

# LACCHA

## SAA Roundtable – Annual Report 2009-2010

**Date:** November 15, 2010

**Name of Roundtable:** Latin American and Caribbean Cultural Heritage Archives

|                  |             |  |                      |
|------------------|-------------|--|----------------------|
| <b>Officers:</b> | (Elected)   | Senior Co-Chair:                             | Patrick A. Stawski   |
|                  |             | Junior Co-Chair:                             | Mario H. Ramirez     |
|                  | (Appointed) | Newsletter Co-Editor:                        | Bert Lyons           |
|                  |             | Newsletter Co-Editor:                        | Luisa Yanez          |
|                  |             | Webmaster:                                   | Laura Buchholz       |
|                  |             | Liaison – CARBICA                            | John Aarons          |
|                  |             | Liaison – ICA                                | Bert Lyons           |
|                  |             | Liaison – SALALM                             | Silvia Mejia         |
|                  |             | Liaison – SAA AAC R/T                        | Aaisha Haykal        |
|                  |             | Liaison – IFLA-LAC                           | Susan Laura Lugo, CA |
|                  |             | Liaison – ACURIL                             | Lorraine Nero        |
|                  |             | Liaison – Cultural Property<br>Working Group | Marisol Ramos        |

### Report from annual meeting:

- Number of attendees: 25-30 (total membership on November 15, 2010: 165)
- Election results:
  - Last year's meeting minutes were approved.
  - Mario H. Ramirez was elected Jr. Co-Chair via on-line ballot.
- Summary of meeting activities: Copy of proposed minutes of LACCHA Roundtable meeting held August 11, 2010 were circulated to the membership for review via listserv and via linking off LACCHA's Web site. The membership will vote to approve and accept the minutes at the next annual roundtable meeting in 2011. Link to proposed minutes: <http://www.archivists.org/saagroups/laccha/pdfs/minutesaug2010.pdf>.  
A copy is also attached hereto as **Exhibit A**.

### **Completed projects/activities**

- Completed LACCHA's first on-line ballot.
- Completed LACCHA "blog meetings." Due to low participation we have discontinued these.
- Submitted to SAA Council LACCHA members' comments on proposed Traditional Cultural Expressions statement.
- Co-hosted a joint panel session with the Human Rights Roundtable on archives and political instability in Central America at the 2010 national conference. Titled "Silence No More!: Archives Threatened by Political Instability in Central America," the panel was moderated by Corine Wegner (U.S. Committee of the Blue Shield), and featured speakers Kate Doyle (Senior Analyst, U.S. Policy in Latin America, National Security Archives/Director, Guatemala Documentation Project), Trudy Huskamp Peterson (Archival Consultant), Dr. Darío A. Euraque (former Director, Honduran Institute of Anthropology and History) and Yesenia Martínez (former Director, History Research Unit). The panel was held from 1 – 3 p.m. on Wednesday, August 11 and was followed by the roundtable's respective meetings.

### **Ongoing projects/activities**

- We are in the process of evaluating our communication strategies in order to more effectively reach out to our membership. Among those media being addressed include: the newsletter, "Memoria," the listserv, the blog and website.

### **New projects/activities**

- Established a collaborative partnership with the *American Archivist*, and its editor Mary Jo Pugh, to publish essays on Latin American/Caribbean/Latino themes in an upcoming issue(s). Currently numbering seven, these essays are culled from the membership of the roundtable and tackle issues such as: the politics of record-making and record-keeping in 18th century California; how records creation, recordkeeping, access and the discovery of hidden archives affect transitional justice in Latin America; the process of establishing the Charles Darwin Foundation Archives; two related documentation initiatives to collect the documentary heritage of Latinos; how the colonial history of Puerto Rico had a direct impact on the development of the Archivo General de Puerto Rico; the interaction between the Brazilian archives profession and multi-national professional development agencies; and how the standardization of motion picture film preservation practices affected Latin America countries in the 1960s-1970s.
- One panel was submitted for consideration to the SAA Program Committee for the National Conference in Chicago in 2011. This panel, titled "Faces of Diversity: Diasporic Archives and Archivists in the New Millennium", will address the impact of minority archivists and the collections they curate on our profession, as well as what the profession contributes to minority communities through the exchange of knowledge and best practices. Status: Awaiting notification from the Program Committee.

