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N E A

# NEWSLETTER

NEW ENGLAND ARCHIVISTS



C O V E R -- "Coolidge Farm - Men, with City in distance." This bucolic scene photographed in 1898 is now the site of the Buckingham, Browne, and Nichols School's lower campus in Cambridge, Massachusetts. *Lois Lilley Howe Photographic Collection. Brinkler Library, Cambridge Historical Society.* (See related article on page 4.)

I N S I D E -- Mark Vassar explores the origins of and challenges facing our local historical societies. In this context, Vassar reveals some little known collections belonging to the Cambridge Historical Society (*Archival Insight*, page 4). Also read the *Session Reports* from the Spring 2008 Meeting (page 12).

TAKING THE PAST INTO THE FUTURE



# New England Archivists

TAKING THE PAST INTO THE FUTURE

**WPI Archives and Special Collections  
Gordon Library  
100 Institute Road • Worcester, MA 01609  
<www.newenglandarchivists.org>**

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**Articles** and **News** of interest to archivists, historical society members, historians, and other NEA members should be sent to: Maryalice Perrin-Mohr at <mperrin-mohr@newenglandconservatory.edu> or to NEA Newsletter Editors, c/o WPI Archives and Special Collections, Gordon Library, 100 Institute Road, Worcester, MA 01609.

Contributions to the NEA Web site should be sent to: <webcoordinator@newenglandarchivists.org>.

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## Table of Contents

- From the Editors** ..... 3
- Archival Insight** ..... 4
  - Hidden from History No More – The Collections  
of the Cambridge Historical Society ..... 4
- Inside NEA** ..... 7
  - From the President..... 7
  - Executive Board Meeting Report..... 8
  - Officers’ Reports..... 8
  - Meetings ..... 8
  - Committee Reports ..... 8
  - New Members..... 10
- Reviews** ..... 11
- Spring 2008 Meeting Session Reports** ..... 12
- News and Notes** ..... 20
  - Maine ..... 20
  - Massachusetts ..... 20
  - Rhode Island ..... 23
  - Vermont ..... 24
- People** ..... 25
- Internet Tidbits** ..... 26
- Calendar** ..... 27

# From the Editors

- Maryalice Perrin-Mohr

Summer is upon us once again. We hope you are all enjoying some rest and relaxation with family and friends. Summer can also be a time to look back and take stock of the achievements and progress one has made during the past year and to chart a new course of goals for the upcoming year.

As archivists in today's society, we are facing some formidable challenges. At the top of that list is the increasing pressure for online access to our collections from within our own institutions and from outside researchers. This theme is reflected throughout this issue of the newsletter. In the "From the President" column, Kathryn Hammond Baker proclaims, "It's a great time to be an archivist." She urges us to confront today's challenges with excitement and vigor and gives some examples of unique and far-reaching ways in which repositories are providing access to their collections.

This theme is explored further in the *Internet Tidbits* column as well as in the *Session Reports* from the NEA Spring Meeting in Newport. In *Tidbits*, Susan Martin

describes the method which the Boston Public Library is using to make some of their collections available online. She also discusses two other digitization projects taking place at local repositories. All of the session reports also touch on issues pertaining to digitization. This topic is addressed from varying perspectives including preservation, arrangement and description, and reference and outreach.

In our feature article, *Hidden from History No More: The Collections of the Cambridge Historical Society (Archival Insight)*, Mark Vassar discusses an important institution in preserving the history of our towns and cities – the local historical society. He describes the difficulties that these organizations face in keeping pace in terms of providing access to their collections in this digital age. Vassar's specific focus is on the Cambridge Historical Society (CHS) and he highlights some of its collections that have been virtually hidden to the majority of the general public. Vassar then cites some steps that CHS is taking to improve accessibility to its collections.

On a lighter note – perfect for this summer issue – be sure to read David Horn's review of the book *The Lost Painting* by Jonathan Harr. It sounds like perfect summer reading for an archivist! ■

## ANNOUNCING THE NEW ENGLAND ARCHIVISTS FALL 2008 MEETING

### **For All Time (And in All Media?): Preserving Cultural Heritage in New England**

***November 14-15, 2008***

***Simmons College, Boston, MA***

The Fall 2008 New England Archivists Meeting will explore the preservation challenges, both old and new, faced by archivists at all institutions. Join colleagues in a day and a half meeting focusing on traditional preservation challenges, challenges specific to modern media, and those special challenges inherent in digital collections. Listen to speakers and be engaged in discussions during break-out sessions on specific topics. Come to learn what we can all do to ensure our collections will be available into the 22nd Century and beyond.

*For further information, please contact Program Co-Chairs  
Donia Conn <dconn@nedcc.org> or Anne Sauer <anne.sauer@tufts.edu>*

## ARCHIVAL INSIGHT

Hidden from History No More –  
The Collections of the Cambridge Historical Society

Mark Vassar, Resident Archivist, Cambridge Historical Society and Manuscript Cataloger, Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe Institute, Harvard University

With the advent of the nation's centennial in 1876, its citizens, particularly those of New England, were reminded of their "ancient" past. The centennial had awakened a dormant interest in the lives of their ancestors, prompting research into the truths and myths of their history. It is at this point that one witnesses the publication of the first of a plethora of early town histories and the emergence of the colonial revival movement. An interest in colonial history, architecture, and decorative arts had taken hold of the nation. This interest would give birth to the idea of the local historical society, which would take as its mission the preservation of local history through the collection of manuscripts and artifacts and the preservation of local historic structures.

In Massachusetts, two state-driven initiatives would prompt further awareness of the region's historic past. In 1885, under the direction of the state legislature, Carroll D. Wright published *A Report on the Custody and Condition of the Public Records*, in which he reported on the care and physical condition of court records, town and city records, proprietors' records, and local church records. A likely result of this report was the 1902 *Act to Provide for the Preservation of Vital Records*, an initiative that provided funds for the collection of early Massachusetts birth, marriage, and death records up to the year 1850 and their subsequent publication. But what of other documents that could serve to illuminate the past of towns and cities not subject to action by the state?

Local historical societies would begin to fill this void. Among many others, the Cambridge Historical Society, established in 1905, took as its mission the "collecting and preserving [of] books, manuscripts, and other memorials [related to Cambridge history], [and] of procuring the publication and distribution of the same."<sup>1</sup> For many years, CHS actively fulfilled its mission, maintaining donations of historic manuscripts and often gathering funds for the purchase of additional manuscripts that would serve to further illuminate the city's history. While CHS abided by its mission and continued to collect and preserve, as time passed and funding became scarcer, the collections at CHS, as at most other local historical societies, have become hidden from history.

While fully committed to collecting and preserving collections, CHS and other local historical societies were confronted with the issue of access. Faced with a lack of

both funding and a trained professional staff in a "new" age of MARC records and online finding aids, the collections of many local historical societies have simply disappeared from the view of the general public.

Among such collections at CHS are the Bull-Curtis Papers, documenting the life of Sara Thorpe Bull, wife of Norwegian violinist Ole Bull, the most interesting of which are those that document the Cambridge Conferences, held at the home of Sara Bull at 168 Brattle Street. The Conferences had been established by Lewis Janes for the purpose of providing the "opportunity for the comparative study of Ethics, Philosophy, Sociology, and Religion."<sup>2</sup> Appearing as a lecturer in the 1898-1899 season was local notable Thomas Wentworth Higginson, who spoke as president of the Free Religious Association and is remembered as colonel to the First South Carolina Volunteers (the first black regiment raised for federal service in the Civil War), as well as an author, and a mentor to Emily Dickinson. Appearing later the same season was Jane Addams, founder of Hull House in Chicago, Illinois and later recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize (1931), who spoke on "The Taint of Institutionalism." Interestingly, one other guest speaker during this season was the Honorable Carroll D. Wright, who spoke on "The Relation of Invention to Labor" and who had published the previously mentioned report on the condition of public records in Massachusetts. He had, by this time, become the United States Commissioner of Labor.

Correspondents of Sara Bull included Elizabeth Agassiz, first president of Radcliffe College; Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and James Russell Lowell,

Cambridge authors; Pyotr Alexeyevich Kropotkin and his wife Sophie, famous nineteenth-century Russian anarchists; and Celia Thaxter, nineteenth-century American poet.

Bull herself had a great interest in eastern religion, having made several trips to India, and Indian mystics, such as Swami Vivekananda and Swami Abhedananda, who regularly taught classes and gave lectures on Vedanta philosophy at her home. Bull eventually joined an Indian religious sect prior to her death in 1911.

Another collection at CHS that has long been hidden from view is the photographic collection of Lois Lilley Howe. Howe, the first woman to be elected a fellow of the American Institute of Architects, first garnered public recognition with an honorable mention for her design for the Women's Pavilion at the World's Columbian Exposition in 1892. While the bulk of her architectural work remained with her firm and was subsequently donated to MIT, this series of glass-plate negatives documents not only her work as an architect, but also her love of gardening (she served as the president of the Cambridge Plant Club from 1938-1947), and of photography (as a member of the Cambridge Photographic Club).

Roughly half of the collection is comprised of photographs taken by Lois Lilley Howe of either extant colonial architecture or her own colonial revival architectural work for a number of her patrons, and of local gardens. Much of the remainder of the collection documents her work as an amateur photographer, a pastime that was more commonly attributed to men. (Out of nearly 100 Cambridge photographers active between the years 1849 and 1900, only two were women). Original protective sleeves for the negatives often bear Howe's handwritten notations, providing technical details of equipment, exposure, and development. They provide evidence of several exhibitions of the work of members of the Cambridge Photographic Club, one of which included a carbon print of one of Howe's staged theatrical scenes entitled "a bit of Ancient B[oston]" and another entitled "Coolidge Farm - Men, with City in distance" which appeared in competition November 11, 1898.

Men's contributions in Cambridge are also documented in CHS collections, the largest of these collections being the George G. Wright Collection. Wright graduated from the Cambridge school system and first accepted a job as a

pharmacy clerk in Boston. In 1870, he returned to Cambridge and operated a grain business in the same building as his parents' bakery. In 1902 he became a property manager and insurance provider, a position he held until his death in 1928. During his life he served as an active member of numerous clubs, associations, and societies, favoring those that favored improvement of conditions for business (e.g., Harvard Square Business Men's Association, now Harvard Square Business Association), or sought to eliminate political cronyism from municipal and state politics (e.g., the Library Hall Association).

