ARCHIVES & ARCHIVISTS LISTSERV

By Jennifer Rawlings
Jefferson National Expansion Memorial
E-mail: jeff_archivist@nps.gov

9-11

A great deal of conversation about the events of September 11 took place on the Listserv. Some archivists who work in Manhattan were able to tell their colleagues they were safe. Many who simply needed to share their thoughts and feelings about the terrible events did so on the Listserv. Our international colleagues offered sympathy and support. Eventually some of the discussion turned to archival matters with interesting questions raised about backing up information off site and how to document the disaster.

On-Line Auctions

One Listserv member asked if anyone had tried deaccessioning items via on-line auction sites. This sparked quite a bit of discussion about the ethical considerations involved and that discussion extended to the ethics of selling unwanted items at all. If your institution specifies that items be sold at a "public sale," would an on-line auction site count? Would potential donors be horrified to see museums and archives selling off unwanted collections? Would they even have to know who was doing the selling? There were some interesting stories about places that had found treasures on eBay, indicating that many institutions have purchased from such sites but not many are selling through them. Clear donor contracts are a necessity to avoid tricky situations later, e.g., spelling out if the donor will be given right of first refusal if the items are unwanted or duplicates. But do these contracts need to spell out how and where the item could be sold? What about contracts written before the advent of sites like eBay? Would seeing an item on eBay be more offensive to a donor than seeing it come up at an auction house? These are interesting questions but there were not many answers. Some Listserv members posted addresses for Web sites that might be helpful to archivists considering selling items on on-line auction sites: <http://www.auctionbytes.com/>, <http://www.icollector.com/>, and eBay's charity auctions <http://pages.ebay.com/charity/>.

Certification

Ah, the perennial Archives Listserv debate. Actually, this time it was quite an extensive and interesting discussion and quite timely since I just got myself certified (just thought I'd go ahead and reveal my bias). If anyone is seriously considering taking the exam or is just as seriously opposed to the idea and interested in reading some like-minded opinions I highly encourage you to go to the Archives of the Listserv at <http://listserv.muohio.edu/archives/archives.html> and read this thread. This discussion always provokes intense reactions on either side of the issue. People pointed out how very few of the jobs listed on SAA's Web site actually mention the CA as a qualification, complained about the prohibitive associated costs, talked about the few tangible benefits to be had by becoming a member, and worried about a day coming when perhaps the MLS would not be enough to get a job. The opposing side argued that only by creating this sort of professional qualification can we be perceived as a profession, mentioned that this is the only way to get credit for continuing education and professional activities, and compared it to the CRM designation. For more information about becoming a certified archivist, visit the Academy of Certified Archivist's Web site: <http://www.certifiedarchivists.org/>.

Archives Listserv Web Announcements

The University of Missouri–Columbia's Museum of Anthropology and the Western Historical Manuscripts Collection announce the opening of an exciting on-line exhibit: *Hezzie Goes to War: World War I through the Eyes of a Mid-Missourian.* Web site: <http://coas.missouri.edu/anthromuseum/pattrickwwi/>.

The Washington State University Libraries and the University of Washington Libraries are very pleased to announce a new on-line resource: *Early Washington Maps: A Digital Collection*, a collaboration between Manuscripts, Archives, and Special Collections at the Washington State University Libraries and the University of Washington Libraries. Spanning three hundred years, *Early Washington Maps: A Digital Collection* includes maps of both sea- and land-faring explorers, from early nautical charts of the western coast to the exploits of the Jesuit Missionary, Pierre Jean DeSmet. Web site: <http://www.wsulibs.wsu.edu/holland/masc/xmaps.html>.

Special Collections and Archives at the University of Idaho Library announces a new installment in the Web page *Digital Memories. Digital Memories* focuses on historic artifacts, documents, photographs, and books from the

Generated at Iowa State University on 2021-02-11 18:16 GMT / https://hdl.handle.net/2027/mdp.39015068967820
Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial / http://www.hathitrust.org/access_use#cc-by-nc-4.0
Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

holdings of Special Collections and Archives. This is a changing showcase of highlights from its collections. The most recent addition to the series is "Heart of Midlothian," which examines a steel engraving of a scene from Sir Walter Scott's famous novel of Scottish history. Web site: <http://www.lib.uidaho.edu/special-collections/dm/dgtlcurr.htm>.

Smithsonian Institution Libraries (SIL) officially launches a new public-oriented version of its Web site, titled *Galaxy of Knowledge*. *Galaxy* replaces SIL's former homepage, but resides at the familiar address at <http://www.sil.si.edu/>.

The National Digital Library Program of the Library of Congress and the Manuscript Division announce the release of the on-line collection of the *Samuel F. B. Morse Papers* available at the American Memory Web site: <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/sfbmhtml/>.

Civil War Treasures from The New-York Historical Society is the latest addition to the Library's American Memory Web site. The on-line presentation contains materials drawn from 12 collections housed at The New-York Historical Society. The *Civil War Treasures* on-line collection is a cooperative project of the Library of Congress and The New-York Historical Society. Web site: <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/ndlpcoop/nhihtml/cwnyhshome.html>.

From THE Editor

I am pleased to announce that Marta O'Neill, Preservation Specialist, National Personnel Records Center, National Archives and Records Administration, will be resuming the "Preservation Information" column in the April 2002 issue.

Welcome, Marta!

Upcoming MAC Meeting Sites and Dates

Minneapolis, Minnesota
May 2–4, 2002

Rapid City, South Dakota
October 9–12, 2002

Kansas City, Missouri
Spring 2003

Dearborn, Michigan
Fall 2003

Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Spring 2004

Des Moines, Iowa
Fall 2004

Generated at Iowa State University on 2021-02-11 18:16 GMT / https://hdl.handle.net/2027/mdp.39015068967820
Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial / http://www.hathitrust.org/access_use#cc-by-nc-4.0
Digitized by Google
Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN