# **MAC** midwest archives conference

new sletter

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

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#### MAC Des Moines: "Decision 2020"

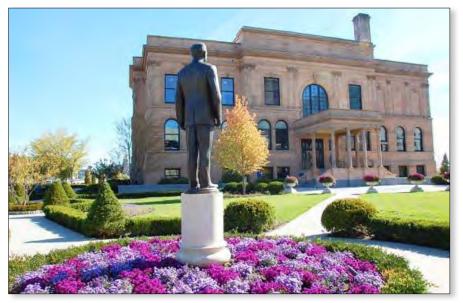
By Hope Grebner Bibens, Cowles Library

The S's are silent, but Des Moines is buzzing! Presidential candidates and the media are converging on Iowa, and this spring archivists will too!

Mark your calendars for MAC's Annual Meeting, which will be held Thursday, May 7, through Saturday, May 9, with preconference workshops on Wednesday, May 6, 2020. The Des Moines Marriott Downtown will host the conference. Right at the heart of the action, the Marriott is connected to the downtown skywalk and provides easy access to a farmers market, sculpture park, Iowa Cubs baseball, and the best crab Rangoon pizza!

The Local Arrangements Committee has selected the World Food Prize Hall of Laureates as a reception site. Built in 1903, this structure originally served as the Des Moines Public Library. Now, it has been restored into a museum that celebrates those who have dedicated their lives to fighting hunger around the world. It is a grand space overlooking the banks of the Des Moines River and is only half a mile from the conference hotel.

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The World Food Prize Hall of Laureates. halloflaureates.org.

# **President's Page**

# MAC midwest archives conference

January 2020

To the MAC Community:

In 2008, MAC President Dennis Meissner recruited me as the new webmaster by saying MAC was "at an interesting juncture." The plan was to reimagine MAC's web presence and create an online space that served as a clearinghouse for MAC members. By collapsing an intranet and stand-alone meeting websites into a singular look and feel, the site would become a one-stop-shop for all of MAC's business and news.

That approach went live in 2010. Today, the same layout and navigation are in place, but the new site is designed to be more accessible and responsive regardless of the type of device used to view it. It also officially debuts MAC's new logo. While hinted at in the last newsletter, it is now found across MAC's portfolio, including on the cover of *Archival Issues* and social media. Replacing the regional map, the new logo reflects a modernization of the "MAC" brand and is underlined by 13 squares representing MAC's member states.

Now, as president, I say that MAC is at another interesting juncture.

As an organization of stewards, we need to come to terms with the stewardship of our financial future. While adopting the proposed 2020 annual budget at the fall Council meeting, MAC leadership discussed the need to take a more holistic approach to daily budget management, investments, and fund-raising to achieve long-term financial health. To do so, MAC will establish a task force to make recommendations to Council regarding finance and stewardship needs.

As an organization of preservationists, it is time we take better care of ourselves. In October, the Caregiving Working Group presented its initial findings and recommendations to MAC Council. The first steps in implementation will be at our Des Moines meeting in 2020 (see the vice president's column for more information). We will also take time to discuss our caregiving needs and their potential financial impact at our membership meeting.

As an organization of curators, we need to create our future. MAC is nearing the end of its current strategic plan. It is time for us to take stock in what we accomplished, review what still needs to be done, and identify the new challenges and opportunities that await us as MAC celebrates 50 years as a professional association. To position ourselves for the year 2025, I need to hear from you. To do so, MAC will prepare a way for members to provide input and share with leadership what you believe should be MAC's priorities.

Finally, as an organization of people, we need you to take an active role. As we near the Annual Meeting, expect to see calls for open committee positions or to hear from MAC leaders directly. I hope you will consider volunteering or will answer the call to provide your time.

Sincerely,

Erik A. Moore President, Midwest Archives Conference

# Vice President's Column MAC Meetings and Symposia Update

By Joshua Ranger, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh

It's a common saw, but one of the great things about MAC, I find, is that its meetings can take you to communities you may never visit in the course of your normal vacation or family routine. For me, Fargo was definitely one of those towns. It was delightful to spend a few days enjoying the impressive NDSU campus and the energetic (and delicious . . . and walkable . . .) downtown. And to do it in the company of other small-shop archivists made it even better. Our meeting, an experiment in programming for a single "type" of archivist, was a great success, and I hope this approach becomes part of our rotation in the future.

One brisk (it was Fargo, after all) evening found us at Rhombus Guys pizzeria, a North Dakota institution. It's one of those places that features paper table coverings and crayons to keep children and 40-somethings busy while they wait for their food. Several archivists (some of us better artists than others) started sketching out a map of the MAC region, allowing me to market test with my tablemates future and potential meeting locations. It was an amusing exercise that reinforced how important



geographic diversity is in selecting MAC's meeting locations: if we zig east, we should then zag west

and if north, then south. That is the ideal, of course, and for the most part, I think we maintain this pattern pretty well regardless of how poorly drawn our map is.

To wit, after an Annual Meeting in Detroit, we are heading westward to Des Moines this May. After a Symposium in the northwest part of the region, we are heading southeast to Indianapolis next autumn. We are especially excited about visiting Indy during the city's bicentennial year with an apropos meeting focused on planning and implementing anniversaries, celebrations, and other public outreach programming. Plus, MAC is organizing this Symposium in conjunction with the Society of Indiana Archivists, whose members are all welcome to attend. Then in 2021, while Wisconsin's capital isn't that far east of the Iowa's, it's hard to argue with Madison as a MAC destination. Who knows? It might just be one of those cities that you've wanted to visit but never had the chance.

(Continued on page 4)



#### **Vice President's Column**

#### (Continued from page 3)

When you visit Des Moines or Indy or Madison, MAC wants you to feel comfortable bringing your family if desired and/or needed. A special task force has been working diligently to investigate and develop recommendations to ensure MAC meetings are friendly to parents and other caregivers. We know that, often, members must delicately balance responsibilities at home and at work and that meeting attendance can be difficult to add to the mix. To the extent that we can, MAC will do more to take the caregiving needs of professionals into account as we plan and host meetings. Look soon for special information in the 2020 Annual Meeting program and blog about our first steps toward more family-friendly meetings.

Finally, if you would like your community's thereabouts location added to our sketchy pizzeria map of future meeting spots, let's talk. I have more crayons.

#### **MAC Meetings Overview**

MAC's annual calendar features two important opportunities for professional development and networking. The Annual Meeting, held in the spring, features 400+ archivists and allied professionals in a traditional conference format in large midwestern cities. The 2.5-day meetings include workshops, concurrent sessions, a vendor fair, tours, and opportunities for students and new professionals. In addition, the meetings feature social activities to grow our community connections.

In the autumn, MAC organizes a 1.5-day Symposium focused on a specific aspect of archival work. These meetings draw 40 to 60 attendees and are often held in smaller communities.

MAC is committed to promoting diverse, sustainable, harassment-free, and family-friendly meetings and relies on members to volunteer in the successful implementation of all aspects of meeting planning. These individuals work with a professional membership services firm that assists MAC with core meeting activities. The following meetings are upcoming:

2020 Annual Meeting: Des Moines, Iowa May 6–9, 2020 Des Moines Marriott Downtown 2020 Symposium: Indianapolis, Indiana October 9–10 Indiana State Library 2021 Annual Meeting: Madison, Wisconsin April 13–April 18

Concourse Hotel

You can view a list of MAC's past meetings since the beginning of the organization in 1972 at https://www .midwestarchives.org/past-meetings. Recent meetings are listed with their conference programs. Links to documents required by committees for planning and reporting can be found at https://midwestarc.memberclicks.net/meeting-planning-reports.

## **Between-Meeting Council Actions**

On October 21, 2019, Council unanimously approved the appropriation of \$1,800 for the public information officer to design and purchase stickers and buttons, pencils, jotters with pens, erasers, rack cards, and postcards.

#### MAC Des Moines: "Decision 2020"

#### (Continued from page 1)

The Program Committee received many proposals and is finalizing the program. In keeping with the experiment started in Detroit, the committee plans to offer a mix of traditional-length and shorter-length sessions to include the greatest number of proposals possible. The committee will be sending out a call for pop-up sessions—a first for MAC, but one that fits perfectly with the "Decision 2020" theme!

The Education Committee has two preconference workshops planned, "Approaches to Workplace Conflict" and "Introduction to Digital Preservation." Stay tuned for more details about tours and service projects. And feel free to reach out to your Local Arrangements Committee with any questions.

# **Fall Symposium Recap**

The first MAC-sponsored event held in North Dakota did not disappoint. The 2019 Fall Symposium, "I'm Alone, No You're Not: Solo and Small Shop Archivists Retreat," offered a unique, uplifting experience for 37 archivists. Inspired by research professor Brené Brown's work on vulnerability, the retreat-style Symposium offered attendees a chance to get to know each other on a deeper and more meaningful level while creating space to share the challenges and opportunities unique to working alone or with a small staff.

Dayna Del Val, CEO and president of The Arts Partnership, kicked off the Symposium with an inspiring message on the value of the "unusual suspects." She encouraged the audience to own their own value by considering how archivists can stimulate new ways of thinking when they are invited to engage with other decision-makers. Del Val noted that solo and small-shop archivists are doing warriors' work in preserving that which makes us human.

Participants, who were divided into small cohorts, participated in the same four sessions together on the first day of the Symposium. Each session provided opportunities to connect concepts and ideas from Brené Brown's book, *Dare to Lead*, with various aspects of archival work. These sessions focused on creating "Mastermind" groups, professional growth, advocacy and development, and project management. Hands-on activities and group discussions helped build connections within each cohort. The second day of the Symposium offered participants a chance to attend additional sessions on digital preservation, online access, and arrangement and description.

Life coach and career counselor Kelly Meyer opened and closed each day of the Symposium. She set the stage by describing the power of participating in a Mastermind group. These groups are encouraged to meet about once a week to give members a chance to brainstorm ideas, provide peer accountability, and offer assistance as members sharpen and enhance their work skills. The small groups formed during the Symposium were encouraged to continue working together as Mastermind groups to provide the much-needed support that solo and small-shop archivists need from their peers.

The Local Arrangement Committee is pleased that so many archivists traveled to Fargo to participate in in the 2019 Fall Symposium, and we hope that everyone went home with new skills, connections, and ideas. All photos courtesy of Anita Taylor Doering, archives manager, La Crosse Public Library



Dayna Del Val, CEO and president of The Arts Partnership, gives the opening plenary session. She focused on the value artists and cultural heritage organizations bring to their communities.



Kelly Meyer, life coach, career counselor, and Mastermind facilitator, led Symposium attendees in the principles of Masterminds: networking groups that offer encouragement and support.

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#### **Fall Symposium Recap**

(Continued from page 5)



Alexis Braun Marks, university archivist at Eastern Michigan University, who also served on the Symposium Committee, led a break-out session on digital preservation.



