHC Co-Chair

### **Program**

This year's program will feature Stephanie Bordy and Alex Jasinski of the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas. Their presentation, "Science Among the Humanities: History of Science Collections at the Harry Ransom Center," will discuss the Center's History of Science collections. The Ransom Center contains books, manuscripts, maps, and artifacts spanning the past 600 years. These collections document scientific advancement in a multitude of disciplines and represent some of the world's most renowned thinkers, including Johannes Kepler (1571-1630), Sir J.F.W. Herschel (1792-1871), Owen Richardson (1879-1959), Albert Einstein (1879-1955), and many more. Bordy and Jasinski will provide a brief overview of some of the Ransom Center's more extensive holdings within five overarching categories: Photography; Cartography; Physics and Mathematics; Biology and Related Disciplines (Medicine, Psychology, Botany); and Astronomy. We are sure it will be a fascinating glimpse of one of the country's great history of science collections.

#### **Stephanie Bordy:**

Stephanie is currently a graduate student at the University of Texas at Austin School of Information, and a Public Services Intern at the Harry Ransom Center. Her interests are in traditional and digital archives, and digital assets management (DAM), as well as the problem of the permanent retention of electronic records in general. She received her BA in Anthropology and Sociology from Tulane University in 2007.

#### **Alex Jasinski:**

Alex is the current Stack Maintenance Supervisor at the Harry Ransom Center. His duties at the Ransom Center have included processing manuscript collections and working with expanding and improving access to the institutional archive. Alex received his BA in 2004 and MLIS in 2006 from the University of Texas at Austin. His studies concentrated on Computer Science, History and Archives.

*(continued)*

## New Business

Program ideas for SAA 2010,  
– August 10-15, Washington, DC

STHC Steering Committee Vacancies

Announcements from the floor

## Adjournment

Our chief concern is to ensure that the STHC Roundtable reflects the interests of its participants. We welcome all suggestions relating to the above topics or concerning any other issues members

might like to see addressed at our meetings. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with either of us:

Tim L. Pennycuff  
University of Alabama at Birmingham  
T: 205-934-1896  
F: 205-975-5985  
E: [tpenny@uab.edu](mailto:tpenny@uab.edu)

Stephen E. Novak  
Columbia University Medical Center  
T: 212-305-7931  
F: 212- 305-6097  
E: [sen13@columbia.edu](mailto:sen13@columbia.edu)

---

## Around and About Archives

### Children's Hospital in Boston Celebrates 140 Years

**Sheila R. Spalding**  
Children's Hospital Boston

On April 1, 1869, Children's Hospital published a notice of its founding in the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* (now the *New England Journal of Medicine*), announcing its incorporation and establishment. By July 21<sup>st</sup> of that year, a small townhouse on 9 Rutland Street was rented for hospital use and Children's announced it was ready to receive patients. Within a year, the hospital outgrew the townhouse and moved temporarily to a larger unit while plans for a children-specific hospital on Huntington Avenue were under design. The hospital moved to its current location, next to Harvard Medical School on Longwood Avenue in 1914, and eventually forged an affiliation with Harvard Medical School in the 1940s. Children's Hospital has remained on Longwood Avenue ever since.

Today Children's celebrates 140 years of service to the local community and the world with a new archives exhibit featuring select objects from the collections that attest to the remarkable evolution and history of the institution.

A Lasker Award, currently on display, represents the six Children's physicians and researchers who have been honored with this "American Nobel Prize," including Drs. William Lennox, Robert Gross, John Enders, Sidney Farber, Porter W. Anderson and Martha Eliot. In addition to these honorees, Children's has four Nobel Laureates to its name: Thomas Weller, Frederick Robbins and John Enders for culturing the polio virus; and Joseph Murray for his work in the field of organ transplantation.

Also on display is a circa 1938 nursing doll from the former Children's Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association. It attests to the over two thousand women who were trained at the school, which operated from 1889-1978. The school was founded by the Sisters of Saint Margaret to train young women in the duties of nursing.

Other objects on display include the founding document drafted by four Boston physicians in 1869, surgical instruments used circa 1885, scrapbook images from the early twentieth century, and an alms box used in the Huntington Avenue hospital in the 1880s.

*(continued)*

The exhibit will remain on display through October in the main hospital. More information on the history of Children's and the archives program can be found online at: <http://www.childrenshospital.org/archives> .

---

## View from the Outside

**Joy Rowe**  
University of California, Davis

As a volunteer in a community archives, I've been considering the career-changers' question: "Is archives a good fit for me?" When the annual Society of American Archivists conference came to town last year, I grabbed the opportunity to gather impressions about the type of people archivists are, what they care about, and how they interact with others like them. Though conferences may be primarily about disseminating new ideas or approaches, they are also a community gathering place. The social nature of a conference provides rich people-data about a profession. As an outsider weighing the merits of becoming an insider, I wanted to get a feel for archivists as a group.

Here is what I found out: archivists love new people! At first, I apologetically admitted I was new to archives and was not even yet a student, but the enthusiastic responses soon cured me of my caution. By the end of the first day, I'd been invited to produce a quarterly newsletter, maintain a website, and even run for co-chair of one of the roundtables. Spontaneous invitations to join in were ubiquitous. Everyone I met was eager to share ideas on how I could get involved.

Matching the inclusive culture of the conference (or perhaps informing it?) was a parallel formal structure that newcomers could access. I opted out of the First-Timer Orientation and the Mentoring Program, both occurring far too early for my commute to accommodate, but I saw them as welcoming provisions for people like me. They told me that not only did individual archivists want to include me; the institution itself was welcoming and had already made space for me.

I heard another example of providing for newcomers' needs on a tour of one of the local repositories, Manilatown's community archive. The staff member charged with collecting, caring for, and giving access to the community's memories had been hired for her extensive technical skills and deep knowledge of the Filipino American community in San Francisco, but she'd never been trained to do archival work. To better serve her community and her archive, she was taking advantage of SAA's intensive pre-conference training sessions. Her goal was not to become an archivist but to better do the job that her community was counting on her to do. SAA makes space for a wide range of cultural knowledge workers by creating entry-level archival training for people with advanced skills in other related areas.

One of the benefits to welcoming outsiders is that the established group can gain access to new perspectives and fresh takes on old problems. I want to offer you what these outsider eyes saw when experiencing archivists as a group. Perhaps because career and education paths for archivists are less standardized than for many other professions, there is a natural openness and tolerance for permutations among you collectively. This is an enviable cultural resource for any group looking to recruit a new and diverse workforce. When the conference comes to your area, invite your volunteers, interns, and community partners to attend and know that they'll be in for a warm welcome.

---

## Historical Notes from Oregon Health & Science University Named Best Institutional Blog

**Karen L.A. Peterson**  
Oregon Health & Science University

[Historical Notes from OHSU](#), a blog highlighting the collections of the Oregon Health & Science University's [Historical Collections & Archives](#) has won the **Best Institutional Blog** designation from the Best Archives on the Web awards at [ArchivesNext](#). This blog was started and is maintained by Sara Piasecki, Head of Historical Collections & Archives.

According to the judges, “Given that it started in 2006, “Historical Notes from OHSU” is remarkable for its ability to maintain such a high quality of content over this long a period of time. The posts are informative, well-written, and open up the processes of the archives in a valuable way. This is a great example of a blog bringing visibility to collections—and an institution—that most of us would probably never have heard of without it. Plus it has cool pictures!”

Please join the OHSU Library in congratulating Sara and the Historical Collections & Archives on their award.

---

## **Provenance Applied: MIT Whirlwind Collection Comes Home**

**George Despres**  
MITRE Corporate Archives

In 1958, the MITRE Corporation in Bedford, MA spun off of MIT Lincoln Laboratory to work on the Semi-Automatic Ground Environment (SAGE) air defense system. Employees who had worked on groundbreaking Project Whirlwind computer research at Lincoln Lab in the 1940’s and 1950’s transferred to the new company. Whirlwind pioneered air defense simulation and tracking, random core memory, parallel processing, and human-machine interaction, among other things. The computer was shut down in 1959 after almost ten years of operation.

In late 2004, shortly after I arrived at MITRE as Corporate Archivist (having coincidentally come over from the Lincoln Lab Archives) my manager pulled me aside and informed me that some of the original Whirlwind researchers were interested in digitizing the papers from the Whirlwind collection, *at MITRE*. While this seemed like an excellent idea, I wondered “Why is the MIT Whirlwind collection at MITRE?” Lincoln Lab had some Whirlwind staff papers in its collection, but not this collection - including over 30 linear shelf feet of computational notebooks - which MITRE held. These were, after all, MIT papers generated before MITRE’s incorporation. We soon realized that employees who had worked on Whirlwind at Lincoln Lab simply

brought their office files over to MITRE, where they would ultimately perform decades of work in Whirlwind’s technical legacy. MITRE preserved the collection over these decades, converted memos and summary documents to microfilm in the late 1960’s, and transferred selected hardware components and a subset of papers (ca. 10 cubic ft., mostly duplicates) to the Smithsonian Museum of American History in 1971.

