

**Annual SSA Meeting,  
San Antonio, TX**

**By Gerrienne Schaad, UTSA,  
Local Arrangements Committee Chair**

## Willkommen! Bienvenidos!

Welcome one and all to San Antonio, site of the 2004 Society of Southwest Archivists annual meeting. Please join us, May 27-29, 2004, at the historic La Mansion, on the RiverWalk. It is so close to the river, that if you walk too many steps out of the door, you will be swimming with the boat tours.

La Mansion (see pg. 6) is centrally located on the RiverWalk. You are steps away from the quiet, scenic end of the river, yet, a leisurely stroll in the other direction and you have great restaurants, coffee houses, and the short cut to the Alamo. If you can tear yourself away from the river and go to the street level you are near the Aztec and Majestic Theaters, La Villita and HemisFair Park. The latter is the home of the Tower of Americas and the Institute of Texan Cultures. One site for more things San Antonio is: [http://www.sanantoniocvb.com/visitors/things\\_attra.asp](http://www.sanantoniocvb.com/visitors/things_attra.asp)

We'll have guided tours to the missions or if you can't wait until Saturday the concierge will be able to set you up with one of the local tour excursions. But that might mean you miss a workshop or session. The theme of this years meeting is *Changing Times - Changing Formats*. This topic doesn't include only the electronic world. Digital images are not the only format new in archives – microfilm was pretty innovative in its time. Shelly Kelly and her Program Committee welcome your session proposals.

Thursday we will offer several workshops, and Thursday evening will be spent at the Witte Museum, where we will enjoy local history exhibits (check out the Fiesta gowns), food and entertainment. (see pg. 6). Friday will be a day filled with interesting and informative sessions with a local history speaker at lunch. Friday evening will be dinner on your own. There will be sign up lists for people who would like to join other SSA'ers for dinner at a specific restaurant on the river, or you may form your own group. We will be sure to give you lists of the best eateries and hints on where to find the best margarita and guacamole!

Saturday will include a breakfast business meeting with the ever entertaining Kim Allen Scott to lead us into temptation to buy slotto tickets for a good cause – the A. Otis Hebert, Jr. Continuing Education Scholarship. The Local Arrangements Committee and myself look forward to welcoming you to San Antonio.

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The *Southwestern Archivist* is free with membership in the Society of Southwest Archivists. Membership is only \$10 per year for individuals, with institutional subscriptions available for \$25. We invite you to join or extend your membership. A membership form is near the end of every issue.

Official address:

Treasurer  
Society of Southwest Archivists  
PO Box 569  
Liberty, TX  
77575-0569

*Thanks to Lee Miller for creating a beautiful, expanded website!*  
southwest  
archivists.org

## THE SOCIETY OF SOUTHWEST ARCHIVISTS

THE SOCIETY OF SOUTHWEST ARCHIVISTS is a professional organization established to stimulate and make available research in archival administration and records management; promote sound principles and standards for preserving and administering records; foster opportunities for the education and training of archivists, records managers, and custodians of private papers; strengthen relations with others in allied disciplines; and cooperate with organizations and institutions having mutual interests in the preservation and use of our recorded heritage.

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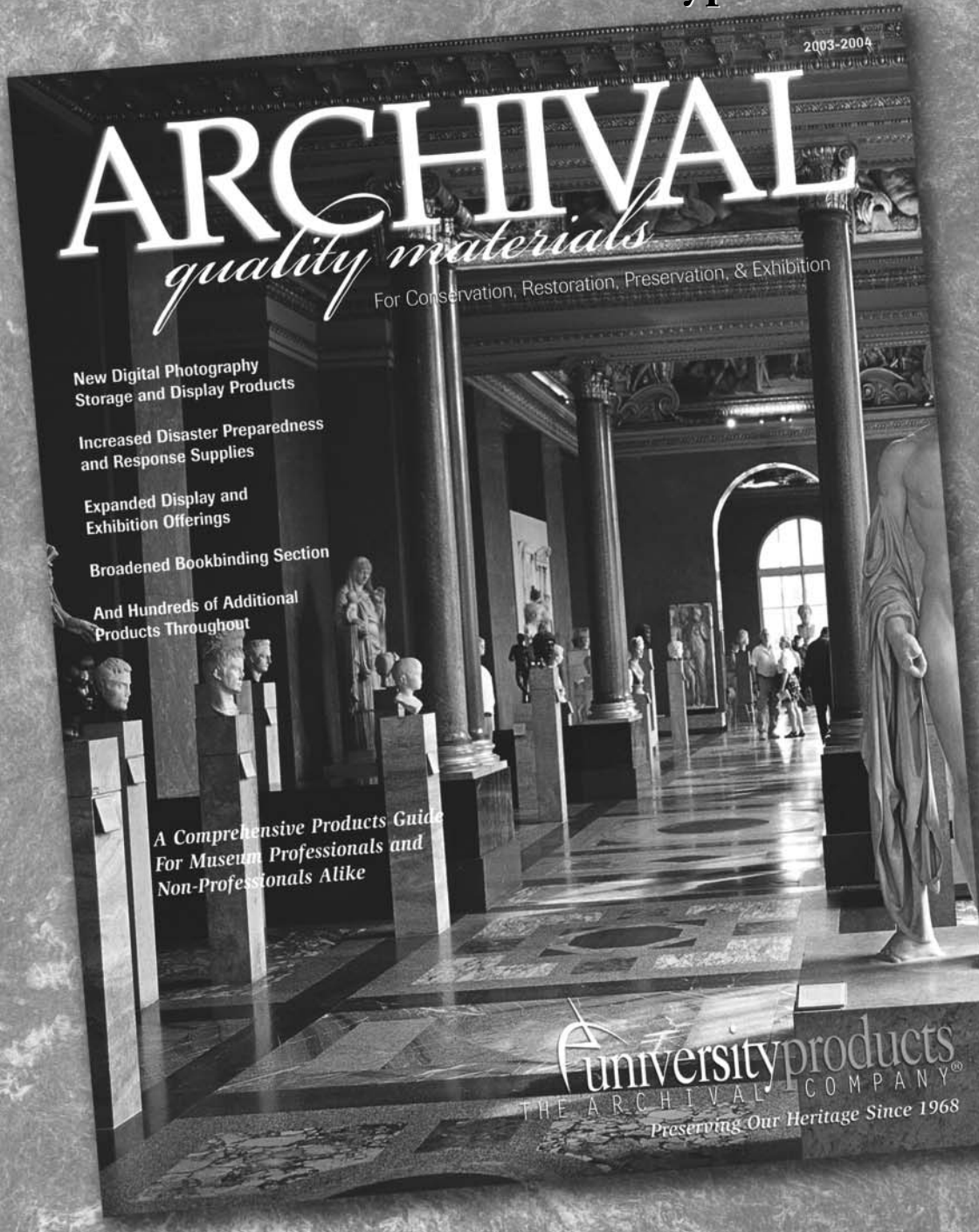
The SSA web page is maintained by Lee Miller at Tulane University.

### Committee Chairs

Annual Meeting Local Arrangements (2004)	Gerianne Schaad
Annual Meeting Program	Shelly Henley Kelly
Annual Meeting Site Selection	Gerianne Schaad
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Membership	Ann Hodges
Nominating	Tim Blevins
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We encourage your comments, suggestions, and news articles. News items about repositories in the SSA region and about the professional accomplishments of SSA members wherever they reside are especially sought. Institutional submissions by SSA members from repositories outside of the SSA region will be published if space is available.

We prefer you to send all submissions electronically in the bodies of e-mail notes or as e-mail attachments. Lengthy or highly-formatted submissions can also be sent on disk in any Windows word processing format. Submissions sent as hard copy should be double-spaced in Times New Roman font to facilitate scanning. Faxed submissions are difficult to scan and will not ordinarily be accepted. Submissions may be edited to conform to style conventions and space limitations.

Deadlines are the 10th of April, July, October, and January. We accept advertising; rates are available on request. Personnel advertisements from members are published gratis.

In order to obtain and track submissions from all the states in the SSA region, we encourage you to work with the Publications Committee member in your state.

Please send out-of-region institutional submissions to:

Mandy York  
 Editor, *Southwestern Archivist*  
 Rice University  
 Fondren Library, MS-44  
 P.O. Box 1892  
 Houston, TX 77251-1892  
 myork@rice.edu  
 713-348-2124 (phone)  
 713-348-6172 (fax)

Send Arkansas institutional submissions to:

Mandy York  
*use address above*  
 New Arkansas liaison to be announced next issue.

