



**New England Archivists  
Massachusetts Archives  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, MA 02125  
<[www.newenglandarchivists.org](http://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: *NEA Newsletter* Editors, Massachusetts Archives, 220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, MA 02125, or <[m.light@neu.edu](mailto:m.light@neu.edu)>.

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## From the Editors

- Jason T. Larson

At the close of summer and after a season dominated by politics and archivists, the October issue of the *Newsletter* is in its final stages of production even as I write this.

To those of you who were unable to attend our Spring Meeting back in March and who missed Peter Hirtle's keynote address on the Patriot Act, we are pleased that Peter is sharing a complete edition of his talk with the *Newsletter* as this issue's "Archival Insight" column. Barbara Miles, formerly of the New Hampshire Political Library, has contributed an interesting and timely piece on primary elections in New Hampshire for the current "Around and About" piece.

Among a full slate of events in our Calendar, the New

England Archivists' Fall Meeting is fast approaching. The conference is scheduled for October 15-16 at the University of New England at Biddeford, Maine and carries the theme of "Theory and Practice." A great-looking schedule of workshops and sessions promises to make the Fall Meeting a fun and productive time, and we hope we'll see you there.

This issue is also the last issue of Christopher Burns' editorship. His work, dedication, humor, and keen eye for detail will be missed. Chris will be succeeded by Sheila Spalding of the City of Boston Archives, who will assume editorship of "Inside the NEA." The October issue marks the first issue of Michelle Light's ("Calendar" and "News and Notes") term with us, and we are looking forward to working with both Sheila and Michelle. ☺

## ☺ NEW ENGLAND ARCHIVISTS ☺

### FALL 2004 MEETING

**Date:** October 15-16, 2004

**Location:** Biddeford, Maine

New England Archivists Fall 2004 Conference is slated for October 15 and 16 in Biddeford, Maine at the peak of foliage on the Maine coast. Come to Biddeford and study successful collaborative strategies with Maine's cultural agencies; learn techniques to advocate for your archives; hear about working with a publisher to publish local and other history; meet your future colleagues when archival studies graduate students describe their internships and independent studies; observe nineteenth century business records and examine the difference between a daybook and a cashbook; gain some practical skill in making a book enclosure or simply network with your colleagues in a beautiful setting.

For more information, check the NEA Web site or contact Cally Gurley, Maine Women Writers Collection, UNE; (207) 797-7688 x4324; Fax: (207) 878-4893; UNE-WCC Library, 716 Stevens Avenue, Portland, ME 04103; cgurley@une.edu ☺

## Archival Insight

### The USA PATRIOT Act and Archivists<sup>1</sup>

*Peter B. Hirtle, Cornell University*

The Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act of 2001, otherwise known as the USA PATRIOT Act, is a very complex piece of legislation. Prior to assessing its impact on archivists, a few broad comments on the law are in order.

First, it is important to stress that there is much in the Patriot Act that is not objectionable. No one is likely to object, for example, to the provisions seeking to limit money laundering and other financial transactions that support terrorism. In addition, prior to passage of the Patriot Act, federal law allowed government agents to wiretap the phone calls only of individuals suspected of being engaged in certain specific crimes; the Patriot Act, I think reasonably, adds terrorism to that list of crimes. The Act has tightened the control over the use of certain highly dangerous pathogens in universities, but the scientists with whom I have spoken at Cornell University admit that the requirements the Patriot Act imposes are not unreasonable. There are provisions as well for compensating victims of terrorism. A reasonable case could be made that in some areas, such as the tracking of individuals who remain in the US on expired visas, the Patriot Act does not go far enough. And many of the provisions of the Patriot Act have a "sunset clause." They will expire at the end of 2005 unless renewed, giving critics of the Patriot Act a chance to document any abuses that may have occurred. In

short, the Patriot Act, in spite of the impression often given, is far from the worst bill Congress has ever passed.

Second, it is important to realize that many of the things that have made civil libertarians and librarians nervous have little to do with the Patriot Act itself. Thousands of people were arrested and held without legal representation immediately after 9/11 – and before the Patriot Act was passed. Government efforts to restrict access to information about water supplies, utilities, and other potential terrorist targets – including in some cases removing this information from depository libraries and government Web sites – have nothing to do with the provisions of the Patriot Act itself. The Attorney General's call to federal agencies to limit as much as possible the agencies' responses to Freedom of Information Act requests is similarly independent of the Patriot Act and its provisions.

Yet in spite of the good that resides in the Patriot Act, and in spite of the fact that it has become the generic whipping boy for many of the government's actions, it is still worthy of close examination by all citizens. The government's track record in protecting civil liberties during times of war and crisis has not been good. One need only think of Lincoln's suspension of the writ of habeas corpus during the Civil War, or the internment of American citizens of Japanese ancestry during World War II (an action which was condoned by the Supreme Court,

by the way, and which has yet to be repudiated by them). It is not unreasonable for civil libertarians to be especially wary during wartime that the defense of America does not come at the cost of American values.

We, however, in our professional lives are not civil libertarians, but are archivists. The question before us this afternoon is a simple one: what impact does the Patriot Act have on us **as archivists**, and what (if anything) do we need to do differently now that the Act has passed. This paper discusses how we, as archivists, need to address the Patriot Act. First, I will discuss the real, though slight, risk the Patriot Act poses for archivists. In particular, I want to talk about its implications for the privacy of our patrons. Thinking about this issue forces us to reconsider what exactly we mean when we talk about the confidentiality. Second, I will discuss some of the concrete steps that archives can take to lessen the potential negative impact on the archives. One plus of the Patriot Act is that it has forced libraries to review their procedures for responding to requests by law enforcement for information. Archivists need to do the same thing. Lastly, I want to talk about something that no one else is talking about, namely the archival and records management issues associated with terrorism investigations. As archivists, we

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<sup>1</sup> This address is available online at <http://dSPACE.library.cornell.edu/handle/1813/172>.

are committed to upholding the right of the public to have access to the records of government as a means of insuring the accountability of government officials. The Patriot Act threatens that fundamental archival principle, and it is one on which we can speak out.

### **Dangers to Archives in the Patriot Act**

Let's examine the first issue: what dangers may reside in the Patriot Act for archivists? Our librarian colleagues have been outspoken on the Patriot Act, to the extent that Attorney General John Ashcroft has mocked them as fueling "baseless hysteria." What has gotten the librarians so angry? It is the renewed threat to the confidentiality of library records.

There is often great interest in what people read. There is a strong belief that what someone reads is a reflection of that person's interests, and maybe that person's personality. I am sure many of you remember when there were charge cards in books that carried the names of individuals who had checked out the books in the past, and the thrill you had in discovering who else shared your interests. When Clarence Thomas was nominated to the Supreme Court, some enterprising reporter checked his video circulation records. In the movie "All the President's Men," there is an inspiring scene in which Woodward and Bernstein visit the Library of Congress to track what books had been requested by the White House, and end up spending hours paging through paper call slips. In the 1980s, the FBI institutionalized the use of library records in intelligence investigations with the formation of the Library Awareness

program. In this program, the FBI attempted to recruit librarians to help track the reading habits of Russian nationals and other suspect individuals.

At the same time as the FBI program was forming, an alternative position came to dominate the library profession. The First Amendment guarantees to all of us Freedom of Speech. By extension, it includes as well a "Freedom to Hear" and a "Freedom to Read." The right to speak our mind, or to differ with the opinions of the government, does us little good if people can't hear or read what we are saying. Lawyer Julie Cohen has postulated that we have as well a right to read **anonymously**. Again, if we are worried what others might think about what we are reading, we will limit what we read – and the freedom of expression that this country values will suffer.

The growing awareness of the importance of confidentiality led to the passage in many states of strict library confidentiality laws. New York's is typical, if perhaps a little stronger than most. It guarantees that all library records, including records related to the circulation of library materials, computer database searches, interlibrary loan transactions, reference queries, requests for photocopies of library materials, title reserve requests, and the use of audio-visual materials, films or records, shall remain confidential. The New York State legislature explained why there is this need when they passed the law. A library, they noted, as "the unique sanctuary of the widest possible spectrum of ideas, must protect the confidentiality of its records in order to insure its readers' right to read any-

thing they wish, free from the fear that someone might see what they read and use this as a way to intimidate them. Records must be protected from the self-appointed guardians of public and private morality and from officials who might overreach their constitutional prerogatives. Without such protection, there would be a chilling effect on our library users as inquiring minds turn away from exploring varied avenues of thought because they fear the potentiality of others knowing their reading history."

In the eyes of librarians, the Patriot Act threatens the confidentiality of library records. Section 215 of the Act amends the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, or FISA, so that FBI agents can now seek subpoenas to require the production of business records, including library circulation records, in terrorism investigations. Of course, even under state library confidentiality laws, the records were always subject to a subpoena issued by a judge. The New York law, for example, explicitly states that library records "shall be disclosed upon request or consent of the user or pursuant to subpoena, court order or where otherwise required by statute."

