

# **Spring Meeting 2000: *Meeting Program***

"Archival Traditions in the New Millennium"

April 28-29, 2000

DoubleTree Hotel, Lowell, Mass.

**Meeting Registration and Coffee 8:00-9:00**

**Keynote Address: 9:00-10:00**

John Fleckner, Chief Archivist, National Archives of American History, Smithsonian Institution. Publicity regarding his SAA Presidential [address](#). Email: [fleckner@nmah.si.edu](mailto:fleckner@nmah.si.edu).

**Break: 10:00-10:30**

**Concurrent Sessions I: 10:30-11:45**

**Session 1: Student Forum**

**Description:** For this session, students have been invited to share their work and present their research ideas before our professional organization. This is an opportunity for NEA members to welcome them and renew our own understanding of what's happening in today's archival and history programs.

**Chair:** Leith Johnson, Wesleyan Cinema Archives

**Speakers:**

- TBA

**Session 2: Revisiting Reference: How May We Help You?**

**Description:** Traditionally the role of reference archivist as collection analyst and interpreter has been crucial to providing successful service to researchers. New tools such as email and WEB outreach are changing reference service dramatically. How do different types and sizes of repositories respond to change and what else is in the future? What values do archivists seek to incorporate into reference service? What does our public value? Three experienced archivists will share their thoughts about the present and future challenges of the reference scene.

**Chair:** Elizabeth Andrews, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

**Speakers:**

- Kathy Marquis, Bentley Historical Collections, University of Michigan
- Diane Kaplan, Yale University

- Martha Clark, Massachusetts State Archives

### **Session 3: Appraising Audiovisual Materials**

**Description:** Managing audio-visual materials requires technical knowledge, good management practice, common sense, and an understanding of the significant historical information they contain. This session, designed for the archivist who deals mostly with paper-based collections, will address some of the issues involved in the appraisal of audiovisual materials. David Weiss will talk about changing philosophies in the appraisal of moving images in recent years, and outline basic practices and procedures for the identification, inspection, and appraisal of film and video materials. Bridget Carr will talk about her experience at the Boston Symphony Orchestra as manager of a collection of more than 10,000 sound recordings in a variety of formats. She will discuss some of the tools she has developed to appraise and manage the collection, as well as preservation projects she has completed and others she has planned for the future.

**Chair:** Frances O'Donnell, Harvard Divinity School

#### **Speakers:**

- Bridget Carr, Boston Symphony Orchestra
- David Weiss, Northeast Historic Film

### **Lunch and business meeting: 11:45-1:30**

### **Concurrent Sessions II: 1:30-2:30**

#### **Session 4: Discussion Groups**

**Description:** Archivists often look to each other for information, and advice. In this session 8 concurrent discussion groups will provide archivists with opportunities to talk, to learn, and to network about specific issues. Each group will have a facilitator with expertise in the subject to lead the discussion, but the focus will be on the participants asking questions and exchanging information.

#### **Groups:**

- **Group 1:** Genealogy as a Development Tool  
Facilitator: Rebecca Putnam, Manager of Research and Donor Relations, Peabody-Essex Museum
- **Group 2:** When Archivists are Responsible for Automation  
Facilitators: Mary Fabiszewski, Nancy Heywood, Massachusetts Historical Society
- **Group 3:** MassLegacy: Promoting Archives and Historical Records in Massachusetts  
Facilitator: Susan Edwards, Salem State College
- **Group 4:** Recruiting and Managing Volunteers  
Facilitator: Marie McAndrew-Taylor, Woodstock Historical Society
- **Group 5:** Career Development for New Archivists  
Facilitator: Brenda Lawson, Massachusetts Historical Society

- **Group 6:** Rising Researcher Expectations in the Digital Age: Comments and Solutions  
Facilitator: Kathy Marquis, Bentley Historical Collections
- **Group 7:** Museum Archives: How an Archival Program Supports Museum Activities  
Facilitator: Sarah Demb, Peabody Museum, Harvard University
- **Group 8:** Copyright Issues and Photographs  
Facilitator: Kathy Flynn, Peabody-Essex Museum

### **Session 5: Managing Archives in a Changing Environment**

**Description:** In a changing organizational, financial, and technological environment, the traditional roles of archivists and functions of archives are being challenged. Two senior managers, drawing from varied experiences in government and university archives, look at management strategies for archivists in the year 2000.

**Chair:** Peter Drummey, Massachusetts Historical Society

**Speakers:**

- Megan Sniffin-Marinoff, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Megan Desnoyers, John F. Kennedy Library

### **Break: 2:30-2:45**

### **Concurrent Sessions III: 2:45-4:00**

#### **Session 6: Archival Education: The Role of Practical Learning**

**Description:** While most archivists associate practical learning with graduate archival programs, a rapidly changing environment requires archivists to add to their traditional store of knowledge and skills throughout their careers. The speakers will talk about practical learning at various stages of an archivist's professional life.

**Chair:** Connell Gallagher, University of Vermont

**Speakers:**

- Jeannette Allis Bastian, Simmons College
- Susan von Salis, Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe Institute

#### **Session 7: Communicate; Cooperate; Collaborate: Marketing Strategies for the 21st Century**

**Description:** Both to encourage use of their collections, and to win financial and institutional support for their programs, archivists find themselves actively and aggressively marketing their programs to their donors, to the public, to their governments, and to their bosses. In this session the participants will suggest ways to effectively market archival programs to a variety of audiences.

**Chair:** Christopher Beam, Bates College

**Speakers:**

- Kathryn Jacob, Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe Institute
- Robert Johnson-Lally, Archdiocese of Boston
- Cari Palmer, Independent Consultant

### **Session 8: Archival Description: Multiple Choices for Repositories**

**Description:** Repositories today have many choices for description. Decisions about what to use are based on multiple factors, including staffing levels, staff expertise, available technology, and budget. Four speakers will give brief presentations on various avenues they have used for description, including NUCMC services, Microsoft Access databases, Encoded Archival Description, and the Web. Following the presentations, the audience will break out into smaller groups for focused discussions on one of the four topics.

**Chair:** Donna Longo DiMichele, Rhode Island Office of Library and Information Services

**Speakers:**

- Louise Sandberg, Special Collections, Lawrence Public Library, will speak on NUCMC's free service to make manuscript records available in RLIN
- Robert E. Schnare, Naval War College Library, will discuss the wide range of issues that must be dealt with to make a manuscript collection available on the Web
- Timothy J. Spindler, James P. Adams Library, Rhode Island College, will talk about using MS Access to manage archives data and images
- Timothy G. Young, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University, will address the way EAD has transformed the use of finding aids

**Reception: 4:15-5:15**