Send Arizona institutional submissions to:  
 Leslie Calmes  
 Center for Creative Photography  
 University of Arizona  
 P.O. Box 210103  
 Tucson, AZ 85721-0103  
 520-626-5224 (phone)  
 520-621-9444 (fax )  
 calmesl@ccp.arizona.edu

Send Louisiana institutional submissions to:  
 Carol Bartels  
 Historic New Orleans Collections  
 533 Royal St.  
 New Orleans, LA 70130  
 504-523-4662 (phone)  
 504-598-7108 (fax)  
 Carol@hnoc.org

Send New Mexico institutional submissions to:  
 Daphne Arnaiz-DeLeon  
 New Mexico State Records Center and Archives  
 1205 Camino Carlos Rey  
 Santa Fe, NM 87507  
 Phone: 505-476-7954 (phone)  
 Fax: 505-476-7909 (fax)  
 E-mail: darnez@rain.state.nm.us

Send Oklahoma institutional submissions to:  
 William D. Welge, CA  
 Director, Archives Division  
 Oklahoma Historical Society  
 2100 North Lincoln Blvd.  
 Oklahoma City, OK 73105  
 405-522-5206 (phone)  
 405-522-0644 (fax)  
 mrarchives@ok-history.mus.ok.os

Send Texas institutional submissions to:

South Texas:	North Texas:
Cecila Hunter	Ellen Niewyk
Texas A&M - Kingsville	SMU
MSC197	Hamon Arts Library
Kingsville, TX 78363	P.O. Box 750356
361-593-4154 (phone)	Dallas, TX 75275-0356
361-593-2240 (fax)	214-768-1859 (phone)
kacah00@tamuk.edu	214-768-1800 (fax)
	eniewyk@mail.smu.edu

Send ALL Leadership Log submissions from any state to:  
 Carol Roark  
 Dallas Public Library  
 1515 Young Street, Dallas TX 75201  
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## **THE HOLLINGER CORPORATION**

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## Conference Hotel: La Mansion del Rio

by Matt Dewaelsche

La Mansion del Rio opened as La Posada Motel and Hotel in early April 1968 for the HemisFair World's Fair. It was built on the former site of St. Mary's College. St. Mary's was founded in 1852 by Alsatian Brothers of the Society of Mary. It began as a two story boy's boarding school known as St. Mary's Institute and evolved into a fully accredited college in a four story building. The building was later used as a school of law. In 1967, when the law school relocated to the St. Mary's University campus on the northwest side of San Antonio, the site had been in use for over 115 years as San Antonio's oldest continuous educational institution. La Posada preserved the original buildings and incorporated the facade of St. Mary's College into its design.

When the hotel opened in 1968 it consisted of 180 guest rooms, a restaurant, a private club and two meeting rooms. During HemisFair, the 1968 World's Fair held in San Antonio, the hotel maintained a 92% occupancy rate. Shortly after the fair ended the name of the hotel was changed to La Mansion del Rio. A \$10 million addition opened in 1979 and almost doubled the number of rooms, added a formal restaurant, Las Canarias, and added a 4300 square-foot Ballroom. Another extensive multi-million dollar renovation completed in 1986 added the Presidential Suite.



The courtyard and surrounding buildings of St. Mary's College, now known as the hotel La Mansion del Rio, ca. 1890s. Note charming balconies overlooking the square.

Photo courtesy of the Witte Museum, San Antonio, Texas.

La Mansion del Rio was recognized as a historical site by the Texas Historical Commission in 1977 and was also awarded a San Antonio Conservation Society Plaque for its historical preservation and restoration efforts.

## South Texas Culture Featured at Thursday Reception, Witte Museum

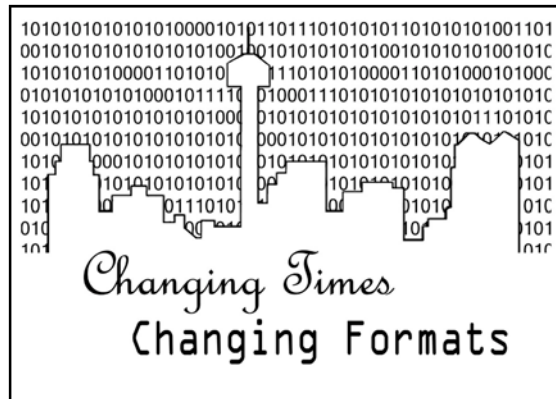
San Antonio's first public museum, the Witte Museum (<http://www.wittemuseum.org/main.html>) was founded in 1926. The museum was named in memory of the parents of local businessman and benefactor, Alfred G. Witte.

The Witte focuses on the history, art, anthropology and natural science of Texas with a concentration on South Texas. The museum campus contains 4 historical buildings including a log cabin complete with pioneer garden and the H-E-B Science Treehouse. Recently, the Witte added an additional 40,000 objects to the 130,000 objects in its permanent collection with the transfer of the Hertzberg Circus Collection from the city of San Antonio. The Hertzberg Circus Collection contains significant archival material on American circuses and Las Carpas, the Mexican American circuses that traveled along the border region of the United States and Mexico. The Witte also houses historical San Antonio and Texas documents and maps as well as the Texas Artists Files, a collection of primary and secondary source material on artists who have worked in San Antonio and Texas.

The Thursday evening event will be a celebration of the food and customs that make South Texas unique. Dinner will be a mixture of traditional Tex-Mex food with a sampling of Northern Mexico cuisine. Attendees will be invited to tour the exhibit, *Texas Originals*, to view a selection of important historical documents that tell the story of the settling of Texas and the battle for its independence from Mexico.

The staff of the Witte, and the Local Arrangements Committee look forward to seeing you in San Antonio!

## SSA ANNUAL MEETING — CALL FOR PAPERS



**Deadline**  
**Friday, December 5, 2003**

The program theme reflects the ever changing role of archives in preserving the present and the past for future use.

Possible topics for sessions may include:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| # Going digital, preserving information, electronic records              | # Changing formats of the past (surely the digital age is not the first major format change archivists have faced!) |
| # Computer forensics   | # Projects migrating paper indexes to electronic finding aids to web based guides                                   |
| # Preserving electronic records  | # Other topics are welcome. . .   |
| # The paperless office   |   |
| # Scanning projects at your institution – photos and documents to CD/DVD |   |

Full session proposals are encouraged, although individual papers will also be accepted.

Sessions last approximately 90 minutes and typically include three papers.

**Please send your proposal to any of the Program Committee members listed below.**

**Include:** Title, brief description, name of organizer, affiliation, address, email address, phone number, name and affiliation of each presenter, title and brief description of each paper.

### Shelly Henley Kelly

University of Houston – Clear Lake  
 281-283-3936  
[kellysh@cl.uh.edu](mailto:kellysh@cl.uh.edu)

### Michael McColgin

Arizona State Archives  
 602-542-4159  
[mimccol@lib.az.us](mailto:mimccol@lib.az.us)

### Debbie Carter

George Bush Presidential Library  
 979-260-9552 x268  
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### Cindy Smolovik

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[cindy.smolovik@nara.gov](mailto:cindy.smolovik@nara.gov)

### Gerrianne Schaad

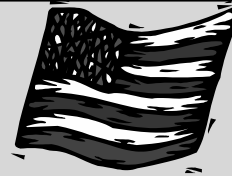
University of Texas San Antonio  
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### Lesley Brunet

UT – M.D. Anderson Cancer Center  
 713-792-8220  
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## The US Patriot Act : *Should SSA take a stand?*

By SSA Professional and Public Affairs Committee



The Uniting and Strengthening America By Providing Appropriate Tools Required To Intercept And Obstruct Terrorism (USA PATRIOT Act) Act of 2001 (Public Law 107-56). By now everyone has heard or read about it and has their opinion about it, but what impact is it having on our work in the archival world? One thing this law has done is give us reason to reconsider our day to day operating records. Institutions have begun to think about what information is retained about patrons, for what reason and for how long. Section 215 of the USA PATRIOT Act makes provision for law enforcement to be able to access patron usage information records with no one other than those persons necessary to produce the information having knowledge of the search warrant. Here at the University of New Mexico and other institutions in the state of New Mexico policies and procedures have been developed or revised in relation to this issue.

Various institutions have developed guidelines for responding to requests for patron information for their staff to, as one person stated, "take some of the anxiety out of the process." Since the Center for Southwest Research is part of the General Library at the University of New Mexico it is required to follow University and State policy. After a Library staff meeting with the University counsel to discuss the issue, a procedural document was written and approved by the University counsel, then made available to General Library staff. The New Mexico State Library Division Department of Cultural Affairs has also written its policy relating to how the State Library will respond to law enforcement requests for patron information under the USA PATRIOT Act. In addition to responding to law enforcement requests, another aspect of dealing with this law is how institutions educate their users and communities about the issue. One way is to publicize information about the possible surveillance of libraries and library users by law enforcement agencies. Resolutions passed by various cities in New Mexico such as Albuquerque require the cities' library system to post a notice that notifies all library users about the provision of the USA PATRIOT Act that allows their personal library records to be obtained by the federal government without their knowledge.