What has changed with the Patriot Act, and what has gotten the librarians so upset, is not that records that were once confidential are now accessible, but that the method for gaining legal access to those records has changed. A secret FISA court, and not a regular Federal court, issues FISA orders. Since 1979, the government has requested approximately 14,000 such orders, and none of them has been rejected by the court (raising fears that this is a rubber stamp procedure). Individuals who are served with a FISA

order are not permitted to report it to anyone. In addition, the Patriot Act authorizes several other kinds of searches, including “sneak and peek” warrants and “pen and trap” searches, all of which makes the reading habits of the public potentially more accessible to the federal terrorism investigators.

The Patriot Act poses less of a potential threat to the privacy of archival patrons than to library patrons. First, the likelihood that we will have in our collections information that would be of interest to either terrorists or their pursuers is small. The declassified information in archives about either nuclear or biological weapons, for example, is unlikely to be of much contemporary use to modern terrorists. A clever terrorist might realize that archives can contain information about the construction of buildings, power plants, and water systems that could be of use to someone planning an attack – but again, there is no assurance that subsequent structural and systematic alterations to the original designs, changes that are documented in active records still with agencies rather than in archival records, will not vitiate any

advantage terrorists might secure from their use of archival records. The age of most archival records severely limits their practical usefulness to contemporary terrorists. And the small likelihood of terrorists actually seeking to use archival records means that the likelihood that the FBI will come seeking information about the use of those records is equally small.

Are archivists expected to protect the privacy of the users of archival records? The archival code of ethics teaches us that we should be respectful of patron privacy, but our commitment has always been less than that of our library colleagues. No archivist feels that individuals should be able to consult an archival collection anonymously. We always require identification and often a reference interview before someone can consult a collection. Furthermore, archivists seldom discard records of archival use, preferring to preserve them in case of theft. Such records can reveal who worked with records (and thus may have taken them). Previous users may also have copies of or notes on missing records that can help prove ownership if, as has happened, the accused thief claims the records belong to him or her.

The problem that we as archivists face is that it is difficult for us to claim that it is permissible to use archival circulation records, and potentially violate patron privacy, in cases that involve theft from the archives, but that it is unacceptable to violate patron privacy in cases of foreign terrorism.

Terrorist use of archival records is not the only concern we may have. Hopefully some of you are actively soliciting the records of community organizations and individuals that reflect the broad ethnic, religious, and political diversity in America. Some of these organizations or individuals may, in the eyes of the FBI, support, condone, or involve individuals suspected of terrorism. Federal counterterrorism investigators, therefore, may be interested in using the records themselves as part of their counterterrorism initiatives. Will we be able to solicit successfully the records of groups that may feel threatened by the government? Will the local mosque or Palestinian social club or anti-war activist group be willing to develop an archival program if they know that their records might be subject to FBI investigation?

I don't know the answer to these questions, but I do know that threat the Patriot Act poses to archival collection building is likely to be minimal. The truth is that archival records have always been subject to subpoena, in spite of any restrictions imposed by the donor on their use. In the famed Braden case at the Wisconsin Historical Society, when the government sought to secure copies of a restricted collection, the Historical Society argued that a general right of “archival privilege” existed. This argument was soundly rejected by the



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courts, and the restricted collection was opened to government agents by court order. We have never been able to promise our donors that material deposited in our repositories was safe from prosecutorial investigation. The Patriot Act is a useful reminder to us of how limited the protections we can offer the public are. It seems unlikely that potential donors will decline to donate materials solely because now a court order securing access to the collection can come from a secret Federal FISA court rather than from a more open federal district court.

Lastly, the good news is that the nature of archival records would seem to limit their usefulness to federal prosecutors. The Braden case is the only case in the archival literature of which I am aware that discusses a subpoena issued against archival repositories; the practical risk that any archival repository will be issued a subpoena under the provisions of the Patriot Act seems equally small.

The slightly increased legal threat to the privacy of users and donors of archival collections is the primary impact on archives of the Patriot Act. There are also provisions of the Patriot Act that can impact all organizations and institutions, including archives. For example, the strengthened visa requirements found in part in the Patriot Act have made it harder for foreign students to study in the United States, with the result that foreign applications are down at American universities. Similarly, students who are already enrolled in American universities are finding it harder to get visas to continue their studies, and in some cases have had to leave school. If a university archives relied on foreign-born student employees, it might find

its work negatively impacted.

In addition, while it seems unlikely, some archives may provide general public access to the Internet similar to that offered by many libraries. If a presumed terrorist was using the public access terminal for email or web surfing, the FBI might be interested. Under a Patriot Act subpoena, the FBI can come in and seize all computers, routers, and backup servers, crippling the operation of the archives. (They could also do this, by the way, if one used a computer-based registration and circulation system for tracking patron requests, since Section 215 allows them to gain access to “any tangible thing.”) The impact on an archives could be catastrophic.

### **Protecting Archives From the Patriot Act**

Even though I would argue that the presumed risk of federal investigations in archives under the Patriot Act is small, the consequences of such actions to the archives could be immense. What steps, therefore, should archives take in advance to protect themselves? I would argue that there are at least four things that archives should do in advance of an FBI agent appearing at the door.

First, you should have in place written policies about what staff should do if law enforcement agents suddenly appear demanding records or computers, and you should ensure that all staff (including student employees and night security guards) are aware of what procedures should be followed. As you have heard, one of the most disturbing features of FISA orders is that individuals presented with such an order are not allowed to

tell anyone else. Many institutions, after thorough consultation with their legal counsel, have adopted a policy that in effect modifies this restriction. In these institutions, if any government official, no matter whether he or she is carrying a regular subpoena, a FISA order, or just is seeking information, approaches a university staff member for assistance, that staff member is supposed to contact either his or her supervisor or the university counsel's office immediately. Staff are instructed not to interfere with the government agents, especially if they have a subpoena or written order, but they also cannot remain silent – they should seek direction from their supervisor as soon as possible.

The policy should also make clear that staff should never voluntarily provide information about patrons to law enforcement officials unless they have a justifiable fear for the health or safety of the individual or the public. In a university setting, releasing such information may be an unauthorized violation of FERPA. Most archivists want to be helpful and provide needed information, especially if the person asking is a law enforcement official. We must remind our staff, however, that we have an ethical and sometimes legal obligation to protect the privacy of our users as well.

Lastly, the policy should stress that staff should not contact law enforcement officials without the knowledge and approval of the archives' supervisory staff. Some of the most draconian provisions of the Patriot Act involve instances in which institutions voluntarily invite the FBI in for assistance with suspected computer hacking or other violations. The invitation gives the FBI pretty much a

free hand to conduct a free-ranging investigation, the scope of which is beyond your control. There are obviously times when it is appropriate to bring in law enforcement officials – but front-line staff should not be making this decision.

In addition to having a policy on how to respond to law enforcement inquiries in place, you may want to get to know officials in the local police and FBI offices in advance of any inquiry. An ongoing relationship with the FBI may decrease the likelihood that they will show up one morning with a truck and start hauling equipment away. If you are part of a larger institution, it is likely that someone at your institution is in contact with the local officers. Find out who that is.

The third thing that you can do to prepare for possible Patriot Act inquiries, in addition to preparing a written policy and getting to know your local law enforcement contacts, is to review your record retention policies. Libraries have attempted to protect the privacy of library users and limit the likelihood of intrusive searches by destroying records that might be of interest to law enforcement officials. Remember, the Patriot Act does not require you to create any new records, nor does it require that you keep the records you are already creating. If you are deeply concerned about doing all that you can to protect the privacy of the users of your archives, now might be a good time to review your data retention policies. Does the presumed benefit of old circulation and photocopy records for criminal investigations really outweigh the possible risk they pose to the privacy of patrons? If not, perhaps they should be routinely destroyed. Similarly, is it really useful

to keep old reference letters and other correspondence? I suspect most of us would answer yes, but it may be useful to review your practices.

The last thing that I would urge as a response to the Patriot Act is what you are doing today – namely learning more about it. The debate over the Patriot Act is not over. Many of the expiring provisions of the Patriot Act are being reintroduced and extended in legislation often referred to as Patriot Act II. Many amendments to the existing Patriot Act have been introduced to fix what many see as its flaws. Most notable among these is the Senate's "Library and Bookseller Protection Act," which would exempt library and archives circulation records from exposure under Section 215 of the Patriot Act. If you feel that the Patriot Act has gone too far, asking your representatives in Washington to support this legislation would be a reasonable action.

### **Archival Access to Patriot Act Investigations**

There is one area in particular where archivists can play an important role in the debate over the Patriot Act. As you have heard, much of the public criticism of the Patriot Act concerns the fact that many of the actions it authorizes take place in secret. Where foreign intelligence and terrorism are concerned, there are few other options; one does not want to alert a presumed foreign terrorist that he or she is under investigation. We know, however, that secret government operations can quickly go awry, and that justified investigations of potential foreign terrorists can turn into general investigations of people who simply disagree with the government. Normally the

judicial system is supposed to provide a check on unbridled government actions, but under FISA and the other laws affected by the Patriot Act, there is fear that the courts have become a rubber stamp.