In 2006, with input from original researchers, we selected the microfilm content consisting of approximately 1,800 memos and summary reports and converted them to PDF. The broader paper collections were deemed too voluminous and resource-intensive to digitize: the computation notebooks, for example, each contain delicate paper inserts and foldouts, with faded, handwritten characters which could not be read by OCR. In the same year, the whole MITRE collection was approved for public release through our document control office and the U.S. Air Force (a Project Whirlwind sponsor along with the Office of Naval Research).

As we prepared to digitize part of the collection and arrange for public release approval, we thought it was a shame that such an important collection was not more publicly available. MITRE Corporate Archives is a restricted facility, including U.S. Government classified records, with very limited resources for public researchers. Since the collection had been created under MIT before MITRE’s establishment, and since the MIT Institute Archives and Special Collections is well equipped to service public research, a transfer consensus was easily reached between MITRE and MIT. PDF collection copies transferred to MIT in 2007, and the papers were transferred in June of 2008. The Institute Archives subsequently incorporated the digitized collection with its DOME repository (see: <http://libraries.mit.edu/archives/exhibits/whirlwind/index.html>). A formal transfer ceremony was conducted in Cambridge, MA, during a reunion of Whirlwind researchers on June 30th, 2009 - fifty years to the date that Whirlwind was shut down.

## ASASA Moves to a New Home

**Melissa Gottwald**

**Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University**

The Aviation Safety and Security Archives (ASASA) at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University has moved into a new facility. The new Robertson Aviation Safety Center II on the Prescott, Arizona, campus is a joint facility built to house the archives as well as laboratory space for the Safety Science Department. The archives' space includes a dedicated reading room, processing space, and collections storage. The increased collections storage space will allow the archives to move existing collections out of a remote storage location and also includes space for future growth.



ASASA was established in 2004 through a Congressional Award administered by the U.S. Department of Education. The archives' holdings include personal papers from leaders in aviation safety and security including David S. Hall, David Haddon Holladay, Charles Mercer, C. O. Miller, S. Harry Robertson, and Richard G. Snyder. These collections contain a wealth of information including accident investigation files, crash test reports and films, research files, teaching materials, and subject files.

The archives also holds TWA 800 crash investigator and author Christine Negroni's research files; records of the Skyrage Foundation; and the International Society of Air Safety Investigators collection of research reports, conference proceedings, and accident reports. Selected photographs and documents, including accident reports, have been digitized and made available online through the ASASA Digital Library, <http://prcarc1.erau.edu/index.html>.

More information about the Aviation Safety and Security Archives is available at <http://archives.pr.erau.edu> or by contacting Melissa Gottwald, Archives/Special Collections Librarian, at [gottwalm@erau.edu](mailto:gottwalm@erau.edu) or 928-777-3907.

---

## Conferences, Meetings, and Workshops

The Science, Technology, and Healthcare Roundtable will be meeting on Wednesday, August 12, 2009 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. in Room 406. STHC will host a presentation by Stephanie Brody and Alex Jasinski of the Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas at Austin. For the full agenda see "Message from the Co-Chairs".

### **Pre-Conference Tours/Open House:**

For information on pre-conference tours see: <http://www.archivists.org/conference/austin2009/tours.asp>

For the full SAA program, please see the following: <http://saa.archivists.org/Scripts/4Disapi.dll/4DCGI/>

[events/145.html?Action=Conference\\_Detail&ConfID\\_W=145](http://www.archivists.org/conference/austin2009/events/145.html?Action=Conference_Detail&ConfID_W=145)

### **STHC-Themed Programs:**

Please be sure to read the abstracts for other sessions, because we might have missed some.

### **STHC Roundtable Meeting**

5:30 - 7:30 pm, Wednesday, August 12, 2009  
Room 406

### **308. Preserving Digital Research Data in the Health Sciences**

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM, Friday, August 14, 2009  
Room 408