The need for written guidelines for retention of records like circulation, correspondence or e-mail reference questions, photocopy requests, and patron sign in sheets is under discussion. An article in the August 25, 2003 issue of Hitchhiker, the New Mexico State Library newsletter, <http://www.stlib.state.nm.us/hiker2/h2003/hh1512.html> describes records and legal responsibilities. The article states that "Libraries that have written schedules and follow the schedules faithfully will have written documentation describing how their records are managed should law enforcement ever approach them in an investigation." A record retention schedule for this type of material may already exist at your institution. If not, now would be the time to create one. When writing a retention schedule reconsider why this information is needed and always keep in mind institutional and state laws regarding records. What information is accumulated while interacting with patrons, how will it be used and when is it no longer needed? The information could be used to show which collections are used, how many patrons come to your institutions, where they come from, and who used what in case items are discovered missing later. Once statistical data is recorded, a disposal schedule for the documents can be developed. Some documents could be disposed of sooner than others. Information does not need to be kept just because it has been done that way for years. Think about why it was necessary to have this data. The USA PATRIOT Act gives us all reason to re-evaluate what patron records need to be retained and for how long.

*SSA's Professional and Public Affairs Committee is asking for your opinion on the  
USA PATRIOT Act of 2001 (Public Law 107-56).*

If you feel that SSA should, or should not, voice an official and unified position statement on this matter, we would like to hear about it. The Committee includes Cecilia Aros Hunter, chair, Twyla S. Reinig and Melanie I. Sturgeon. Our full contact information is listed in the August 2003 issue of this publication.



## SSA LEADERSHIP LOG

Compiled by Carol Roark

**Sammie Morris**, former Managing Archivist for the Dallas Museum of Art, has accepted a position as Archivist/Assistant Professor of Library Science at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. Sammie's initial responsibilities include the management of the George Palmer Putnam Collection of Amelia Earhart Papers and collaboration with the Purdue American Studies faculty in developing and delivering service-learning opportunities in archival studies. Her first day at Purdue was October 6, 2003.

**Dick Dickerson**, Archivist and History Librarian in the Special Collections & Archives Department, University of Houston Libraries, was recently appointed to a 3 year term on the Standards Committee of the Society of American Archivists. The Standards Committee is responsible for overseeing the process of developing, implementing, and reviewing standards pertinent to archival practice and to the archival profession and for providing for effective interaction with other standards-developing organizations whose work affects archival practice.

**Leon C. Miller**, Manuscripts Librarian, Tulane University, New Orleans, presented "A Comparison of Archival and Records Management Certification Programs" on September 17, 2003, at the meeting of the Greater New Orleans Association of Records Managers and Administrators.

**Dale Sauter**, Assistant Archivist at Northwestern State University of Louisiana in Natchitoches attended LOUIS Users Conference in Baton Rouge on Sept. 11, 2003, to investigate the possibility of participation in the LOUIS digital library project.

**Mary Linn Wernet**, Head Archivist at Northwestern State University of Louisiana in Natchitoches published an article titled "A Call to Order: Women's Organizational Records of the Cammie G. Henry Research Center, Northwestern State University of Louisiana" published in Spring-Summer 2003 volume of the *Journal of North Louisiana History*.

**Madeline Meziere**, Library Specialist at Northwestern State University of Louisiana in Natchitoches, completed entry of two Natchitoches Parish ledgers of educable children from 1899 and 1903 into a searchable database. These records are particularly important considering the lack of 1890 federal census records. Use of this database by patrons promotes the preservation of the original ledgers housed in the Center, and can be accessed at the Center's website: [http://www.nsula.edu/watson\\_library/wards/default.htm](http://www.nsula.edu/watson_library/wards/default.htm)

**Carol Roark**, Manager of the Texas/Dallas History and Archives Division of the Dallas Public Library, is the author of *Fort Worth & Tarrant County: An Historical Guide*, published in October by TCU Press.

**Kinga Perzynska**, Head of Special Collections and University Archives at Rice University, held two presentations describing the Watkin Digital Archives project underway at Rice. The first seminar took place in Warsaw and Cracow, Poland in Sept., 2003. It was hosted by ICA's Section of University and Research Institution Archives and was titled, "Archives and Changing Societies: Active Strategies for Meeting Public, Institutional, and Archival Needs." She also was invited to speak at a seminar organized by the Archives Department of the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, concentrating specifically on the digital projects conducted in Poznan and other parts of Poland.

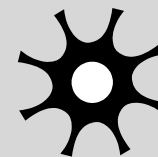


**Send us news of your professional accomplishments!**

**Send submissions to Carol Roark at the address listed on page four.**



## Welcome, New Members!!



Ann Hodges, Membership Chair

**Mrs. Mary Ann Hager**  
Lunar & Planetary Institute  
Houston, TX

**Mr. Lynn Abbott**  
Hogan Jazz Archive  
Tulane University  
New Orleans, LA

**Siva M. Blake**  
New Orleans, LA

**Robert Bost**  
Edmond, OK

**Wilfred Canning**  
Houston, TX

**Ann Case**  
Tulane University  
Metairie, LA

**Carolyn Collings, CA**  
Columbia, MO

**Patricia H. Furr**  
John T. Christian Library  
New Orleans Baptist  
Seminary  
New Orleans, LA

**Douglas M. Haller, CA**  
New Orleans, LA

**Madelyn Hannan**  
New Orleans, LA

**Sister Germaine Laveon**  
Avila Community  
New Orleans, LA

**Rachel Lyons**  
New Orleans, LA  
Archive@nojhf.org

**Howard Margot**  
New Orleans, LA

**Miriam Meislk**  
Archives Service Center  
University of Pittsburgh  
Pittsburgh, PA

**Ray Nussbaum**  
New Orleans, LA

**Gerald F. Patout, Jr.**  
Historic New Orleans  
Collection  
New Orleans, LA

**Sister Olivia Wassmer, OSC**  
New Orleans, LA

**Darla Rushing**  
Monroe Library  
Loyola University  
New Orleans, LA 70118

**Ms. Fredonia Paschall**  
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Lubbock, TX

**Christy Ryan**  
University of Tulsa  
Tulsa, OK

**Ethal C. Simpson**  
Fayetteville, AR

Cecilia G. Venable  
Portland, TX  
Ms. Stella Moten  
Alcon Laboratories, Inc.  
Fort Worth, TX

**Clifton Theriot**  
Raceland, LA

**Ms. Holly L. Thomas**  
Arlington, TX

**Ms. Olivia Solis**  
Bryan, TX

**Ms. Olivia Solis**  
Bryan, TX

**Ms. Patricia Nugent**  
Austin, TX

**Mr. Christian Kelleher**  
Benson Latin American  
Collection  
U. of Texas at Austin

**Dr. Thomas L. Charlton**  
Baylor University  
Waco, TX

**Ms. Janet A. Stripling**  
Dallas, TX

***If you aren't already a member of  
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***Membership form pg. 27, or on-line  
at southwestarchivists.org***



**In the Spotlight:**  
**Southwest Louisiana Genealogical  
 and Historical Library**  
 Lake Charles, Louisiana

by Linda K. Gill, Library Assistant

Located in the southwest corner of Louisiana is the unique branch of the Calcasieu Parish Library System — the Southwest Louisiana Genealogical and Historical Library. The library is located in the Carnegie Memorial Library building at 411 Pujoe Street in the downtown historic district of Lake Charles, Louisiana. Four staff members are available to assist both amateur and professional researchers.

The library began as a shelf in the Lake Charles Public Library in the 1960s, advanced to a book cart, and moved to a section of the Calcasieu Parish Central Library in the 1980s. After a parish-wide tax election in 1990 for a Capital Improvement Program to rebuild or remodel all parish libraries, the department returned to the Carnegie Memorial Library, (formerly the Lake Charles Public Library), and continued to expand its holdings and to increase its patronage.

The main room is arranged in a manner in which patrons are encouraged to browse and research independently. Books are arranged in Dewey Decimal order, except for the Louisiana and Family History books that are separated in special sections. Assorted information about various families is located in a vertical file cabinet in the Family History Section. Complete sets of Southwest Louisiana Church Records, Diocese of Baton Rouge Catholic Church Records, South Louisiana Church Records (Lafourche and Terrebonne Parishes), and Archdiocese of New Orleans Sacramental Records provide many researchers with birth, baptism, marriage, and death records for their ancestors. A limited amount of Acadian and Canadian books are also available. Within the Louisiana section are parish and community histories, biographies, cemetery indexes, historical and genealogical society journals, and many other books. Resources are available for other states, especially those with strong migration patterns to southwest Louisiana. City and telephone directories and census indexes are shelved in a convenient location. A map case contains both recent and historic maps of the city, parish, and state; topographic land maps with township, range, and section markings; and various other maps. Vertical file cabinets contain information categorized as general, Louisiana, Calcasieu Parish, and Lake Charles. Four computers in the main room are limited to genealogical and historical research.

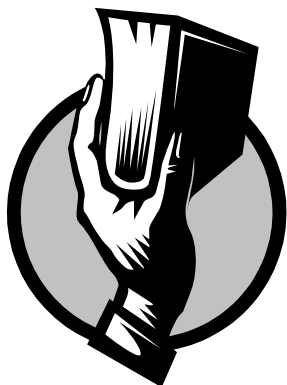
The slightly darkened microfilm room contains two microfilm reader/printers, four manual readers and two computers designated for use of CDs. All census records as well as Soundex or index books are available for Louisiana from the years 1810 – 1930. An extensive microfilm collection of census for other states and the *FamilySearch™ 1880 United States Census and National Index* CD provide assistance for patrons with ancestors from other states, as does the *HeritageQuest Online™* subscription on the computers in the main room. The microfilm collection contains a variety of records including a complete collection of Louisiana Confederate Pension Applications, Confederate Land Grant Applications, the Maude Reid Scrapbook collection and the Curtis Jacobs collection. The Calcasieu Parish marriage index from 1910 – 1971, marriage records from 1910 – 1924, and marriage licenses from 1910 – 1929 are also available.

Recent additions to the microfilm collection are the World War I Draft Cards for the five parishes of Imperial Calcasieu, 1930 Census of Merchant Seamen, Texas Death Index for 1903 – 1955, and Jefferson Davis Parish Marriage Index for 1913 – 1916 and Marriage Records 1913 – 1929. The early newspapers of the area are some of the most useful microfilm resources. All obituaries, pre-1910 births and marriages have been indexed and are available in card files. A limited number of topics are also indexed.

(Continued on page 12)

## Southwest Louisiana Genealogical and Historical Library

(Continued from page 11)



One of the most appreciated and utilized resources in the microfilm room is the Obituary Index card cabinet which contains 146 drawers of obituary citations from micro-filmed newspapers dating from 1864 through the present. Specialized CDs include *Southwest Louisiana Records* by Reverend Donald J. Hebert, and *FamilySearch™ Vital Records Index Western Europe*.

Treasures housed in this library include all records that could be obtained concerning the families of the five parish area that was once Imperial Calcasieu Parish — Calcasieu, Cameron, Allen, Beauregard, and Jeff Davis. Because many of the courthouse and church records were lost in the Great Fire of 1910 that destroyed a seven block area, it has been a challenge to glean other records that help trace a family's history. The succession index from 1840 – 1971 is available on microfilm. Some successions before 1910 were saved and are available on microfilm, as well as successions through 1928.

Ongoing programs include summer workshops in Introduction to Genealogy, Organizing and Preserving Your Records, and a Computer Workshop with another day for “hands-on” computer usage. Other special programs conducted have been Planning Family Reunions, a series of Land Records workshops, and a Reminiscent Writing workshop. An annual event is the Reminiscent Writing Contest in which people are encouraged to add interest to their family tree by writing about their favorite ancestor, an incident in their early life or reconstructing the history of an ancestor or their community.

An upcoming mini-exhibit will provide information about life and the position that southwest Louisiana was in at the time of the Louisiana Purchase. The area that became Lake Charles bordered the Neutral Zone, with the west side of the Calcasieu River being within that zone. Following the signing of the Adams-Onis Treaty in 1819, former settlers submitted claims to reclaim their former property.

The Southwest Louisiana Genealogical Society has been a great friend and benefactor to the library. The society was formed in 1973 following a genealogy workshop that attracted an overflow crowd. Through donations of books, microfilms, CDs, and recommendations and suggestions, the society has assisted in the growth of the library collections and helped form policies and achieve a library outstanding in the field of genealogical research. The society meets quarterly in the Carnegie Memorial Building's meeting room.

Other organizations, individuals, families, and community businesses have also been supportive of the library by donating books and other resources. Volunteers have provided assistance in transcribing records and entering data in computer databases.

The Southwest Louisiana Genealogical and Historical Library is known nationally as a friendly, helpful, knowledgeable and accessible library. Hours are 9:30 – 5:30 Monday through Saturday, and 1:30 – 5:30 on Sunday. A small kitchen area is available for “all-day” researchers to take a lunch break.

Whether patrons want to search for ancestors, lost family members, friends or classmates, research a past event, the history of a house, organization or a local community, the Southwest Louisiana Genealogical and Historical Library can provide the resources necessary or the staff can assist in locating them.

More information can be obtained about the library by accessing the website at [www.calcasieu.lib.la.us](http://www.calcasieu.lib.la.us) (click on the Genealogy Library hyperlink).

The email address is [gen@calcasieu.lib.la.us](mailto:gen@calcasieu.lib.la.us), the phone number is 337-437-3490.





## Building Partnerships for Disaster Preparedness



In the wake of recent disasters, many museums, libraries, and archives have been working to improve their disaster preparedness and response planning. Yet when disaster strikes, even the best prepared institutions cannot adequately protect their collections and buildings without knowledgeable help from colleagues and professional first-responders.

In order to foster these critical partnerships, a new initiative called Alliance For Response is convening a series of invitational one-day forums in four cities across the country, including Dallas, Texas. The Dallas forum will be held in November at the Dallas Museum of Art.

Under the sponsorship of the Heritage Emergency National Task Force and Heritage Preservation, these forums will bring together key leaders from cultural institutions and government agencies to build partnerships between the guardians of our heritage and emergency management experts.

Society of Southwest Archivist members Shelby Sanett, AMIGOS Library Services, Cindy Smolovik, National Archives and Records Administration, Christ La Plante, Texas State Library and Archives Commission, and Cecilia Hunter, South Texas Archives and Special Collections collaborated with John H. Smith, National Archives and Records Administration, Megan Bryant, Sixth Floor Museum, Steve Brown, North Richland Hills Library, Gabriel Truly, Dallas Museum of Art, Gregg Dawson, North Texas Council of Governments and others to bring together the Dallas forum.

It is the hope of this committee to report back to SSA a successful establishment of what will become the State of Texas Alliance for Response.

*Stay tuned for more information soon.*

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### ***The Nominating Committee would love to hear from you!***

If you, or someone you know, would like to be considered for nomination to the slate of SSA's election candidates please contact:

Tim Blevins, Nominating Committee Chair,  
by email ([tblevins@ppld.org](mailto:tblevins@ppld.org))  
or by phone (719-531-6333 x 2258).

The Committee considers the diversity of interests, geographical location, sex, age, race, and national origin in its selection of nominees.

Nominating Committee Members: *Tim Blevins, Robert Sherer, and Kris Toma*

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## Mesa, Arizona Local History Archives & Special Collections Receives Oral History Grant

The Mesa Local History Archives & Special Collections, City Library (Mesa, Arizona) has received a grant of \$2865 from the Arizona Humanities Council for the Washington Park Oral History Project. The Washington Park neighborhood has been a thriving African-American and Hispanic neighborhood since 1921. The award will be used to interview current and former residents of this historically significant multicultural community and will culminate in a lecture and exhibit showing how the residence of Washington Park contributed to the economic, political, and social development of Mesa.

## Louisiana Archives and Manuscripts Association Meeting, Dec. 5, 2003

The Louisiana Archives and Manuscripts Association (LAMA) will hold its annual meeting on December 5, 2003 at Hill Memorial Library, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge.

All archivists and other interested parties in the area are invited to attend -- and to join LAMA. The program for the annual meeting and a printable registration form are available on LAMA's website at:

<http://nutrias.org/lama/lama.htm>. (Current LAMA members will receive a registration packet by regular mail.)

## UFO Research Collection to Texas A&M University

The Cushing Library and Archives of Texas A&M University has acquired The Roy Craig Collection on the Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects. The collection contains some 10 linear feet of material, including field notes, interviews, documents, and artifacts collected during the course of an exhaustive study of the topic in the 1960s. Also included are drafts and manuscripts for the study and Dr. Craig's book.

Dr. Roy Craig was the chief field investigator for the study. The project team went into the study hoping to discover sound evidence to prove or disprove the idea of UFOs, but almost always found only eyewitness accounts, with few cases supported by any physical evidence.

Dr. Craig later wrote his own book about the project,

*UFOs: An Insider's View*, providing his perspective on the study and the report. Dr. Craig ended his book with a chapter reminding us of how little we really know about our world and our universe, leaving unlimited room in the collective mind of mankind for mystery, for awe, for reverence, for love, for wonder and for UFOs.