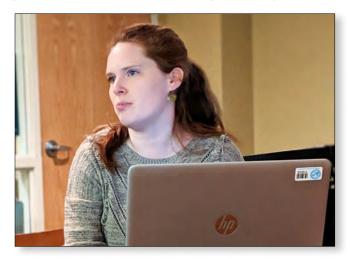
David McCartney, university archivist at the University of Iowa, led a break-out session on arrangement and description.



Colleen McFarland Rademaker, archivist at the Corning Museum of Glass, came back to the Midwest to lead a break-out session on advocacy and development.



Lisa Sjoberg, registrar at Concordia College, who also served on the Symposium Committee, returned to her roots in the archival profession to lead a break-out session on professional growth.



Trista Raezer-Stursa, university archivist at Minnesota State University Moorhead, who also served on the Symposium Committee, coled a break-out session on access online and on-site.



Josh Ranger, university archivist at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, coleads a break-out session on access online and on-site.



Stephanie Baltzer Kom, State Historical Society of North Dakota, coleads a break-out session on access online and on-site.



Jennie Thomas, director of archives at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, led a break-out session on project management.



Kelly Meyer addresses Symposium attendees from all over the MAC region.



Some attendees chose to network over dinner at Rhombus Guys, a pizza restaurant in downtown Fargo.

# Midwest Archives Conference Fall Council Meeting Minutes North Dakota State University Library, Room 110 Fargo, North Dakota Thursday, October 3, 2019

The following minutes are presented in draft form for informational purposes only.

In attendance: Erik Moore, Josh Ranger, Colleen Mc-Farland Rademaker, Jennie Thomas, Tara Laver, Daria Labinsky, Lisa Sjoberg, Alexis Braun Marks (missing: Katie Blank)

#### Welcome & Approval of Agenda (Moore)

#### **President's Report (Moore)**

Nominations, appointments, and vacancies were discussed.

Ideas were shared concerning the new website and whether job postings would require salary information, including a small group to field questions on how to navigate job postings that don't list salaries and gathering demographic information when people renew memberships. Moore agreed to prepare a statement on how jobs are currently posted and shared through MAC platforms, discerning between member posts and external agents who ask us to post; starting by working with the PIO on how this currently happens in order to draft something to bring to Council. Laver will draft a list of resources for recent grads to go on the new website.

Council reviewed the Doane University letter response and determined that going forward, Council will include the MAC member who brought an issue to its attention in crafting the official response as SAA does.

The site hosted by Iowa State University for MAC meeting presentations was mentioned.

Moore clarified that the website redesign status is unknown but that it theoretically could happen any day; however, it needs to be in place by the 2020 member drive, beginning November 1 and that the beta site should be ready a week from now.

The new MAC Wikipedia page was reviewed.

#### Vice President's Report (Ranger)

Ranger stated that his goal before leaving the vice president role is to secure a 2022 Annual Meeting location; a Cleveland joint meeting with MARAC was mentioned as a possibility.

For the 2019 Detroit Annual Meeting, Council reviewed the meeting survey results, specifically the confusing

building layout, the good poster session location, clearly marked catering for food allergies, overall positive comments about the new schedule, and the possibility for tour waiting lists in the future. Speaker demographics were gathered for the first time this year; going forward this information will be gathered via the speaker agreement. Results determined that 50 percent of the presenters did so in Detroit for the first time. This information will be stored in the vice president's Google Drive space to keep continuity. The Business Preconference was a success, and the group is planning to hold it again next year. Questions were raised as to who manages this within MAC going forward; how to make it sustainable; and what to do if we get additional requests from other groups to hold similar events. Ranger agreed to create an Interest Group Preconference model with reporting lines, expectations, deadlines for proposals, and workflows.

Council received a preview of the 2019 Fargo Fall Symposium. The final attendance numbers were 37 registered; 46 including presenters. Twenty-seven people attended the pizza dinner. This Symposium proved that MAC could fund presenters in the future if it was required. The Symposium Committee would discourage future committee chairs from also presenting at these events.

Several aspects of the 2020 Des Moines Annual Meeting were reported. Audiovisual costs are currently coming in lower than expected. Registration rates will be the same as in Detroit. The Business Preconference is not included in the two workshops included in the budget, because it's zero-sum. Donation letters should be going out soon; sponsorship levels were created to help promote donations. Council determined they were still in agreement on vendor electricity fees. Ranger offered to communicate electricity fees to the vendor coordinator in order to consistently charge fees every year if power is requested by vendors.

**Action:** Council unanimously approved the Des Moines reception location as proposed by the Local Arrangements Committee.

**Action:** Council unanimously approved the proposed budget with registration fees as presented by the Local Arrangements Committee for Des Moines. The 2020 Indianapolis Symposium was discussed. Council determined that even if SIA members aren't MAC members, SIA members will be able to register at the MAC member rate. Ranger will reach out to the SIA president to advise about the joint meeting. Council decided to table the vote to recommend hotel and meeting locations. Ranger will run proposed recommendations 1 and 2 by Debbie at AMC to see what the best option is.

**Action:** Council unanimously approved the MAC 2020 Symposium to be held in Indianapolis as proposed.

**Action:** Council unanimously approved Jackie Shalburg and Bethany Fiechter as cochairs for the 2020 Symposium.

The 2021 Madison Annual Meeting will be held April 13–18, 2021.

**Action:** Council unanimously approved Katie Nash and Cynthia Bachhuber as 2021 Local Arrangements Committee cochairs.

**Action:** Council unanimously approved Cara Bertram and Kayla Harris as 2021 Program Committee cochairs for Madison.

A potential topic for the 2021 Fall Symposium is "Documenting Local History in the Digital Age," with the potential locations of Minneapolis, Minnesota, or the Kansas City Hallmark facility. Council wondered if this is held in a state with certified public librarians, could MAC offer continuing education credits?

#### Secretary's Report (Thomas)

Council determined to go ahead and delete the former Google Drive account. This was completed at the meeting.

**Action:** Council unanimously approved the inclusion of committee working files in the official MAC Google Drive as a means to provide business continuity for the organization.

It was determined that the secretary will pass ownership of committee work for this working space to chairs so they can control who has access, and that this will be a separate folder space from the leadership manuals that currently exist so that these working documents aren't mixed up with official documentation. Thomas will purchase 100GB of Google Drive space for MAC at \$19.99/year. Thomas will also create the working documents space on Google Drive for committees as requested.

#### Treasurer's Report (McFarland Rademaker)

McFarland Rademaker reported on the current \$8,000

operating deficit, which she believes does not show a lot of sustainability for MAC's budget future. She proposed a more holistic approach to daily budget management, investments, and fund-raising to give MAC long-term financial administrative health. A major problem with managing the MAC budget is that the membership renewal period straddles the fiscal year, which makes the budget hard to manage. McFarland Rademaker described an issue reported by AMC that some publications are not making it to international institutional members, which requires us to send them twice. McFarland Rademaker will follow up to get additional information from AMC. Creating a task force to address financial and stewardship needs was also discussed, which McFarland Rademaker would be interested in chairing rather than rerunning for the treasurer position. She will draft a charge to circulate to Council for the task force and work with Moore to come up with a short list of individuals to reach out to for membership. The task force will ask committees to come up with best practices for handling donations. Laver will work with the Mark A. Greene Award Committee to investigate the logistics of raising money to create an endowment for the award. Ideas were brainstormed: literally passing the hat at the reception, providing a text number to make a donation, acknowledgments for first-time attendee awardees, telling stories about Greene, a board to post stories about your first MAC and/or first MAC experience, Day of Giving on Greene's birthday. Other means to address how to respond to stewardship and development needs were discussed, including the ability to trigger an autoresponse from AMC-MemberClicks when donations are made.

#### **Caregiving Working Group Report (Braun Marks,** Jennifer Johnson joined on the phone)

Johnson and Braun Marks reported on the wide range of what is being done at the professional meeting level. Recommendations were broken down into *coulds* and *shoulds*:

#### MAC could offer:

- On-site childcare subsidized by parents, donations, and sponsorships
- On-site childcare subsidized by parents and MAC general operating funds
- Reimbursement for childcare funded through donations
- Reimbursement for childcare funded through MAC general operating funds

#### Fall Council Meeting Minutes 2019

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#### MAC should:

- Designate a point person on the Local Arrangements Committee
- Identify childcare options in the area and confirm the following: availability, federal/state licensing, and cost
- Provide a dedicated page on the Local Arrangemenst Committee blog for the Annual Meeting that would present childcare options in the area, family-friendly attractions, lactation rooms on-site, etc.
- Complete prepublication review of language to ensure family-friendly language is being used
- Add language to the session proposal form about whether one needs childcare services if a presentation is accepted

Other discussion points included how to define "familyfriendly" and "caregiving" in general (aging adults and children); the SAA subsidy for on-site childcare as a possible model for MAC; the concern that there are no women of color in the working group. Ranger will arrange with the Program Committee to provide more time in between sessions on Friday for folks who need that time for caregiving, wellness. Ranger will also make sure that ADA-compliant rooms are on AMC's radar when searching for hotels. Braun Marks will go back to the Working Group to craft language for the upcoming program by the end of October to ensure all language in Program Committee documentation is family friendly, including the call for proposals, program, and PIO outreach. Ranger will draft new language in line with these ideas for the Location Arrangements and Program Committees, to be approved by Council at a later date. Braun Marks will also go back to the Working Group to draft a statement on how to present funding options at the next Membership Meeting for a discussion of the potential financial burden to the organization for such a service (caregiving budget line, annual Local Arrangements fund-raising repercussions, the potential for an endowed scholarship), including a posted a statement for membership comment and a real-time survey option for off-site participation.

#### MAC Strategic Plan 2016–2020 (Moore)

https://midwestarc.memberclicks.net/council\_reports

Moore brought up several questions relating to the strategic planning process: Does operating under five-year plans work for us? What did and didn't we accomplish under the last plan? What areas do we need to include in

the next plan? Moore would like to survey membership to identify the top three things MAC needs to work on for the strategic plan. He would like to identify priorities and themes for the strategic plan at the next Annual Meeting through anonymous comment, survey, phone call, direct e-mail to Council; Council member candidate statements geared toward this. He wants to come up with a new vision and operational statement of values as a part of this (including concepts like affordable continuing education for professionals, what our midwesterness means to usscanning of the environment, SWOT analysis). Council would then workshop this at the fall meeting to come up with goals, objectives, deliverables, to allow MAC to be more nimble and responsive (what does "done" look like?). Moore will go through the current plan to determine what's been accomplished and draft a membership survey for January 2020. Going forward, Council will strive to make sure new members are oriented to the current strategic plan and that status check-ins are done at every Council meeting through the President's Report.