*(continued)*

**703. Braving the New World: Archival Explorers  
in Digital Terra Incognita**

1:30 PM - 3:00 PM, Saturday, August 15, 2009

Salon F

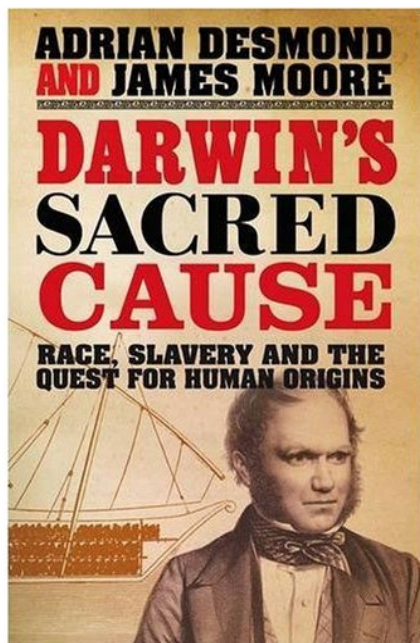
---

**Articles**

**Book Review: *Darwin's Sacred Cause: Race, Slavery and the Quest for Human Origins*  
by Adrian Desmond and James Moore**

**Rose Roberto**

University of Leeds, Leeds, UK



Cover images © The Natural History Museum, London:  
Bridgeman Art Library/Getty

British:

**Format:** Hardback

**ISBN:** 9781846140358

**Size:** 241 x 165mm

**Pages:** 512

**Published:** 29 Jan 2009

**Publisher:** Allen Lane (an imprint of Penguin Books)

American:

**Hardcover:** 448 pages

**Publisher:** Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (January 28, 2009)

**Language:** English

**ISBN-10:** 0547055269

**ISBN-13:** 978-0547055268

**Product Dimensions:** 9.4 x 6.2 x 1.4 inches

An extraordinary amount of archival detective work went into this book by Charles Darwin experts Adrian Desmond and James Moore, who piece together from correspondence, notebooks, journals, ship logs, and even scribbled remarks in the margins of books and pamphlets, their argument that what motivated Darwin to write *On the Origin of Species* and *The Descent of Man* wasn't a detached, inward-focused rationalist, but a passionate, sympathetic, humanist. They claim that these two books were Darwin's answer to rising 19<sup>th</sup> century pseudoscience: that humans from European descent were superior to other humans; that these

sub-human races were actually a different species; and that their dominance by white masters was “the natural state” of the world. To counter these beliefs, Darwin did science to prove that the humans, despite their variety, are only one species with a common ancestor. Darwin hated cruelty in all its forms, and his answer to the “naturalness” of the institution of slavery was to expose the false foundations and unsubstantiated speculation that racism was built upon.

Set against the backdrop of world events from British colonial expansion to the American Civil

War and the popular rise of Spiritualism, this book puts Darwin's life into global historical context. It emphasizes some of Darwin's key relationships and how they shaped his humanism. His family (both sets of grandparents: Wedgewoods and Darwins) played leading roles in the British Abolition movement. The Wedgewoods in particular, whose family fortune came from work as artisans and potters, are also well-known for creating the iconic (though now controversial) "Am I Not a Man and Brother" medallion. Having married his first cousin, Emma, the family legacy was steeped in the righteousness of the previous generation's moral and political success in the abolition of the British Transatlantic slave trade. The authors talk about Darwin's brief period studying medicine in Edinburgh, where as a young man he regularly paid a free-black man who was an expert in specimen preservation to teach him taxidermy skills. Darwin even calls this man, John, an intimate, who helped his interest in natural history grow.

The harsh words exchanged on the subject of slavery between Darwin and Captain FitzRoy during their time as traveling companions on the *Beagle* is well-known. However, the authors also talk about Darwin's observations of the Fuegians on board the ship, the enslaved he witnessed in Brazil, and the diverseness of the peoples he encountered in the Pacific to those with empires in Africa, in addition to his notes on wildlife. Desmond and Moore believe it is this first-hand experience Darwin had with non-Westerners during his five-year journey that shaped his view that racial traits are caused by sexual selection over generations, that each group of people has their own standard of beauty which is reinforced by the successful reproduction of individuals within that population with these subjectively beautiful traits.

After Charles's return to England and his marriage to Emma Wedgewood, the Darwin's social circle included Harriet Martineau, an English writer, political economist, feminist, and outspoken American abolition campaigner who was involved for a time with his brother, Erasmus Darwin. Charles exchanged books with her, conversed frequently, and as Desmond and Moore piece together, probably had much to discuss being the only two within that social circle who had been to slave owning countries, and witnessed its horror

first-hand. They were also both early atheists, though Darwin was careful in expressing his views on this publicly.