The collection is available for use in the Cushing Library, which also houses an extensive science fiction research collection, full of the fictional depictions of aliens, space travel, and, yes, UFOs.

## Ditches Across the Desert: Irrigation in the Lower Pecos Valley, by Steve Bogener.

Bogener is Assistant Archivist and Coordinator of Exhibits & Outreach for the Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library, part-time Assistant Visiting Professor of history, and editor of the *Southwest Chronicle*. His book will be published by Texas Tech University Press in late fall, 2003.

## Woodson Research Center, Rice University, Receives Grant to Digitize Oral Histories

The Rice Historical Society granted the Woodson Research Center \$12,000 this year for the digitization of oral histories in the Rice University Archives. Sixteen lengthy reel-to-reel audiotapes suffering from sticky-shed syndrome and fifty-four aging audio cassettes have been stabilized and reformatted on to CD-ROM. The materials reveal perspectives on the development of Rice University from the Masterson Presidency Controversy in 1969 to 1970s interviews of Rice community members for Fredericka Meiners' *A History of Rice University: The Rice Institute Years, 1907-1963* (sponsored by the Rice University Historical Commission) to student interviews about student life at Rice.

The Woodson Research Center plans to make selections from these recordings available on-line in streaming audio format, to be featured on a new web page dedicated to oral histories of the university. As Rice University anticipates its first centennial celebrations and publications in 2012, the Woodson will be ready to assist the Rice community in researching its fascinating history.

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## Arizona State University Wins Archival Advocacy Award for “ECURE” Conference

ASU is the first university to receive the **J. Franklin Jameson Award for Archival Advocacy**, a distinction that has previously been reserved to distinguished individuals such as William B. Hoyt of the Mellon Foundation and to corporations like Kraft, Newsday, and Hudson's Bay Company.

The award recognizes the work of ASU's Electronic College and University Records (ECURE) conference ([www.asu.edu/ecure](http://www.asu.edu/ecure)).

"ECURE attracts information professionals from many fields, not just archivists, because all these groups bring value to the discussion of electronic records selection and retention," says Robert Spindler, university archivist and co-chair of the conference. ECURE has also become a forum where research that is under way, such as Cornell's Project PRISM on Web site preservation, can be presented for feedback from the assembled group. Through ECURE, ASU has facilitated the development of truly interdisciplinary problem-solving teams at universities across the country, according to the citation for the award. It is the intersection of technology, policy and human factors that make records preservation and memory possible. "ECURE addresses all these dimensions of information management," says Spindler. "The technologies discussed at ECURE have wide applicability. The results will be shared with the corporate and government sectors, with the hope that ultimately the efficiency of all organizations will be improved."

The next ECURE conference will be held March 1-3 at Arizona State University.

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## Library of Menninger Clinic Available in Houston

The Houston Academy of Medicine-Texas Medical Center (HAM-TMC) Library is the proud recipient of the Menninger Foundation's Library of Psychiatry and Psychoanalysis. This fine gift includes their Clinical Library, the historical and rare book collections, and complete runs of the Menninger publications. Nearly 18,000 clinical monographs, 6,000 journal volumes, and more than 3,000 rare books and journals were transferred to Houston in June this year.

The Clinical Library is a wide-ranging collection pertaining to psychology, psychiatry, and psychoanalysis in adults and children. The publications by and commentaries about Sigmund Freud are so extensive that the Menninger staff devised an expanded classification scheme to shelve these titles. There are also a large number of titles devoted to community mental health, pastoral counseling, and social work.

The rare book collection includes a large number of early journals on psychoanalysis, hundreds of German psychiatric texts, and special reports from many American asylums. In addition to psychiatric materials, there are many fine texts related to the broader field of medicine. One of these volumes is a 1783 German edition of Andreas Vesalius's anatomy with reproductions of the illustrations from the original Vesalius.

The collection of Menninger publications is equally interesting. Starting in 1919, the papers of faculty and staff were bound every year. The Menninger employee publication TPR, Menninger Perspectives, The Menninger Quarterly, and the Bulletin of the Menninger Clinic all document the programs, staff, and research interests of the Menninger Clinic. There are also alumni directories, annual reports, and Directories of Training Programs from the Menninger Foundation.

At present, all the Menninger Library collections are located at the HAM-TMC Library's Historical Research Center. The newer materials in the Clinical Library (both books and journals) will be folded into the HAM-TMC Library's main collection. The older books and journals, Menninger publications, and rare books will remain at the Historical Research Center.

Further information about the Menninger publications and the rare book collection is available from Elizabeth White, [bethw@library.tmc.edu](mailto:bethw@library.tmc.edu) or 713/799-7135.

Further information about the Clinical Collection of books and journals is available from Dell Davis, [ddavis@library.tmc.edu](mailto:ddavis@library.tmc.edu) or 713/799-7109.

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## Heavily Researched Original 1555 Edition of Cabeza de Vaca's *La relación* Digitized by Southwestern Writers Collection, Texas State University



By Michele Miller, Texas State University

The Southwestern Writers Collection has just completed digitizing *La relación*, from its treasured 1555 edition of Alvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca's *La relación y comentarios*. Every page of this earliest written record of what is now Texas and the Southwest is available online with a linked English translation. The site, located at <http://www.library.txstate.edu/swwc/cdv>, also serves as a comprehensive web archive of Cabeza de Vaca research and resources.

*La relación* ("The Account") is Cabeza de Vaca's narrative of the ill-fated 1527 Narváez expedition, which left Cuba to search for riches in the New World only to fall apart in Florida. Remnants of the six-hundred-strong expeditionary force were shipwrecked off the Texas coast at present-day Galveston Island in 1528. Within four months, Cabeza de Vaca and three companions were the only survivors. For the next eight years, Cabeza de Vaca lived among the Native Americans, enduring slavery, serving as a trader, and eventually becoming recognized as a great healer and spiritual leader. Ultimately, this epic journey transformed the once-arrogant conquistador into a passionate defender of Indian human rights

After returning to Spain, Cabeza de Vaca wrote an account of his years in the Americas. First published in 1542, this extraordinary adventure story has captivated readers for centuries. *La relación* is also of great anthropological and historical importance. In Texas alone Cabeza de Vaca identified twenty-three Indian groups, describing in detail their clothes, languages, eating habits, rituals, homes, and migrations.

Cabeza de Vaca has become the object of intense academic and popular interest in recent years. Four new English translations of *La relación* have appeared since 1993, as have several new book-length studies. Since its purchase in 1988 by Bill and Sally Wittliff and an anonymous donor, the volume has been a cornerstone of the Southwestern Writers Collection and a catalyst for research. In 1995, Texas State's Center for the Study of the Southwest sponsored a Cabeza de Vaca symposium that drew prominent scholars from the U.S. and Mexico. In 2001, the BBC documentary "Conquistadors" produced an entire segment on Cabeza de Vaca. Host Michael Wood visited the Southwestern Writers Collection first-hand to review and film our 1555 volume.

In 1996 a Texas State research team led by Dr. Don Olson studied the edition very closely and discovered that a key word in the text had been mis-transcribed. Their subsequent research, published in the *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*—and now available in "Further Studies / Essays" on the website—offers the strongest evidence to date of Cabeza de Vaca's precise route.

Created with assistance from a "Texshare" grant from the Texas State Library and Archives Commission, the Cabeza de Vaca Online project expands the use of this fragile book in research and education, and aids in its preservation by reducing the need for physical handling.

The Cabeza de Vaca web archive features dozens of full-text academic articles as well as depictions of Cabeza de Vaca over the years, bibliographies, teaching guides, and scenes from the film "Cabeza de Vaca," produced in Mexico in 1991.

The Cabeza de Vaca Online project was led by Steve Davis, Assistant Curator of the Southwestern Writers Collection. The Assistant Project Director was Dr. Jill Hoffman, Special Collections Assistant. Teri Andrews was the Staff Artist and Designer. Consultants and other project staff include Connie Todd, Beverly Fondren, Michele Miller, Mark Busby, Mandy York, Michael Farris, Jeff Snider, James Buratti, Fazia Rizvi, and Nancy Reed.

Discover more about Cabeza de Vaca at the Southwestern Writers Collection online exhibit "No Traveller Remains Untouched" at <http://www.library.txstate.edu/swwc/notravellersite>.

## Louisiana State University Publishes Local History Through Eyes of Father and Son Photographers

By Laura Street Conerly, Noel Memorial Library, LSU



Bill Grabill in front of Grabill Studio truck, ca. 1930

Louisiana State University's Noel Memorial Library Archives is proud to present, *Photo by Grabill—A Legacy of Images*, a photographic celebration of the work of two of Shreveport's most important and gifted photographers, father and son, Burch and William Grabill. Their professional legacy of photographic negatives and prints, generously donated by the Grabill family to the Noel Library, represents one of the largest and most important visual archives of Shreveport and area history of the twentieth century.