#### MAC Logo and Branding (Ranger)

The new MAC logo has been rolled out through the upcoming *MAC Newsletter*. Labinsky will work with Holly Blessen to mock up the *MAC Newsletter* front page with the vol/iss/URL/month and year, motto highlighted underneath; sans serif content; and table of contents updated. Ranger also showed Council the website hero image, which it was noted could work well on a MAC branded t-shirt. The question was asked how this affects *Archival Issues* rebranding.

#### **Ex Officio Reports**

#### Publications Coordinator (Labinsky)

Labinsky will ensure website language is updated to include the MAC definition of authorship and that "revise and resubmit" doesn't equal acceptance. She reminded Council of the updated MAC Style Guide: https://midwestarc.memberclicks.net/assets/documents /mac\_style\_guide.pdf.

#### Archival Issues (Pieczko)

The JSTOR contract was discussed. They would like to receive digital copies from us rather than having to digitize themselves; this implies they would no longer need to pay for a subscription/membership, which is not the case. Moore will coordinate with Labinsky and Pieczko on the contract and getting updated issues of *AI* on the website (39:1, 39:2). He will also work with them on getting the JSTOR and Iowa sites updated with the new MAC logo.

#### Newsletter (Willey)

Reminded Council that his term will end with issue 185, to be replaced by Alison Stankrauff. Ads for recent issues and board membership were reported.

#### Education Committee (Bishop/Carleton)

**Action:** Council unanimously approved maintaining \$50 fees for Annual Meeting workshops.

Cochairs are having a call with SAA next week to discuss hosting SAA workshops. Moore will see if they can include Blank on the call. Reminded Council that if a Speakers Bureau event is cancelled, it does not mean that money will be rolled over to the next year. Ranger will arrange for an open forum book discussion of Mark Greene's SAA volume at the Annual Meeting.

#### Membership Committee (Gorzalski)

Membership numbers are up for the year. November 4 will be the first e-mail blast for membership renewal.

#### MAC Pals (Stankrauff)

Stankrauff suggests an earlier cut-off date. Ranger will address this with the Local Arrangements Committee and will address logistics, the need for a bigger room, more time. Moore will follow up with Stankrauff about whether she was planning to continue as MAC Pals Coordinator, or if the position has been transferred to someone else.

#### Nominating Committee (Inefuku)

The committee is collecting nominations and selfnominations; it currently needs more nominees for vice president.

Inefuku also brought up that the publishing agreement between MAC and Iowa State was just received yesterday. Moore will circulate the Iowa State contract to Council to vote on after the Symposium.

#### Public Information Officer (Herzinger)

Herzinger would like a replacement identified for the position in 2020 to shadow her. Moore will put a call out to membership for volunteers.

Ranger will follow up with Herzinger on potential MAC swag ideas. Council liked pencil and decal ideas; suggested other eco-friendly or recycled plastic swag ideas. 3"-x-5" cashier notebooks with the MAC logo were recommended, along with a small Paige box with the MAC logo, erasers. A MAC product line was also discussed, t-shirts with the website hero image, cat and dog products. McFarland Rademaker noted that branding expenses are listed under Miscellaneous Expenses in the budget.

#### Vendor Coordinator (Huntsha)

Council discussed the request to form a Vendor Working Group to include the investigation and research of rates, whether the MAC model works for members, and whether vendors should be able to contact members (via an opt-in on the conference registration form). Ranger will craft a new policy for vendors requesting rooms rather than tables. Ranger and Moore will reach out to Huntsha to work on this rather than forming a working group.

(Continued on page 12)

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#### Fall Council Meeting Minutes 2019

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#### Mark A. Greene Award (Cooper Cary)

Moore made Cooper Cary's recommended changes to the website.

#### Motley Committee (Friedman-Shedlov)

Moore will request clarification on the possibility of recruitment from Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

#### **Development** Coordinator

There was no update for this meeting.

#### Bowen Committee

There was no update for this meeting.

#### Webmaster (vacant)

Suggestions were made as to potential appointments for webmaster, as someone is needed as soon as possible. Paul Hedges and Rena Schergen were mentioned.

There was no new business.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Jennie Thomas Secretary

## MAC 2020 Candidate Slate Approved by MAC Council

#### **Vice President**

Dina Kellams Indiana University, Indiana

☐ Michelle Sweetser Bowling Green State University, Ohio

#### Treasurer

- ☐ Jerice Barrios Archives of the NA Province of the Cenacle, Illinois
- Amy Moorman Wartburg College, Iowa

#### Council

- Donica Martin Urbana Free Library, Illinois
- ☐ Jennifer Ho California State University, San Marcos, California (formerly with Chicago Community Trust)
- Sammie Morris Purdue University, Indiana
- Ryan Leimkuehler Kansas State University, Kansas

#### **Nominating Committee**

- □ Rachel Seale *Iowa State University, Iowa*
- ☐ Kim Schroeder Wayne State University, Michigan
- April Anderson-Zorn Illinois State University, Illinois
- ☐ Heather Fox University of Louisville, Kentucky

Submitted by Harrison W. Inefuku, Cynthia Ghering, and Letha Johnson.

#### Archival Issues: Upcoming Issues and Opportunities

By Brandon T. Pieczko, Archival Issues Editorial Board Chair, University of Georgia

I would like to begin by recognizing and thanking outgoing chair of the *Archival Issues* Editorial Board, Alexandra Orchard, for her outstanding leadership and years of service to MAC. Her final issue as chair was 40.1. I am excited to take over as chair, and I hope to live up to Alexandra's excellent example. I look forward to working with incoming board members Jolie Braun, Katie Nash, and Lydia Tang, and continuing board members Shannon Erb, Elizabeth Myers, and Tom Steman to make *Archival Issues* the best journal possible.

One final announcement concerning changes to the Editorial Board: Nick Pavlik will be taking over as publications review editor beginning with issue 40.2. Look for future announcements from Nick about new books available for review in *Archival Issues*.

We just wrapped up publication of the current issue (40.1), which features three articles and nine publication reviews.

proves accurate, MAC will end the year with a small deficit.

The articles address the role of the reference archivist in online projects, creating podcasts with archival resources, and developing workflows for transferring electronic records; while the publications reviewed explore topics ranging from records management and digital preservation, to community outreach and the future of the archival profession. Thank you to all of our authors and editors who contributed to this issue!

As always, we welcome article submissions on a wide range of topics related to archives, including social justice, technical services, preservation, outreach, instruction, digital projects, and more. If you have questions, ideas for articles, or manuscript submissions, please contact me at bpieczko@uga.edu. I would particularly like to encourage new authors and early-career professionals to contribute to *Archival Issues*!

Treasu	rer's Report
As of September 20, 2019, MAC's total assets	are valued at \$304,648.60.
Bank of America Checking	\$ 41,689.40
Lincoln Investment Accounts	\$262,959.20
Program Initiative Fund	\$ 115,616.58
Invested Reserve	\$ 48,970.12
Bowen Endowment	\$ 36,453.24
Motley Endowment	\$ 61,919.26

# MAC Seeks Nominations for Presidents' Award

The MAC Presidents' Award was established in 1986 as a means for MAC to recognize significant contributions to the archival profession by individuals, institutions, and organizations not directly involved in archival work but knowledgeable about its purpose and value. A committee comprising the three most recent past presidents of MAC chooses recipients based on nominations submitted by committees in each of the 13 states in the MAC region. Each state committee may put forward only one nomination per year. As many as three awards may be presented each year. Recipients are invited to attend the Members' Meeting held at MAC's Annual Meeting to receive their awards. To nominate someone, please complete the nomination form on the MAC website and address it to the appropriate state chair no later than January 31, 2020. Full contact information for the state chairs can be found on the MAC website, under "MAC Presidents' Award," http://www.midwestarchives.org/presidents-award, along with a list of the award's past recipients. For additional information about the award and guidelines, please contact Amy Cooper Cary at amy.cary@marquette.edu.

# Nominate Someone Deserving the Distinguished Service Award

MAC's Distinguished Service Award recognizes the otherwise unsung contributions of our MAC friends and colleagues. Please take a moment to think of all the people you know who have been quietly contributing their time and talents to MAC: the people who offer to serve on committees and are ready to fill in as workshop leaders for session participants who withdraw at the last minute, or those who will happily work at the registration table when they learn that someone has just canceled, or those who can whip up a quick article for the newsletter when you need to fill that last quarter-page. Now take a few minutes to put into words why MAC should recognize at least one of those people, and submit your description on the MAC Distinguished Service Award nomination form posted on the MAC website, https://www.midwestarchives.org/ assets/documents/dsaform.pdf. The Distinguished Service Award was created to recognize individuals who give generously of their time and talents with little or no formal recognition and who likely have never served in an elected MAC position. Since its inception, MAC has given this award to a very small group of deserving individuals. Please consider nominating someone for his or her dedication to MAC. The deadline for nominations is January 31, 2020. For guidelines, visit http://www.midwestarchives .org/distinguished-service-award. For more information, contact Amy Cooper Cary at amy.cary@marquette.edu.

# MAC Seeks Nominations for Archie Motley Memorial Scholarship

MAC is soliciting applications for the Archie Motley Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship is designed to provide financial assistance to students of color pursuing graduate education in archival administration and to encourage ethnic diversification of the MAC membership and of the archival profession as a whole. Two \$750 scholarships, accompanied by one-year memberships to MAC, will be awarded. To be eligible for a scholarship, the applicant must be of African, American Indian, Asian, Pacific Islander, or Latinx descent; must be a student currently enrolled in or accepted in a graduate, multicourse program in archival administration; and must have a grade-point average of at least 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) in their academic program. If the program is not listed in the SAA Directory of Archival Education, archivists.org/prof-education/ edd-index.asp, the applicant must provide proof of the multicourse standard by submitting copies of course descriptions from the institution's current departmental catalog. Applicants must also be either a resident of the MAC region or registered in a qualified program, on-site or online, that is based in the MAC region.

Applications are available on the MAC website (https:// www.midwestarchives.org/motley) and from the Archie Motley Memorial Scholarship Committee chair, Lara Friedman-Shedlov, Description and Access Archivist, Kautz Family YMCA Archives, University of Minnesota, 318 Elmer L. Andersen Library, 222 21st Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55455, phone 612-626-7972, email: Ldfs@ umn.edu. Applications must be postmarked by **March 1, 2020**. Award winners are also expected to write an essay for the *MAC Newsletter* on their experiences at the meeting and its importance to their professional development.

# MAC Seeks Nominations for Emeritus Award

Each year, the MAC Membership Committee solicits nominations from the MAC membership for candidates to the status of Emeritus Member. The nominee must be an individual member of MAC, having been so for a minimum of 10, not necessarily consecutive, years, and retired from paid archival work. More important, nominees must have made a significant and substantial contribution to MAC during their archival career. The Emeritus Membership Award and special membership status of Emeritus Member were created to recognize those who have contributed to the success, growth, and visibility of MAC through committee work, programming, outreach, and governance. The award intends to recognize those who work behind the scenes for MAC, as well as those who have been honored by election to office.