Another relationship with Charles Lyell, a geologist and Darwin's mentor is also well-known. However, by reviewing their correspondence, the authors show how Lyell and Darwin differed on evolution and on the subject of slavery. Lyell went on several extensive lecturing tours of the US. Due to the influence of Southern hospitality, Lyell became convinced that there those who were enslaved derived some "civilizing benefits" from it. Believing that he could be enlightened, Darwin wrote the following aimed at Lyell:

I thank God, I shall never again visit a slave-country. To this day, if I hear a distant scream, it recalls with painful vividness my feelings . . .

. . . I [would not have] mentioned the above revolting details, had I not met with several people, so blinded by the constitutional gaiety of the negro, as to speak of slavery as a tolerable evil. Such people have generally visited at homes of the upper classes, where the domestic slaves are usually well treated; and have not, like myself, lived amongst the lower classes.<sup>1</sup>

Of the many relationships mentioned,<sup>2</sup> perhaps the most interesting one is with Louis Agassiz. Agassiz, a paleontologist, glaciologist, geologist, and Harvard University professor, greatly resisted Darwin's theory of evolution by natural selection. Agassiz advocated polygenism – the belief that races were created separately in parallel environments, were endowed with unequal attributes, and could be classified into specific climatic zones. Although he contributed greatly to the fields of geology and fish studies, today this work on anthropology is classified as scientific racism. Although based in New England, Agassiz's writings pleased many from the Southern plantation classes who needed to see themselves separate from

---

1 Darwin, C. R. (1845). "Journal of researches into the natural history and geology of the countries visited during the voyage of H.M.S. *Beagle* round the world, under the Command of Capt. Fitz Roy, R.N." Quoted in *Darwin's Sacred Cause*, p.182

2 More relationships than there is space to mention in this review.



their enslaved. Agassiz and Darwin corresponded and Agassiz even provided Darwin with information and fish specimens. However, in the context of this book, Agassiz is Darwin's nemesis, more so than Richard Owen (who verbally battled Darwin's "bulldog" Thomas Henry Huxley) ever was. That someone with Agassiz's brilliance turned to studies like craniology and ignored vast amounts of evidence (the millions of enslaved people who were products of interracial unions and produced fertile offspring, which is the very definition of species) is quite remarkable when viewed from the age of DNA and genetic research which confirms Darwin's theory. However, Desmond and Moore do make a compelling case through him and other prominent American scientists like him, that the turmoil of the times influenced what Darwin wrote, and when he decided to reveal it to the public. Joseph Hooker, the botanist at Kew gardens describing the Galapagos plants that had Darwin collected, and for a long-time Darwin's only confidant on his natural selection theory, suggested to Darwin that becoming an expert in one entire group of animals would win Darwin the right to talk about the origination of species and be taken seriously,<sup>3</sup> despite these leading opponents. Heeding his advice, Darwin's books pre-*Origin of Species* show him to be an expert on coral reefs, volcanic islands, and barnacles.

According to archival sources, one of the reasons Darwin changed his original intention of including chapters on humans and races in *On the Origin of Species*, had to do with timing. It was published at the eve of the American Civil War. Tension across the Atlantic extended to England. Though mankind was not mentioned specifically, the implications of the theory were clear from the full title: *The Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection: Or, the Preservation of Favored Races in the Struggle for Life*.

The profile of Darwin in the book is not without character faults. He is biased by the sexism of the Victorian age into believing in the passivity of females, so much so that it initially taints his research. His notebooks say that the males of the species have adaptations so *they* can choose *their* partners, overlooking that females make their own

selections too. The authors also point out that being an upper class Englishman, reading such works as *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (bestseller in England, prior to the American Civil War), and being a regular correspondent with Lyell who wrote about his visits to the south, he and other contemporaries used the plantation class vocabulary to describe nature observations. For example, *Formica sanguinea*, a species of ant that raids other nests of their larvae and pupae and raise them to be workers, are referred to as slave-making ants. Darwin's notes call the smaller brownish species, *Formica fusca*, that has been raided "house slaves" and other pejorative terms, showing widespread patronizing, though sympathetic, attitudes.

Also, Desmond and James Moore note Darwin's lack of nerve for delaying so long his theory, and only finally hurriedly publishing when receiving correspondence from Alfred Wallace to prod him. Darwin also seems to have participated in much behind-the-scenes maneuvering to get Huxley to be his cheerleader, then later with Wallace. He also actively seeks other American university scientists who he hopes will side with him against Agassiz. Knowing how controversial natural selection will be, he also seems to do everything he can to deflect direct personal criticism. Authors say that he feared for his social position and feared his family and in particular his children would be ostracized unless he approached his research a certain way. Desmond and James Moore state they think it is a positive thing that Darwin was disillusioned by Wallace, Lyell, and Huxley, who, although his champions, were unable to fully grasp and reconcile his version of natural selection. Positive because he would not then have been compelled to write *The Descent of Man*, the chapter (or volume) missing from *On the Origin of Species*.