Perhaps the most interesting component of the George G. Wright Collection is the sheer amount of Cambridge-related ephemera dating from 1814 until 1928 that he had bound in 164 volumes, including nineteenth-century broadsides, published sermons, real estate development pamphlets, and published reports of thirty-two Cambridge social, political, philanthropic, and business organizations. Most of these organizations are now defunct with few surviving records.

A final example is the records of the New England Brick Company, maintained by long-time employee and president W. Gardner Long. The New England Brick Company (NEBCO) was the largest and longest-lived of several brick companies that operated in northwest Cambridge from the late nineteenth into the mid-twentieth century. Cycling through periods of profit to bankruptcy, NEBCO continued to operate the Cambridge plant until 1952, when it suddenly closed after a landslide killed a steam shovel operator. In addition to the business records maintained by Long are several series of photographs depicting several of the plant sites (including the site in

## Errata Notice

The caption for the April 2008 issue's cover photograph contained an error. The name of the Mary Norton Clapp Library was misspelled as "Claff." The editors apologize for this error and direct readers to the NEA Web site at: <[www.newenglandarchivists.org/newsletter/index.html](http://www.newenglandarchivists.org/newsletter/index.html)> for a corrected version.

Cambridge), buildings constructed from NEBCO bricks, and NEBCO products. But perhaps most unusual are the two examples of ancient bricks, one originating from Sumer (3000-3500 B.C.E.) and another from the Third Dynasty of Ur (2300-2180 B.C.E.) presented as gifts to Long by the Common Brick Manufacturers Association.

CHS has slowly begun to address the question of access. With the assistance of several professionally-trained volunteers, among them Susan Earle, now at the Schlesinger Library, Chris Lenney at the Lamont Library, and Jen Bonislowski at the Cambridge Public Library, as well as a number of talented interns from Simmons College, CHS has begun to make some progress. Thanks to the forward thinking of CHS Executive Director Karen Davis, and the Board of Directors, my former position as "Resident Fellow" has been restructured into that of "Resident Archivist" in order to take advantage of my training. Over the past five years CHS has instituted a collection policy, established processing standards, and has contributed finding aids regularly to NUCMC for inclusion in their online database. Of nearly one hundred collections, over thirty are cataloged in the NUCMC database, including those previously mentioned. While progress is not quite as rapid as one would like, it is at least measurable. At the very least, CHS now has one-third of its current collections visible to outside researchers through the use of NUCMC. Preliminary discussions with other institutions have raised



Workers stacking bricks inside of a drying shed at one of New England Brick Company's many brick yards. *Brinkler Library, Cambridge Historical Society.*

the possibility of depositing CHS collections elsewhere in order to provide greater access.

Yet, the problem of long-term continued access remains an issue in most historical societies that often do not have the time or the resources to provide adequate access to their collections. Without the assistance of trained, dedicated volunteers and interns, the myriad of collections in local historical societies will remain hidden from history.

The Cambridge Historical Society's Brinkler Library is located at 159 Brattle Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 01238. It is open to researchers by appointment only. For more information call (617) 547-4252. ■

1. *Proceedings, June 19, 1905-April 26, 1906.* (Cambridge, Massachusetts: Cambridge Historical Society, 1906) 6.

2. *Cambridge Conferences, November 6th, 1898 to May 7th, 1899* [annual schedule of events]. Bull-Curtis Papers. Cambridge Historical Society.



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# Inside NEA

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

- Kathryn Hammond Baker

This is a great time to be an archivist.

We face a tidal wave of digital objects—and growing user expectations. The challenges are immense. In our present situation, with the roar of the waves still in our ears, we can't imagine how our landscape will have changed when the water recedes. So how can we prepare?

In the digital world, decisions that influence archival records are increasingly made by non-archivists. To succeed in our mission, we must articulate our goals and objectives in their language. We must be active and present in our organizations, visible to records creators, and creative in responding to the demands of users. We need every ounce of passion, every iota of experience, intuition, and innovation we can muster.

And we must be doing something right—our presence is growing in popular culture...we're in Wikipedia, the Neopets Web site, and the *New York Times* bestseller list. Dungeons and Dragons has a class of characters called Archivists.

An archivist is a wielder of divine magic.... The most important characteristic for an archivist is a keen Intelligence.... A strong Constitution is also highly prized for dealing with the rigors of the archivist's missions... Elves tend to make the best archivists, due both to their longevity and to their natural talent for magic. (see: <[www.wizards.com/default.asp?x=dnd/ex/20051007a&page=3](http://www.wizards.com/default.asp?x=dnd/ex/20051007a&page=3)>)

In addition to this positive press, there's something else going on. We're putting archives "in the flow." Lorcan Dempsey, Vice President and Chief Strategist for OCLC, has a popular blog in which he coined the term "libraries in the flow," by which he means this: "the library needs to be in the user environment and not expect the user to find their way to the library environment" (see: <<http://orweblog.oclc.org/archives/000688.html>>).

What does this mean for archives? At the "Digitization Matters" program, an event co-sponsored by RLG programs, the Society of American Archivists, and the Newberry Library last August, speakers and audience members discussed mass digitization and access, not just through EAD finding aids, but via Facebook, Wikipedia, and Flickr. (see: [www.oclc.org/programs/publications/reports/2007-02.pdf](http://www.oclc.org/programs/publications/reports/2007-02.pdf)>)

In January of this year, Flickr and the Library of Congress inaugurated "The Commons," a Flickr page that provides access to more than 1,000 digitized photographs from the LC holdings. LC has also asked Flickr users to help describe the collection. Considering the enormous traffic to Flickr's Web site, this move seems wise. (see: <[www.loc.gov/rr/print/flickr\\_pilot\\_faq.html#why](http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/flickr_pilot_faq.html#why)>)

In the Fall/Winter 2007 issue of *The American Archivist*, Magia Ghetu Krause and Elizabeth Yakel profile "The Polar Bear Expedition Digital Collections," an ambitious project to explore the delivery of archival records using Web 2.0 technologies. Users can approach the digital collection from a number of different directions, including browsing collections, individual names, geographic locations, media types, and subjects. They can also bookmark, search, and annotate.

These are the kinds of projects that result when we ask NOT, "What do we want to do for users?" BUT, "What do users want?" In doing so, we can fulfill our highest purpose.

Kurt Vonnegut, in his last book, *A Man Without a Country*, wrote,

I want to congratulate librarians, not famous for their physical strength, their powerful political connections or great wealth, who, all over this country, have staunchly resisted anti-democratic bullies who have tried to remove certain books from their shelves, and destroyed records rather than have to reveal to thought police the names of persons who have checked out those titles.

So the America I loved still exists, if not in the White House, the Supreme Court, the Senate, the House of Representatives, or the media. The America I loved still exists at the front desks of our public libraries. (pp. 102-103)

Vonnegut refers to the role of librarians as the protectors of culture and intellectual freedom—a role that leads them to act, not in short-term self-interest, but for the long-term good of all.

Vonnegut tells us that he visited the library's front desk—he never got to the basement, where the special collections are. What he saw was the tip of the iceberg—archives form the larger part, under the waterline. We're dedicated to protecting the unique resources that make accountability, cultural memory, and social justice possible. Our nation and the world have never needed us more.

That's why I'm challenging you to prepare for the deluge.

- Explore new technologies
- Ask, don't tell, users what they need
- Remember Web 2.0 is your friend
- Everyday, replace one "we can't" with one "what if"
- Find a mentor—and a mentee—share your questions *and* your knowledge

It's OK to be excited—c'mon in—the water's fine. It's a great time to be an archivist. ■

## EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING REPORT

- Elizabeth Slomba



The business handled at the March 28, 2008 meeting of the Executive Board is summarized below. All **VOTING** is in bold. Complete minutes are available on the NEA Web site or from the secretary.

The meeting was called to order at 12:10 pm by Chris Burns. Minutes from the January 25, 2008 Board Meeting were presented. **All members voted to accept the January 25, 2008 Board Meeting minutes.**

## OFFICERS' REPORTS

### President

Chris mentioned recent activities regarding the revitalization of the Haas Award and the Membership Committee. He formally thanked Nora Murphy, Mark Savolis, and

Elizabeth Slomba for their service on the board.

### Immediate Past President/Nominating Committee

Nora Murphy announced that the Distinguished Service Award would be given to Ellen Cherpak and the Archival Advocacy Award to Patrick Leahy. She also announced the results of the 2008 elections. There was a lengthy discussion about the difficulty in recruiting candidates for president.

### Treasurer's Report

Nova Seals sent the tax information to the accountant and mentioned that NEA is doing well financially.

## MEETINGS

### Spring 2008 Program and Local Arrangements Committees

The Spring 2008 Meeting had approximately 240 people registered to attend with many anticipated walk-ins.

### Fall 2008 Program and Local Arrangements Committees

The program committee discussed topics for the conference, covering a variety of preservation topics from traditional preservation methods to modern media preservation to digital media preservation. **All members voted in favor to appoint Martha Mahard, Simmons College, to the Fall 2008 Program Committee.** There was additional discussion about the local arrangements, hotel blocks for the conference, rooms available for the conference, the preliminary budget, and mailing costs. Board attendees discussed at length the possibility of online registration and the difficulties in implementing this type of registration.

### Spring 2009 Meeting

The Spring 2009 Meeting will be on all aspects of the relationships between archivists and researchers. It will take place at the Schlesinger Library on March 27 and 28, 2009. The committee is soliciting ideas and proposals through a flyer in the Spring 2008 registration packet and a post on the *NEA Discuss* listserv.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Education Committee

The Education Committee is recruiting additional members due to vacancies on the committee. The Spring 2008 workshops have done very well.



### Membership Committee

All members voted in favor to appoint Maria Bernier, Regine Heberlein, and Paige Roberts to three year terms (March 2008 to March 2011) on the Membership Committee and Maria and Regine as co-chairs of the committee. There was a brief update concerning recent progress made on the online membership directory.