There is, however, within our system a second check on the possibly dangerous actions of government: the accountability of governments when their actions become known. Archives play an important role in assuring the transparency and accountability of governments. The massive FBI investigations of civil rights and peace activists in the 1960s and 1970s may not have been known at the time, but the records documenting FBI actions are available now. We can learn what they did wrong. And we can hope that the knowledge that some day their actions will become known may serve as a small deterrent to the most egregious actors now. Eventually Patriot Act investigations of enduring value will enter the national archival system. Current FOIA regulations, however, stipulate that records that could disclose the identity of a confidential source are exempt from disclosure. There is no time limit on that exemption. It is very easy as well to deny access to records based on broad assertions of national security interests. The records of possible misdeeds committed under the auspices of the Patriot Act could remain hidden from view hundreds of years from now. The Patriot Act should further be amended so that as much of its operations as are practical are conducted in the open, and that all investigatory records will at some appropriate time in the future be open.

While critics of the Patriot Act rail against the law, what they really fear

are prosecutorial and governmental excesses and abuses. In light of the complaints of critics, it is reasonable that archives spend some time reflecting on what we mean by confidentiality and the extent of our obligations to protect it. Most of all, though, we need to think about how government abuses can be avoided. Greater court oversight of actions is one possible solution. Increasing the transparency and accountability of government by providing citizens with access to information about government actions is another. That is a role that archives can play. ©

### NEA Planning Sessions at the Fall Meeting, Saturday, October 16

#### *Membership Information Input (MII), St. Francis Room, Library*

Each conference attendee is requested to attend a short informational gathering session on NEA's future during any one of the four focused 45-minute sessions held throughout the day, and managed by NEA officers and members. Conference registrants will be asked in advance to sign up with NEA Board President Mary Ide to attend a specified Membership Information Input session; participation may result in registrants missing part of regular sessions. The intent, however, is to get every conference attendee to contribute 45 minutes of their valuable time and ideas relative to the future of the New England Archivists. MII Sessions: 8:15 - 9:15; 9:15 - 10:00; 11:00 - 12:15; 1:30 - 2:45

*See From the President column on page 11 for more information.*



Join us for the **NEA Fall Meeting** on October 15-16 at the University of New England, Biddeford, Maine. See page 3 for more details. *Courtesy of the University of New England.*

## Internet Tidbits

- Kathleen J. Barker, *Massachusetts Historical Society*

In June 2004, the Bostonian Society launched a wonderful new resource for scholars and enthusiasts of Boston history at <[www.bostonhistory.org](http://www.bostonhistory.org)>. Their new online collections catalog provides visitors with access to text descriptions of the Society's complete book catalog and descriptions of manuscript collections, including personal and organizational records. As an added bonus, the catalog includes searchable images of approximately 3,000 photographs from the Society's collection.

Visitors' first stop should be the "before you start" page, which clearly outlines how and where to search for various materials. The online catalog is not unified, so visitors can only search for one type of material (books, manuscripts, or photographs) at a time. Search interfaces are easy to use; the basic search function allows visitors to search using keywords, while the advanced search option allows visitors to search for titles, authors, and Library of Congress subject headings.

The true gem of the catalog is the selection of photographs available for viewing. The site currently includes only a portion of the Society's collection of Boston streetscapes, ca. 1850-1980, but more photographs will be added in the future. The most efficient way to search for images is by street name or address; however, visitors can also search for business names, signs, modes of transportation, or other details visible in the image. To prevent unauthorized use, the Society has watermarked the photos available on the Web site. While the watermark is clearly visible (and sometimes distracting), it is perhaps a small price to pay in exchange for access to such a fabulous collection of Boston images.

If the 2004 presidential election has sparked your interest in campaign memorabilia, be sure to visit Cornell University's online Collection of Political Americana at <<http://cidc.library.cornell.edu/political/>>. Thanks to a grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the site brings together several Cornell collections of political memorabilia, including 5,500 items dating between 1789 and 1960 from the Susan H. Douglas Collection, and approximately 1,500 similar items from the university's Rare Manuscript and Rare Book collections.

Materials represented include ballots, promotional broadsides and posters, political cartoons, lithographs and prints, pamphlets, songbooks and sheet music, pins and buttons, and souvenirs such as commemorative plates.

Visitors can search for specific materials in the image database using Luna Insight, a sophisticated search engine that will search for keywords, as well as for specific candidate names, election years, political parties, and object types. Thumbnail images generated on the search results page can be enlarged and a magnifying glass tool allows users to get up close and personal with the image. Caption information is not automatically displayed—viewers must click the "image data" icon to obtain more details.

Visitors can also browse highlights from the collection, which are arranged into four overlapping groups: broadsides, posters, and textiles; ballots and pamphlets; broadsides, posters and pamphlets; and pamphlets. Although caption information is scarce for items highlighted in the browse feature, users can return to Luna Insight to search for more information about specific items or to magnify images. While the site may be a bit complicated to navigate, it offers a fun look at national elections and campaigns of the past. ☺



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## Inside NEA

### From the President

- Mary Ide

When invited to run for the office of President of NEA, I responded to the candidate question that asked how I would encourage non-members to join NEA. As I have thought more about that question, I have come to believe that nurturing and growing membership is but one component of a larger challenge for NEA. That challenge certainly is to increase membership, but it also is how can we create an NEA whose identity is favorably visible throughout New England, and whose services and educational opportunities are attractive to both archivists and related professionals? If we successfully meet these challenges, NEA as a whole will grow and thrive.

To begin to approach these challenges, last fall I conducted an informal survey of selected NEA members about what they believed were major issues facing NEA and how they might address these. On a more formal basis, over the past eight months I have had numerous meetings with professional planning facilitators, Abby Yanow and Muriel Finegold. They have provided NEA with excellent feedback and advice on how we might approach an organization-wide future planning initiative. Finally, an ad hoc NEA Core Planning group met once with Abby and Muriel; this Core group continues to give me feedback and advice on a planning process. The planning group includes Liz Andrews, Patsy Baudoin, Susan Keats, Nora Murphy, Emily Novak, Anthony Reed, Susan von Salis, and Eliot Wilczek.

Future planning means designing effective ways for NEA to:

- provide membership services,
- provide membership education opportunities,
- increase membership numbers,
- create an effective visible presence New England,
- create an effective NEA advocacy role.

I believe if we meet these objectives, we will assure the growth and success of NEA. Therefore, after considering many established and professional methods for future planning, and with the assistance of the NEA Core Planning group, I have decided to fashion an NEA participatory and

time-limited planning approach. Everyone attending the Fall Conference on Saturday, October 16, will be asked to contribute forty-five minutes of his or her time during the conference day to participate in a question/answer session concerning NEA's future. This information intake process will be scheduled for each conference attendee in advance of October 16. If you will not be attending the Conference, your input will be sought after the Conference and via the NEAdiscuss listserv. Every NEA member's input will be critical to the success of this planning initiative.

Over the past fifteen years, NEA has prepared and successfully implemented four major planning initiatives. These include: the 1989 Plan, the 1993 Long Range Plan, the 1995 Task Force for Future Directions and the 2002 Task Force on Future Meetings. Many, if not most, of the recommendations made in these reports have been carried out and help account for the successful growth and development of NEA over the past fifteen years.

Continued growth and success require constant care and attention. I feel very strongly that NEA's richest resource for planning our future will come from members sharing ideas with candor. I look forward to working with you in Biddeford, Maine, on October 16 and in the months to follow. ☺

### Executive Board Meeting Report

- Elizabeth Slomba

The business handled at the June 17, 2004, meeting of the Executive Board is summarized below. All **VOTING** is in bold and italics. Complete minutes are available on the NEA Web site <[www.newenglandarchivists.org](http://www.newenglandarchivists.org)> or from the secretary.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by Mary Ide. Minutes from the March 26, 2004, Board Meeting and 2004 Annual Business Meeting were presented. ***All members voted in favor of the March 26, 2004, Board Meeting and the 2004 Annual Business Meeting minutes.***

### Officers' Reports

#### President

Mary Ide suggested developing a list of most important articles/items in the six New England state archives for

Archives Week. The Outreach Committee expressed interest in developing and carrying out the project.

She discussed the location of the Spring 2005 meeting; the Simmons Graduate School of Library and Information Science staff is willing to host the meeting. The meeting would likely be scheduled for April 29-30. *All members voted in favor that Jeannette Bastian be appointed chair of the Spring 2005 Local Arrangements Committee.*

Mary announced that she would be going as NEA's representative to Washington D.C. on June 21 to meet Archivist of the United States nominee Allen Weinstein at a meeting of archival and other interested organizations arranged by the American History Association.

#### Vice-President

Paul Carnahan announced that the Simmons reception at the Society of American Archivists Annual Meeting would be open to NEA members.

He reported that the Spring 2006 meeting would be at Boston College. He then discussed possible locations in Vermont for the Fall 2005 meeting. He will research the possibilities further and will solicit program committee members.

#### Immediate Past President

Rutherford Witthus gave an update on the Archival Advocacy Award, the Distinguished Service Award and the search for candidates for the upcoming NEA elections.