After a stint during World War I as a government photographer at Camp Beauregard in Pineville, Louisiana, Burch Grabill and his family moved to Shreveport in 1919. He set up a commercial and portrait studio on Milam Street.

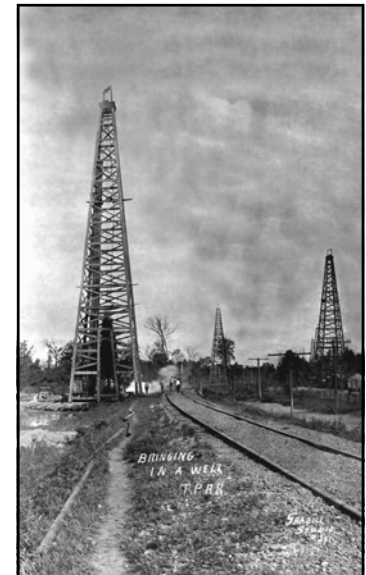
One of Grabill's first commercial endeavors was for the Shreveport Ad Club, and Shreveport Chamber of Commerce, taking photographs of public buildings, local businesses, and residential neighborhoods. These were used for promotional purposes in local advertisements and publications, including the Commercial Review, a forerunner of Shreveport Magazine.

Burch Grabill continued a thriving photographic career through the 1920s and 30s, covering the oil boom, a building boom both in downtown Shreveport and in newly annexed residential subdivisions [South Highland, Broadmoor, Dixie Gardens], the advent of commercial aviation, and the construction of Barksdale Field. In the 1930s he was assisted by his son, William Grabill, a student at Byrd High School and Centenary College.

Upon his father's death in 1936, William took over the studio and expanded its offerings to include aerial photography. From the 1940s to his death at the age of 80 in 1994, Bill Grabill documented life in Northwest Louisiana from the mundane to the extraordinary. Following his death, there were numerous public tributes acknowledging an awareness that this father and son had bequeathed to Shreveport and the Ark-La-Tex a priceless legacy of historic images.



Louisiana State Fair entrance, ca. 1920.



Burning gas well, Caddo Parish oil fields, ca. 1919.

This coffee table book brings together approximately 200 of the most historically relevant and visually appealing examples of the Grabills' work; books can be ordered now by calling the Archives, (318) 797-5378.

### **'The Work of Archivists is Eternal'**

By Hollace Weiner, Archivist, Beth-El Congregation, Fort Worth

Among the highlights of the Third Biennial Conference on Synagogue Archiving was a "Document Road Show," a veritable show-and-tell that turned into a bonding experience for those attending the Cincinnati meeting August 23–25.

Conference goers had been instructed to bring one treasure from their collections so that a historian and an archivist from the host institution, the Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives, might evaluate the artifact's historic and market value.

From Fort Worth, I brought the minutes of my synagogue's second board meeting, dated Oct. 5, 1902. The minutes were scribbled in pencil on the back of a courthouse circular announcing cattle sales and divorces. The judges deemed these minutes "rich" and "colorful," evoking the image of a harried secretary scrambling for a piece of scratch paper and grabbing whatever was available.

From the nation's capital, archivist Lois England brought a handwritten congressional resolution, signed in 1856 by President Franklin Pierce, granting the Washington Hebrew Congregation the same rights as Christian churches in the District of Columbia. Besides being worth a pretty penny on the open market, the charter bespoke an era when American Jews sought reassurances about their right to worship.

From Little Rock, archivist Jim Pfeifer brought typewritten minutes from the "Round Table," a social and intellectual discussion club of 16 Jewish men who met from 1914 to 1918. Collected in a pocket-sized, two-ring notebook, the minutes featured irreverent jibes at women's suffrage, social commentary on race relations, and discussions of intermarriage. Since none of the knights of this Little Rock Round Table were famous, this wartime notebook would not fetch much from an auction house. Historically, however, the minutes book was judged an invaluable primary source, worthy of a thesis or a journal article.

Seemingly more pedestrian was a copy of a ledger page brought to our Document Road Show by Fran Hess, archivist from New York's Congregation Emanu-El. A stranger had written the archives to verify whether an ancestor had been a congregant at the time of the synagogue's founding. In a dusty, 1850s accounting book, Fran found a page with the ancestor's name, showing full

payment of his \$75 annual dues. Connecting a 21<sup>st</sup> century stranger with a relative from yesteryear felt electric. The incident demonstrated the value of ordinary records. Fran had selected this routine document in consultation with her congregation's founding archivist and museum curator, Reva Kirschberg.

Reva had died the day before, on the eve of the archives conference, suffering a stroke while attending a Mozart concert in New York. Fran elected to attend the seminar in memory of her friend and colleague, then return to New York for the funeral. She wanted to convey the vitality Reva Kirschberg attached to her work preserving documents from the past. Thanking Fran for her presence and her remarkable poise, the Marcus Center's chief archivist, Kevin Proffitt, observed that archivists provide a "conduit" from the present to the past: "The work of archivists is eternal."

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## Math Archives Grant Awarded to the Center for American History

The Archives of American Mathematics (AAM), a unit of The University of Texas at Austin's Center for American History, has been an important resource for mathematicians, historians, and sociologists for nearly thirty years. Thanks to the generous financial support recently provided by the Mathematical Association of America and the Legacy of R. L. Moore Project, this valuable collection will be made more accessible for teaching and research.

In February 2003, the Center for American History utilized grant funds to hire Kristy Sorensen, a full-time archivist, and Traci Drummond, a part-time assistant, to manage the growing collection. Together they have taken major steps to enhance the value of AAM collections to researchers, including the placement of over twenty collection inventories on the Internet, where they can be accessed by researchers worldwide.

Colleagues of R. L. Moore, a prominent mathematician and long-time professor at The University of Texas (1920-1969), established the Archives of American Mathematics in 1975 with the donation of his papers. This core collection attracted other donors, and led to the addition of the papers of many of Moore's students and colleagues, including R. L. Wilder, R. H. Bing, and G. B. Halsted. In 1978 the AAM became the official repository for the records of the Mathematical Association of America, expanding the collection to include the administrative records of this important professional organization.

Adding to the breadth of collections in the AAM are the records of the School Mathematics Study Group, creator of the influential "New Math" primary and secondary curriculum of the 1960s. Other prominent collections include the papers of Max Dehn, Emil Grosswald, and William T. Reid. Major strengths of the archives are in topology, mathematics education, analysis, number theory, logic, and the mathematical foundations of physics. The AAM currently consists of seventy collections measuring more than 950 linear feet.

Priorities for the upcoming year focus on the R. L. Moore Papers, including work to address preservation issues and enhance access for researchers. The archivist will also be creating a detailed inventory for the R. L. Moore Legacy Collection, a valuable collection of oral histories, reminiscences, class notes, photographs, and other material from former students, colleagues, and relatives of R. L. Moore. In addition to working with collections related to R. L. Moore, the archivist will create a more detailed inventory of the Mathematical Association of America Records and oversee the maintenance of all AAM collections.

The Center for American History is a special collections library, archive, and museum that facilitates research and sponsors programs on the history of the United States. The Center supports research and education by acquiring, preserving, and making available research collections and by sponsoring exhibitions, conferences, symposia, oral history projects, publications, and grant-funded initiatives.

Persons interested in conducting research or donating materials or who have general questions about the Archives of American Mathematics should contact Kristy Sorensen, Archivist, [k.sorensen@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:k.sorensen@mail.utexas.edu), (512) 495-4539.

Web page: <http://www.cah.utexas.edu/collectioncomponents/math.html>

## McNeese State University Archives Participating in National Veterans History Project

The McNeese State University Archives and Special Collections Department, in conjunction with the departments of Mass Communications and History, plus the Mayor's Armed Forces Commission, has partnered with the Library of Congress and its American Folklife Center in a project to honor our nation's war veterans and those who served in support of them.

The Veterans History Project's mission is to collect the memories, accounts, and documents of war veterans from World War I, World War II, and the Korean, Vietnam and Persian Gulf Wars, and to preserve these stories of experience and service for future generations.

The Veterans History Project in Lake Charles, Louisiana was organized by John Colligan of the Mayor's Armed Forces Commission. The McNeese Mass Communications Department offered the use of their facilities to video and record the interviews with veterans. Several professors from the History Department volunteer to conduct the interviews. The Archives Department is responsible for having the interviews transcribed. When completed, all interviews and transcriptions will be sent to the Library of Congress American Folklife Center.