- We will be submitting at least one panel for consideration for SALALM's (Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials) annual conference to be held May 28 – June 1, 2011. The conference theme is "Preserving Memory: Documenting and Archiving Latin American Human Rights," a subject area which falls well within the interests of many of our members. This will also present some added opportunities for potential collaborations with the Human Rights Roundtable of SAA.

#### **Diversity initiatives**

- Michelle Gachette, Harvard University Archives, was appointed as our representative to SAA's Diversity Committee.

#### **Questions/concerns for Council attention**

- At SAA 2010, many members noted with disappointment that many of the roundtables focused on diversity and progressive issues were scheduled to meet during the same timeslots. Would it be possible for the SAA 2011 Program Committee to consider alternative ways of distributing the roundtable meetings?

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick A. Stawski  
Senior Co-Chair

**Attachments:** Exhibit A – Proposed Minutes for LACCHA's Annual Membership Meeting held August 11, 2010  
Exhibit B – Summary of LACCHA's 2009 Panel Presentations  
Exhibit C – Summary of LACCHA's 2010 Panel Proposal

Cc: Mario H. Ramírez, LACCHA Junior Co-Chair  
Bert Lyons, LACCHA Newsletter Co-Editor  
Deborra A. Richardson, SAA Council Liaison

# LACCHA

## **SAA Roundtable – Annual Report 2009-2010**

### **EXHIBIT A**

Proposed Minutes  
LACCHA Annual Membership Meeting  
August 11, 2010

# LACCHA

SAA Roundtable Meetings III  
Wednesday, August 11, 2010  
3:15 P.M. - 5:15 P.M.

Annual Meeting  
**DRAFT**

- 1) The third annual meeting of the SAA LACCHA Roundtable was convened in Washington, D.C. at the joint SAA/CoSA/NAGARA Conference on August 11, 2010 at 3:15 P.M. Approximately 20 people attended the annual meeting session. Welcoming remarks were given by Senior Co-Chair Susan Lugo, who also introduced the meeting's guest speaker, Tim Law, Imaging and Production Manager for the Caribbean and Latin American region for FamilySearch.org. Law gave an overview of his organizations work in the region, which includes the microfilming and digitization of organizational and governmental records. The service Family Search offers is focused primarily on the preservation of diverse genealogical resources and is offered free of charge to cooperating partners in Latin America and the Caribbean. This includes materials, equipment, staff and training. Law ended his talk by encouraging all attendees to visit the organization's website and to consider collaborating with Family Search on future projects.
- 2) Junior Co-Chair Patrick A. Stawski opened the general business meeting by praising outgoing Senior Co-Chair Susan Lugo and former Senior Co-Chair Marisol Ramos for their accomplishments and thanking them for their contributions to the roundtable. He also encouraged the membership to participate in LACCHA vis-à-vis the blog, the website, the newsletter, volunteering, etc., as a way of making the mark on the future of the roundtable.
- 3) Stawski canvassed the membership for any changes to the minutes from the August 2009 meeting in Austin, TX before their approval. No changes were suggested and the minutes were approved by those in attendance.
- 4) Reports:
  - a. Mario Estorino, Cuban Heritage Collection, University of Miami: Diversity Committee  
Estorino reported on a number of items, including:

- Membership Committee in conjunction with the Diversity Committee conducted a survey of the membership and its interests.
  - Native American Protocols Working Group is investigating practical applications of protocols and interested in putting together a series of forums on the protocols.
  - SAA Council has asked the Diversity Committee to take a look at the expansion of the Mosaic Scholarship into a larger program, encompassing fellowships and internships, among other things.
  - Although the issue of Traditional Cultural Expression (TCE) is not a central concern of the Diversity Committee, Council has asked the committee for feedback.
  - SAA has formed a Cultural Property Working Group that has separate groups working on such issues as copyright and cultural property. They are developing a framework for helping archivists deal with issues of cultural property.
  - Suggested that we consider putting nominating someone for SAA Council.
  - Noted that the status of liaisons from roundtables to the Diversity Committee has changed. They are now considered “representatives” from “special interest groups.” Among these are LACCHA, the Native American Archives Roundtable and the Archivists and Archives of Color.
- b. Deborra Richardson, Chair and Curator, Archives Center, National Museum of American History: SAA Council Member and Roundtable Liaison
- Supported Estorino’s point that the membership needs to take seriously the issue of nominations to the Council and committees.
  - Pointed out that Council is prioritizing diversity and technology.
  - Council approved best practices for employees working with researchers with disabilities.
  - SAA is considering forming a foundation, with a board, that will attend to fundraising needs and develop an endowment.
  - Noted that the Council is voting on a number of issues on Saturday. These include: an increase in dues, membership notification and whether members have a right to be fellows.
- c. Michelle Gachette, Harvard University Archives: Liaison to Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtable.
- Mentioned that she is writing an article on the recently deceased Donna Wells, founding member and first co-chair of the AAC Roundtable.
  - Ms. Wells passed away days before a critically acclaimed exhibit that she curated was displayed in São Paulo, Brazil. The photo exhibit titled “I Have a Dream: From King to Obama” featured photographs of the US Civil Rights Movement and was the result of a partnership with the São Paulo Public Affairs Section of the US Consulate General, the Exposure Group, an African American photographers association, and the Afro Brazil Museum. Ms. Wells was honored posthumously for her work.
  - Noted that Danny Williams, former AAC roundtable co-chair also passed away this past spring.