He also announced that he would be retiring from the University of Connecticut and expected to follow through the remaining Immediate Past-President duties.

#### Treasurer

Liz Andrews mentioned that the NEA contribution to SAA for its Boston conference will be coming out of this year's budget. She added that overall NEA is in good financial shape but that the board and committees need to pay

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attention to budget planning in the fall. She also urged that everyone get their budget requests and items to her by September 15.

### Secretary

Two spelling corrections were made in the March 26, 2004 board meeting minutes.

*All members voted in favor to accept the President Report, Vice-President Report, Immediate Past President Report, Treasurer Report and Secretary Report.*

### Meetings

#### Spring 2004 Program/Local Arrangements Final Report

There was a discussion of the two day meeting schedule and the effect on meeting attendance by NEA members. The board also discussed the format and content of conference attendee lists.

#### Fall 2004 Program Committee Report

The program committee presented the list of proposed sessions and Friday afternoon workshops.

#### Fall 2004 Local Arrangements Committee Report

It was proposed that Cally Gurley become the chair of the Fall 2004 Local Arrangements Committee while Chris Beam would be the registrar. *All members voted in favor to approve Cally Gurley the new chair of the Fall 2004 Local Arrangements Committee.*

Leah Weisse reported the schedule for the registration table and rooms costs to be charged to the Education Committee. Because members attending the fall meeting have the option of attending the retreat, the sessions and the workshops, members will pay a meeting fee. All members of NEA are urged to attend the planning retreat. The board discussed publicity for the fall meeting.

Next, the board discussed and set the meeting fee for the fall meeting. As an experiment for this meeting only, it was suggested that the meeting fee be low and that the non-member meeting fee be dropped. The board hopes that the lower fees would encourage non-members to join NEA and to encourage NEA members to attend the planning retreat. *All members voted in favor to set the Fall 2004 meeting registration fee at \$40 for members and non-members,*

*\$20 for students, with an option of joining or renewing membership, and \$55 for on-site registration.*

*All members voted in favor of accepting the Spring 2004 Local Arrangements and Program Committees Report, the Fall 2004 Program Committee Report, and the Fall 2004 Local Arrangements Committee Report.*

### Committee Reports to the Board

*All members voted in favor of accepting the following reports (no action needed): Membership Secretary Report, Membership Committee Report, Print Coordinator Report, Outreach Committee Report, and Education Committee Report.*

No Hale Award Report, Haas Award Report, or Email Coordinator Report.

#### Newsletter Report

The NEA Executive Board thanks Ellen Doon for her excellent work on the newsletter.

*All members voted in favor to approve Sheila Spaulding, City of Boston Archives, be approved as Inside NEA Editor with a term of three years (Oct. 2004-Oct. 2007) to replace Chris Burns.*

#### Web Committee Report

Anne Sauer presented information regarding vendors and their service prices for the NEA Web site. She suggested that NEA use SkyBuilders, which will charge \$200 a month to create functionality, maintain listservs, and provide dedicated email addresses, technical and design support, and web hosting. The board discussed at length what SkyBuilders offers and future costs and policies for the NEA Web site. *All members voted in favor to authorize Anne Sauer to negotiate for a six-month contract with*

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see contact information on the  
NEA Web site at:

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

Please visit us online at  
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 for more information  
 about becoming a member of NEA

*Skybuilders to host the NEA Web site and related services, at a cost not to exceed \$1200.*

#### Public Relations Coordinator Report

The NEA Executive Board thanks Dan McCormack for his excellent work as the Public Relations Coordinator.

#### Development Coordinator Report

Jane Ward plans a survey of regional archives groups to see what and how much they charge vendors at meetings.

*All members voted in favor to accept the Newsletter Editors Report, the Web Committee Report, the Public Relations Coordinator Report, and the Development Coordinator Report.*

#### Old Business

It was reported that A\*Census survey was still going on but that NEA response to the survey was lukewarm.

#### New Business

##### EAD Consortium

Michael Rush proposed a New England EAD Collaboration Working Meeting, which would bring together representatives from various interested groups and institutions to discuss the feasibility of EAD collaboration in New England. The group would be considering concerns about adopting EAD, the possible creation of a Union list of collections, and how to assist small institutions in making available their EAD finding aids to the public. *All members voted in favor of allocating \$600 for lunch and coffee for New England EAD collaboration working meeting.*

##### Next meeting date and adjournment

Mary Ide announced that next board meeting would be on Oct. 15, 2004, in Biddeford, Maine, from 1 to 4:30. The meeting adjourned at 2:00. ☺

#### New Members

- Deborah A. Richards

**Kathleen J. Barker**  
 Massachusetts Historical  
 Society

**Patsy Baudoin**  
 Simmons College - GSLIS

**Jeanne Munn Bracken**  
 Lincoln Public Library

**Joseph M. Ciccone**  
 Binnacle Capital Services,  
 LLC

**Marcella M. Curry**

**Donna Dodson**  
 Mount Ida College

**David A. Ferris**  
 Harvard University

**Keith Phelan Gorman**  
 Simmons College -  
 History Dept.

**Emily R. Jones**

**Karin A. Joyce**

**Jennifer Gunter King**  
 Mt. Holyoke College

**Courtney MacLachlan**  
 Strawberry Banke Museum

**Gay Marks**  
 New England Osteopathic  
 Heritage Center, UNE

**J.C. Noyes**  
 Bridgeport National  
 Bindery, Inc.

**Alyssa Pacy**  
 GLIS - Simmons College

**Leah Prescott**  
 Mystic Seaport

**Rebecca Rudolph**  
 Suffolk University

**Marija Sanderling**  
 Lane Memorial Library

**Sharon Spieldenner**  
 Schooner Adventure

**Vermont Law School**

**Lloyd Williams**

#### NEA Needs You - Please Volunteer!

Opportunities for volunteer participation in New England Archivists activities abound. NEA is a volunteer-run organization; without the participation of its members, NEA would cease to function. There are many committees, offices, and projects that need assistance from members.

Professionals in the archival field already possess skills and experience needed to support and advance New England Archivists. The opportunity to meet, converse, and do meaningful work with colleagues is of great professional and personal benefit. In addition, service to a professional organization such as NEA adds an important dimension to a professional resume.

If you are interested in volunteering for a committee, contact either Membership Committee Co-chair, Kelcy Shepherd <[kshepherd@library.umass.edu](mailto:kshepherd@library.umass.edu)> or Rodney Gorme Obien <[robien@wpi.edu](mailto:robien@wpi.edu)>.

## News and Notes

### CONNECTICUT

#### MSSA Acquires the William C. Bullitt Papers

Manuscripts and Archives in the Yale University Library is pleased to announce the deposit of the papers of William C. Bullitt (1891-1967), a Yale College graduate and career diplomat. The papers documenting his involvement in the Paris Peace Conference were on deposit at MSSA, but were removed by his daughter, Anne Moen Bullitt, after his death in 1967. With her health declining, a relative contacted MSSA to once again become a repository for the papers. MSSA readily acknowledged its interest in the World War I materials as well as files from his diplomatic posts as America's first ambassador to the Soviet Union in 1933-1936 and to France from 1936 until shortly after the German invasion in June 1940.

In addition to documenting his diplomatic career, the papers also include files from his unsuccessful campaign as a Democratic candidate for mayor of Philadelphia in 1943; writings, correspondence, and other manuscripts of his second wife, Louise Bryant, the Bolshevik sympathizer; Bullitt family papers; and Sigmund Freud manuscripts from the psychological study he and Bullitt did of President Wilson.

In May 2003, the papers began to arrive from Ireland where Anne resides. Currently there are about 100 record center boxes. The donor has also provided financial assistance to hire an archivist for one year to process the papers. The entire collection will be donated to Yale University after Anne's death.

### MAINE

#### Amazing! Maine Stories

Amazing! Maine Stories, an original exhibit presented by the Maine Historical Society, will be on view through December 31, 2004. The exhibit introduces curious, famous, and unknown characters whose lives illuminate Maine history in unexpected ways.

Curator John Mayer explored the deepest corners of MHS collections to find materials to tell these stories. The

stories stretch from the eighteenth century to the present, from the pulpit to the junkyard, and from Casco Bay to the shores of Tripoli. There are Native Americans, Yankee inventors, proto-feminists, and old-time railroad men, including Handkerchief Moody of York, Toy Len Goon of Portland, Squire Jonathan Morgan of Alna, and Dave "The Guesser" Glosky of Old Orchard Beach. The exhibit unfolds in a quirky, tabloid-style story with a range of extraordinary artifacts, paintings, photographs and manuscripts. For more information, see <[www.mainehistory.org](http://www.mainehistory.org)>.

#### Sarah Orne Jewett Manuscripts Donated to Bowdoin College

Two previously unrecorded Sarah Orne Jewett manuscripts, "A Dark Night" and "A Village Patriot," were recently donated to Bowdoin College by Ms. Nathalie B. Thompson, a private collector from Vero Beach, Florida. The manuscripts will be housed in the George J. Mitchell Department of Special Collections and Archives at the Bowdoin College Library.