**Collaborating**

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## University of Texas at Arlington Photograph Collection Benefits from NEH Grant

Special Collections at The University of Texas at Arlington Libraries announces the successful completion of a second consecutive National Endowment for the Humanities Preservation Assistance Grant. The \$4,998 provided by the grant enabled the purchase of supplies for the rehousing of 16,883 negatives from the W. D. Smith Commercial Photography, Inc., Collection. The collection is comprised of negatives created by Smith in the conduct of his Fort Worth, Texas, photography business and includes images of citizens of, and businesses, buildings, street scenes, and events in, Fort Worth and the surrounding area. This year's grant funding was applied to the images created in the 1950s. Last year's grant focused on the 1940s, the initial decade represented in the collection.

Thanks to the NEH funding and to the hard work of several of Special Collections' student workers, the negatives shot by Smith in the 1950s have been sleeved, placed into fresh envelopes, and reboxed. Information from the photographer's original envelopes was entered into a database and used to print the new envelopes. The database has greatly improved access to the negatives, which formerly could be accessed only through Smith's client card file and a notebook displaying the earliest images (copies made by Smith of the work of earlier photographers). The database now contains entries for all of the 1940s and 1950s negatives, a total of 26,399 items. Future plans include the provision of web access to the database and the expansion of the database with information about the 1960s negatives. An application for funding to begin rehousing the 1960s negatives is pending with the NEH.

Ann Hodges directed the project; SPCO staff members Colin Toenjes and Brenda McClurkin also contributed to its success as did student workers Onya Comradd, Latanya Williams, Dennis Copeland, and Pallavi Boppana, and temporary employee Richard Bruegger. For information about or assistance with the collection, please contact Brenda McClurkin at [mcclurkin@uta.edu](mailto:mcclurkin@uta.edu) or at 817/272-3393.



**SSA wants to know!**

## Louisiana State Archives Announces New Indices and Inventories

Thanks to the efforts of the New Orleans Indices Volunteers, we have recently uploaded the complete 1804 to 1907, 1909, 1911 and 1913 New Orleans Death Indices and the complete 1831-1905 New Orleans Marriages by Groom for access at the Archives Research Library or through the world wide web at [www.rootsweb.com/usgenweb/la/orleans.htm](http://www.rootsweb.com/usgenweb/la/orleans.htm).

The 1952 Statewide and Orleans Parish Death records, the 1902 Orleans Parish Birth records and the 1952 Orleans Parish Marriage records are now available in the Research Library. The State Archives is approximately one-third complete with the inventorying of the last component of its "Rebel Archives" collection. These records consist of 16 boxes of state and military records from the period 1860-1865. Completion of the project is slated for early 2004.

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## Religious Pioneers Book to Be Published

The Religious Community Archivists of Greater New Orleans anticipate the forthcoming publication of their book, *Religious Pioneers: Building the Faith in the Archdiocese of New Orleans*, edited by Dorothy Dawes, archivist for St. Mary's Dominican Sisters, and Charles Nolan, archivist for the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities and Greater New Orleans Archivists are among those who have contributed to the support of the book's publication.

The story of Louisiana religious communities as told through the special portraits of their founding and sustaining members is a triumph of history and literature! ... The history of Louisiana is recorded through the fascinating personalities and personal contributions of men and women associated with its religious communities. The reader can travel down the Mississippi or across the Atlantic with the Ursulines and the Jesuits to find the Capuchins already here, with the *Sacre Coeur* soon to follow. The progressive history of the alliances among these and the later arriving religious orders in meeting the challenges of war and pestilence, new waves of immigration, and new systems of political governance under French, Spanish, American, Confederate, and Reconstruction rule is comprehensively gathered in this outstanding publication.

*Excerpt from the Foreword by Corinne Claiborne Boggs, formerly a member of Congress from New Orleans and ambassador from the US to the Vatican.*

Visit [www.religiouspioneers.org](http://www.religiouspioneers.org) for a publication update.

## Holidays in a WWII POW Camp

Louisiana Tech University is home to a collection of materials relating to a Louisiana WWII POW camp known as Camp Ruston. It includes letters from former prisoners, interviews of prisoners and staff, and much more.



Dining hall, Camp Ruston, Louisiana, on Thanksgiving Day 1943. Louisiana Tech University.

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## Pearce Civil War Documents and Western Art Collection Opens, Navarro College, Corsicana, Texas

An extraordinary collection of U.S. Civil War documents and original Western Art opened to the public on October 11, 2003.

The interactive museum includes more than 7,000 authentic letters and artifacts from the Civil War as well as more than 100 original western art paintings and bronze statues. The 14,000 sq. foot museum is constructed as a wing addition to the Cook Center, which houses the largest planetarium in the state of Texas.

Bringing the history of the west and the tragedy and emotions of the Civil War conflict to life through art and original documents and artifacts has been an exciting challenge and opportunity for the Navarro College Foundation. Dallas-based Museum Arts, Inc. has aided the Foundation's Board of Directors in this task.

Charles S. Pearce, Jr. and his wife Peggy, longtime residents of the community, generously donated their private collection of Civil War letters, diaries, journals, photographs, and artifacts to Navarro College in 1966. The Peaces also donated their Western Art Collection featuring well-known contemporary artists who have been recognized by organizations such as the National Academy of Western Art, the Cowboy Artists of America, and the National Sculptors Society, to name a few.

## ExxonMobil Corporation Donates Archives and Processing Funds to Center for American History

ExxonMobil Corporation is donating its historical archives to the Center for American History at The University of Texas at Austin and will provide the university with a \$300,000 grant to catalog and preserve the collection.

When Exxon and Mobil merged in 1999, the companies brought with them a shared yet separate history that spans more than 120 years. ExxonMobil's archive collection includes historical artifacts and documents dating back to Exxon and Mobil's earliest predecessor companies from the 1870s through the creation and operation of Standard Oil Company, the corporate forefather of Exxon, Mobil and other major oil companies.

Through the careful collection and preservation of its historical archives, ExxonMobil has amassed a valuable historical collection that includes early and unpublished documents, correspondence signed by John D. Rockefeller, the founder of Standard Oil, and his partners, including Henry Flagler and H.C. Folger. Other noteworthy items include a letter from Wilbur Wright and original photographs of Charles Lindbergh's first solo flight across the Atlantic. The Wright Brothers and Lindbergh used Mobiloil in their airplanes. The archives contain one of the most comprehensive broadcast advertising collections on record, 1.5 million original photos and an equally extensive collection of posters, graphics and publications. Artifacts including historical signs and gas pumps are also part of the collection.

The history of ExxonMobil is more than just a corporate timeline, said Rex W. Tillerson, senior vice president of Exxon Mobil Corporation. Our historical archives contain a business, cultural and social history that covers more than a century. As these archives reflect the important role that energy has played in the history of our nation and world, we felt the collection needed to be appropriately preserved and managed by an organization that could share this history with interested scholars and researchers. The Center for American History at The University of Texas at Austin was a natural choice because of the center's impeccable reputation.

The University of Texas at Austin was selected as the sole recipient of ExxonMobil's historical archives because it is one of the country's leading research and history institutions, Tillerson said. In addition, ExxonMobil and The University of Texas at Austin have shared a long-term partnership in the pursuit of excellence in higher education

through various initiatives.

We are grateful to ExxonMobil for entrusting the university with this extremely significant collection, said Dr. Larry R. Faulkner, president of the university. This archive solidifies the reputation of the Center for American History as one of the nation's premier locations for research into U.S. history. ExxonMobil's generous decision to place its documentary heritage at the university and at the center insures that a significant body of historical information will be preserved and available for teaching and research on a wide variety of subjects.

Dr. Don Carleton, director of the center, said the center already houses the papers of a number of pioneers of the American oil industry, including Ross Sterling, one of the founders of Humble Oil, a predecessor to Exxon.

This enormous collection of original material bears witness to such profoundly important historical developments as the creation of the modern industrial corporation, the birth and growth of the energy industry, the pioneering of aviation and the automobile, and the development of the marketing and advertising industry, Carleton said.

For more information contact: James Kunetka, University of Texas Office of Resource Development, 512-475-9641.

Related Sites: Center for American History--  
<http://www.cah.utexas.edu>

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## Unique Louisiana Purchase Exhibit Travels from New Orleans to Paris

Marking the end of the bicentennial year, an exhibition about New Orleans based on the Historic New Orleans Collection's holdings will be held in Paris at the Mona Bismarck Foundation, an American organization dedicated to promoting international artistic and educational activities.

On view from December 17, 2003, through February 28, 2004, *La Louisiane, de la colonie française à l'état américain* is the only exhibition commemorating the Louisiana Purchase bicentennial in France. The four-part presentation will include sections on colonial history, the development of 19th-century New Orleans, performing arts and literature from approximately 1880 to 1950, and jazz. A catalogue, including essays by Collection staff members John Lawrence, Alfred Lemmon, John Magill, and Jason Wiese, will accompany the exhibition.