To nominate an eligible candidate, please complete the application at the award website and submit it to Matt Gorzalski, membership committee chair, at mgorzalski@lib.siu.edu. The deadline for nominations is **January 31**, **2020.** 

# **News from the Midwest**

Assistant Editors: Alexandra Bisio, University of Oregon, and Lois Hamill, Northern Kentucky University. Please submit News from the Midwest items for Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Nebraska, North Dakota, and Ohio to Alexandra at bisio@uoregon.edu and items from Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, South Dakota, and Wisconsin to Lois at hamilll1@nku.edu. Submissions must be 150 words or less. Images are welcome!

#### ILLINOIS

#### Chicago Public Library Special Collections

Chicago Public Library Special Collections is pleased to open the Rev. Martin L. Deppe Papers. Spanning six decades, Rev. Deppe's social justice activism began in the 1960s when he aligned his church with the civil rights and antiwar movements. He joined Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) as one of the founding ministers with its Operation Breadbasket program to negotiate fair economic practices in Chicago's African American communities. His work with the Chicago chapter of Clergy and Laity Concerned (CALC) began with opposition to the war in Vietnam and went on to address a wide range of human rights and disarmament causes. All the while, Rev. Deppe was active at all levels of the United Methodist Church and championed numerous other groups and causes including the United Farm Workers, the Alliance to End Repression (AER), and opposition to the Gulf War. The online finding aid can be found at https://www.chipublib .org/fa-rev-martin-l-deppe-papers.

What is "plarn" in the archives you might be wondering? Well, plarn is made from plastic bags that have been cut into strips to form a plastic yarn ball. Every Wednesday in September, Chicago Public Library Special Collections partnered with members of Christ Bible Church, who provided the plarn material and taught participants how to make plarn mats for people experiencing homelessness. Hosted in the Reading Room, reference librarians highlighted archival collections that showcased historic acts of kindness, including neighborhood photographs, speeches by Mayor Harold Washington addressing Chicagoans' charitable acts, and ephemera from the CPL World War I collection. Collectively, participants learned about historic acts of philanthropy and the many ways to give back and continue the cycle of goodwill.



Rev. Martin Deppe carries the Clergy and Laity Concerned banner during a Gulf War protest, 1990. Photo courtesy Chicago Public Library, Special Collections, Rev. Martin L. Deppe Papers, album 60/2.



Plarn in the Archives, Chicago Public Library, 2019

#### **Northwestern University**

2019 marks the 150th anniversary of Northwestern University's decision to admit women students. As is only fitting, the NU Archives and the library have played a lead role in the university's activities to address this anniversary and all that it implies. Key among the activities is the recent opening of the library's exhibit, On the Same Terms: 150 Years of Women at Northwestern (the title comes from the words of the board of trustees resolution on June 23, 1869, which agreed to provide women with an education "upon the same terms and conditions as young men.") The exhibit, on the second and third floors of Deering Library, runs through June 2020, and there is an accompanying catalog. The exhibit and catalog were curated by Janet Olson, assistant university archivist. For more about the exhibit, see https://tinyurl.com/y3qolaje.

#### **Illinois Wesleyan University**

Homecoming 2019 saw the opening of National Hall of Fame sportswriter Dave Kindred's papers. Kindred witnessed significant moments in history during his 60-year career, and he is still an active writer, so this collection will grow (see https:// bit.ly/35AJLR4). The largest series include readers' correspondence and primary sources related to his two most popular books, Sound and Fury and Morning Miracle. Kindred also donated every issue of The National, a paper he cofounded, scrapbooks, and a pair of Muhammad Ali's boxing trunks.§Homecoming also saw the opening of the 50-year-old Mark Evans Observatory time capsule. During the observatory's 1969

cornerstone dedication (see https://bit .ly/2PGImSd), Apollo 8 astronaut Col. Frank Borman donated a medallion the crew took on the first manned mission to leave Earth's orbit. We suspect an unhealthy interaction between a thermal battery and moisture caused damage to many other items found in the time capsule. This building's historical narrative now includes cautionary tales about preservation!





#### INDIANA

# Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields

The Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields announces the landmark acquisition of the Stephen Sprouse fashion collection and archives. One of the largest single gifts Newfields has received, it includes thousands of items of men's and women's clothing, accessories, audiovisual and photographic materials, business documentation, and press clippings. A fashion visionary, Stephen Sprouse

(1953-2004) is best known for his New York downtown scene-inspired clothing. The Archives, Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields, will seek funding and begin arrangement and description of the records over the next several years. The personal papers, business records, visual media, and by-product design materials (sketches, patterns, textile samples) will support care of the fashion and art collection in addition to providing a rich research corpus for design students, historians, and the general public. Joanne Sprouse and Brad Sprouse, Stephen's mother and brother, donated the archives and collection in memory of Stephen to honor his legacy.

#### **Purdue University Northwest**

Oral History 2020 @PNW: the purpose of this project is to tell the history of Purdue University Northwest and to look ahead to the next milestone. A graduate class between the History Department, the Communications Department, and the University Archives is conducting oral history interviews with faculty, staff, retirees, and alumni of Purdue University Calumet, Purdue North Central, and Purdue University Northwest to understand the changes that have taken place over the past 40 years at the university. This initial class will help organizers to develop a plan to conduct regular interviews to better understand the university and give students an experiential learning project that will help them in the future.

#### IOWA

#### Iowa State University

A new exhibition, "Our trip...will long be remembered": Following the Trail of a Bird Watching Road Trip, opened September 19, 2019, and will

be up through August 2020. Many of the documents and photographs displayed in this exhibit are from the Walter M. Rosene, Sr. Papers and are available in digital form as part of the Avian Archives of Iowa Online (avIAn: http://avian.lib.iastate.edu), a web portal of Iowa ornithological primary sources supported by a grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR). The exhibit curators, Erin Anderson, avIAn project coordinator (Digital Scholarship and Initiatives), and Amy Bishop, rare books and manuscripts archivist (Special Collections and University Archives), gave a presentation on September 24, 2019, at the Ames Public Library that included behind-the-scenes details about the creation of the exhibition, its connection to avIAn, and how much primary source research goes into exhibitions.



ISU Printing Services installs the window display.



Erin Anderson (left) and Amy Bishop (right) after their presentation at the Ames Public Library

#### NEWS FROM THE MIDWEST—continued Alexandra Bisio and Lois Hamill, Assistant Editors

(Continued from page 17)

#### **Luther College**

Through its Preservation Assistance Grants program, the National Endowment for the Humanities has awarded Luther College \$9,000. The funding will support a collaborative conservation assessment and longrange conservation plan for Luther's humanities collections, including the College Archives, Rare Books and Special Collections, Fine Arts Collection, and Archaeological, Ethnographic, and Numismatic Collections. In addition, the grant will fund a day-long preventive conservation workshop at the college, which will be open to local professionals. Together, the assessment, long-range conservation plan, and workshop will allow staff to collaborate across campus and create a sustainable preservation program, ensuring the preservation and continued accessibility of these collections.

#### KANSAS

#### **Pittsburg State University**

The Special Collections and University Archives at Pittsburg State University has just opened the Eugene DeGruson Papers for research. Eugene "Gene" DeGruson was the head of the Special Collections and University Archives at Pittsburg State University from 1968 until his unexpected death in 1997. DeGruson left behind over 25 linear feet of materials on his research interests, including the mining history of southeast Kansas and the socialist presses and activity that emanated from nearby Girard, Kansas, in the early twentieth century, including the Appeal to Reason socialist newspaper and the publisher Emanuel Haldeman-Julius and his Little Blue Books. In the 1980s, DeGruson discovered that the 1905 serialized version in the *Appeal to Reason* of Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle* was longer than the version that first appeared in book form the following year. In 1988, DeGruson published this longer version as *The Lost First Edition of Upton Sinclair's* The Jungle.

#### KENTUCKY

#### Archdiocese of Louisville

The Archdiocese of Louisville and the Speed Art Museum unveiled a recently conserved painting by renowned Kentucky artist Matthew Harris Jouett. Painted in Lexington in 1824 with apprentice, John Grimes, The Dead Christ Mourned (The Three Maries), after Carracci is the largest and only known religious work by Jouett. When Jouett died in 1827, the painting, then valued at \$100, was auctioned. The painting came to Louisville's Cathedral of the Assumption sometime in the mid-1800s, where it remained for nearly 150 years. During a mid-1970s renovation, the painting was moved to the Cathedral Museum. During transport, the painting and original frame, likely by James D. McIntosh, suffered extensive damage. Archivist Tim Tomes led a campaign to restore the piece, which culminated with conservation of the painting by Cleveland-based ICA-Art Conservation and the frame by Gold Leaf Studios of Washington, DC. A comprehensive exhibit on view through May 2020 at the Speed Art Museum, Louisville, details the story of the inspiration, the artist, the provenance, and the conservation of this piece.



Painted in 1824, Matthew Harris Jouett's The Dead Christ Mourned (The Three Maries) is a copy of an early seventeenth-century work by Annibale Carracci. Photo by Ruby Thomas, The Record Newspaper.



Conservators, from left, Nina Bongolan-Vedsted, Andrea Chevalier, and Wendy Partridge do painstaking restoration work on the Jouett painting in this June 8, 2017, photo. Photo by John Seyfried, ICA-Art Conservation.

#### Eastern Kentucky University

Special Collections and Archives (SCA) tried something new this year for American Archives Month. In previous years, it hosted speaker events, where student researchers or university faculty spoke about archival projects they had worked on. This time, the archives hosted weekly "Pop-up Archives." Staff selected themes for each week, gathered a small collection of items based on those themes, and displayed them at different university locations. Themes included homecoming, the arts at Eastern Kentucky University, the campus, the circus, and Halloween. These pop-ups served as a way to

reach out to the university community and to showcase the scope of the collections. Candy, popcorn, peanuts, and SCA collection cards giveaways encouraged students to stop by the pop-ups.



Pop-up creator and oral historian Neil Kasiak and Archives Assistant Caitlyn Rahschulte pose with the circus-themed Greatest Collections on Earth pop-up.



Special Collections Librarian Debbie Whalen talks to students at the Greatest Collections on Earth pop-up.

#### **University of Louisville**

All extant copies of the *Louisville Leader*, an African American community newspaper published in Louisville from 1917 to 1950, were scanned from microfilm and added to the University of Louisville Digital Collections in 2013, at https:// digital.library.louisville.edu/cdm/ landingpage/collection/leader. Unfortunately, the automated optical character recognition (OCR) was of very poor quality, due to the often faded, torn, or misaligned text on the source images. Staff therefore crowdsourced full-text transcriptions of the local news and religious, educational, social, fraternal, and sporting activities articles to make them more easily searchable and spoke about the project as part of the "Crowdsourcing Transcription: Putting Users in the Driver's Seat" panel at MAC's 2013 Annual Meeting. As of October 2019, the *Louisville Leader* transcription project has been completed, resulting in the transcription of nearly 50,000 articles!