### Web Committee

All members voted to appoint Ashley Gaunt, Simmons GSLIS, to a three year term (March 2008 to March 2011) on the Web Committee.

Krista Ferrante presented a proposed redesign for the NEA Web site. She reviewed the new navigation for the site as well as new pages and reorganization of the Web site content. An area for NEA community was proposed as well as wiki pages for committees. There was a discussion about creating a usability focus group from the membership to evaluate the Web site. A partial launch is anticipated by the Fall 2008 Meeting.

### Membership Recruitment and Retention Taskforce

The taskforce interpreted the results of the recent survey of lapsed members and why they did not renew membership in NEA. The committee hopes to create focus groups from the respondents to discuss why they declined to renew. The taskforce plans to survey the membership to learn how the membership perceives the benefits offered by NEA. The survey will be announced on the listservs and in the newsletter. There was discussion about the taskforce's plans to recruit new members and the proposed membership survey. The survey is designed to assess the needs of the membership and what else NEA can be doing or offering to its members. **All members voted in favor to approve additional funds of \$412 for the Membership Recruitment and Retention Taskforce.**

### Hale Award

James DaMico was the 2008 recipient of the Hale Award and will be attending the Summer Educational Institute (SEI) for Visual Resources and Image Management. The committee recommends that applicants submit applications electronically and that this procedure be publicized on the Web site and in the newsletter.

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### Haas Award

The application deadline for the Haas Award has been extended to May 1. Judy Huenneke will chair the committee for this year and there was discussion about revived efforts to publicize this award.

### Meeting Publicity

The board discussed at length current publicity efforts for conferences and who is responsible for conference publicity. The Public Relations Coordinator is responsible for external publicity but it is not clear who is responsible for internal communications. The sense of the board was that the Program Committee chair should be submitting information about the program to the Web Coordinator. In addition, the board felt that publicity and internal communications should be part of the Program Committee job description. There was discussion concerning publicity for the Fall 2008 Meeting and having someone on the Fall 2008 Program Committee be solely responsible for publicity.

### Planning Review

Melissa Watterworth prepared a report concerning recent NEA planning initiatives. The board discussed the report, what the board has and has not accomplished regarding initiatives and the various action points in the document. The branding initiative has been mostly implemented with a branding presence on the Web site and in the newsletter. Progress has been made regarding conference planning and Education Committee offerings. The board continues to investigate ways to include students in NEA business and committees, to create special interest and affiliated groups, and to create a mentorship program. Attendees discussed at length the board's efforts to address diversity issues and what is meant by diversity (underserved communities/minorities or diverse archival institutions and communities). The Outreach Committee's efforts concerning raising awareness about archives and the archives profession were mentioned. It was suggested that NEA may need to bring other people into the discussion to address the fundamental issues. The board then went through the report on recent NEA planning initiatives point by point and assigned responsibility to the board or committees for uncompleted items.

### Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be in June 2008, time and place to be determined later. ■

Please visit us online at

[www.newenglandarchivists.org](http://www.newenglandarchivists.org)

for more information about becoming a member of NEA

## New Members

- Rodney Obien

### Alex Bemporad

Brattleboro Historical Society

### Danielle Boulay

### Shelley Byron

Salve Regina University

### Karen Cariani

WGBH Educational Foundation

### Sara Cheeseman

Mitre Corporation

### Patrick Collins

City of Boston Archives

### Mary Jane Cuneo

Fine Arts Library, Harvard University

### Sarah Danser

Maine Maritime Academy

### Christopher Day

Providence College

### Tania Deary

Weston Historical Society

### Allyson Donahue

MIT Lincoln Labs

### Judy Farar

UMass Dartmouth

### Kelly Francis

Simmons College

### Ashley Gaunt

Simmons College

### Sally Gilman

Weston Historical Society

### Jenny Gotwals

Schlesinger Library

### Tim Hawkins

Pulse of the Planet

### April Johnson

Massachusetts Historical Society

### Joseph Keefe

NARA

### Janaya Kizzie

URI GSLIS

### Yikun Lu

### Maggie McNeely

Brandeis University

### Andrea Medina-Smith

Jewish Women's Archives

### Danielle Rougeau

Middlebury College

### Aimee Saunders

Redwood Library

### Jeffrey Schaffner

Simmons College GSLIS

### Tiffany Schuremann

Laboratory Institute of Merchandising College

### Sarah Shoemaker

Brandeis University

### Mikki Simon

MIT

### Mark Sweberg

Providence Public Library

### Kimberely Teves

Sippican Historical & Preservation Society

### Karen Wall

Rhode Island State Archives

### Darla White

Countway Library/Harvard Medical School

## Reviews

Harr, Jonathan, *The Lost Painting*. New York: Random House, 2005. ISBN 0-375-50801-5

- David E. Horn, CA, CRM, John J. Burns Library, Boston College

This looks like a book review but it is really just a note to urge archivists and others to read an excellent book that uses and refers to archives in interesting ways. *The Lost Painting* by Jonathan Harr (he wrote *A Civil Action* – John Travolta did the movie) is the story of a search for a painting by Caravaggio, usually called in English *The Taking of Christ*. Whether or not you are familiar with this story from all the publicity it received a few years ago, you will find it worth your while to read this well-written account.

The protagonist is Francesca Cappelletti, one of two graduate students in art history who are assigned research on some of the paintings by Caravaggio. Their principal responsibility is to trace the provenance of two copies of Caravaggio's *St. John* as part of a major project to determine which is the original. Their work takes them to several archives and to a variety of records, and they find references to the same artist's *The Taking of Christ*. This painting had disappeared about 200 years ago (Caravaggio painted around 1600).

They search household records of the families who had owned the paintings, using inventories of the estates' holdings. They find records of a purchase by someone who wanted to take paintings out of Italy, so they search the long lists of export permits. Like good graduate students everywhere, they have read all the published material on their subject, so they know it is possible that the painting had been mistakenly ascribed to a different artist (Honthorst, a natural confusion), and this error, with an unfortunate consistency, was carried through many inventories and auction catalogs.

The archives of the early owners, the Mattei family, are located in a remote village in Italy, and the students travel there to examine the family papers in the cellar of a large villa. The papers are curated and made accessible (reluctantly) by a Marchesa who is doing something with the

archives. Harr describes her work: "She had three files opened in front of her and shifted papers with her white-gloved hands from one file into another." And later: "The Marchesa explained that she was changing the archive [sic] from its old chronological system. She was more interested in the people in her family than in a simple chronology. Consequently, she was organizing the documents so that those pertaining to a particular person ... would all be gathered in one place."

The Marchesa, of course, had never heard of archival provenance and was not familiar with indexing. Any archivist who does not have nightmares thinking of the unthinkable damage such re-sorting of archives has done and continues to do should keep reading.

Archivists will be interested in other aspects of the search for certainty. The two copies of *St. John* are compared and are analyzed with the most advanced technologies. The canvas is examined to see if it is the right type for one of Caravaggio's and even if it is cut in the right way, just as authenticators of documents examine vellum and paper.

Francesca's quest for *The Taking* takes her to Scotland, where she visits the building once occupied by the auction house that had handled the last known sale of the painting. The company now in the building has no records from the previous owner.

"Nothing at all?" said Francesca. "You are certain?"

She was told nothing had been kept, and on the sidewalk outside the building we can hear her lament as she says to her friend: "No records...You always tell me how precise and orderly this country [the United Kingdom] is. In Italy, at least, they keep every piece of paper, every document, going back five hundred years!"

This is a climax but not the end of Francesca's story. There is a second story, and a second protagonist. Nobody would think that Jonathan Harr would tell us this intriguing story of the search for *The Taking of Christ* if the painting were still, as the book title says, "lost."

The second half of the book answers many questions. Does Francesca have a personal life and how has it affected

# Spring 2008 Meeting Session Reports

## I. General

### **Archival Education in the Digital Age: New Skills for the Digital Era**

-Michael Rush

Jeannette Bastian of Simmons College recalled that five years ago most archival graduate programs offered few classes devoted to electronic records and digital repositories. If the topics were covered at all, they were part of other classes. Today many programs have classes dedicated to those topics. Bastian asked to what extent archival programs should teach digital skills.

Bastian reviewed the history of archival education, which first emerged from history programs. The need for more specific archival education became clear after NARA was established in the 1930s. Ideas of what training archivists need have evolved from a history degree with apprenticeship to an archival curriculum with both theory and practicum. Bastian then posed questions about how digital skills relate to the archival curriculum. Are digital competencies specific to archives or are they shared with other disciplines? Is it possible to teach an information discipline without teaching technology? Can you meaningfully discuss access without discussing the Web?

Peter Wosh of New York University saw deep connections between archival education and technology. He noted that discussion of how technology applies to archives pre-dates the archival profession. Wosh argued that what archivists do will remain the same, but the tools will continue to evolve. He cited several sets of guidelines for graduate programs in archival studies that break down the types of knowledge necessary for archivists. The Society of American Archivists' *Guidelines for a Graduate Program in Archival Studies* describes core knowledge (professional standards), contextual knowledge (social, legal, etc.), and interdisciplinary knowledge (e.g. information technology). Wosh saw core archival knowledge as critical to the implementation of new technology and asked if it is adequate to

provide students with an interdisciplinary mindset and guide them to investigate other fields?

Philip Eppard, from the State University of New York at Albany, observed that technology is always a moving target, and all attempts to specify archival technical skills are doomed to run aground. As a result, a solid grounding in archival theory is more important than ever. Theory provides a frame of reference in the fast moving context of technology. Digital libraries are libraries by name, but archives by nature; users expect them to verify authenticity, context, and provenance.

Eppard highlighted the ongoing importance of diplomacy – the process of determining authenticity – and emphasized how it informed the University of British Columbia's InterPARES project. This is part of how the line between libraries and archives is blurring. The growth of SAA and regional associations is due in part to a need for additional training. A new profession, digital curatorship, has emerged around managing and adding value to digital formats. The DigCCur (Digital Curation) program at the University of North Carolina provides that training. There is, however, still a broad need for core knowledge that can shift between archives, libraries, and social sciences.