## Archives Week Celebrations October 2003



### Arizona Archives Week

by Michael McColgin, Conservation Officer

We at the Arizona State Archives started celebrating Arizona Archives Week in October of 1996. The first several years we produced extravaganzas with speakers, musicians, re-enactors, entertainers and exhibits by 25+ historical societies, museums and similar organizations. We finally stopped producing those in favor of smaller celebrations with a few speakers, singers and entertainers.

During Archives Week 2003, the big hit was Jana Bommersbach, a local author who gave a wonderful presentation on Winnie Ruth Judd. Winnie was sentenced to death for the murder of two female friends in 1931. To make it even worse, she allegedly cut them into large chunks so they'd fit in steamer trunks for the train trip to Los Angeles. Winnie was later committed to life in the state insane asylum, from which she escaped numerous times before she finally left for good. The whole episode included everything: sex, money, murder and more twists than a soap opera. People all over the United States listened as the trial progressed.

Jana spoke of researching her book on Winnie in the Arizona State Archives, finding Winnie after she'd disappeared for many years, and her eventual friendship with The Trunk Murderess. The scene of Jana's presentation added significantly to the impact: the original courtroom used for Winnie's trial. Everyone was quiet as Jana finished and held up the key given to her by Winnie shortly before she died. Winnie didn't have to escape. She walked out.

Since 1997 the Salt River Project, a quasi-government agency dedicated to providing water and electricity to the Phoenix area, has donated the talent and materials to produce our annual posters.

This year's theme, Law and Disorder, lent itself to some wonderful images provided by historical organizations around the state.

Take a look at [http://www.lib.az.us/archives/awk\\_2003.cfm](http://www.lib.az.us/archives/awk_2003.cfm) to see all the posters and Archives Week activities in other parts of the state.

### Houston, Texas

Archivists of the Houston Area (AHA!) celebrated Oct. 5-11 with a professional development program relating to archives websites, a month-long exhibit at the Houston Metropolitan Research Center downtown which featured information on many of the area archives, and a "Family Archives Preservation Fair," geared toward the public.



Houston community members visit with area archivists & learn about archival preservation. Photo: Dennis Moser.

### San Antonio, Texas

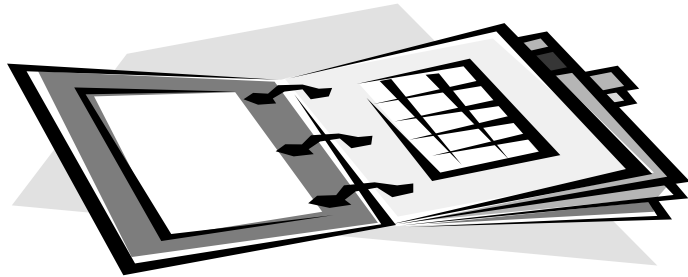
San Antonio mayor pro-tem Art A. Hall presented a proclamation noting the importance of archives and archivists in the preservation of the city's documentary heritage in a ceremony at City Hall October 9th. Members of San Antonio Regional Archivists (SARA) were on hand to accept the proclamation. As part of Archives Week, SARA members took part in panel presentations October 18th at the fall workshop for students and teachers participating in the 24th annual San Antonio Regional History Fair.



**2003 Archivist's Daybook**

<http://southwestarchivists.org/HTML/Daybook.htm>

The Archivist's Daybook on the Web, maintained by SSAer Lee Miller, is the most comprehensive list of archival events. Because of space limitations, this abridged version only reprints selected events in the U.S. for late-November through early February. For the complete listing, please visit the URL above.



**Nov 25** Feast Day of St. Catherine of Alexandria, considered by some to be the patron saint of archivists, potters, spinners, knife sharpeners, scholars, teachers, and others.

**December 8-10** Workshop "Show and Tell: Preservation Planning for Exhibitions," Philadelphia, PA. Sponsored by the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts (CCAHA) and intended for curators, librarians, archivists, collection managers, exhibition designers, preparators, conservators, and other staff who are involved in exhibition design and installation in cultural institutions.

**December 11** Safeguarding Our Patrons' Privacy: What Every Librarian Needs to Know about the USA Patriot Act and Related Anti-Terrorism; will be offered as a virtual event by ALA nationwide. For details see <http://www.sla.org/calendar/>.

**Jan 1** On this date in 1959, the Public Records Act of 1958 took effect. It transferred responsibility for public records and the Public Records Office (the national archives of England, Wales and the United Kingdom) to the Lord Chancellor and placed the day-to-day management of the PRO in the hands of a Keeper of Public Records. For the first time a statutory, general public right of access was given after 50 years (with arrangements for exceptions) to public records transferred to the PRO or to a place of deposit elsewhere appointed by the Lord Chancellor. On January 1, 1968, the Public Records Act of 1967 took effect which reduced the fifty-year closure rule to thirty years.

**Jan 1** Deadline to apply for Fulbright Awards for NATO advanced research fellowships and institutional grants. Visit <http://www.iie.org/cies/>.

**January 15** Deadline to apply for Institute for Museum and Library Services Learning Opportunity Grants for FY2003; Visit their website at [http://www.imls.gov/grants/museum/mus\\_gen.asp#vitals](http://www.imls.gov/grants/museum/mus_gen.asp#vitals) or call Dan Lukash at 202-606-4644.

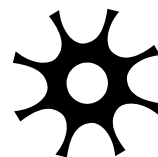
**Feb 28** SAA Fellow nominations must be postmarked by this date.

**Feb 28** SAA awards nominations due, except for Theodore Calvin Pease

**<OKDIGITAL> Works Towards Oklahoma Centennial, 2007**

By Gina Minks, University of Tulsa <OKDIGITAL> is a group of librarians, historians, and archivists who have joined together to form a working group on digitizing Oklahoma heritage materials. With the support of a grant from the Amigos Library Services to explore the possibility of digitizing materials relating to Oklahoma's heritage, the group is working toward an initial project that will coincide with the Oklahoma's centennial in 2007. The goal of <OKDIGITAL> is to bring together the people who have knowledge of digitization and the organizations that have the material to be digitized.

If you are interested in joining <OKDIGITAL> or would like more information about their project, please contact either Gina Minks, Special Collections Librarian at the University of Tulsa, at [gina-minks@utulsa.edu](mailto:gina-minks@utulsa.edu) or Cokie Anderson, Electronic Publishing Librarian at Oklahoma State University, at [cokie@okstate.edu](mailto:cokie@okstate.edu).



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# News Notes

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## Academy of Certified Archivists

### New Officers 2003-04, elected Los Angeles, CA

**Vice President/President-Elect:** Scott Cline, City Archivist of Seattle (Washington) Municipal Archives

**Treasurer:** Ellen Garrison, associate professor of history at Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro

**Secretary:** Shelley Sweeney, head of the University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections/Freedom of Information & Protection Act Coordinator

**Regent for Exam Administration:** Martin L. Levitt, librarian for the American Philosophical Society, professor of public history at Temple University

**Regent for Certification Maintenance:** Judith G. Cetina, manager of the Cuyoga County (OH) Archives

**Nominating Committee:** Sarah Canby Jackson, Harris County Archivist, Houston, Texas, President of the Archivists of the Houston Area

### Continuing officers:

Vice President James B. Byers became President;

Immediate Past President Jane E. Nokes became Regent for Nominations;

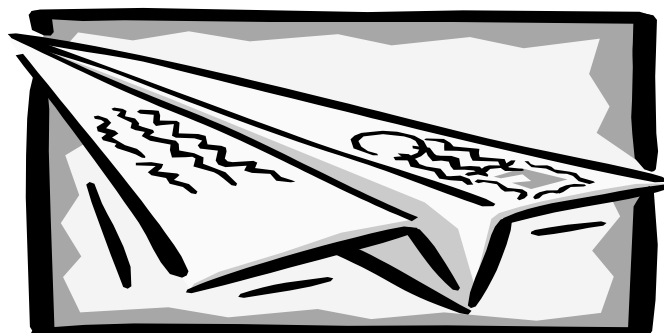
Beth Bensman returned as Regent for Outreach and

Anne P. Diffendal as Regent for Examination Development.

Brenda Gunn, Chair; Sarah Canby Jackson; and Jane Nokes, are the 2004 Nominating Committee. *Please let them know of prospective candidates or of your own interest in serving the organization in a leadership role.*

**YES! I want to be a part of one of the most dynamic professional archivists' organizations around. Membership year equals calendar year. New members should use this form. Renewing members will be invoiced at the end of each year and should renew using the invoice, though current members can use this form to let us know of address and telephone number changes.**

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