#### **MICHIGAN**

# The Grand Rapids Public Library

The Grand Rapids Public Library's History & Special Collections Department received a gift of significant importance from Michael Johnston, a longtime labor historian, in the summer of 2018. Johnston donated a large collection of local labor newspapers with dates ranging from 1955 to 2015. Included in the collection, which was recently fully digitized and made available online, are the publications Grand Rapids CIO News (1955-1958), Grand Valley AFL CIO News (1958-1968), Grand Valley Labor News (1968-2011), and Work in Progress (2011-2015). Patrons can now search the online collection by §§tion title, and date, as well as view articles in full. The digitized collection can be found at http://grpl.advantage-preservation .com. Thanks to Johnston's gift, as well as financial support from the Grand Rapids Public Library Foundation for digitization, anyone can now read these otherwise hard-to-find publications and research primary documents to better understand the history and current state of organized labor in Grand Rapids.



Julie Tabberer, head of the History & Special Collections Department at the Grand Rapids Public Library stands next to labor historian Michael Johnston and fellow librarian Will Miner with Johnston's donation of historical labor newspapers.

#### MINNESOTA

#### **Hennepin History Museum**

The Hennepin History Museum in Minneapolis has received a large grant from the Minnesota Historical Society through the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. The Legacy Grant has enabled the hiring of four part-time processing archivists to appraise, organize, research, preserve, and rehouse 27 of the museum's larger archival collections. With the objective of providing better access and awareness, DACS II finding aids have been created as part of the grant, as well as programming and short-term displays incorporating materials from the collections. Going forward, processing archivists will continue processing the remaining few collections, and also finish cataloging the 27 legacy collections into the current collections management system as the grant wraps up in spring 2020. This project has been financed in part with funds provided by the State of Minnesota from the Arts and

(Continued on page 20)

#### NEWS FROM THE MIDWEST—continued Alexandra Bisio and Lois Hamill, Assistant Editors

(Continued from page 19)

Cultural Heritage Fund through the Minnesota Historical Society.



Processing the Legacy Grant collections. Hennepin History Museum.

#### St. Olaf College

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has awarded St. Olaf College a \$300,000 grant to support the construction of a new library vault to preserve the college's special collections and archives. More than a million documents, images, and artifacts in the collections tell the story of Norwegian immigrants who settled the upper Midwest and founded St. Olaf in 1874. The NEH funding is a challenge grant to help generate at least \$900,000 in additional gifts for the project. The new 4,253-square-foot vault in St. Olaf's Rølvaag Memorial Library will house several collections, including the holdings of the Norwegian-American Historical Association, the Shaw-Olson Center for College History (St. Olaf College Archives), and Rølvaag Library Special Collections. Currently, these collections occupy spaces with substandard or no climate control. Construction is scheduled to begin on the project in the summer of 2020.



*Rølvaag Memorial Library is home to St. Olaf College Special Collections. Photo courtesy of Amy Boxrud.* 

#### MISSOURI

#### National Archives-St. Louis

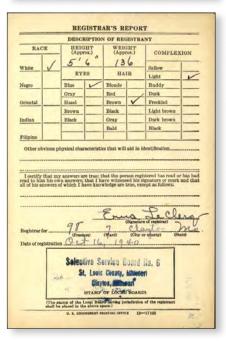
Early in October, after five years and five weeks, work was completed on digitization of just over 37 million Selective Service System (i.e., "draft") registration cards for the WWII generation of men mainly born between 1897 and 1929. This was a joint Project of NARA and Ancestry. At full strength, the team consisted of 12 Ancestry-contracted scanning technicians and five NARA employees. Most of the scanned images are already available on Fold3.com at https://www.fold3.com/title/816/ wwii-draft-registration-cards, and all of them will be available at Ancestry .com by November 2020.

#### University of Missouri

University Archives is celebrating its 50th anniversary. In August 1969, the university hired its first professional archivist to lead a committee charged with creating policies for an archives program that was approved the following February. Exhibits on display this fall in the university's Elmer Ellis Library will highlight important documents from each decade of the university's 180-year history and provide a historical overview of the efforts to establish archives and records management programs for the Columbia campus and the University of Missouri System. Visit https:// muarchives.missouri.edu for more information about the University Archives.

#### Musician Miles Davis

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Writer Tennessee Williams

#### NEWS FROM THE MIDWEST—continued Alexandra Bisio and Lois Hamill, Assistant Editors

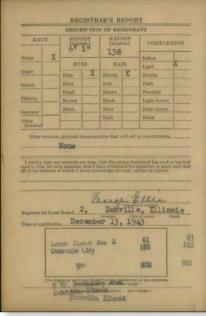


Musician Chuck Berry

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Cartoonist Mort Walker





Entertainer Dick Van Dyke

#### University of Missouri– Kansas City

The Special Collections and Archives Division of the Miller Nichols Library at the University of Missouri–Kansas City recently celebrated the 10th anniversary of the founding of the Gay and Lesbian Archive of Mid-America (GLAMA). Formed to collect, preserve, and make accessible documents and artifacts that reflect the histories of the LGBT communities in the Kansas City region, GLAMA has become the fastest-growing component of the division. The archive includes 72 named collections, 326 linear feet of manuscript materials, 1,769 books, and 4,097 magazines. GLAMA has informed projects such as a feature-length documentary on the struggle to pass an antidiscrimination ordinance in the early 1990s (www.theordinanceproject.com) and a class exhibit detailing Kansas City's role in the struggle for gay and lesbian civil rights before Stonewall (info.umkc.edu/makinghistory). A new website (www.umkc.edu/ glama) was launched as part of the commemoration, featuring hours of digitized video content and over 75 oral histories.

#### NEBRASKA

#### University of Nebraska–Lincoln

The University of Nebraska–Lincoln Libraries has a new and exciting Data Lab in Archives & Special Collections! The lab is used for advanced scanning, audiovisual digitization, and data recovery. The equipment in the lab includes four Epson flatbed scanners, two professional VHS tape decks, three betacam tape machines, one LP turntable with digital conversion, one scanner for 8mm film, one audio reel tape player, a few cassette tape decks, two Exabyte data tape drives, and various floppy and zip readers. There's also a dedicated computer running forensic tools to accession at-risk computer storage media. By expanding the technological capabilities of the archives, the lab is an opportunity to improve the reputation of the repository, connect with a broader range of potential donors, and attract born-digital collections.

#### оню

**Bowling Green State University** The Music Library and Bill Schurk Sound Archives at Bowling Green State University are pleased to announce the creation of a new collection of regional music and related culture called the Northwest Ohio Independent Culture Archive (NOICA). Dedicated to underground music in northwestern Ohio, the archives will collect photographs, sound recordings, videos, oral histories, 'zines, posters, flyers, and other related artifacts. The new collection will be unveiled to the public during the 7th Annual Ray Browne Conference on Popular Culture Studies at Bowling Green State University, March 6-7, 2020.



Bill Schurk (left) and John King, graduate research assistant

(Continued on page 22)

#### NEWS FROM THE MIDWEST—Continued Alexandra Bisio and Lois Hamill, Assistant Editors

(Continued from page 21)

#### SOUTH DAKOTA

# South Dakota State Historical Society

The South Dakota State Historical Society has released a paperback edition of The Christmas Coat: Memories of My Sioux Childhood, past winner of an American Indian Youth Literature Award. Written by Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve, The Christmas Coat shares a story from the author's childhood on the Rosebud Indian Reservation as the Driving Hawk family prepares for the holidays. Virginia dreams of the new coat that might arrive in Theast boxes-parcels of clothing from churches in the eastern United States-but knows she may not have a chance for a coat this year. Her father is the village Episcopal priest, and her family must choose from the boxes last, because, as Mama always says, "The others need it more than we do." Praised as an "authentic portrait of Sioux childhood and Christmas traditions," the book illustrates the themes of generosity and unexpected joy and speaks to readers of all ages as Virginia is reminded of the importance of community.

#### WISCONSIN

#### **Marquette University**

When your repository is home to one of the foremost literary manuscript collections in the world, how do you measure the impact that the author has had on contemporary culture? In an effort to document J. R. R. Tolkien fandom, the Department of Special Collections at Marquette's Raynor Memorial Library is building a collection of brief testimonials from Tolkien fans, with an ambitious goal of 6,000 interviews. The threeminute interviews ask, "When did vou first encounter the works of J. R. R. Tolkien?" "Why are you a Tolkien fan?" "What has he meant to you?" Users as well as potential interviewees may access the digital collection and learn more about the process itself at https://tinyurl.com/y5cvzbog. If you have a story to tell about how you came to read Tolkien and why he's important to you, please #Jointhe-Muster and schedule an interview at https://www.marquette.edu/library/ archives/tolkienfandom.php. Feel free to share the digital collection https://tinyurl.com/y6e7p5vt-it is a fascinating look into the depth of meaning that Tolkien's works have in today's literary culture. Careful consideration has been given to privacy issues for donors under 18.

#### **Northwestern Mutual**

Northwestern Mutual archives is excited to share the news of its recent recognition, the Governor's Archives Award for Archival Achievement. This award recognizes a historical records repository that has made an outstanding contribution to the archival profession, or a notable achievement of value to the archives community, its patrons, or constituents. The archives is currently focusing its efforts on creating engaging programs for employees, increasing knowledge of company history through exhibits, growing and maintaining the collection of historical records, and demonstrating the importance of Northwestern Mutual in the history of Milwaukee. State Archivist Matt Blessing presented the award on October 7, 2019, as part of Wisconsin Archives Month.



Amy Gnadt and Will Tchakirides, Northwestern Mutual

#### University of Wisconsin– Madison

University alumni return each summer accompanied by their grandchildren to participate in Grandparents University, an intergenerational learning experience organized by the Wisconsin Alumni Association. This year, the University Archives, through its oral history program (OHP), partnered with the Wisconsin Energy Institute (WEI), a Grandparents University supporter, on the topic of climate change and energy issues. OHP and WEI staff trained the children to conduct oral history interviews of their grandparents to capture their thoughts on these important topics. This collaboration resulted in oral history interviews, excerpts of which appear in a WEI online audio story (http://bit.ly/35hZEvI). The interviews will be online through the University of Wisconsin Digital Collections in early 2020.

# **Archival Resources on the Web**

Assistant Editor: Lauren White, University of Michigan. Contact Lauren at laurenashleywhite@gmail.com if you would like to guest author a column or have a good idea to share.