### **Discussion Session: The Balancing Act**

-Jessica Steytler

The discussion was led by Jessica Steytler from the Congregational Library and Archives.. Everyone was encouraged to share their thoughts freely. Most participants were interested in practical discussion on what to do in regards to digital projects. The topics focused on planning and technical tips.

More than one person expressed concern over not wanting to make mistakes in planning a digital project, especially when determining standards. The consensus response, however, was that a project can't be delayed forever and it's better to make a few mistakes than not to begin at all. Participants agreed that, whenever possible, it's best to partner with other institutions which have similar collections. While there are several issues that go into putting together digital programs, some of the most important are setting protocol standards, deciding on open

source versus a vendor, documenting how work is done, and creating a scalable project that can be duplicated later for larger work. Some projects have an institutional mandate, but “scan on demand” is also viable. When interviewing support staff, consider hiring people with specific IT training as well as library/archive students.

In regards to technical tips, one of the first issues discussed was TIFF versus JPEG. TIFF files are less prone to data loss than JPEGs and are therefore preferred for master copies. External hard drives are a reasonable storage and backup option. Finally, some have discovered that EAD is harvested by search engines more quickly than HTML.

## The First-Time Digitizer

- *Janaya Kizzie*

Gregor Trinkaus-Randall, preservation specialist for the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, put digitization into the perspective of an archivist’s duty of responsible custody. Archivists should be committed to creating digital products worth maintaining over time. As a result, digitization projects require extensive planning and consideration. What will be digitized, why, who will do it, and how it will affect the collection(s) are all important initial considerations. Project goals, the perspectives of the user and collection creator, the technical and financial aspects of digitization, and evaluation should be taken into account when planning and selecting collections to be digitized. Trinkaus-Randall recommended choosing something of value and use to the public. He emphasized that thorough planning is essential to the digitizing process.

Susan D’Entremont, Regional Archivist for the Capital District Library Council (CDLC) in Albany, New York, talked about the CDLC’s pilot digitization project with eleven New York institutions of varying size and type. Each institution was given the software, training, and storage space to digitize some of its collections. The institutions provided the metadata. Providing guidance to the pilot program’s participants yielded insight into the needs of new digitizers. First time digitizers need training, research, and material appropriate for digitization. A mid-range scanner and a digital asset management system appropriate to the institution’s needs (this can be as simple as Flickr)

are additional necessities. Policies and guidelines for every step of the process are essential. Most importantly, the first-time digitizer needs flexibility and a sense of humor. The process of digitization always takes longer than one would think and requires money. Often, the amount of work required is underestimated by supervisors, so it is best to start small without making promises. One should also keep in mind that the digitizing of a collection increases its use. In addition, once one begins digitizing it is hard to stop. Lastly, D’Entremont pointed out that digitizing is fun!

Renée DesRoberts, archivist at McArthur Public Library in Biddeford, Maine, talked about digitization for small public libraries. McArthur Public Library has a photograph collection dating back to 1870. The scanning of the photo collection began in 2006 in concert with the Maine Historical Society’s *Maine Memory Network*. The library itself has no staff available, and scanning occurs only as the need arises. When planning a digitization project, small libraries must consider the size of the project. It is important to start small and keep it low in cost. Small libraries should also consider the naming conventions they will use for each entity. Staffing is another issue. Younger (high school or college) volunteers have technological skills, and may have community service requirements that need to be filled. A work log will help manage multiple workers, and having procedures written down will give workers something to which they can refer. Finally, DesRoberts recommended that small libraries shouldn’t try to reinvent the wheel. They should use the many resources available to them: advice from other institutions, collaboration, listservs, books, and guides.

## II. Preservation

### Preserving the Volatile: Archiving Digital Documents

- *Melissa Watterworth*

Christopher Day, in his presentation “Experiences Digitizing a Civil War Era Document Collection,” described the implementation of a digital project at Providence College. The purpose of the project was to digitally capture and deliver a handwritten diary from the Walsh Civil War Diary Collection, as well as a variety of manuscript materials from the United States Colored

Artillery 11<sup>th</sup> Regiment Collection. The project team tested workflows and resources, and identified best practices and technical specifications from which to plan and build future digital collections. Day briefly outlined the Dublin Core metadata and digitization standards employed in the project, and provided screenshots to illustrate the college's institutional repository, *Providence College Digital Commons*, which is used to deliver the digital objects. Day explained that using the institutional repository for delivery had its benefits and limitations. Benefits included rapid deployment, access, storage, and support. Lacking was the ability to customize the application to meet metadata needs and desired functionality for search and display; it therefore required significant technical modifications. Day highlighted workflow issues that were revealed throughout the project and the adjustments that were made in response by the project team. Examples included the following: specific workflows were adopted to expedite the digital file processing of particular material types; bitonal PDF's were created and delivered as the 'access copies' that were then linked to higher resolution color digital images to optimize access; and to more efficiently input and manage metadata, a database was developed in-house from which the Dublin Core records (accessed via the delivery application) were derived.

Eliot Wilczek, in "Digital Objects: Getting It Done," presented an overview of the depository structure in place at Tufts University to manage, store, and provide access to digital objects (including images and electronic records). Wilczek articulated a framework from which to conceptualize and develop a depository system, encompassing administration, ingest, management, access, and storage. Key components of a depository system include: trustworthiness; models that underpin organizational infrastructure; criteria and checklists (benchmarks) that guide practice; technical infrastructure; and security. Wilczek stressed the importance of educating managers and resource allocators about the fragility of electronic information and the impact of obsolescence on preservation of cultural memory.

In the second part of this presentation, Anne Sauer conveyed her experiences managing digital collections at

Tufts University. Digital collections yield enormous numbers of files, each requiring an appropriate workflow for management. The university has made significant progress implementing components of the depository system, Sauer explained, however no single tool or system does it all. She suggested that archivists and records managers establish goals, determine scope, and envision use before endeavoring to build a system. Sauer outlined a number of challenges she encountered including understanding technology and automation tools, understanding rights management and the level of risk that is acceptable to your institution, and balancing the competing goals of preservation and access.

### Managing Born-Digital Records in Manuscript Collections

-Peter Nelson

Are you wondering what to do with the increasing amounts of electronic information found in manuscript collections? Session chair Tom Hyry, from Yale's Beinecke Library, framed our discussion by observing that the days of printing out the contents of floppy discs, throwing them into Hollinger boxes, and hoping for better solutions are gone; collecting repositories have entered a new, more practical era in which strategies adapted from the major electronic records projects (e.g. InterPARES II) and digital preservation research are now viable. For literary collections in particular, he highly recommended Matthew Kirschenbaum's article, "Hamlet.doc? Literature in a Digital Age," in the August 17, 2007 issue of *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

The first presenter, Michael Forstrom, summarized the early management of digital resources at Yale's Beinecke Library and discussed practices and issues relating to collection development, appraisal, accessioning, preservation, metadata, arrangement, and description. Currently over seventy-five accessions at Beinecke contain digital media, varying greatly in volume, native operating system, and format; most are word processing files or e-mail. Recently Beinecke compiled the "Author's Guidelines for Digital Preservation" (based largely on the InterPARES *Creator Guidelines* publication). Forstrom also referred to PARADIGM (Personal Archives Accessible in Digital Media), a joint Oxford-Manchester project to "explore the issues involved in preserving digital private papers through gaining practical experience in accessioning and ingesting

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digital private papers into digital repositories.” All born-digital media are noted during accessioning and then immediately removed from the collection, to be ingested into a digital repository.

The second presenter, Melissa Watterworth, described efforts at UConn’s Dodd Research Center (DRC) to design a technical architecture for preserving electronic records; they used InterPARES II’s “Principles for Preservers” as a starting point. She also presented a case study involving a particularly challenging collection at DRC, the archive of the editor of a technically cutting-edge online poetry zine. Watterworth emphasized the importance of the appraisal process for acquiring electronic records that are identifiable, authentic, valuable, and at risk. Archivists and manuscript curators should tell their stories and demonstrate the cost of preservation vs. loss of information. During the ensuing discussion, Forstrom spoke of Beinecke’s commitment to preserving electronic data in its native form, but conceded that there are instances where an archivist’s decision to print out information is justified.

### **Getting Buy-In and Support from the Right People for an Electronic Records Management Program**

- *Maureen Jennings*

This panel discussion of electronic records management in special or corporate archives continued a theme begun at the previous NEA conference which focused on academic institutions. Aably addressing the topic were speakers Amy Gray from the Bose Corporation and Cristina Prochilo from the Harvard University Planning Office’s Property Information Resource Center (PIRC).

Gray began the session with an overview of the Bose Corporation’s organization, mission, and major commercial products, and how these impacted their ERM (electronic records management) strategy. As a privately owned company with offices around the world, intellectual property and research activities are fiercely protected, and electronic records management policies must meet the dual challenges of strict security and a diverse global creator base. The goal at Bose was to create a policy that not only looked good on paper, but which also fostered employees’ participation. A well-organized compliance plan with

detailed milestones and timelines helped drive the process forward. Another key step was to conduct on-site interviews with staff in the various countries, and to localize policies and procedures—for example, the phrase “squirrel away” did not translate well in Mexico since the audience was not familiar with the animal. The company also provided both online training and dedicated tele-training rooms to further encourage active participation. A strong outreach program to publicize the need for records management and get the details right; convenient electronic resources independent of geographic constraints; and not least of all, concrete support from the parent organization, including financial commitment, training opportunities, and staff time are all ways in which the Bose Corporation meets the challenge of getting buy-in and support from the right people for an ERM program.

Prochilo then spoke on the unique challenges of ensuring participation and quality control in a records management program not only for born-digital materials, but for records which come from multiple creators in a very decentralized environment. The PIRC is a closed corporate archive, responsible for collecting record sets of materials from Harvard’s prolific construction and facilities management projects, some spanning years with multiple independent teams creating materials. Prochilo’s particular challenge is to foster awareness in all these varied stakeholders of Harvard’s standards and requirements to ensure compliance, which she does through continuous communication.

