MAC Newsletter

Preserving the Documents of the Past and Making Them Accessible to the Future!

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ELECTED OFFICERS

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See page 15 for election results and ex officio appointments.

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MAC Archivists Meet in Saint Paul

Over 350 MAC members and friends descended on Saint Paul April 28–30, 2011, for the MAC Annual Meeting. The conference offered a wide selection of workshops, sessions, and other events organized by the Program Committee (PC) and Local Arrangements Committee (LAC), designed to appeal to archivists of all experience levels and repository types.

Despite the unseasonable snowflakes, groups enjoyed Wednesday evening outings to the Minnesota Twins game and a historic pub tour. Thursday morning brought a variety of tours to local repositories, including the Minnesota Historical Society, Minnesota Public Radio, and the Science Museum of Minnesota.

The meeting officially kicked off with plenary speaker Dr. Mark Neuzil's address "The Mississippi River of Henry Bosse: Government Photography as History." Conference attendees then flocked to the

MACers enjoy the baseball game between the Minnesota Twins and Tampa Bay Devil Rays.

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Fall Symposium: Mysteries of Magnetic Tape Revealed!

Sioux City, Iowa, October 19–21, 2011

Test your Iowa trivia, MAC members!

What do advice columnists Dear Abby (Pauline Friedman) and Ann Landers (her sister, Esther), and actors Fred Grandy (Gopher of TV's *The Love Boat*) and Jerry Mathers (Beaver Cleaver of TV's *Leave It To Beaver*) all have in common?

Answer: They were born and raised in Sioux City, Iowa, site of the 2011 MAC Fall Symposium, *Mysteries of Magnetic Tape Revealed*! Take our advice—with or without a situation comedy laugh track—and plan to attend this very informative two-day workshop. If you have wondered how to better manage and make accessible those stacks of

1939 Postcard. Curt Teich and Co., Inc.

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Fall Symposium

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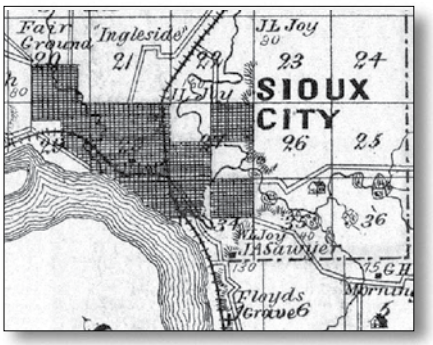
audio and video recording tapes in your repository, this symposium is for you.

Analog audio- and videotape formats dominated the recording of sound and moving images for the better part of the late twentieth century, stretching back as far as the 1950s. Whether acquired through in-house creation or external donation, these machine-readable formats have become increasingly common denizens of archival holdings all over the world. Their growing numbers, the recent alarms regarding their uncertain physical viability, and their dependence on largely obsolete technology serve only to further perplex the collections manager who is more comfortable with paper and born-digital records.

The symposium gathers archivists and practitioners to discuss the basics of magnetic audio and video media. Topics such as physical characteristics, preservation issues, format obsolescence, collections management, description, use, and options for reformatting represent some of the content of this valuable exploration of the mysterious world of analog magnetic media. Symposium participants may also claim Archival Recertification Credits under section B.3.b of the Academy of Certified Archivists' petition for recertification.

The symposium speakers will provide a history of the media, identify and demonstrate the many and varied formats, discuss their physical qualities, address the many preservation and access challenges they pose for your users and your staff or volunteers, and review ways to describe the materials so that your users may better identify your holdings. They will also discuss the latest practices in reformatting magnetic media, how to select and work with a vendor, and grant funding options that are available to libraries, archives, museums, and other non-profit organizations.

Our presenters and facilitators will provide you with the information you will need to make informed decisions about your magnetic tape collections. George Blood of Safe Sound Archive in Philadelphia is an expert in preserving and transferring magnetic recordings, both audio and video. He will discuss the technical aspects of magnetic media and their care, the digitization process, and working with vendors. Elizabeth Clemens is the audiovisual archivist at Wayne State University in Detroit. She will share her experiences working with magnetic media from an archivist's perspective, covering topics such as preservation, selection, description, and access. Jeff Stein, curator of the Archives of Iowa Broadcasting at Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa, will relate his repository's experiences with magnetic media received from radio and television stations across the state.



From the Andreas Atlas of Iowa, 1875.

The symposium will kick off on Wednesday evening, October 19, with an opening reception at the recently opened Sioux City Public Museum (http://wwwsiouxcitymuseum.org), a remarkable and rich showcase of Great Plains heritage and Siouxland history. The museum, located in a former department store building, is the culmination of a $12.5 million, six-year community campaign. It features a 12,000-square-foot permanent exhibit gallery and is a must-see for visitors. The museum is a short walk from the site of the symposium, the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center, accessible across the street via skywalk or street-level sidewalk. The Clarion offers the complete amenities of a full-service hotel, including wireless internet access throughout the center. It is also a short walk from Sioux City's Historic Fourth Street District, where you will find a variety of restaurants and shops.

If you are interested in architecture, you will not want to miss the one-hour walking tour of historic downtown Sioux City following the first day of the workshop (Thursday, October 20). Grace Linden of the Sioux City Public Museum will be your guide, pointing out examples of Romanesque Revival, late Victorian, and other styles of notable landmarks. To learn more about Sioux City and Siouxland, visit the official Siouxland Web site at http://www.visitsiouxcity.org.

Registration fees:

MAC members: $125
Nonmembers: $175
Students: $50

The Symposium Organizing Committee looks forward to seeing you in Sioux City in October! If you have questions about local arrangements, contact David McCartney at david-mccartney@uiowa.edu, and, for program questions, contact Paul Eisloeffel at paul.eisloeffel@nebraska.gov.