- Both Williams and Wells were instrumental in the founding of the Archivists and Archives of Color Roundtable.
  - Suggested that we consider writing a formal history of LACCHA that details its founding and leaders to the present day. The deaths of these former AAC leaders could serve as a reminder for us all to consider our own legacy as individuals and collectively, as a roundtable, in SAA, the profession, and our society.
  - The Senior Co-Chair of AAC, Tamar Evangelestia-Dougherty is interested in putting together a brochure and/or informational video for donors of color, addressing issues of trust building, language, and legal status, etc. Would like us to collaborate with them on this project. Roundtable members are encouraged to write to Evangelestia-Dougherty for more information and to get involved. Information on how to reach Evangelestia-Dougherty will be posted on the listserv.
- d. Mary Jo Pugh, Editor, American Archivist (AA)
- Patrick Stawksi introduced Mary Jo Pugh (who was sitting in the audience) and briefly discussed LACCHA's collaboration with the American Archivist in the publication of articles on Latin American/Caribbean themes. He described some of the abstracts submitted and asked if any of the authors in attendance wanted to describe their papers in further depth.
  - Tracy Grimm rose and discussed the paper she proposed with Chon A. Noriega (Director, Chicano Research Center, UCLA). They want to focus on case studies about collecting practices among donors, as well as seeking their feedback regarding what they deem important.
  - Marisol Ramos also discussed her idea for a paper on archives in Puerto Rico and specifically, the collections at the Archivo General de Puerto Rico.
  - Mary Jo Pugh expressed much enthusiasm for the papers proposed by LACCHA and noted that although the policy of the American Archivist was not to dedicate special issues to particular themes, there could be a section dedicated to LACCHA's essays if several of them were published at once.
  - Pugh briefly discussed AA publishing procedures (including peer review) and mentioned that those essays that are ready could be published in the Spring 2012 issue.
  - One challenge to publication in the coming year is that Council has asked Pugh to set aside space for pieces on SAA's upcoming 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Six pieces have been accepted.
  - Fall 2011 is Pugh's last issue as Editor. She has been asked to prepare the essays for the Spring 2012 issue for the incoming Editor.
  - Pugh noted that a footnote could be added to each essay, if published separately, indicating that it was being published as part of LACCHA's initiative.
  - AA is exploring the possibility of adding an online supplement to its regular publication. The trial issue will include papers on SAA, looking at its past and future prospects. It is expected in Fall 2011. The general sentiment is that the





There being no further business for consideration, the meeting was adjourned at 5:20 P.M.

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Notes from LACCHA meeting – August 11, 2010

Taken by Mario H. Ramírez and Patrick Stawski, with input from Michelle Gachette

Latin American and Caribbean  
Cultural Heritage Archives Roundtable  
ESTABLISHED FEBRUARY 7, 2008

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# LACCHA

## **SAA Roundtable – Annual Report 2009-2010**

### **EXHIBIT B**

Summary of  
LACCHA's 2010 SAA/CoSA/NAGARA Conference Panel Sessions

[Excerpted from the LACCHA newsletter “Memoria,” article “Two LACCHA Panels to be presented at the 2010 Washington, D.C. conference” and the SAA website]

Two LACCHA-sponsored panels were presented at this year's conference of the Council of State Archivists/National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators/Society of American Archivists. The organization's Joint Program Committee approved the proposals for "Minding the Information Gap: Research Outreach Programs in Caribbean Government Archives" and “Insular Records for the Unincorporated: Archiving the Historical Record of U.S. Territories." The panel proposals were two of four submitted by LACCHA for consideration in October 2009. Both were co-sponsored and endorsed by the Government Records Section. Below is are list of speakers, with paper titles, as well as brief descriptions of the panels.