One approach is to build relationships with individuals, who are often both creators and users of the collection materials. Prochilo takes the opportunity to explain to those consulting the collection for research purposes early in the construction process the “why” behind the eventual final transmittal policies. Targeted communication is another approach she takes towards ensuring buy-in and support. Examples include: regular e-mails in response to certain project milestones; customized hand-outs which address project managers’ specific responsibilities and offer suggestions for avoiding common pitfalls; and the development of Web-based resources, which encourage information sharing and participation in best practices.

Getting buy-in for *any* records management program has its challenges. These two thoughtful presentations offered proven strategies, ranging from the basic to the innovative, which we may apply in our own institutions.

### III. Arrangement and Description

#### Preserving the Context of Digital Materials: Metadata and Levels of Description

-Cat Lea Holbrook

Digitization can be a great way to make our holdings accessible to a broader audience, but scanning is only the beginning. Jessica Sims, audiovisual metadata cataloger for the Digital Archive Initiative at the Kennedy Library; Chris Burns, curator of manuscripts in special collections at the University of Vermont; and Fran Pollitt, project cataloger at the Maine Memory Network, discussed their experiences creating metadata for archival digitization projects. Amy Benson, librarian/archivist for Digital Initiatives at the Schlesinger Library, chaired the session.

Jessica Sims described the Kennedy Library digitization initiative. One of the most unique aspects of the project is the level of description they have chosen to use: they describe their textual materials at the folder level and their audiovisual materials at the item level. The intent of the project is to scan everything in the collections, but because the project deals with a great volume of material, creating an individual record for each scanned item would require more staff resources than are available. Folder level descriptions are a compromise between a broad, collection-level description and the more time-consuming, item-level description. Creating archival descriptions for each file unit in the collection allows library staff to move quickly through the collection, while still providing rich metadata about the documents within.

Chris Burns discussed how the University of Vermont received a grant to establish a Center for Digital Initiatives and hire a digital librarian. The UVM Libraries' CDI is a gateway to digital resources at the University, including photographs, letters, speeches, and documents, with a current emphasis on public policy and Vermont history. When the library began to develop the CDI, there was no infrastructure in place. They needed staff, space, software, and a public interface. The library first created an evaluation matrix to compare the various software programs. In the end they chose eXist due to its open source availability, its XML native database, its development time, Web services, and ease of exporting data to a future system. According to Burns, the lessons of this project are that staffing is critical,

images are faster than text to describe, minimal descriptive metadata is needed, and the software choice needs to be flexible.

Fran Pollitt explained that the Maine Memory Network began its digitization program from scratch in 1999. Early in the project they needed to decide how to describe the materials, how to put them online, and how the materials would look online. They organize metadata into categories: administrative, object related, and subject related. Pollitt recommended that we all try to remember that it's about bringing objects to the public, and not to go overboard on displaying metadata to the public audience. The next step for the MMN is participation in the Open Archives Initiative, which attempts to make metadata from digital collections more widely accessible. Pollitt had some advice for those planning and implementing digital projects: at the outset of every endeavor, look to the end of things; and think carefully about expected outcomes, the goals of your institution, and how to position records and metadata for best results.

#### Retrospective Conversion Projects

- Russell Franks

This session focused on the issues institutions encounter when conducting OPAC and/or EAD retrospective conversion projects. The first speaker, Valerie Gillispie of Wesleyan University, discussed retrospective conversion of Word finding aids into EAD2002 at Wesleyan. Her presentation, "Converting Legacy Finding Aids into EAD (...for under \$30)," documented Wesleyan's project to increase access to its collections. In January 2006 the university maintained fourteen online finding aids, with 500 finding aids in Word that were not online. In addition, there was a minimal number of collection records in the university's OPAC. The Greene-Meissner processing model was used to prioritize which collections to encode in EAD. Additional considerations included which collections were most used, and which were central to the institution's mission.

The use of NoteTab as the EAD-XML editing software was based upon cost and the online availability of EAD toolkits for the software. MarcEdit was used to convert EAD documents to MARC records. Old records



in the OPAC and WorldCat were updated. The project required internal collaboration from staff members, the IT department, and students, as well as external collaboration using listservs, consulting other institutional sites, and networking regionally and nationally. Wesleyan now has sixty-two finding aids online, nearly all in EAD, and an increase in hits from Google and from their OPAC.

The second presentation by Kirsten Hammerstrom of the Rhode Island Historical Society (RIHS) focused on their newly launched OPAC and the management issues the RIHS faced in bringing the OPAC online. The project began in October of 2004 with a three-year IMLS grant to fund the creation of a single interface for all RIHS holdings. The project took two years longer than expected, but finished with a more comprehensive data set than proposed (68,000 records proposed, ended with 150,000).

Workflow procedures were streamlined with incoming gifts recorded by the registrar and sent to the appropriate department for cataloging and storage. Hammerstrom emphasized that any conversion project must support the institutional mission; the software must match the work and should support institutional processes; communication is essential; and it must be a group process in order for the project to succeed.

Regine Heberlein, of the Fairfield Museum and History Center, presented "Hopping on the Bandwagon: A Small-Shop Solution." During a five-phase project converting a traditional card catalog to an online OPAC, the History Center encountered many issues including those involving costs, budget constraints, institutional capacity for technical services, IT, equipment, and cataloging. However, the project has full institutional support for planning and grant writing, as well as support from the local town government.

In 2007 the History Center moved into a new building with a new name and adopted a new mission statement that includes language about access. To help fulfill its new mission, a partnership was formed with the public library to host the Center's MARC records. Grant funding provided the means to hire a vendor to create the MARC records. Heberlein stressed the importance of collaboration and stated that enhanced cataloging leads to greater patron access, adds value for the community, and saves resources.

## Discussion Session: How is the Archivists' Toolkit Working for You?

- Jennifer Betts

The Archivists' Toolkit (AT) discussion moderated by Liz Andrews from MIT, provided a great opportunity for AT users and prospective users to discuss issues related to implementation. While many repositories are experimenting with the AT, few actually seem to be using it.

Attendees expressed their need for an electronic tool to manage collections, accruals, and workflow. Individuals who have used the AT expressed satisfaction with the Encoded Archival Description (EAD) finding aids it produces, multi-user access to the database, and different levels of permission. The AT user's manual is very thorough and a great reference tool to utilize in lieu of a formal processing manual. Repositories struggling to implement Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACS) should strongly consider using the AT since it is DACS compliant.

Attendees were very receptive to the AT but expressed concern that installing and learning how to use any new collection management system would be daunting. Concerns related to the AT design included:

- the user's limited view of the finding aid in AT during creation
- a restrictive accession number format
- a single extent field that is unable to include multiple metrics

Repositories already using EAD mentioned that the AT EAD would not meet more sophisticated local schemas. The AT EAD does meet basic standards that would suffice for repositories not yet using EAD. Repositories with more sophisticated schemas could use the AT for basic EAD creation and export the EAD for further editing.

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## IV. Reference and Outreach

### The Future of the Reference Archivist

-Sheila R. Spalding

This lively session was moderated by Kristy Pasquariello of John F. Kennedy Library. Nora Murphy and Donna Webber presented their views as college and university archivists on how digitization has affected their work.

Donna Webber, College Archivist for Simmons College, discussed how the reference work at Simmons College has changed since the dawn of the digital age, stating that requests for information have not decreased as some had initially predicted. The burgeoning information now available online necessitates the assistance of a professional to help researchers find the best sources. Information available automatically through databases and online today decreases the time it takes an archivist to locate the answer. Webber noted that researchers impressed with this fast turnaround have grown more confident in archivists' abilities to find all of the trusted sources they seek. Even once everything is online, she contends that researchers will still contact archivists and librarians for validation that they have every source available.

Webber surmised that the paradigm shift from bibliographic instruction will affect archivists as librarians move to information literacy. Digitization has increased the visibility of special collections which were previously hidden. As librarians see the value of special collections, it is an opportunity to collaborate in advocating for them. She suggested that college and university archivists seize this moment and find a way to become involved with information literacy curriculum. She outlined three challenges archivists must address to do this: develop a discipline specific curriculum, outlining what students should learn; work with librarians to increase these elements in the curriculum; and develop this curriculum based on said criteria, as professional goals.

Nora Murphy, Reference Archivist at MIT Institute Archives & Special Collections, provided an overview of the various digitization projects underway at MIT and the issues of copyright, preservation, integration of collections, selection, metadata, and surrogates. She remarked that the use of technologies such as wikis, blogs, and RSS feeds

could be of tremendous value to archivists and researchers in addressing some of these issues. Researchers, who may know a collection better than the archivist, could write about its strengths and weaknesses and recommend additional sources and collections. Archivists could make additional comments regarding copyright, access, and preservation issues.

Murphy commented that email has increased the speed of receiving research requests, but has not necessarily made finding the answer any quicker. She noted that the Web best assists researchers with finding collections and learning about access. Before, questions came in via postal delivery and researchers knew that it would take a few weeks to receive an answer. When researchers email a request today, they often expect an instantaneous answer, not realizing that the mode of inquiry has sped up but the speed of research is often still the same.

### Discussion Session: Digital Information and Cultural Memory

-Rachel Wise

Regine Heberlein from the Fairfield Museum and History Center moderated a discussion on digital information and cultural memory. To start the conversation, Heberlein posited some ways that digitization of information has affected the archival profession and changed expectations of access to material. Participants observed an increased interest in history as information becomes available to researchers in new ways. There has also been a noted rise in the use of archives by undergraduate students and other constituents who typically have not come to the archives; online material has drawn researchers into the archives.

Heberlein asked if there is a risk to the permanence of history if platforms used to access historical data are not stable. Archivists who work with municipal records reiterated that access to the digital format of records is governed by law and certain challenges are presented with this mandate.

How do we document new content that is being created today? With the explosion of new media how can we make sure the content is available for future researchers? These

questions were followed by a conversation about the growing digital divide and its impact on information literacy.

The discussion concluded with the statement that the challenge in discussing the effect of digital information on cultural memory is twofold: if digital content does not survive 100 years, we are faced with a scarcity of information; if everything does survive 100 years, we are faced with the challenge of managing innumerable quantities of information.