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The short stories, bound in separate volumes, were originally drafted for the Bacheller Newspaper Syndicate, which distributed works for publication in the northeastern United States. "A Dark Night" first appeared in the *Philadelphia Press* in April 1895. "A Village Patriot" was purchased by the Syndicate in 1896 and was published variously, including in the *Boston Evening Transcript* and the *New York Times*. Syndicate owner Irving Bacheller prepared both volumes as gifts for Herbert Foster Gunnison, editor of the Brooklyn *Daily Eagle Almanac*. Friends since their college days at St. Lawrence University, Bacheller and Gunnison were intimately associated with the New York *literati*. Bound with "A Dark Night" is also a manuscript draft of Richard Henry Stoddard's "New Year's Day Half a Century Ago."

Jewett (1849-1909), regarded by many as the prominent voice of a bygone New England sentimentality, became the first woman to receive an honorary degree from Bowdoin (*Litt.D.* 1901). These two manuscripts enhance the College's already established collection of manuscripts and published works that document her writing career. For more on Sarah Orne Jewett and Bowdoin's collection of her papers, see <[library.bowdoin.edu/arch/mss/sojg.shtml](http://library.bowdoin.edu/arch/mss/sojg.shtml)>.

### MHS Offers Cruise for History Buffs

The Maine Historical Society is pleased to offer its "Spotlight on American History" cruise from New York to San Juan. The cruise will bring history alive as it travels through America's colonial and post-colonial past. Re-live important events of the Continental Congress, the drafting of the Declaration of Independence, the events leading to the War Between the States, and everyday life in Colonial Williamsburg. The cruise will include escorted tours to Philadelphia, Norfolk and Colonial Williamsburg, and Charleston. John Jakes, America's greatest exponent of the historical novel, will be on-board as guest lecturer and will offer pre-visit briefings and help lead tours.

The seven-night cruise aboard Radisson's 7-Sea Navigator is scheduled for October 23-31, 2004. Prices start at \$2,680.00 pp/do. For more information, see <[www.mainehistory.org](http://www.mainehistory.org)>.

## MASSACHUSETTS

### The Bostonian Society Brings Boston History into Your Home and Workplace

The Bostonian Society library catalog is now available online at <[www.bostonhistory.org](http://www.bostonhistory.org)>. Not only can researchers search online for books and manuscripts, but over 3,000 photographs from the Society's vast collection of Boston street scenes are also available. The catalog represents two years of work digitizing photographs and creating catalog records. Eventually all 35,000 photographs from the Society's collection will be digitized.

If you live or work in Boston, try searching for historic images of your home, office, or other favorite places in the city. You also can learn how Boston has changed over time by searching the catalog for pictures of residences, commercial buildings, streetcars, people, parks, and even buildings that no longer exist, including those lost to the Great Fire of 1872 and urban renewal. Orders for digital reproductions, of these and other images in the Society's holdings, can be placed online.

### The 2004 NHPRC Archival Research Fellowship Symposium

On June 11, 2004, Northeastern University Libraries hosted the second symposium of the Archival Research Fellowship Program funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. All NEA members were invited to attend. The fellows conducted research and wrote about topics of primary importance to the archival profession. Although topics varied widely, each hinged on challenging traditional methods and attitudes, and as a group they embraced broadening the archival perspective.

Mark Greene of the American Heritage Center at the University of Wyoming and Dennis Meissner of the Minnesota Historical Society delivered the most provocative presentation. They reported on a large-scale survey of processing backlogs and implied that massive backlogs could be due in part to archivists treating their collections too preciously during processing. Among the practices they scrutinized were rearrangement within folders, fastener removal, weeding, and item-level description. Instructing the audience to "do it with a shovel, not with tweezers," they called

for the retirement of the fastidious archivist and a more pragmatic approach emphasizing concise description, preliminary and partial processing, and providing access to unprocessed collections.

Susan Tucker of Tulane University offered a history of the often tense relationship between archivists and genealogists. She examined how genealogists have continuously forced archivists to confront issues of professional identity. She encouraged archivists to expand their definition of serious research beyond that of academic scholarship.

Lisa Carter of the University of Kentucky and Kentucky Public Television shared her experiences working on a digitization project for the public television channel KET-TV. Carter's report showed that appraisal of television materials, automated video logging software, and descriptive metadata are particular areas in which specialized needs are not currently being met in the profession.

Ellen Swain and Chris Prom of the University of Illinois at Urbana evaluated student organizations' Web sites as records of student life. Their study advocated periodic harvesting of Web sites in order to document student life. They found that although Web sites are a potential treasure trove of information on student life and habits, they pose problems when they are erratically encoded or irregularly updated.

Using field messages from the First World War as a case study, Eliot Wilczek of Tufts University analyzed war diaries to show how they documented the soldier's activities and how well record keepers followed instructions for proper reporting. Wilczek demonstrated that by studying the context in which records were created, including motives, circumstances, standards, and procedures, archivists may better grasp the value and meaning of their records.

Keynote speaker and chair of the Council on Library and Information Resources Dr. Abby Smith reported on a meeting of historians and researchers. She reiterated that patrons equate record selection with preservation and that digitized records are the ones that will get used; therefore, patrons advocate digitizing everything. Smith made an excellent point that archivists must improve their outreach and advocacy skills to secure potential sources of funding and should overhaul their Web sites to ensure that researchers are able to find what they need.

More information about individual projects can be found at <[www.masshist.org/fellowships/nhprc.cfm](http://www.masshist.org/fellowships/nhprc.cfm)>.

- Submitted by Dana Miller, Simmons GSLIS student

## **Boston College Launches Online Exhibit about the Irish Free State**

The J. Burns Library of Rare Books and Special Collections at Boston College has launched a new virtual exhibit entitled "Free State Art: Judging Ireland by Its Book Covers" in honor of the acquisition of the John W. O'Gorman Collection.

The Irish Free State was established by the Anglo-Irish Treaty (1921) following the War of Independence (1919-1921). It pursued a project of cultural nationalism, which among other aims focused on reviving the Irish language. The Cumann na nGaedheal government established An Gúm, the publications branch of the Department of Education (later Oifig an tSoláthair or the State Publishing Agency) in 1925 to supply textbooks and fiction in Irish for the educational and recreational needs of the newly independent Ireland. An Gúm cultivated both original authors and translators. In addition to organizing literary competitions for original novels, plays, and short stories in Irish, it commissioned translations of European and American authors.

In an effort to expand our understanding of the Irish Free State, this virtual exhibition displays dust jackets that accompanied An Gúm publications and reclaims this "lost" art. The Web site is available at <[www.bc.edu/libraries/centers/burns/exhibits/virtual/bkcovers](http://www.bc.edu/libraries/centers/burns/exhibits/virtual/bkcovers)>.

## **Northeastern Acquires the Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston Records**

Northeastern University Libraries is pleased to announce the acquisition of the historical records of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston. This material contributes to the University Archives and Special Collection Department's collecting focus on records of private, non-profit, community-based organizations concerned with social justice issues.

Founded in Charlestown in 1893 as the Boys Club of

Boston, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston currently serves 8,000 urban youths, largely from disadvantaged circumstances, in its five clubhouses in Charlestown, Chelsea, Dorchester, Roxbury, and South Boston. The Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston aids in the development of youth, ages six to eighteen, through programs in six core areas: the arts, education, leadership and character development, life skills, sports, fitness and recreation, and technology. The program activities and support services are designed to assist in the overall educational, emotional, physical, and social development of participants, without regard to social, racial, ethnic, or religious background.

The material acquired dates from 1910 to 2000 and documents the Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston's efforts to provide a community in which youth can realize their full potential. The collection includes records of executive directors, board and committee minutes, fund-raising and development materials, publications and reports, photographs, and scrapbooks. The collection also includes material pertaining to the Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston's parent organization, The Boys and Girls Clubs of America.

## Five Colleges Libraries Assisting in the Development of the Archivists' Toolkit

The University of California, San Diego Libraries and the New York University Libraries, working together with the Five Colleges Libraries, have been awarded a grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to support development and implementation of the Archivists' Toolkit. A Web site for the project is located at <[euterpe.bobst.nyu.edu/toolkit/](http://euterpe.bobst.nyu.edu/toolkit/)>.

The Toolkit will be a suite of open source software tools for processing and managing archival information. Its objective is to decrease the time and cost associated with archival processing and to promote the standardization of archival information. It will address and integrate a broad range of archival functions, and will provide a single, consistent, and reliable tool for managing collection processing, accessioning, description, resource location, and provenance registration. In addition, the Toolkit will provide the archivist with a variety of outputs, including EAD encoded finding aids and METS records.

The Toolkit will empower archives, small and large, by providing them with the tools for more easily establishing their presence on the Web and for sharing information on their holdings with other repositories and union catalogs. Early implementation of the Toolkit will focus on small to medium-sized repositories for which resources and staffing are comparatively limited.