**Session Title: Minding the Information Gap: Research Outreach Programs in Caribbean Government Archives**

**Speakers:**

**Jules Bergis** (Chair)  
Project Director/Archivist  
University of Chicago

**Margot Thomas**  
National Archivist  
National Archives Authority of Saint Lucia  
*Highlighting the Work of the National Archives of Saint Lucia Through Innovative Educational and Outreach Activities*

**Dominique Taffin**  
National Archivist  
National Archives of Martinique  
*Reclaiming Memory: How Can Archives Contribute? A Martinican Example*

**Avril Belfon**  
Senior Archives and Records Officer  
National Archives of Trinidad & Tobago  
*Outreach: Up Close and Personal*

**Description:**

The Caribbean's fragmented colonial history has fostered an information gap in government archives. Researchers seeking to document local history perspectives must fill this gap with narratives and commentary expressed in native voices, but there are access and knowledge barriers to conducting complex research using primary documents. Archivists from three Caribbean nations reveal successful strategies for "minding the gap," showcasing creative outreach programs to generate increased interest in and local use of government archives by researchers.

**Session Title: Insular Records for the Unincorporated: Archiving the Historical Record of U.S. Territories**

**Speakers:**

**Basil C. Ottley** (Chair & Commentator)  
Desk Officer for the US Virgin Islands  
US Department of the Interior

**Vernon Paul Rood**  
Archivist  
National Archives and Records Administration  
*The Records of the U.S. Virgin Islands in the National Archives (US)*

**Thomas F. Cotter**  
National Archives and Records Administration  
*Federal or Local? Repatriating the Records of the Former Panama Canal Zone*

**Milagros Pepin-Rivera**  
Specialist in Cultural Affairs  
General Archive of Puerto Rico  
*The General Archive of Puerto Rico: Resources and Challenges*

**Description:**

Ownership, custodianship, care, and access issues are core considerations for territorial recordkeepers of the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and the former Panama Canal Zone. Strategically located in regions of acute political interest, these possessions have a subsumed cultural patrimony that is undervalued and underutilized by researchers and often ignored by officials. Federal, territorial, and cultural heritage professionals share the unique and often daunting challenges of locating, identifying, and managing archival records of U.S. Territories.

Latin American and Caribbean  
Cultural Heritage Archives Roundtable  
ESTABLISHED FEBRUARY 7, 2008

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# LACCHA

## **SAA Roundtable – Annual Report 2009-2010**

### **EXHIBIT C**

Summary of  
2011 SAA Conference Panel Proposal

**Session Title: Faces of Diversity: Diasporic Archives and Archivists in the New Millennium**

**Session Abstract:** In the new millennium, the archives profession has continued to evolve with the increasing diversification of its ranks. This is reflected in the changing face of the Society of American Archivist's membership and the increase in archival collections from a number of formerly unrepresented communities. Groups from different corners of the Americas (North, Central, South America and the Caribbean) as well as Asia and Africa, are leaving their historical mark in the United States through community centers and archives, and in the process changing the concept and practice of archiving itself. This panel will address the impact of minority archivists and the collections they curate on our profession. It will also explore a number of issues including: what constitutes a "diasporic" community and its archives; the role social networks play in connecting these communities; and what the profession contributes to these communities through the exchange of knowledge and best practices.

**Panel Format:** Discussion Panel

**Chair/Moderator:** Marisol Ramos, Curator of the Latin American and Caribbean Collections, Thomas J. Dodd Research Center, University of Connecticut

**Speaker #1:** Amalia S. Levi, Ph.D. Student, iSchool, University of Maryland

**Speaker #2:** Carolina A. Villarroel, Brown Foundation Director of Research, Recovering the U.S. Hispanic Literary Heritage Project, University of Houston

**Speaker #3:** Ann Massmann, Head of CSWR Public Services/Associate Professor, Center for Southwest Research, University of New Mexico

**Speaker #4:** Cecilia L. Salvatore, Associate Professor, Graduate School of Library & Information Science, Dominican University

**Proposer:** LACCHA (and Session Organizer Marisol Ramos, Curator of the Latin American and Caribbean Collections, Thomas J. Dodd Research Center, University of Connecticut)

**Endorsed by:** LACCHA