## Copyright and Privacy Issues in the Digital Age

- Maureen Jennings

Copyright law expert Wendy Seltzer, Visiting Assistant Professor at Northeastern University's School of Law, presented an overview of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, specifically how the definition of "fair use" is shrinking and the effects of this trend on scholarship and access to digital resources. While the archival community is not as immediately impacted by these developing trends, their impact will eventually be felt in all communities that are dependent upon electronic media and/or proprietary software for delivery or storage of digital resources. This will in turn affect patrons' ability to transform primary research into innovative new contributions to scholarship and commerce.

One illustration offered by Seltzer was the then-pending case of J. K. Rowling against the author of the book, *The Harry Potter Lexicon* (originally a Web site, operating without controversy), in which the line between adaptation of an author's original work (not allowed, according to copyright law) and discussion of it (allowed by copyright law) was tested to an unprecedentedly exacting degree. Another example more relevant to the archival and library communities concerns proprietary software used to store and deliver either content purchased by the institution, or even the institution's own material. Should that company go out of business, circumvention—i.e., attempts to extract data out of their system (a copyrighted process)—technically could be a violation of copyright. In some cases, access to databases of government-sponsored research (out of copyright) is restricted uniquely due to this technicality. Another secondary impact of restrictive copyright law is that the fear of lawsuits has generated a black-or-white reaction by

Internet service providers, which, rather than investigate claims of copyright infringement, simply remove posts identified by the material's original creator as infringing, whether or not the claim is true.

One solution Seltzer offered was the idea of a "copyright reduced zone," wherein specific types of works would have less stringent copyright restrictions: widowed and orphaned works are one example. In such cases where due diligence has been performed yet no copyright holder is found, research based on those ideas should be allowed to develop in good faith. She also stated that the "digital chokepoints" created by stringent application of copyright law can, in effect, be a kind of censorship, and reminded the audience, "Democracy requires transparency," and to continue advocating for open access rights.

Copyright laws are becoming increasingly restrictive. Awareness of this developing climate and its potential impact on our institutions' services, our patrons' scholarship, and even our own personal lives is a valuable tool in developing effective and proactive strategies to ensure that archival institutions continue to be a viable resource for researchers present and future. ■

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Reviews... from Page 11

and been affected by her search and her studies? Where, when, and how was the lost painting found? What kind of condition was it in? Who has authenticated it and how widely has that authentication been accepted? Are there still gaps in the provenance? If so, how many and for how many years? Why has the painting been lent to Boston College for an exhibit but not to anywhere in Italy?

The book's principal fault is the lack of good illustrations of the painting and its details that are discussed in the narrative. I haven't seen the paperback edition, which has just come out, but the hardback has a few gray-and-white close-ups, a vivid colored detail on the front of the dust jacket, and a small but clear reproduction of the whole painting on the back of the dust jacket. Googling "The Taking of Christ" leads to a good image.

*Note added:* Now I have read the paperback edition, and there is a new chapter – and a new candidate for the authentic original! How much can we take? ■

# News and Notes

## M A I N E

### **Maine Historical Society Announces Museum Exhibition: *Art of the People - Folk Art in Maine***

**A**rt of the People: *Folk Art in Maine* opened at the MHS Museum Friday, June 27 and continues through Tuesday, December 30, 2008. This original exhibit features an interesting and colorful selection of objects that reflect the diverse experiences of Maine people over the past three centuries.

“These beautiful and historic artifacts provide a window into our past. For years, people in Maine have made quilts, samplers, rugs, carvings, portraits, and other types of decorative, personal, or useful objects as a way to express their feelings and record important moments in their life - a marriage, a graduation, a death of a loved one,” says MHS Curator John Mayer. “The materials they used, their artistic style or technique, and their sense of design are the essence of these wonderful objects, and invite us to explore the dynamic nature of everyday life in Maine.”

*Art of the People* draws from the extensive collections of the Maine Historical Society. Over seventy museum artifacts will be on view, featuring carved powder horns, decorative quilts, finely made samplers, colorful portraits, and other historic paintings. Featured items include: *Carved and Painted Eagle*, c. 1861, by ship carver Emery Jones (1827 - 1908) of Freeport; *Man and Woman Nut Doll*, 1840 (the heads of these two dolls were made from nuts, their body and clothes from available materials, and yet their costumes represent the fashions of the time); and *Burning of the Second Parish Church*, 1866, painted by Woodbury Hatch (1829 - 1904) of Portland, a witness to the great Portland fire.

The exhibit is part of a statewide collaboration of eleven museums that have created the *Maine Folk Art Trail* and are presenting exhibits of their collections during the summer and fall <[www.mainefolkarttrail.org](http://www.mainefolkarttrail.org)>.

Admission: Adults: \$5.00; Children 5-17: \$2.00. *Art of the People: Folk Art in Maine*: Friday, June 27 through Tuesday, December 30, 2008: Monday - Saturday: 10:00 am

- 5:00 pm; Sundays excluding November: Noon - 5:00 pm. Maine Historical Society, 489 Congress Street, Portland, ME 04101. 207-774-1822; <[www.mainehistory.org](http://www.mainehistory.org)>

### **Bates Announces Conclusion of NHPRC Grant and a New Exhibit about U.S. Senator Edmund S. Muskie**

**A** new exhibit, including seldom-seen family images depicting the late Maine statesman and environmentalist Edmund S. Muskie, is on display at the Edmund S. Muskie Archives and Special Collections Library at Bates College.

*From Rumford to Washington: Edmund S. Muskie's Life in Photographs* is drawn from the Edmund S. Muskie Papers, an important documentary collection relating to this Maine native and member of the Bates class of 1936 who served as a Maine governor, U.S. senator, presidential candidate, and U.S. secretary of state.

The exhibit coincides with the fortieth anniversary of Muskie's 1968 vice presidential campaign, when he ran with Democrat Hubert Humphrey, and with the fiftieth anniversary of Muskie's election to the U.S. Senate.

The exhibit also marks the end of a \$65,000, fifteen month grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. The grant enabled the Muskie Archives and Special Collections Library to finish processing its Muskie holdings, including items received from the Muskie family in 2005. Additionally, some 800 reel-to-reel audio recordings were cataloged and digitized, and an EAD finding aid for the collection was created.

## M A S S A C H U S E T T S

### **New Acquisition at Northeastern University: Chinese Progressive Association Historical Records**

**N**ortheastern University Libraries is pleased to announce the acquisition of the historical records of Boston's Chinese Progressive Association, a grassroots community organization that works for full equality and empowerment of the Chinese community in Boston and beyond.

Founded on July 17, 1977 in Boston's Chinatown, the Chinese Progressive Association (CPA) supports adult education, civic empowerment, workers' rights, youth leadership, and community information and referral services. It also participates in citywide and regional coalitions, including the Asian Pacific American Agenda Coalition, Boston Tenant Coalition, Civic Engagement Initiative, Fair Wage Campaign, Immigrant Workers Center Collaborative, New Majority, and Whose Boston. Among its early activities, the CPA helped found the Chinatown Housing and Land Development Task Force, worked with other activists to conduct voter registration and organize the first mayoral candidates' forum in Chinatown, and joined African American and Latino community leaders to file a successful lawsuit against gerrymandering of state electoral districts.

The collection (19 linear feet of material) dates from 1977 to 2005 and includes board and committee minutes, correspondence, grant proposals, newsletters, press clippings, and audio/visual material.

### **New Online Exhibit: Senator Edward Kennedy and Student Financial Aid at Northeastern University**

Northeastern University Libraries is pleased to announce a new online exhibit recounting Senator Kennedy's strong support of federal financial aid for college students from 1985 to 2008. Much of his advocacy was played out at Northeastern. He spoke at student rallies, heard personal student testimonies, and held a press conference and a senate committee field hearing at Northeastern whenever student financial aid programs were threatened by presidential or congressional proposals.

The exhibit comprises photographs, articles from Northeastern University's student and faculty/staff newspapers, official statements, and background information. The exhibit may be viewed at: <[www.lib.neu.edu/archives/Kennedy/index.htm](http://www.lib.neu.edu/archives/Kennedy/index.htm)>

### **MBLC Recognized for Preservation Work**

The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) is pleased to announce that it is being honored with the 2008 Award for Outstanding Commitment to

the Preservation and Care of Collections, given jointly by the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works and Heritage Preservation.

"Preserving our library collections ensures that generations to come will benefit from our cultural heritage," stated Gregor Trinkaus-Randall, Preservation Specialist at the MBLC. "I'm pleased that our work in building a strong statewide preservation program for libraries and archives over the past two decades has been recognized by these prestigious organizations."

The Awards Committee commended the MBLC's Emergency Assistance Program to assist organizations in disasters and its work with the Northeast Document Conservation Center to develop *dPlan: The Online Disaster Planning Tool*. The MBLC also works with the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency to emphasize the need to include cultural resources in emergency preparedness activities at the local, regional, and state levels.

The committee also recognized the MBLC for spreading preservation services and funding throughout the Commonwealth. The MBLC has taken a leadership role in the development of the statewide Environmental Monitoring Program and has created a preservation grant program using Library Service and Technology Act funds.

### **Mount Holyoke Archive Renovation**

Mount Holyoke College Archives and Special Collections will be closed to the public June 2–September 2, 2008 for a renovation. The renovation, designed by Hill Engineers, includes plans for enhanced security and expanded collection space. For more information, please visit <[www.mtholyoke.edu/archives](http://www.mtholyoke.edu/archives)> or contact <[archives@mtholyoke.edu](mailto:archives@mtholyoke.edu)>.

### **Voices of Feminism Oral History Project**

The Sophia Smith Collection's *Voices of Feminism Oral History Project* is now available online! The *Voices of Feminism Oral History Project* documents the persistence and diversity of organizing for women in the United States in the latter half of the twentieth century. Narrators include labor, peace, and anti-racism activists; artists and writers;

lesbian rights advocates; grassroots anti-violence and anti-poverty organizers; and women of color reproductive justice leaders. Interviews average five to six hours and cover childhood, personal life, and political work. Transcripts and a finding aid are now available online. Please visit us online at <[www.smith.edu/libraries/libs/ssc/vof/vof-intro.html](http://www.smith.edu/libraries/libs/ssc/vof/vof-intro.html)> for more details.