The \$847,000 awarded by the Mellon Foundation will support the first two-year phase of the project. Project management will be based in the UCSD Libraries. Software development will take place at NYU, in collaboration with a design team comprising staff from the UCSD, NYU, and Five Colleges Libraries. In addition, a project oversight committee and an advisory board have been established to ensure standards compliance and superior design, and to foster widespread adoption of the Toolkit.

## Tufts and Yale Universities Receive NHPRC Grant for Electronic Records Project

The NHPRC has awarded an Electronic Records Project grant to the Digital Collections and Archives of Tufts University, in partnership with Manuscripts & Archives of

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Yale University. The eighteen-month grant will support work to synthesize electronic records preservation research with digital library repository research in an effort to develop systems capable of preserving university electronic records at both institutions. This project will test the potential of Fedora (the Flexible Extensible Digital Object and Repository Architecture) to serve as the architecture for such an electronic records preservation system.

The project Web site is at <[dca.tufts.edu/features/nhprc/index.html](http://dca.tufts.edu/features/nhprc/index.html)>. Project staff will post reports, findings, and announcements to the Web site during the course of the grant.

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

### Exhibition Offers New Insight into President Franklin Pierce

Franklin Pierce (1804-1869) is the focus of a groundbreaking exhibition at the New Hampshire Historical Society entitled *Franklin Pierce: Defining Democracy in America*. Never before have Pierce artifacts, paintings, letters, and personal accounts been brought together on such a large scale. The exhibition is on view between July 3, 2004 and May 8, 2005, in the Tuck Library at the NHHS.

*Defining Democracy in America* showcases more than 100 objects, paintings, photographs and documents drawn primarily from the Society's museum and library collections, but also incorporates material from other institutions. The exhibition helps mark the Bicentennial year of Pierce's birth and places his life in the context of past and present American culture. His life and career, like that of many famous Americans, are understood through a mixture of scholarly interpretation and popular myth. The overall goal of the exhibition is to use the Society's extensive collection of Pierce-related materials to move the man out of the realm of myth and legend, and to explore how he influenced and was influenced by ideas and events of his time.

A series of public programs will be offered in conjunction with the exhibition, and a special issue of *Historical New Hampshire*, focusing on Pierce, will be published in November 2004. For more information, see <[www.nhhistory.org/museumexhibits/pierce/pierce1.htm](http://www.nhhistory.org/museumexhibits/pierce/pierce1.htm)>.

## VERMONT

### Vermont History Expo Draws Crowds

Vermont historical societies, museums, special collections departments, and other organizations gathered at the Tunbridge World's Fair Grounds on June 26-27, 2004, for the fifth annual Vermont History Expo, a unique celebration of history drawing from the resources of hundreds of history-related organizations. Approximately 7,000 people came to the picturesque location in the tiny Vermont hamlet to visit exhibits, listen to lectures, watch dancers, talk to reenactors, meet neighbors, and celebrate their common heritage.

Sponsored by the Vermont Historical Society, this event featured exhibits assembled by 105 local historical societies that drew on their archival and museum collections. This year twenty six local historical societies worked together to create an exhibit on mining in each of their towns. In addition, thirty Vermont museums had exhibits and sponsored activities for families and attendees. The event included a parade on Saturday and a prominent Vermonters box lunch auction on Sunday. Speakers addressed topics such as Vermont's African-American soldiers during the Civil War and the trains that delivered orphans to Vermont families between 1854 and 1928.

One half of one exhibit hall was devoted to a "Genealogy Resources and Archives Center." The Vermont Historical Society set up four computers with online access to help visitors conduct quick genealogy searches, and representatives from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints searched records on two CD-ROM workstations. Representatives from several genealogical societies were also present to discuss their organizations' work.

Special collections departments from the University of Vermont and Norwich University were represented with displays drawn heavily from their university archives. The Vermont State Archives and the National Archives and Records Administration also had displays. A popular fea-

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ture of the genealogy and archives building was the table staffed by the NEA's Outreach Committee. The "Archival Evils" display and numerous handouts provided examples of the dos and don'ts of archival preservation.

Next year's Vermont History Expo will be held in Tunbridge on June 25-26, 2005. Details about the event will be posted on the Vermont Historical Society's Web site at <[www.vermonthistory.org/expo](http://www.vermonthistory.org/expo)>.

### **Vermont General Assembly Supports Records Projects**

In 2003-2004, Vermont's General Assembly enacted a series of projects relating to both active and archival records. These include \$50,000 for a joint project of the court administrator's office and the state archives to begin processing pre-1845 court records; \$50,000 to establish pilot scanning projects in five municipalities focusing on non-archival records; \$50,000 to begin digitizing over 40,000 hours of legislative committee testimony recorded on analog tapes; and \$30,000 to create a municipal land records commission to establish procedures for managing land records, including electronic records. The Assembly also commissioned a Legislative Council study of Vermont's public records laws with an emphasis on the impact of technology on privacy.

### **Vermont Institutions Participate in the Landscape Change Program**

The Landscape Change Program is a web-based archive of paired historic and recent photos of Vermont landscapes. Its mission is to preserve, present, organize, and make widely accessible images of Vermont landscapes as they were and are. A service of the University of Vermont, it is based in the Geology Department and funded by the National Science Foundation. The Web site illustrates the complex interaction and feedbacks between people and the physical and biological landscapes on which they live. Using images and their interpretation, the project seeks to integrate science, history, and human experience.

The core of the program is the Web site, a community archive containing over 6000 images and growing daily. Vermonters use the site to see their history. Geologists use

the site to see the impact of storms and logging. Historical societies and museums use the site to make their collections available to anyone, anywhere, anytime. Town planners use the site for historical perspective. Teachers use the site to give their students a sense of place and history.

Project staff partner with museums, historical societies, libraries, and citizens to obtain digital copies of original landscape images and host these images for public viewing. Anyone is welcome to look for and scan historic photos or artwork of their hometown at local historical societies and from other sources. Once people find images, they can go into the field with the project's GPS units and digital cameras to retake the photo from the same location. After uploading the photo pair and associated location data, it becomes part of the on-line, searchable database of Vermont photos. For more information, go to <[www.uvm.edu/perkins/landscape](http://www.uvm.edu/perkins/landscape)> or please contact <[Paul.Bierman@uvm.edu](mailto:Paul.Bierman@uvm.edu)>.

## **OUTSIDE NEW ENGLAND**

### **NEA President Meets U.S. Archivist Candidate Dr. Allen Weinstein**

On December 19, 2003, the White House announced that John Carlin, Archivist of the United States, would resign upon the confirmation of a new Archivist. On April 8, 2004, the White House nominated historian Dr. Allen Weinstein to replace Carlin. The resignation of Carlin and nomination of Weinstein prompted concern in the archival community over the nomination process. Since former President Ronald Reagan signed the National Archives and Records Administration Act of 1984, such nominations had been made in consultation with archival and historical organizations. Because Weinstein's nomination was not open to public discussion prior to the confirmation hearings in the United States Senate, the Society of American Archivists issued a statement about the nomination process; this statement was co-signed by thirty additional organizations including NEA.

At the invitation of the National Coalition for History, on June 21, 2004, NEA President Mary Ide attended an informal information meeting in Washington, DC to meet Weinstein. The meeting was held at the American Historical

Association. Also attending were representatives from SAA, the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference, the Council of State Historical Records Coordinators, the National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators, the Association for Documentary Editing and the National Coalition for History.

The purpose of the meeting was to meet Weinstein, have the opportunity to hear from him, and ask him questions. Weinstein asked the group's thoughts on the following points: whether the needs of the archival community are sufficiently heard by NARA; 2) whether NARA is sufficiently funded; and 3) whether there should be more involvement by the archival community with NARA. Generally the group affirmed the need for more input, more funding, and more involvement.

The U. S. Senate Governmental Affairs Committee held its confirmation hearing of Dr. Weinstein on July 22, 2004. Although not invited to testify at the nomination hearing, in April 2004, in conjunction with NAGARA and COSHRC, SAA had issued a statement on selection criteria for the Archivist of the United States. At the Senate hearing, Weinstein indicated that if confirmed, his priorities would include the security of documents, continuing the federal records management and electronic records initiatives, promoting educational and public programs, financially supporting the NHPRC, addressing personnel needs within NARA, and improving relationships with presidential libraries.

During the Senate hearing, a letter from Carlin dated July 21, 2004, was made public. In the letter Carlin indicated that the current administration had requested his resignation in December 2003. This news effectively put Weinstein's confirmation on hold until the White House responds, as required by law, as to why Carlin was asked to resign. For a more complete analysis of this issue, please see <[www.archivists.org/statements](http://www.archivists.org/statements)> or the National Coalition for History's *Washington Update*, vol. 10 no. 32 (July 23, 2004).

### **SAA Issues Statement on the Renewal of the USA PATRIOT Act**

Following the narrow defeat of the "Freedom to Read Protection Act" in the United States House of

Representatives on July 8, 2004, the Society of American Archivists released a statement on July 15 calling for a reexamination of the USA PATRIOT Act to ensure "a thorough evaluation of its potential for violating legitimate privacy rights and giving to law enforcement agencies significant authority without sufficient accountability." For more information, see <[www.archivists.org/statements/patriotact.asp](http://www.archivists.org/statements/patriotact.asp)>.