This year celebrates the 150th anniversary of the publication of *On the Origin of Species* (November 24, 1859) and the 200th anniversary of Charles Darwin's birth (February 12, 1809). This book was very scholarly, with dense historical text. But I found it an interesting read, not just because it coincided with the double Darwin anniversary. Having read other Darwin biographies, I think this one humanized him in a very compelling way.

---

3 *Darwin's Sacred Cause*, p.229

---

## American College of Surgeons Archives Digital Collections

**Susan Rishworth**  
American College of Surgeons

The American College of Surgeons (ACS) announces the launching of its first samples of digital collections. The link to the collections is available on the History and Archives page on the ACS website [www.facs.org/archives](http://www.facs.org/archives). Making its debut at the College's Annual Clinical Congress in San Francisco, Oct. 12-15, 2008, the site was demonstrated to Fellows attending the Congress at the Member Services booth where the Archives display resides each year.

In recent years at the Clinical Congress, Fellows have come to the ACS Archives section of the Member Services Booth, asking about whether the ACS archives is available online. This year we could give a qualified "yes." The time and work involved in dealing with Olive Software, the vendor and host for the site, has not been inconsiderable or inexpensive. For this reason, the materials selected for putting online are just a small sampling of the wealth of materials found in the archives. Our belief is that when scholars and researchers studying the history of 20<sup>th</sup> century American medicine get a glimpse of the variety and types of materials found in our archives, they will want to visit the archives at the ACS headquarters in Chicago.

The College will celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2013. A committee of surgeon historians has been working on the centennial history for over a year. The upcoming centennial has been the impetus behind getting some of our collections digitized and put online.

Olive Software, host for the site, arranged for the scanning, digitizing and segmentation of the scanned materials, making them free-text searchable. Susan Rishworth, archivist, and Dolores Barber, part time assistant archivist, spent many hours for several months with Olive personnel, trying to make the site increasingly user-friendly. The ACS Communications staff worked at integrating the site into the ACS web site.

Historians of medicine should find much of interest on the site, and will get a feeling for the diverse types of materials that have been preserved and made accessible in the ACS Archives.

College founder Franklin H. Martin (1857-1935) remains an understudied figure in the history of American medicine. He founded the journal *Surgery, Gynecology and Obstetrics (SG&O)* in 1905, which became the *Journal of the American College of Surgeons* in 1994; he initiated the Clinical Congresses of Surgeons of North America in 1910, the annual gatherings which have provided a venue for generations of surgeons to learn the latest surgical techniques, providing continuing medical education to thousands; and founded the College itself in 1913. He was appointed to the Advisory Commission of the Council of National Defense by President Woodrow Wilson, and served as Director of the General Medical Board of that body, representing medicine and surgery, including general sanitation, for this civilian branch of Wilson's war effort. Martin served with other American notables, each responsible for various services provided by civilians in the war efforts. These men included Samuel Gompers, President of the American Federation of Labor; Julian Rosenwald, Vice President of Sears, Roebuck & Co.; Bernard Baruch, financier; David Willard, President of the B & O Railroad; Howard Coffin, Vice- President, Hudson Motor Co.; and Hollis Godfrey, President of Drexel Institute. Martin was a founder and for many years Director of the Gorgas Institute for Research in Tropical Medicine, based in Panama.

Martin and his wife Isabelle left forty-eight three-ring binders of their "Memoirs" dating from 1899 to 1935, which include typical scrapbook-type materials such as postal cards, snapshots, records of social activities, programs of events attended and autographs of some of the notable medical men of the day with whom they socialized. In addition, the

“Memoirs” include news clippings and programs of some of the ACS national and regional meetings as well as frequent excerpts from the Martins’ diaries. About ten of the binders are devoted to the “War Years” during which time Martin kept detailed diaries.

The year that the College was established, Franklin Martin hired a young woman named Eleanor K. Grimm to work as his secretary. Miss Grimm quickly became a collaborator with Martin during the first two decades of the College’s existence, and after he died in 1935, she became a chief administrator of the College. After her retirement in 1951, when her position was divided into roughly another dozen positions, the ACS Board of Regents asked her to record her recollections of the history of the College. She began recording her memories onto a wire tape recorder and sent the recordings to the College for transcription. In twenty-six volumes of typescript, liberally documented with tear sheets stapled in from the dozens of publications she cited, Miss Grimm’s “ACS History” can be found in the ACS Archives in two editions, along with the remarkably detailed 59-page index she prepared to the complete set of volumes.