### The Gleason Leonard Archer Personal Papers

The Suffolk University Archives is pleased to announce that the Gleason Leonard Archer Personal Papers (MS 108), 1799-1999, are now available for research. The collection (40 linear ft.) documents the personal and professional activities of Suffolk University's founder, an educational maverick, historian, and radio broadcaster.

The most significant topics documented by the collection include early New England colonial history, law and legal education, radio, and the history of Suffolk University. Additionally the papers provide insight into Archer's role in providing access to legal education in the 1900s, politics in the New Deal era, and biographical information about the Archer and Williams families. The bulk of the collection covers the period from 1899 to 1962 and consists of manuscript drafts of Archer's books and speeches, plus transcripts and recordings of his radio broadcasts on WNBC. Of particular note are Archer's volumes *History of Radio to 1926* (1938), widely considered the first comprehensive history of the development of radio, and *Big Business and Radio* (1939). Other sections of the collection contain correspondence with friends, family, and national figures, such as former President Calvin Coolidge and former mayor of Boston John B. Hynes; personal journals; genealogy files; family papers; photographs; scrapbooks; and personal artifacts. A link to the finding aid can be found at: <[www.suffolk.edu/files/Archives/MS108\\_findingaid.pdf](http://www.suffolk.edu/files/Archives/MS108_findingaid.pdf)>.

The *NEA Newsletter* is seeking submissions from repositories in New England for back cover pictorial features in *This Season in New England History*. Send submissions in JPG or TIFF format, along with a caption detailing the subject of the photograph, to: <[cynthia\\_harbeson@chs.org](mailto:cynthia_harbeson@chs.org)>. Photographs must be scanned at 600 dpi or better.

### Three collections are newly processed and open for research at the Schlesinger Library (Radcliffe Institute, Harvard University)

The papers of the Cannon Family of Cambridge, Massachusetts, contain 10.84 linear feet of diaries, datebooks, conference material, and extensive personal correspondence documenting the life of Ida Maud Cannon (1877-1960), a pioneer in the hospital social service movement in Boston, Massachusetts; and published and unpublished stories, essays, articles, and correspondence of Cornelia James Cannon (1876-1969), an author, community activist, and mother of five children. Cornelia (Radcliffe College, A.B. 1899) married Ida's brother, Harvard professor Dr. Walter B. Cannon, and lived in Cambridge, Massachusetts, with their children and Ida. The papers cover a variety of topics: a single woman working during the first half of the twentieth century; life of a Radcliffe College student; the family of a Harvard professor; children and their upbringing; travel in the United States and abroad; etc. The correspondence between Cornelia and her husband Walter, written while he served as a military doctor in France during World War I, is exceptional. The papers were processed by Stacey Flatt. <<http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:RAD.SCHL:sch01170>>.

The papers of Mary Matteson Wilbur (1872-1957) contain 10.84 linear feet of diaries, correspondence, writings, artwork, genealogy research, and photographs relating to the life of Mary Matteson Wilbur and the Matteson family, as well as correspondence and personal items from Mary's husband, Hollis Wilbur, and their children: Elizabeth (Cressey), C. Martin, and Halsey. The Wilburs lived in Japan, China, and Korea while Hollis was a YMCA secretary for forty years. Mary was very active with the Daughters of the American Revolution while in Shanghai, and also wrote many unpublished stories and novels. Also included is Mary's book about her mother and family history, *Memories of Mary Hulburt Matteson*. The papers were processed by Stacey Flatt. <<http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:RAD.SCHL:sch01190>>.

The papers of Mary Ingraham Bunting-Smith (1910-1998), geneticist and fifth president of Radcliffe College, consist of biographical material, appointment books, notebooks, speeches, and correspondence mainly related to her work in the field of women's education both before and following her tenure at Radcliffe College. The

collection was processed by Mark Vassar with funding provided by Ethel and David Jackson. <<http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:RAD.SCHL:sch01191>>.

### **American Academy of Arts & Sciences Receives Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Grant to Support Archives**

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has awarded the American Academy of Arts & Sciences a \$250,000 grant to catalog, conserve, and improve access to the Academy's earliest and most historically significant records.

Last year, the Academy completed construction of a state-of-the-art archive facility at its headquarters in Cambridge, Mass. Its holdings include communications from such early members as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Alexander Hamilton; correspondence with other learned societies in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries; and Academy serial publications.

"The Academy's records provide insight into the growth and development of America's intellectual traditions, and document what our nation's scholars and leaders were discussing and thinking during critical historical moments," said Chief Executive Officer and William T. Golden Chair Leslie Berlowitz. "The Academy now has a wonderful opportunity to provide scholars access to these collections and to understand better its own rich history as well."

The Mellon award will allow the Academy to support archival assistants; install specialized records management and cataloging software; and design an archives section of the Academy Web site, among other things. For more information, write to <[archives@amacad.org](mailto:archives@amacad.org)>.

Founded in 1780, the American Academy of Arts & Sciences is an independent policy research center that conducts multidisciplinary studies of complex and emerging problems. The Academy's work is advanced by its 4,600 elected members, who are leaders in the academic disciplines, the arts, business, and public affairs from around the world. <[www.amacad.org](http://www.amacad.org)>

## R H O D E I S L A N D

### **Rhode Island OLIS and State Archives Awarded IMLS Grant**

The Rhode Island Office of Library and Information Services (OLIS), in partnership with the Rhode Island State Archives, have been awarded an IMLS Connecting to Collections grant in the amount of \$40,000. Together, OLIS and the Archives constitute an organizing framework that brings together the state's library, archive, museum, historical society, preservation, and municipal organizations. Upon that framework, the state has initiated planning efforts that position it to move forward to a comprehensive statewide disaster planning effort to safeguard its heritage collections. The scope of the grant is as follows: to define and inventory the universe of Rhode Island's heritage collections; adapt the Northeast Document Conservation Center's "dPlan™: the Online Disaster Planning Tool" to fit the Rhode Island circumstance; convene stakeholders to adopt dPlan as the state's standard disaster plan and define a series of response networks; train stakeholders in dPlan; and publicize the result of the planning process among state and local emergency management agencies, first responders, and heritage stakeholders. A steering committee will include representatives of libraries, archives, museums, municipalities, historical and preservation societies, courts, the State Risk Manager, and the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency.

OLIS and the State Archives have long been partners in the preservation of Rhode Island's heritage. OLIS, a Division of the Department of Administration, is Rhode Island's State Library Development Agency. The Archives, a Division within the Office of the Secretary of State, acts as the official custodian and trustee for public records possessing permanent historical value. Contact: Ms. Donna Longo DiMichele, Project Director, OLIS <[donnadm@olis.ri.gov](mailto:donnadm@olis.ri.gov)>.

### **The National Endowment for the Humanities funds the creation of a Rhode Island union database of EAD finding aids**

The Brown University Library in partnership with the John Carter Brown Library, Providence College, Rhode Island Historical Society, Rhode Island School of Design, Rhode Island State Archives, Roger Williams

University, Salve Regina University, University of Rhode Island, and Westerly Public Library, has received a two-year grant from the NEH to create a statewide union database of finding aids, entitled the Rhode Island Archival and Manuscript Collections Online (RIAMCO). Through the application of EAD, RIAMCO will contain finding aids from more than 300 collections held in archival repositories across the state. This project has been designated by NEH as a “We the People Project” for “promoting knowledge and understanding of American history and culture.” For more information contact the project director, Jay Gaidmore, at <gaidmore@brown.edu> or (401) 863-6414.

### Rhode Island Archivists Group

For the past year and a half, archivists in Rhode Island have been gathering bimonthly for dinner and casual conversation about topics both archival and purely social. We’ve sampled various restaurants around the state while getting to know each other better outside the workplace. If you’re an archivist or archives-interested person who works or lives in Rhode Island, come join us! Contact Maria Bernier, University Archivist at Salve Regina University, to get on the email list: <maria.bernier@salve.edu> or 401-341-2276.

## VERMONT

### News from Vermont

Act 96 of 2008 consolidates Vermont’s archival and records management programs into a new division within the secretary of state’s office. The new State Archives and Records Administration (SARA) will go into effect on July 1st and will include archival and records management, reference, micrographics, and the state records center. The goal is to provide a single, consistent, standards-based service to aid agencies in the life cycle management of records and information. While a smooth transition will be the initial focus some changes in service delivery are already underway. A new class of jobs was created including a Records Analyst I, Records Analyst II, and Senior Records Analyst. Assistant State Archivist Tanya Marshall has been reclassified as the senior records analyst. The analysts will work directly with agencies in setting up record and information management systems and

will also work with business analysts within the Enterprise Project Management Office (EPMO) of the Department of Information and Innovation. This will allow EPMO and SARA to build on their current collaboration in order to achieve an enterprise approach to managing records and information.

The 2008 legislature approved \$1.5 million for the design and initial construction of a new archives and research facility in Middlesex, a town just to the west of Montpelier. The previous legislature had also set aside money for a new facility but tied it to a site that proved too expensive to develop.

The Middlesex site, which is fifteen minutes from Montpelier, currently houses the state records center and offices of the records management program. The further development of the site will allow the newly combined program to be located at one site.

On April 14th Robert Horton and Charles Rodgers of the Minnesota Historical Society met with staff from the state legislature, department of information and innovation, and state archives as part of Minnesota’s NDIIPP e-legislative records project. Their presentation allowed attendees to learn about the project and how it could support the Vermont legislature’s own five year information technology plan.

### Cassatt Exhibit Opens at the Shelburne Museum

A major exhibition at Shelburne Museum this summer and fall on Impressionist Mary Cassatt will include a gallery of archival material. *Mary Cassatt: Friends and Family* features more than sixty works by Cassatt and Degas, many of which are on loan from private collections and museums. Little known family portraits and Cassatt’s personal correspondence with Shelburne Museum founder Electra Havemeyer Webb add fresh insight into the artist’s world. Webb’s mother, Louisine Havemeyer, was a major collector of Impressionist and other art, and a close friend of Cassatt for nearly half a century. This exhibit runs through October 26, 2008. For more information see <[www.shelburnemuseum.org](http://www.shelburnemuseum.org)>. ■



## People

**Paige Roberts**, NEA Listservs Moderator, was recently appointed Head of Special Collections at the State Library of Massachusetts, which serves the research needs of the executive and legislative branches of government in the Commonwealth. She will coordinate the activities of the Special Collections department. She previously served as the first College Archivist at Springfield College and, before that, as Executive Director of Beverly Historical Society and Immigrant City Archives. In addition to an MSLIS from Simmons College, Roberts holds a Ph.D. in American Studies from George Washington University and BA in Political Science from Bates College.