### **Call for Papers for the Annual Meeting of the International Council on Archives Section on University and Research Institution Archives**

The 2005 Annual Meeting of the International Council on Archives/Section on University and Research Institution Archives (ICA/SUV) will be held at Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan, on September 6-9, 2005. Do not miss this unique opportunity to meet archivists from around the world. The Program Committee for the 2005 Meeting is seeking dynamic speakers to submit proposals for individual papers or complete sessions. You need not be a member of the ICA. New speakers are encouraged to apply. The deadline for proposals is January 31, 2005.

The theme of the 2005 Meeting is comparing Central, North, and South American college and university archives with other university archives around the world. Subthemes of the conference include science and technology, multi-cultural archives, collecting materials across borders, collecting non-university material, and athletics.

Presenters must submit a written copy of their text six weeks in advance of the meeting for translation purposes. Persons wishing to submit proposals should send a brief summary by mail to Fred Honhart, Michigan State University, 101 Conrad Hall, East Lansing, MI 48824; fax to 517.353.9319; or email <[honhart@msu.edu](mailto:honhart@msu.edu)>. For more information, see <[archives.msu.edu/icasuv](http://archives.msu.edu/icasuv)>. ©

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<[www.newenglandarchivists.org](http://www.newenglandarchivists.org)>  
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## Reviews

*Ethics and the Archival Profession: Introduction and Case Studies*, by Karen M. Benedict. Society of American Archivists, 2003. Paperback, \$34.95. 90 pp. ISBN: 1-931666-05-9

- Lloyd Williams, Graduate Student, Simmons College  
Graduate School of Library and Information Science

It goes without saying that the adherence to strong ethical principles is one of the most important tenets of the archival profession. A violation of ethics can lead to distrust in the profession both from other professionals and from the public we serve. How, though, do we as archivists address a violation of ethics, or how, for that matter, do we define “good ethics”? Ethics, after all, is a subjective term as it often applies to something deeply personal and moral; defining a code of ethics for a profession, therefore, represents a daunting task. As archivists, we sometimes face the dilemma of what is perceived as ethically acceptable and what is professionally acceptable; the two are not always the same. In the book, *Ethics and the Archival Profession: Introduction and Case Studies*, Karen Benedict highlights the importance of ethics to the archival profession and attempts to provide suggestions on what an archivist should do if faced with a difficult ethical and professional dilemma.

Benedict begins the book with an overview of the establishment of the Society of American Archivists Codes of Ethics, the first such code in the profession. The code, adopted in 1980 by the Council of the Society of American Archivists, gave archivists and others in the profession a set of guidelines pertaining to professional conduct relative to ethical decisions archivists may face during their careers. Benedict also addresses issues raised by John H. Kultgen in his 1988 book *Ethics and Professionalism* regarding professional decision-making when ethics and legality conflict. Ethical decision-making pertains to knowledge of and adherence to laws; however, being aware of and following laws and behaving ethically are not always synonymous. Furthermore, unethical behavior is not necessarily illegal behavior. The next three chapters, “Ethics Versus Professional Conduct,” “The Impact of Ethics on Institutional Practices,” and “Law Versus Ethics,” focus on ethics and the conflicts archivists might face in their careers.

The heart of this book is the section devoted to true

accounts and instances of ethical dilemmas. The forty case studies present a variety of situations an archivist might encounter. Benedict carefully outlines each scenario, poses a set of questions, and offers potential responses and/or actions. The case studies attempt to address a range of questions involving various aspects of the archival profession as they relate to the SAA Code of Ethics; topics include collection appraisal, collection policies, copyright, deed of gift, privacy, restriction on access, and theft. All the studies take place in the same setting, the fictitious Sagamore County. The reason for this was, according to Benedict, “to emphasize that although based on experience, the case studies do not refer to real persons or institutions.” Benedict noted that all of the case studies represented a collaborative effort. Timothy Ericson, Mark Greene, Mark Shelstad, Robert Sink, Leon Miller, and Robert Spindler joined Benedict in writing the case studies.

Benedict has put together a very informative and useful resource for archivists who might be faced with a situation similar to those presented in the case studies. Benedict has also provided a list of suggested readings on ethics as well as the 1992 revised version of the SAA Code of Ethics. All archivists, whether they are new to the profession or have been in it for many years, will benefit from having this book in their possession. ☺

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## People

**Georgen Gilliam Charnes**, Nantucket Historical Association’s Curator of Library & Archives, is writing columns for the two Nantucket newspapers. The column in the weekly *Nantucket Independent* features a photographic image needing identification. Each week’s column also includes a smaller image of the photograph from the week before, the address, and the names of those who offered the identification. For the weekly *Inquirer & Mirror*, there is a lengthier column featuring articles on archival topics. So far columns have been published on preserving family photographs, getting started in genealogy, conducting oral history, exploring the cemetery inscription project, as well as columns spotlighting resources available, such as the online image database, the Barney Genealogical Record, the 1846 Dyer diary, and Sanborn maps.

**Nancy Richard**, former Director of the Bostonian Society's Library and Special Collections, has relocated to Grand Rapids, Michigan, where she will be working for the Public Museum of Grand Rapids on their new Community Archives and Research Center and for the Grand Rapids Art Museum.

**Sarina Rodrigues Wyant**, University of Rhode Island Special Collections and Archives, is President of the Board of Directors of the Rhode Island Center for the Book. **Donna Longo DiMichele**, Rhode Island Office of Library and Information Services, is also a Board member. ☺

### Archives Week - November 7-13, 2004

Visit the COSHRC archives week directory at:  
<<http://www.coshrc.org/arc/archweekdir.htm>>

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### Three E-Mail Lists at a Glance

#### **NEAboard:**

Established in February 2001, this is an unmoderated list that facilitates communication of the NEA Executive Board. However, it is also open to all current NEA members. Scope of messages is limited to discussion of issues that come before the NEA board; electronic votes may also be taken via the list at the discretion of the President.

#### **NEAannounce:**

Intended to facilitate communication about NEA-sponsored events, programs, and elections. It is open to all current NEA members, who will automatically be subscribed. However, messages may be posted by members of the NEA board and committees only.

#### **NEAdiscuss:**

An open forum for NEA members to communicate about items of common professional interest. Open to all members, and moderated by the E-mail Coordinator for content.

For more information, go to <<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/neaboard/>>.

## Around and About

### How a Presidential Primary Makes Secondary Sources Primary: Documenting the 2004 New Hampshire Primary

*Barbara D. Miles, Former Archivist, New Hampshire Political Library*

It required an act of contrition to the god of acquisition, a bending of the brow before the patron of provenance, an examination of conscience with the blessed virgin original source and a nine-month novena to holy spirit appraisal. All this was necessary for my archivally trained mind and historically sensitive soul to deliver a bumper sticker upon the altar of inherent value.

Suddenly in the year of our presidential primary 2004, mass-produced materials including signs, lapel stickers, posters, buttons, and newspaper clippings became vital records in the documentation of political campaigns. Consequently, this host of reproduced memorabilia rose from indiscernible identities as sought-after treasures for the archives of American democracy. How, I questioned my inner sense of original order, could I justify collecting thousands of reprinted articles from hundreds of newspapers, line after electronic line of internet blogs and describe them as archive-worthy? After a couple of months resisting temptation, I began to rationalize my strategy: arrange them in chronological order, categorize them according to source, describe them as contemporary documents, and they will portray the process by which a candidate captures or loses the party nomination.

A meaningful plan was emerging but my need for uniqueness remained unappeased. While gathering up commercially produced 14" x 24" posters prompting voters to choose the candi-

date's name highlighted in never-ending red, white, and blue stars and stripes, I found myself begging supporters to relinquish their home-made posters so that personality for posterity could be represented in the collection. Seek out the rare brochures and unusual fliers, I told myself. Take photographs of the candidates that only your repository will possess. Yes, you can do this!

You, the Archivist for the New Hampshire Political Library have a once in a career opportunity to collect every possible artifact of the 2004 Presidential Primary. Acquire signatures of all the hopefuls, snare the litter left behind by campaign headquarters before they close and leave town, never to be seen again. You are, after all, fulfilling the mission of your Archives, founded in 1997 as the only nonpartisan, non-profit organization in the Granite State committed exclusively to the election process, with a mission of protecting and preserving New Hampshire's tradition of holding the first-in-the-nation presidential primary.

Legally known as the Library and Archives of New Hampshire's Political Tradition, its founders include Secretary of State William Gardner and former Governor Hugh Gregg. These and additional leading citizens of New Hampshire, rooted in the State's ethos and political temperament, dedicated themselves to the task of establishing, funding, and aggressively collecting materials that provide intellectual strength to the study of

America's democratic principles. Here, researchers can trace the national contest for the highest office of the land from Lincoln's 1860 campaign to the second election held in the new millennium. Archival materials range from paper ballots, cut out of nineteenth-century local newspapers and carried to the polls, to campaign speeches and strategies of contemporary statesmen. Here curious minds will discover how artifacts of political campaigns have evolved over one hundred and forty years. By examining this collection, students of American history learn how effectively or unsuccessfully candidates use media to introduce themselves to voters. Election returns recorded in city and county prove the acceptance or rejection of their message. As one would expect, the repository contains special insight of how seriously a presidential hopeful's ambitions are taken by residents of New Hampshire, demonstrated through photographs of house parties, and of visits to recreational landmarks and centers of enterprise.