## **Great Lakes Engineering Ingenuity Found in Glass-Plate Photographs**

By Bryan Whitledge, Central Michigan University

Seven years ago, in 2012, the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) reached out to staff at the Clarke Historical Library at Central Michigan University in Mt. Pleasant for help with a historic undertaking. The USACE kept nearly 1,700 glass-plate negatives documenting the construction of one of the most important engineering works in North America. It wanted digital copies of the images and to rehouse the originals and send them to the National Archives and Records Administration. The Clarke was in an excellent position to make all of this happen for the corps. And from that point, a relationship was formed that continues to this day.

# History of the Soo Locks and the Photographs that Document Their Construction

Separating the abundance of iron and other minerals of the Lake Superior region from the refineries, forges, mills, and factories found along the lower Great Lakes is a stretch of the St. Marys River at Sault Ste. Marie where the river drops 21 feet in less than a mile. Before engineering projects allowed ships to bypass the Soo Rapids, large-scale shipping between Lake Superior and Lake Huron was This impressive engineering feat has a major impact on the US economy. More than 70 million tons of freight (mostly iron down from the iron ranges of Minnesota to Great Lakes ports and coal up to the northern Great Lakes and Canada) pass through the Locks each year. A report from the United States Department of Homeland Security in 2016 noted that 11 million jobs and over \$1 trillion would be lost from the US economy if there were a six-month interruption in the operations of the Locks.<sup>1</sup> Because of the Locks' importance, the US Congress has authorized, though not yet appropriated, funds to construct a new lock capable of handling the largest ships on the Great Lakes.

Engineers at the Soo have been steadfast in documenting any and every event that has occurred at the Locks. From the 1880s to 1941, that documentation included 1,700 glass-plate negatives. Engineers during that time photographed everything the USACE did to ensure safe navigation of the St. Marys River—from ice surveys and cutting through rock to locking ships through the canal and responding to accidents.

(Continued on page 24)

impossible; goods could be portaged to bypass the rapids, but portaging is not efficient for multiple tons of goods, let alone single freighters carrying 70,000 tons of cargo as they do on the Great Lakes today. In 1855, engineers opened the first modern lock allowing ships to bypass the Soo Rapids. In 1881, the United States Army Corps of Engineers took over operations and maintenance of the Locks from the State of Michigan. Since that time, six different locks have been constructed, enabling larger and larger ships to transport cargo into and out of Lake Superior.

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The handwritten log kept by engineers at the Locks details the date and description of each glass-plate negative.

(Continued from page 23)

#### The Photographic Record at the Soo Locks

For decades, glass and nitrate photographic negatives were stored in a filing cabinet in the administrative building at the Soo Locks complex. Each negative was stored in an envelope with its unique image ID written on the exterior. Descriptive control was in the form of a handwritten log documenting each photograph with its ID number, the date the photograph was shot, and a brief description. Engineers produced a typed copy of this log in subsequent years.

As one might expect with a large set of decades-old glassplate negatives, especially those that were not stored under ideal conditions, some negatives were lost (49, or 2.75%). Another 40, or 2.25%, sustained some sort of substantial damage (i.e., greater than a chipped corner). Fortunately, 95% of the images remained in good condition.

# How a Regional State University Special Collections Library Got Involved

Beginning in 2012, staff at the Clarke Historical Library at Central Michigan University were in contact with staff at the Soo Locks about the organization and preservation of their historical documents. As part of their consultation, the Clarke suggested that the 1,700+ glass-plate negatives were in dire need of attention, including reformatting and preservation. In the fall of 2015, the USACE contracted the Clarke to digitize the negatives, rehouse them in archival storage, and digitally preserve the resulting scans.

#### Scanning 1,731 Glass Plates

The USACE contract stipulated that the negatives could not leave the Soo Locks administration building. This meant all scanning operations would have to take place at the Soo, and the Clarke staff would have to bring all necessary equipment to the Locks. The contract also called for the negatives to be scanned as 1,200 dpi gray-scale TIFFs.

In scanner tests, staff found that it took about four to five minutes to scan each 8"-x-10" negative at 1,200 dpi. With the time needed for additional tasks such as inventorying the scans, rehousing the negatives, and adjusting the image output levels for each negative, the Clarke estimated that staff could scan eight to nine images per hour—or about 200 scanner hours for the whole project. To be as efficient as possible and complete all of the scanning work in one extended visit, Clarke staff took three computers and scanners to the Locks. One staff member stayed in Sault Ste. Marie for 11 days in January 2016. All three scanners were put to use, and each scanner setup was assigned a letter (A, B, C), with each scan produced then carrying the prefix and arbitrary sequential number. While the process ran smoothly for the most part, the occasional shattered negative required jigsaw puzzle skills to piece the fragments of glass together on the scanner bed.



A small number of negatives were significantly damaged and required reconstruction prior to digitization.

After returning to the Clarke, the images were processed to their final specifications—rotating images and flipping them from their reversed orientation as well as assigning the correct USACE identifier to each image and creating a robust inventory of physical and digital metadata about each file. The result was 191 GB of images—1,731 preservation copies (1,200 dpi TIFFs) and 3,462 access copies (300 dpi JPEGs)—one batch of toned images and one batch with their original exposure. These digital files were delivered to the Corps of Engineers, who then shipped the rehoused glass plates to the Still Picture unit of the National Archives and Records Administration in College Park, Maryland.







The images in the collection capture the engineering, economic, and cultural history of the Locks and the Great Lakes.

#### Making the Images Publicly Available

Due to security concerns, the USACE was not in a position to host these historic images online. The Clarke expressed an interest in doing so and negotiated an agreement to host the images as a contracted partner. Clarke staff produced watermarked, low-resolution copies of the images and then uploaded each image and its descriptive metadata into a searchable database interface—essentially a custom-built table on the Clarke's web server with hyperlinked images and text.

At that point, in October 2016, nearly 50 years of photographic history of one of North America's greatest engineering feats were made available at no cost to anyone with an Internet connection via the Historic Soo Locks Image Database at http://clarke.cmich.edu/SooLocks. The database displays as a simple four-column table with a thumbnail of the image and three columns of information found in the USACE's century-old handwritten log-the identification number, the date of the image, and the description. A keyword search box enables researchers to search a keyword across all three descriptive fields. When users find an image they would like to see more of, a simple mouse click on the thumbnail takes the viewer to a larger, watermarked version of the image. And, of course, researchers can request a high-resolution copy of any of the images in the database.

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The custom interface on the Clarke Library website allows users to browse and search the entire collection of digitized glass-plate negatives and cultural history of the Locks and the Great Lakes.

#### ARCHIVAL RESOURCES ON THE WEB—Continued Lauren White, Assistant Editor \_\_\_\_\_

(Continued from page 25)



A detailed view of an image in the database with descriptive metadata based on the original handwritten logs.

With the public release of the database, the contract was complete, the Clarke had done the job, and people throughout the Great Lakes were regularly visiting the Clarke's website to view the images.

#### More Soo Locks Scanning

Two years after completion of the first project, in October 2018, the USACE contacted the Clarke again. It had

approximately 725 acetate negatives dating from 1941 to 1943 that document the construction of the MacArthur Lock, the second biggest of the locks at the Soo complex. Again, the corps wanted the images scanned at 1,200 dpi and rehoused, along with an inventory of physical and technical metadata. This time, the negatives could be transferred to Mt. Pleasant, Michigan, and the work could all be done at the Clarke. In June 2019, the second batch of scans was delivered to USACE. At the time of publication, the Clarke is negotiating with USACE to post the second batch of images online. Be sure to follow the Clarke site in the coming months, where you will be able to find nearly 2,500 images documenting one of the most important, but rarely discussed, infrastructures in the Midwest.

#### NOTE

 Todd Spangler, "Report: U.S., Michigan Face Dire Consequences if Soo Locks Fail," *Detroit Free Press*, March 5, 2016, http://www.freep.com/story/ news/politics/2016/03/03/us-michigan-face-direconsequences-if-soo-locks-fail/81261608.



# **Electronic Currents**

Assistant Editor: Sarah Dorpinghaus, University of Kentucky. Contact Sarah at sarah.dorpinghaus@uky.edu if you would like to guest author a column or have a good idea to share.

# Digitizing Modern Archival Collections: Addressing Complex Copyright and Privacy Issues

By Virginia Dressler and Cynthia Kristof, both at Kent State University Libraries

The article will describe a two-year grant project that was completed in 2018, particularly how copyright and privacy were addressed through the digitization of a modern archival collection. We will address incorporating a privacy review and will highlight how we dealt with copyright and permissions issues in archival collections.

The May 4th Collection is one of the largest archival collections held at Special Collections and Archives at Kent State University (KSU), with primary source materials totaling over 300 cubic feet represented in over 200 subcollections. The collection documents the events surrounding May 4, 1970, when the National Guard was called in as a result of a weekend of protests and unrest after the announcement of the US invasion of Cambodia.

The collection is open to the public and is used by researchers from all around the world. As the 50th anniversary of the event approaches, library staff at Kent State University Libraries have been amping up digitization efforts to provide open and free access to part of the May 4th Collection through its digital archive. In August 2016, University Libraries received a \$238,886 grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) to digitize roughly 40 selected subcollections from the larger main May 4 archival collection.

#### **Privacy Review**

Addressing privacy in modern archival collections led to a lot of internal discussion on implementing a new review process early on in the grant project, particularly around unpublished materials. In the first digitized subcollection, our internal grant working group discovered the presence of Social Security numbers (SSN) in the form of student identification numbers within some materials. The working group was grateful to make this discovery before the materials were published in the digital repository, particularly as the printed format of the student identification number was not the same as the SSN. We discovered that the use of SSNs as student identification numbers had been a regular practice at KSU up until 2006.

A portion of the discussion around privacy review included personally identifiable information (PII) which is private information that could distinguish one person from another, as well as other more nebulous forms of private information (for example, embedded information relating to religion, sexuality, etc.). Any information that can be used to distinguish one person from another and can be used for de-anonymizing anonymous data can be considered PII. This information includes proper names, aliases, identification numbers, addresses, date of birth, place of birth, race, religion, weight, activities, geographical indicators, employment information, medical information, education information, and financial information. The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) "Guide to Protecting the Confidentiality of Personal Identifiable Information" is very helpful in identifying PII.

Concern over disclosing PII or other private information focuses on the harm or damage, including the potential for identity theft, embarrassment, or blackmail, that could arise by disseminating such information widely. Privacy breaches through dissemination of PII are hazardous to both individuals and organizations (who may be liable for the published information). The NIST guide also strongly recommends that institutions devise their own list of the kinds of information that should be protected. Additionally, certain laws such as FERPA and HIPPA provide some protections around certain types of information as they relate to educational or medical records, which lasts for the lifetime of the individual.