**Julia Collins** is the new director of the Suffolk University Archives and Moakley Institute. She oversees the University Archives, records management, and public programming through the Moakley Institute. Collins has worked in a variety of capacities since joining the Archives and Institute staff in 2002. Before joining Suffolk University, she worked in the Harvard Theatre Collection and Widener Library at Harvard University. She holds a BS in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and a MSLIS from Simmons College.

After thirty-five years of service, **Mary C. LaFogg** retired from the Manuscripts and Archives department at

the Yale University Library on March 31, 2008. LaFogg served for a number of years as Head of Public Services, Head of Reader Services, and finally as Chief Collections Management Archivist. She managed the department's facilities and served as an important member of the team that designed and implemented Yale's Library Shelving Facility. In service to the archival profession, LaFogg mentored both professional and para-professional staff, encouraging them in their skill development and acquisition of new knowledge. At her retirement party, University Librarian Alice Prochaska and Director Christine Weideman highlighted LaFogg's superlative project director and facilities management skills. Weideman also commented on the value of LaFogg's deep understanding of institutional history. Manuscripts and Archives is extremely grateful to have had this consummate professional archivist on staff for so many productive years.

Vermont's Assistant State Archivist **Tanya Marshall** was presented an Outstanding Public Service Award by Governor James H. Douglas at the annual Public Service Recognition Award Ceremony and luncheon on May 5, 2008. One of twenty-three individual state employees to be honored, Marshall was recognized for her outstanding work in establishing new frameworks for managing records and information and positioning state government to better realize the potential for a digital enterprise environment. ■

### NEA is always looking for ideas for sessions at the fall and spring meetings. Your suggestions are invited!

Please complete and send this form to:

Nora Murphy  
Reference Archivist, Institute Archives  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
77 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02139-4307

Proposed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide a brief description of the session you'd like to see offered at an NEA meeting. If possible, include the overall purpose and a general description of the session, and its intended audience (including skill level and topic category). If you have ideas for potential speakers for this session, please include their names and institutional affiliations.

# Internet Tidbits

- Susan Martin

This spring, the Boston Public Library broke new ground in providing online access to its collections by uploading thousands of images to the photo-sharing Web site Flickr ([www.flickr.com/photos/boston\\_public\\_library/collections/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/boston_public_library/collections/)). As of this writing, six collections have already been created: Music & Fine Arts, William Vaughn Tupper Scrapbooks, Photograph Collections, Print Collections, Tichnor Brothers Postcards, and Art of the Book. Each collection contains anywhere from one to seven sets of images, all beautifully reproduced and carefully described at both the set and item levels. The extensive bibliographic information provided is especially impressive given the large number of images and the wide range of materials represented in these collections. Included are lithographs, photographs, stereographs, posters, postcards, paintings, and even book bindings. Great care has also been taken to preserve context, as in the case of scrapbook pages that contain both photographs and annotations.

The same features that make Flickr such a popular tool for personal photographs also work well for library collections: a simple, straightforward interface; the ability to sort images into sets, allowing for future additions to collections; descriptive tags and view counters; a variety of viewing options, including thumbnails, browsing, and slide-

shows; and the choice of several sizes for downloading individual images. Flickr account holders may also want to share comments. With this new initiative, the BPL demonstrates the enormous potential of Web sites like Flickr for librarians and archivists to reach a wider audience.

Just down the street from the BPL, staff members at the Massachusetts Historical Society have recently digitized hundreds of images for their newest exhibit entitled "Images of the Antislavery Movement in Massachusetts" ([www.masshist.org/online/abolition.cfm](http://www.masshist.org/online/abolition.cfm)). The exhibit contains 840 items "that illustrate the role of Massachusetts in the national debate over slavery," including photographs, paintings, engravings, artifacts, banners, and broadsides. The bulk of the collection consists of images collected by Francis Jackson Garrison, the son of renowned abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison. Among the subjects are individuals representing all sides of the slavery debate, from die-hard abolitionists to slavery proponents and advocates of African colonization. The exhibit's detailed introduction includes links to individual items, or users can browse by format.

A fascinating project out of the Harvard Law School Library entitled "Dying Speeches & Bloody Murders" (<http://broadsides.law.harvard.edu/>) consists of over 500 digitized broadsides documenting crimes and executions in eighteenth and nineteenth-century Britain. Dating from 1707 to 1891, these broadsides—sold to audiences at executions for a penny or less—contain sensational accounts of a variety of crimes, including murder, rape, arson, robbery, and treason. The collection was born in 1932 when the library acquired a scrapbook of 280 broadsides, engravings, newspaper clippings, and other documents compiled by an anonymous individual "to demonstrate the barbarity of public executions." With later additions, it has become one of the largest collections of its kind. ■

## Editors Wanted!

Do you have keen literary skills and an eye for detail? If so, join us on the NEA Editorial Team. Four editors serve for three year terms to produce the quarterly NEA Newsletter.

Layout is done by a professional – we want your eyes, ideas and energy. We are currently looking for two editors - one to serve from January 2009 – January 2011, covering News/Notes and Calendar; the other to serve from April 2009 – April 2011 as Reviews Editor. Email Maryalice Perrin-Mohr <[mperrin-mohr@newenglandconservatory.edu](mailto:mperrin-mohr@newenglandconservatory.edu)> for details and visit the NEA Web site for the job description.

## It's Your Newsletter: Contribute!

The *NEA Newsletter* always needs news from your archives and other archives in New England, about NEA members, and about upcoming events. We also need people to write reviews, long articles, and session reports for NEA meetings. If you have any ideas for articles, etc., please contact an editor.

# Calendar of Events



Press releases and other announcements should be sent to Maryalice Perrin-Mohr at <mperrin-mohr@newenglandconservatory.edu>. Please provide the date, time, place, and a brief description of the event and the name, address, and telephone number of the person to be contacted for information.

**July 24-25, 2008.** “A Race Against Time: Preserving Our Audiovisual Media,” presented by the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts, Boston, MA. For details see <[www.ccaha.org/uploads/media/d45877b85ed384cb8954655895e3caba.pdf](http://www.ccaha.org/uploads/media/d45877b85ed384cb8954655895e3caba.pdf)>.

**August 3-5, 2008.** International Conference on the History of Records and Archives (ICHORA4), Perth, Australia. For details see <[www.archivists.org.au/ichora/ICHORA4/index.html](http://www.archivists.org.au/ichora/ICHORA4/index.html)>.

**August 4-8, 2008.** SAA Workshop. “Electronic Records Summer Camp.” University of California, San Diego SuperComputer Center, La Jolla, CA. For information and registration see <<http://saa.archivists.org/Scripts/4Disapi.dll/4DCGI/events/ConferenceList.html?Action=GetEvents>>.

**August 14-15, 2008.** SAA Workshop. “Planning New and Remodeled Archival Facilities.” New Jersey DARM Records Center, Trenton, NJ. For information and registration see: <<http://saa.archivists.org/Scripts/4Disapi.dll/4DCGI/events/ConferenceList.html?Action=GetEvents>>.

**August 23-31, 2008.** ARCHIVES 2008: Archival R/Evolution & Identities. Society of American Archivists Annual Meeting; Hilton San Francisco, San Francisco, CA. For details see: <[www.archivists.org/conference/sanfrancisco2008/](http://www.archivists.org/conference/sanfrancisco2008/)>.

**September 13-19, 2008.** Conference of the International Association of Sound and Audiovisual Archives (IASA), hosted by the Australian Sound Recordings Association (ASRA) at the Australian National Maritime Museum in Sydney, Australia. For information, see: <[www.iasa2008.com/](http://www.iasa2008.com/)>.

**October 16, 2008.** SAA Workshop. “Describing Archives: A Content Standard (DACs).” Belk Library at the Appalachian State University. Boone, NC. For further information and registration see: <<http://saa.archivists.org/Scripts/4Disapi.dll/4DCGI/events/ConferenceList.html?Action=GetEvents>>.

## EXHIBITS

**Mill Town Memories: The Drawings and Watercolors of Marian Cannon Schlesinger.** June 14, 2008 – February 15, 2009. Museum of New Hampshire History, 6 Eagle Square, Concord, NH. For further information see <[www.nhhistory.org/calendar.html](http://www.nhhistory.org/calendar.html)>.

**Small Things Considered** (discover the big impact small objects have made on history and our lives). Connecticut Historical Society Museum. Through November 29, 2008. For further information see <[www.chs.org/curexhib.htm](http://www.chs.org/curexhib.htm)>. ■



Vintage photograph of Armenian girl, Voski “Goldi” Martin, Boston, 1911 (photo by Suren Diran), which was originally acquired by Project SAVE by Phyllis Okoomian, whose mother is the subject of the photograph. Another copy was later found in a collection donated by Barbara and Peter Schulz.

Credit: Project SAVE Armenian Photograph Archives, Watertown, Massachusetts. Courtesy of Phyllis Nakashian Okoomian, Wayland, Massachusetts; and Barbara and Peter Schultz, East Greenwich, Rhode Island.

**N E A**  
**New England Archivists**

TAKING THE PAST INTO THE FUTURE

WPI Archives and Special Collections  
Gordon Library  
100 Institute Road  
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Permit Number 56006

## THIS SEASON IN NEW ENGLAND HISTORY



**While bathing suit styles may have changed since the 1920s, a day at the beach is still a favorite summer past-time for many of us.** In this photograph, Charlie Toth poses with Bozo Snyder's Bathing Girls at L Street Bathhouse in South Boston.

*Image courtesy of the Leslie Jones Collection, Print Department, Boston Public Library.*