So, by the third month of taking photos of primary, secondary, and tertiary candidates, recording their audio postcards and speeches and scooping up armfuls of campaign literature, I was mindful of being on a mission. Prayers for guidance through the deluge of banners and fliers were answered. I would be able to dedicate myself to gathering up materials that reflect the presence of candidates here in New Hampshire. Now I could proceed with confidence that at least we, if no other archives in the country,

would hold title to one copy of the New Hampshire-born phrase: “Date Dean - Marry Kerry.”

Now I could smile genuinely when contributors brought in early, black-and-white brochures from the leading contender. I realized that a single folded piece of paper would tell the story of how a money-deficient campaign began in a volunteer’s house in Manchester. I envisioned husbands and wives after work, cutting and pasting, photocopying and hand delivering campaign literature door to door in their neighborhoods. My job was providing perspective as to how a grassroots organization was able to lift a candidate from the hamlets of New Hampshire and present him to the nation through a well funded, professionally staffed organization with the ability to publish multi-page, glossy booklets containing colorful renditions of his campaign.

By the time our first-in-the-nation primary ended, I had the honor of meeting each of the candidates and observing the process through which they worked out approaches to national and international issues. I had participated in the political process available only to residents of New Hampshire and managed to maintain my professional ethics throughout the course of the Democratic primary campaigns. My dilemmas with the deities of archival principles were reconciled. Although I still cannot quite accept a political button as a jewel in the crown of our profession, I take pride in having captured rare moments that the Presidential Primary offers to this New Hampshire Political Library, including:

- A folklore story heard first by those

attending the Library’s Politics & Eggs breakfast, and captured on videotape. Ambassador Carol Moseley Braun compared America’s involvement in Iraqi Freedom to her father buying a lawn mower when the toilet broke and was leaking water. It was not that the lawn did not need mowing.

- Excerpts from the first thousand letters written to draft General Wesley Clark—a New Hampshire initiative.
- Photographs of Howard Dean’s announcement day in Vermont and campaign in New Hampshire. Taken and donated to the Library by volunteers, this is the largest collection of images portraying Dean’s ability to engage voters in the Granite State.
- Photographs of Elizabeth Edwards’s personal visit to the Political Library. She graced the facility with her essence of love and support as wife and mother.
- Richard Gephardt’s signature in the Political Library’s guest book demonstrates the strength of this organization as a significant stop on the campaign trail.
- Slim contents of single folders account for proof of the attempts and early withdrawals made by Gary Hart and Joe Biden.
- Two of John Kerry’s thunder sticks inflated after passing security in the State House on the day he registered for the Primary. Used by his supporters, these plastic noisemakers created loud encouragement for a quietly confident candidate.
- Audio recordings of drummers and

dancers for Dennis Kucinich portray the joy and exuberance he inspired in his supporters.

- The image of Joe Lieberman’s mother in her wheelchair campaigning for her son in the center of New Hampshire reminds researchers how personal politics is in the Granite State.
- A poster made for the visit of Al Sharpton to New England College assures the ability of New Hampshire institutions to provide first-hand interaction between young voters and Presidential candidates.

As the candidates leave New Hampshire to convey their aspirations to our fellow citizens in other States, I return to the quietude of processing contemporary evidence of an exercise in freedom. And with the honor of having served our profession in this capacity, I have concluded that as an Archives devoted to the first-in-the-nation Presidential Primary, the New Hampshire Political Library is second to none. ☺



## Calendar



Press releases and other announcements of upcoming activities to be published in the *Newsletter* should be sent to NEA, c/o Massachusetts Archives, 220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, MA 02125, or sent via e-mail to <m.light@neu.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.

**October 3-6, 2004.** ARMA International Annual Conference: "Creative Solutions for Changing Times." Long Beach, CA. <expo.arma.org>

**October 7, 2004.** NELINET Institute: "Copyright Issues for Digitization Projects." Storrs, CT.

**October 8-10, 2004.** "Choices & Challenges: Hot Topics Facing Curators and Archivists." Benson Ford Research Center, The Henry Ford, Dearborn, MI. For registration information, contact <MarilynY@TheHenryFord.org> or (313) 982-6100, ext. 2559

**October 15-16, 2004.** NEA Fall Meeting. University of New England, Biddeford, ME.

**October 20, 2004.** "Protection for the Light Sensitive: Care of Photographic Materials." Philadelphia, PA. <www.ccaha.org>

**October 20-22, 2004.** New England Library Association Meeting. Manchester, NH. <www.nelib.org>

**October 25-29, 2004.** Preservation Management Institute, Session I. State University of New Jersey, Rutgers, New Brunswick, NJ. For registration information, contact (703) 932-7169 or <pds@scils.rutgers.edu>

**October 28-30, 2004.** Midwest Archives Conference Fall Meeting. Des Moines, IA.

**October 30, 2004.** Workshop: Vermont Genealogy. Vermont History Center, Barre, VT. <www.vermonthistory.org/workshops>

**November 5-7, 2004.** Document Imaging and Document Management Three-Day Course. Los Angeles, CA. <www.archivebuilders.com/abcourses.html>

**November 8-13, 2004.** Archives Week in the NEA region.

**November 8-11, 2004.** Mold, Moisture, and Remediation Workshop. Cincinnati, OH. <www.acgih.org>

**November 10-13, 2004.** Museum Computer Network Conference: "Great Technology for Collections, Confluence and Community." Minneapolis, MN. <www.mcn.edu>

**November 10-13, 2004.** Annual Association of Moving Image Archivists (AMIA) Conference. Minneapolis, MN. <www.amianet.org/annual/next/overview.html>

**November 17-19, 2004.** Annual Conference of the New England Association of City and Town Clerks. Boston, MA. <http://www.neactc.com/conference.htm>

**November 18, 2004.** Official opening of the William J. Clinton Presidential Center. Little Rock, AR.

**January 6-9, 2005.** American Historical Association Annual Meeting: "Archives and Artifacts." Seattle, WA. <www.theaha.org>

**January 11-14, 2005.** Association for Library and Information Science Education Annual Conference. Boston, MA. <www.alise.org>

**January 27, 2005.** NELINET Seminar: "Institutional Repositories: Models & Approaches." Southborough, MA.

**February 15, 2005.** Application deadline for NEA Richard W. Hale, Jr. Professional Development Award.

**March 1, 2005.** Application deadline for NEA Richard L. Haas Memorial Award.

**March 31-April 3, 2005.** New England Regional Genealogical Conference. Portland, ME. <www.rootsweb.com/~ma>

**April 9, 2005.** The New England Archivists of Religious Institutions Annual Meeting. Rivier College, Nashua, NH. <www.csjboston.org/neari.htm>

**April 11-15, 2005.** Preservation Management Institute, Session II. State University of New Jersey, Rutgers, New Brunswick, NJ.

**April 14-16, 2005.** Society of California Archivists, Northwest Archivists, Society of Rocky Mountain Archivists, and the Conference of Inter-Mountain Archivists Joint Meeting. Las Vegas, NV.

**April 14-17, 2005.** National Council on Public History Annual Meeting: "Defining Regions: Public Historians and the Culture and Meaning of Region." Kansas City, MO. <www.ncph.org>

**May 1-5, 2005.** American Association of Museums Annual Meeting & MuseumExpo. Indianapolis, IN. <www.aam-us.org>

**June 8-11, 2005.** Association of Canadian Archivists Annual Meeting: "Theory and Practice." Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

**June 21-24, 2005.** Rare Books and Manuscript Section Preconference: "Bridging the Gap: Education and Special

Collections." St. Louis, MO.

**July 20-23, 2005.** National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators Annual Meeting. Richmond, VA.

**August 13-21, 2005.** Society of American Archivists Annual Meeting and Conference. New Orleans, LA.

**September 6-9, 2005.** Annual Meeting of the International Council on Archives/Section on University and Research Institution Archives. Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI. <archives.msu.edu/icasuv>

**September 19-23, 2005.** Preservation Management Institute, Session III. State University of New Jersey, Rutgers, New Brunswick, NJ.

**July 31-August 6, 2006.** Society of American Archivists Annual Meeting and Conference. Washington, DC.

**August 27-September 2, 2007.** Society of American Archivists Annual Meeting and Conference. Chicago, IL. ☺

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Two volunteers from the Simmons College Student Chapter of SAA, Giordana Mecagni and Honor Moody, at the NEA Outreach Committee's booth at the 2004 Vermont History Expo. The table was arranged by Elizabeth Scott, archivist at Saint Michael's College in VT. See pages 19-20 for details.