We implemented a new review process and workflow to identify potential PII and make redactions as needed before materials were published into the digital repository. We created a one-page guide for employees and students to refer to as they performed privacy reviews at the item level around common instances of PII (unique identification numbers, grade information, etc.).

#### Copyright

Often, digital projects bypass the copyright conundrum by focusing only works in the public domain or collections that otherwise do not raise copyright questions. For a modern digitization project, however, works potentially still under copyright could not be left out without omitting

#### ELECTRONIC CURRENTS—Continued Sarah Dorpinghaus, Assistant Editor

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essential portions of the collection useful to researchers and other information-seekers.

Kent State University clearly owns some materials in this collection, including official Kent State documents, meeting minutes, and other publications. These were digitized once privacy review was completed. For other materials, copyright status was difficult to determine. Many materials in this collection were unpublished and never registered for copyright. If we could determine and locate the author, creator, or copyright owner, we sought permissions. However, a great many materials were orphan works for which the copyright owner could be neither determined nor reached. For these materials, the project relied on fair-use evaluations.

The Association for Research Libraries' *Code of Best Practices in Fair Use for Academic and Research Libraries* (2012) proved helpful. The section titled "Creating digital collections of archival and special collections materials" (pp. 19–21) contains the following phrases, which rang true to our project:

"published and unpublished"

- "copyright status is often unclear"
- "typically can be consulted only on-site"
- "unique assemblage or aggregation"

"organized around a key topic, era, or theme"

"Presenting these unique collections as a digital aggregate, especially with commentary, criticism, and other curation, can be highly transformative."

Roughly following the "Safe Digitization Workflow" flowchart found on page 203 of Peter B. Hirtle's *Copyright and Cultural Institutions: Guidelines for Digitization for U.S. Libraries, Archives, and Museums* and utilizing an in-house adapted PDF version of Kenneth D. Crews and Dwayne K. Buttler's *Fair Use Checklist*, we developed a customized workflow and tracking system for copyright permissions and fair-use determination. The team often held lengthy discussions in biweekly copyright check-in meetings as to whether or not digitization might be considered a fair use, relying on the ARL Code, the *Fair Use Checklist*, and gut instinct as guidance.

At certain times, the team felt that although fair use could be invoked, maintaining good working relationships with local people and organizations was in the best interest of everyone involved. Thus, our permissions contacts with copyright owners or creators were frequently less about copyright and more about communication. Just one example of this was the digitization of selected newspaper clippings from local newspapers. Many of these had been underlined and included with letters mailed to people associated with the May 4 events. Though this use seemed transformative, and we were digitizing a very small portion of any given newspaper, contacting them to ask for permission seemed like the considerate and prudent action.

Permission was most vigorously pursued when it came to digitizing highly creative works, such as art and poetry. An example of the latter was the digitization of photographs and paperwork associated with George Segal's *Abraham and Isaac* sculpture, originally commissioned as a May 4 memorial and later rejected by Kent State University administration. Segal's work is represented by Artist Rights Society (ARS). This was one of the easier permissions transactions, albeit more expensive than average.

We hope that as the 50th anniversary of the tragedy approaches, the digitized selections from the May 4th Collection prove to be a useful resource to researchers and the general public and that the combination of materials helps to provide some insight surrounding it. We also hope that results of the project help survivors, family, and friends to heal in some small measure.

#### Resources

- 1. Association of Research Libraries, *Code of Best Practices in Fair Use for Academic and Research Libraries*, 2012, https://www.arl.org/code-of-best-practices-in-fair-usefor-academic-and-research-libraries.
- 2. Kenneth D. Crews (formerly of Columbia University) and Dwayne K. Buttler (University of Louisville), *Fair Use Checklist*, https://copyright.columbia.edu/basics/ fair-use/fair-use-checklist.html.
- Peter B. Hirtle, Emily Hudson, and Andrew Kenyon, *Copyright and Cultural Institutions: Guidelines for Digitization for U.S. Libraries, Archives, and Museums*  (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Library, 2009), https://hdl.handle.net/1813/14142.
- 4. National Institute of Standards and Technology, *Guide* to Protecting the Confidentiality of Personal Identifiable Information, https://nvlpubs.nist.gov/nistpubs/ Legacy/SP/nistspecialpublication800-122.pdf.

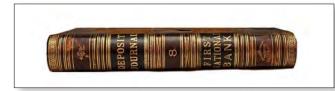
# **Mixed Media**

Assistant Editor: Danielle Nowak, Morton Arboretum. Contact Danielle at dnowak@mortonarb.org if you would like to guest author a column or have a good idea to share.

#### Investing in Preservation: My Role as a Corporate Historian at a Family-Owned Bank

By Kirsten Markusic, Centier Bank

The Schrage family is a pioneer family in my hometown of Whiting, Indiana. The family immigrated to Chicago from Hesse, Germany, in the 1840s, but they did not purchase land in the Whiting area until 1863. When Henry Schrage returned from serving as a substitute in the Union Army, he opened his first general store in 1868. He then opened the first post office within that general store in 1871, where his wife, Caroline Wuestendfeldt, worked. After the family sold 50 acres of land to Standard Oil Company in 1889, along with many other German farmers in the area, Schrage used that money to open the Bank of Whiting in 1895 with capital of \$35,000. The total deposits were \$5,698.05.



Deposit Journal 8, First National Bank. Photo by Tim Connolly.

In 1911, the bank moved to its current Whiting location and began its legacy of generational leadership and community involvement. Walter Schrage Sr., a secondgeneration banker, served as mayor of Whiting from 1914 to 1930 and as the Bank of Whiting president from 1932 to 1941. Wally Schrage, a third-generation banker, became the bank's president in 1941 and oversaw the introduction of new technologies, name changes, and renovations. The bank introduced the first drive-in bank to the area in 1958. It changed its name to First Bank of Whiting in 1960. In 1961, the bank remodeled its primary location and built two new branches in Highland and Dyer, Indiana, over the next 10 years. After Wally passed, his son, Michael, began serving as not only the president but also as chairman of the board. He still fulfills those roles today in the fourth generation of Schrage family leadership.

Under Michael's leadership, the bank changed its name to Centier, an amalgamation of three words:

**Century:** Celebrating the bank's 100th anniversary in 1995

Center: Founded on Center Street in Whiting

**Premier:** Striving to be the premier providers of customer service in Northwest Indiana

In 2008, the bank opened the Centier Centre, also known as the Corporate Centre, in Merrillville, Indiana. Centier currently operates 63 retail locations throughout the Northern and Central Indiana regions, employing 850 associates and boasting \$4.8 billion in assets. With the bank's 125th anniversary approaching, it is now on a mission to preserve its more than 170 years of history. To initiate this historic preservation effort, the bank created an internship and contacted local universities with history and library science programs to find students who might be interested in such an opportunity.

I began my journey with Centier Bank in December 2018 after responding to an e-mail forwarded to me by the head of the History Department at my university. The sender of the e-mail inquired whether any students might be interested in organizing, indexing, and cataloging historical data and hard assets. My parents have been banking with Centier for over 20 years. I would soon find out that this bank is one of the reasons my hometown exists, it is why my dad is an oil worker at BP (British Petroleum, formerly Standard Oil), and it is a contributor in making our city home to the Mascot Hall of Fame. I replied to the e-mail, went in for an interview (knowing that I would be starting an MLIS program in August), and went on to accept the position.

While I started as the library science intern in December, I now serve as the bank's corporate historian. In my position, I work in the bank's archives: inventorying items, rehousing materials, and digitizing various object types. Additionally, I answer any reference questions regarding the bank's history and oversee various historical design projects. I also give presentations about the bank at conferences, historical society meetings, and other events.

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#### MIXED MEDIA—Continued Danielle Nowak, Assistant Editor

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And, on top of that, I am responsible for photographing branch grand openings and other special events, such as the brick ceremony that happens annually the week before Labor Day.

I first encountered the bank's history in the "war room." In the early 2000s, a few bank associates tried inventorying all of the items that I am currently working with and eventually ended up storing all of the bank's historical materials there. While the sheer number of items seemed intimidating, it did look manageable. If inventorying and cataloging was what I was there to do, this did look like 6-to-12-month project. However, a comment from a veteran archivist kept playing in my head, "I remember my first 6-to-12-month project. It lasted 3 years." After discussing all of the potential possibilities, the bank liked the idea of having every item digitized, assigned metadata, and made searchable in a database system. And then, very quickly, that veteran archivist's words actualized. Items currently in the war room would not be the only ones I would be working with.



The war room, as Centier Bank calls it, taken December 4, 2018. Photo by Kirsten Markusic.

After a few weeks, members of the maintenance crew delivered boxes upon boxes of photo albums and promotional items they had found in the Corporate Centre. After obtaining scanners, Internet access (which was a challenge while working out of a branch built in 1911), and access to an Omeka subscription, I was ready to dive in. This took about four months, however, so I did not begin digitizing anything until April. In the meantime, I inventoried and sent videos to ScanDigital for digitization and moved from the original war room into a much larger, much redder war room.



The new war room, September 3, 2019. Photo by Kirsten Markusic.

I gained access to an old vault where I keep everything. I even attempt to monitor the temperature and humidity with a \$30 hygrometer despite the shifty Northwest Indiana weather and an old bank infrastructure.



*This old vault now stores historical assets, December 20, 2018. Photo by Kirsten Markusic.* 

As mentioned, I am using Omeka as a content management system, and I have found it to work well with our materials. In September, we switched over to Omeka S from Omeka Classic, and I have found this system to be much more media friendly. I can insert relationships to other items in the CMS. For storage purposes, we uploaded our digitized videos to YouTube, and Omeka S embeds YouTube videos right into the item page. In Omeka Classic, I had to just reference a URL that would then take the user to another web page. I have found Omeka to be a great tool to showcase the bank's history. It is user friendly and relatively inexpensive. Through LibraryHost, we pay around \$1,500 a year for a subscription to the service.

Since April, I have inventoried over 1,000 items and digitized over 800, including photographs, slides, and filmstrips, along with news articles and various correspondence, including a letter from President Bill Clinton congratulating the bank on its 100th anniversary.

I have had the privilege to come across some pretty interesting items, including a steamship ticket wallet from F. Missler, a late nineteenth-century travel agency in Bremen, Germany, and three leather-bound deposit journals from 1890 to 1910. The goal is to rehouse everything and make all accessible in our Omeka database. The Marketing Department is looking forward to being able to search old marketing materials or employee names by years to obtain pictures for retirement parties. These are just a couple of ways this database will serve its purpose in a corporate environment.



*Ticket wallet of the F. Missler travel agency, Bahnofstrasse* 30, *Bremen, Germany. Photo by Tim Connolly.* 



# **Up-and-Comers: News for Student and New Archivists**

Assistant Editor: Meredith Lowe, the iSchool at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. Contact Meredith at mclowe@wisc.edu if you would like to guest author a column or have an idea to share.