Four categories of records from the ACS Archives appear in the digital collections, including one volume of the forty-eight of the Martin Memoirs,

and one volume of the twenty-six of the Eleanor Grimm ACS History Notebooks, along with its index. Besides samples from these two collections, which serve both as artifacts and original source documents recording the history, two other categories of records are found in the digital collections: photos of all the ACS Boards of Regents, from the earliest extant until 2006, and all issues of the *Clinical Congress Daily News* that have been located from 1911 to 1979. Researchers can search for names of Fellows who have been represented on the Board and identify them. With the full text issues of the *Clinical Congress Daily News*, one can free text search names, surgical techniques, diseases, issues affecting surgeons, international guest surgeons, examples of post-graduate courses in surgery throughout the years and much more. Users can also browse through all these materials page by page.

The plan is to gradually add more resources to the Digital Collections link on the History and Archives page of the ACS website. Feedback about your use of the site will be appreciated; a link for a one-minute survey can be found under the Digital Collections link. And for further feedback, recommendations of things you would like to see added there in the future can be submitted by filling out the form on the “contact us” link on the public side of the ACS website.

---

## John Zwicky - In Memoriam

John Zwicky was an active Science, Technology, and Health Care Roundtable Steering Committee member and a tireless adherent for STHC interests. As both Roundtable member and in his Steering Committee leadership role, he worked to advance STHC as an organizational entity within the parent Society of American Archivists and as a forum for science, health care, and technology archivists.

STHC and SAA members have benefited from John’s work, most recently through the program he organized and led at STHC’s Annual Meeting in Chicago in August 2007, “Be Careful What You Wish For: How to Manage Artifacts in an Archival Repository.” With panelists Carolyn Texley, Mott

Linn, Judy Robins, and Jennifer Searcy, John led a wide ranging discussion of the acquisition, description, and treatment of artifactual materials. We were pleased that his wife Donna Goetz attended the program. In spring 2008, the discussion was published in *Archival Elements*, STHC’s newsletter. John’s other *Archival Elements* publications included 2005’s “Breastfeeding and the American Academy of Pediatrics,” and he regularly contributed papers and program announcements.

John’s tenacity and care in organizing the Roundtable panel discussion typified his high standards and the quality of his work and his professional duties. He was an active participant in

our electronic discussions, in program and session development, and in championing the importance of roundtables and sections. John continued to be one of the most vocal and effective commentators on a 2006 taskforce on SAA organization; only two weeks ago we learned that STHC efforts – with other groups – were successful in setting acceptable roundtable membership levels. John recognized the importance of the Roundtable for leadership training and archival development, and STHC and Steering Committee recognize John for his invaluable, enthusiastic, and provocative contributions to our work. We will miss his enthusiasm, his advice, and his professional and personal loyalties. He was an unceasing advocate for archives and archivists and our valued colleague and friend.

**Janice Goldblum**

STHC Co-Chair 2005-2007

---

John Zwicky, Ph.D., died on March 10th at the age of 62 after a long and courageous battle with cancer.

John was born and raised in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. He was educated at Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa (BA); DePaul University in Chicago (MA); and received his doctorate at Loyola University Chicago.

John's archival career included positions at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago, the American Medical Association, and the American Society for Clinical Pathologists. For the last 15 years, he has served as the archivist at the Pediatric History Center (PHC) of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) in Elk Grove Village, Illinois. As its founding archivist, John played a critical role in bringing the vision of the PHC to reality. Refusing

to let his illness dictate the terms of his life, John continued this work throughout his five-year illness, until early February of this year.

Those who knew John well remember his skills as a storyteller, recalling all of the most obscure details of any event. People were constantly amazed with his depth of knowledge about the history of the AAP, about farming, about nearly any subject (except perhaps technology). When confronted with a historical conundrum, his excitement was palpable as he leapt up from his desk and rushed off to find the answer. His enthusiasm for history was irrepressible and his commitment to the archival profession was absolute.

John's colleagues will easily recall a small man laden with a large backpack, probably wearing a hooded coat with the hood tied firmly around his head. No one who knew him would ever consider him a slave to fashion in either clothing or lifestyle. Eschewing automobile travel (in the suburbs!); John was easy to spot as he waited for the bus or the train. In addition, he was an avid reader and a train enthusiast.

John is survived by his wife of 30 years, Donna Goetz, Ph.D., and his daughter Elizabeth Zwicky, as well as three brothers, two sisters, and many nieces, nephews, stepbrothers, and stepsisters. Memorial donations in John's name may be made to the AAP Pediatric History Center (AAP, Development Lockbox 38367 Eagle Way, Chicago, IL 60678-1383) or the American Cancer Society ([www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org)).

**Susan Marshall**

American Academy of Pediatrics

---

**Notes about Authors**

Susan Rishworth

Susan Rishworth has served as archivist at the American College of Surgeons (ACS) in Chicago since 2001. From 1990 to 2001, she was History

Librarian/Archivist at the American College of OB/GYNs (ACOG) in Washington, D.C. In February of 2002, Susan invited archivists of Chicago area medical societies, hospitals, and academic centers to a gathering at ACS, out of

which grew the Chicago Area Medical Archivists. Susan holds an MLS from Indiana University and an MA in Social History from the University of Maryland, with a special focus on history of medicine and women's history. She received her undergraduate degree in African history at the University of Wisconsin.

Rose Roberto

Rose Roberto is an Arts Faculty Librarian for the University of Leeds with collection responsibility for Fine Art, History of Art & Cultural Studies, and Italian and Spanish. She teaches university students information literacy and library/archival research skills. She also serves on the Digitization Working Group, which manages the University Library's

digitization program, with a particular mandate for digital images. Previously, Rose worked at Oxford University, Westminster Libraries & Archives, the Natural History Museum in London, and the NASA/Jet Propulsion Laboratory Library in Pasadena, California. She received an MLIS from UCLA in 2001 and moved to the UK in 2003. Rose is currently a co-editor of ARC Magazine, the monthly newsletter of the SoA (Society of Archivists, UK), and serves on the publishing committee of ARLIS: UK & Ireland.

---

### **SAA Science, Technology Health Care Roundtable Steering Committee Members (2008-2009)**

**R. Joseph Anderson**, American Institute of Physics, College Park, MD

**Ewa M. Basinska (Newsletter Editor)**, Institute Archives, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA

**Jean M. Deken**, Stanford Linear Accelerator Center, Menlo Park, CA

**Janice F. Goldblum (Past Chair)**, The National Academies, Washington, DC

**Russell A. Johnson (ListServ Moderator)**, Louise M. Darling Biomedical Library, University of California, Los Angeles

**Joan Echtenkamp Klein**, Health Sciences Library, University of Virginia Health System, Charlottesville, VA

**Jodi Koste**, Tompkins-McCaw Library, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA

**Suzanna Long, Ph.D.**, Missouri University of Science and Technology, Rolla, MO

**Nancy McCall**, The John Hopkins Medical Institutions, Baltimore, MD

**Stephen E. Novak (Co-Chair)**, Columbia University, NY, NY

**Tim L. Pennycuff (Co-Chair)**, Lister Hill Library of the Health Sciences, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, AL

**Rose Roberto (Web Liaison)**, Brotherton Library, University of Leeds, UK

**Paige L. Smith**, South Research Institute, Birmingham, AL

**Paul Theerman (Immediate Past Chair)**, National Library of Medicine, Bethesda, MD

**Judith Wiener**, Medical Heritage Center, Prior Health Sciences Library, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH

**John Zwicky**, American Academy of Pediatrics, Elk Grove Village, IL

*Archival Elements* is produced annually in the summer of each year. It is the official newsletter of the Science, Technology, and Health Care Roundtable of the Society of American Archivists. Please consider submitting an article to *Archival Elements*. For more information on submitting information or an article, please contact [Elizabeth Phillips](#) (UC Davis) and [Ewa Basinska](#) (MIT).

***Join the Society of American Archivists***

The Society of American Archivists (SAA), founded in 1936, is the oldest and largest national professional association in North America for archivists and institutions interested in the preservation and use of archives, manuscripts, and current records. Membership includes those serving in government agencies, academic institutions, historical societies, businesses, museums, libraries, religious organizations, professional associations, and numerous other institutions in more than 60 countries. Through its publications, workshops, annual conference, and programs, SAA provides a means for contact, communication, and cooperation among archivists and archival institutions.

For more information on joining SAA, please contact The Society of American Archivists, 527 S. Wells St., 5th Floor, Chicago, IL 60607 Tel: (312) 922-0140 E-mail: [info@archivists.org](mailto:info@archivists.org) World Wide Web: [www.archivists.org/](http://www.archivists.org/)