# Meet Ayla Toussaint, Archivist at the Loretto Heritage Center, Nerinx, Kentucky



Telling history through the stories of individual people and communities instead of through government actions, dates, and numbers takes a typically one-dimensional depiction of the past and creates a more faceted understanding. Recounting the lives of individuals brings depth, and these unique experiences make that once-static history into a compelling

story that engages with people on a deeply personal level. I decided to pursue a career in archives because of the ability of primary sources to elicit this response and redefine how we understand and interact with the past.

I graduated from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, in December of 2018 with a master of science in library science with a concentration in archives and records management. When I was hired straight out of graduate school as the archivist for the Loretto Community, I was ecstatic. Working alongside members of this order of women religious to preserve and share their complex and diverse stories fit in perfectly with my intention of using archives to make history more compelling to the general public. Their materials focus on capturing the 200-year history of their community through both administrative papers and the personal papers of individual Sisters. In the past, women's history has been a neglected field and is often absent from archival holdings. Finding a collection that not only holds these items, but is entirely focused on them, excited me. I was eager to begin working through the backlog of materials awaiting processing and to share the collections with others.

Although I had always known I wanted to support communities by preserving and sharing their stories, it never occurred to me just how long it would take to learn the stories before I could start working! It came as a bit of a shock when I began looking through materials and realized I did not have the background knowledge to fully process them justly. Taking this realization in stride, for the past eight months I have slowly been broadening my understanding of the Loretto Community. Because the Loretto Community is still active, learning the history is not as easy as reading history books, answering research requests, and sampling the collections. While these methods have certainly been successful, I have an amazing resource at my fingertips: the community members themselves.



Heritage Center Staff explore the crawlspace. From left to right: Executive Director Eleanor Craig, SL; Curator Susanna Pyatt; Archivist Ayla Toussaint.

The Sisters of Loretto was founded in 1812 on the Kentucky frontier. Since then, the order has organized schools and missions across the western United States and has also been present in several international locations. Although most of the schools are no longer connected to Loretto, the Sisters are still quite engaged with the communities. The Motherhouse is located in rural Loretto, Kentucky, but many of the Sisters and Co-Members live elsewhere. Overall, there are approximately 120 living Sisters and 250 living Co-Members, making this a large, if dispersed, community. Although I had been making connections with the Sisters at the Motherhouse, I had not been able to meet the large number of community members still living in other parts of the country. In July of this year, the Heritage Center staff decided to take a research trip along the Santa Fe Trail, which our Sisters traveled in the mid-nineteenth century. To make this a more meaningful experience, the Heritage Center invited eight community members to make the trek with us. The 12 of us loaded into three cars and made a two-week cross-country road trip, with stops in locations significant to Loretto along the way. While this was a research trip, the curator and I, both new employees, took it as an opportunity to learn more about both the past and present of Loretto through reading relevant texts, listening to the stories told by members during the long car rides, and trying to connect the places we were experiencing with what past Sisters might have experienced. Ever conscious of sharing with the public, the Heritage Center brought along a model Dearborn wagon to post updates to our Facebook page along the way.

Loretto Heritage Center

We're in a rut! A wagon rut, that is. We started on the Santa Fe Trail yesterday at its origin in Arrow Rock, MO. We stopped for the night in Independence, where the Sisters stayed in 1852 while recovering from illness. Here we visited the gravesite of Mother Matilda Mills, who died of cholera at that time.

July 5 - Kansas City, MO - 🚱

...

This Trail marker is placed in a surviving rut, just after the Trail crosses the Big Blue River in Kansas City. With all the draft animals and wagons moving along the Trail, it would have been quite rough and muddy! We're glad it's just wet today.



At each stop, more of the story was revealed through the people we met and the sites we explored. Although I could

have learned the history in my office through books and academic research, experiencing parts of the history helped me retain the information and make connections in a way I otherwise would not have been able to. By taking this trip, I experienced more than just the nineteenth-century story. Meeting other archivists, historians, and caretakers of the past gave us valuable contacts. We have already set up one research group to visit later this year and plan on making research trips ourselves in the coming year.

While learning the long past history of the order is important, I would not be able to successfully perform my role as archivist without also learning about the more recent history and the current affairs of the community. The events of today will shape our understanding of history tomorrow, and gathering memories from the aging community members is a time-sensitive task. During the trip, I got to know several of the Sisters and Co-Members personally. Building a rapport with members of the community is indispensable, as it not only strengthens the trust of potential donors, it also creates contacts within the community with whom I can discuss my questions without fear of accidentally alienating people. Religious communities are inherently private and have only recently begun to open their materials to lay professionals and researchers. Continuing to foster a relationship of trust and mutual respect between the lay archival staff and the community is an ongoing responsibility that I work on every day. This trip to Santa Fe certainly strengthened the relationships we are building.



Loretto Community members stand in wagon ruts along the Santa Fe Trail.

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#### UP-AND-COMERS—continued Meredith Lowe, Assistant Editor

#### (Continued from page 33)

After a few months catching up on other archival duties, it was decided that I should make a trip out to Denver, Colorado, another western pocket of Loretto history. Up until 2014, the Loretto Community had a Center in Colorado where many Sisters lived and worked. When the Center closed, many of the Sisters moved to the Motherhouse in Kentucky, but the members still involved with the local Denver community remained in Colorado. The purpose of this trip was multifaceted, including taking an inventory of the materials at the Denver Staff Office, meeting with archives that hold Loretto materials, and, of course, getting to know the community members still living in Colorado. Though similar to the Santa Fe trip, this time I was on my own.

My week-long trip was a blur of activity. I was graciously hosted in the home of three Sisters, who made sure to host dinner parties with members of the community for me to meet. I was taken on tours of past Loretto schools by Sisters who had personal connections to the grounds and who told me wonderful stories I would not have been able to find in the administrative papers housed in the collections. Recognizing the importance of capturing these vignettes of past days, we have begun asking community members to write up short pieces relaying memories that have shaped their experience of Loretto.



Billboard located at the entrance to the Loretto Motherhouse Campus

Entering into the Loretto Community as a stranger, I never guessed how quickly I would be welcomed into the story of Loretto. Reflecting on my first eight months working alongside the community, I can see the progress I have made. Though the processing backlog is still present, I am slowly learning the history and what makes this community unique. Will I ever know everything about Loretto and what the collections may contain? No. But that is not the job of the archivist. I just strive to know enough to contextualize the collections for outsiders curious about the community and looking for an opening for research and understanding.



Request a free demo—see our unrivaled capabilities for yourself! sales@lucidea.com lucidea.com/archivera

# **People and Posts**

Assistant Editor: Matt Gorzalski, Southern Illinois University Carbondale. The MAC Membership Committee invites members to share positions, appointments, and honors in the People and Posts column. Please send items to Matt at mgorzalski@lib.siu.edu. Submissions must be 150 words or less. Images are welcome!

John King, formerly of the Berea College Sound Archives, is now the graduate research assistant at Bowling Green State University Libraries' Music Library and Bill Schurk Sound Archives, tasked with creating and maintaining a collection for regional music and related culture.

Lindy Smith has joined the University of Missouri–Kansas City Libraries as head of LaBudde Special Collections. She was formerly the research archivist at Bowling Green State University Libraries' Music Library and Bill Schurk Sound Archives.

Jerice Barrios, archivist for the Cenacle Sisters in Chicago, was appointed by Secretary of State Jesse White to serve on the Illinois State Archives Advisory Board. This board advises the director of the Illinois State Archives and also helps approve historical record grant applications. Barrios will serve a three-year term expiring in October 2022.

**Kathryn Hujda** recently accepted the position of curator of manuscripts with the Minnesota Historical Society. She previously served as the assistant curator for the Performing Arts Archives and Upper Midwest Literary Archives at the University of Minnesota. A trained musician, she specializes in working with artists and arts organizations, and looks forward to bringing this expertise to her new role.

Veronica Denison joined the Richard L. D. and Marjorie J. Morse Department of Special Collections at Kansas State University Libraries as the assistant university archivist in September 2019. She had been an archivist at the University of Alaska/ Alaska Pacific University Consortium Library Archives and Special Collections in Anchorage since 2013, and she holds an MLIS from Simmons College and undergraduate degrees from Lycoming College. She will manage the day-to-day operations of the university archives, oversee the department's reference services, teach primary source instruction classes, and work with campus units and donors.

University of Louisville Archives and Special Collections (ASC) is very glad to welcome **Mary Beth Williams**, who began work as program assistant senior on October 28. Williams comes to ASC with 17 years of experience in museums and historic sites, most recently as curator of collections and education at Historic Locust Grove. She will serve as the primary person at the ASC reference desk.

Letha Johnson recently became the curator of the Kansas Collection at Kenneth Spencer Research Library, University of Kansas. She was previously associate archivist at Spencer Research Library. The Kansas Collection contains a vast array of manuscripts, photographs, blueprints, and newspapers that gives students and researchers a look into the "Kansas experience."

Alexis Braun Marks, Jennifer Johnson, and Michelle Sweetser won the 2019 MARAC Arline Custer Memorial Award for their article, "The Cost of Care and the Impact on the Archives Profession." The Arline Custer Memorial Award recognizes the best books and articles written or compiled by individuals and institutions in the MARAC region. The MARAC membership of their coauthor Rachael Dryer, head of Research Services at the Eberly Family Special Collections Library at the Penn State University Library, made all coauthors eligible for the award presented at the 2019 MARAC meeting in Cambridge, Maryland.

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#### PEOPLE AND POSTS—Continued Matt Gorzalski, Assistant Editor.

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#### MAC CONTACTS—Continued

(Continued from page 37)

#### **Committee Chairs**

#### Archie Motley Memorial Scholarship for Students of Color

Lara Friedman-Shedlov Description and Access Archivist Kautz Family YMCA Archives University of Minnesota 318 Andersen Library 222 21st Avenue S Minneapolis, MN 55455 Phone: 612-626-7972 ldfs@umn.edu

#### Mark A. Greene Award for First-Time Meeting Attendees

Vicki Cooper Records and Information Manager Northern Kentucky University 106B Steely Library Highland Heights, KY 41099 Phone: 859-572-5742 cooperv2@nku.edu

# Louisa Bowen Memorial Graduate Scholarship

Shaun Hayes Assistant Archivist University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee SOIS 1720 E. Capitol #202 Shorewood, WI 53211 Phone: 414-229-6817 sahayes1@yahoo.com

#### **Presidents' Award**

Ellen Swain Associate Professor of Library Administration, Archivist for Student Life and Culture University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign 19 Main Library 1408 W. Gregory Street Urbana, IL 61801 217-333-7841 eswain@illinois.edu

#### Annual Meeting Local Arrangements Committee 2020, Des Moines, IA

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