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S. B.

The Primary Source

Newsletter of the Society of Mississippi Archivists

Volume 1

January, 1979

Number 1

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am privileged to welcome you as charter members of the Society of Mississippi Archivists. We share the common enthusiasm of collecting, preserving, organizing and making available historical manuscript materials as well as public and private records. We should also be missionaries in the larger challenge of educating the public to the need of records preservation. Most people readily grasp the general purpose behind historic preservation, but the translation of this purpose into actual preservation involving human commitment, resources and time requires a deeper effort.

Aside from obvious economic, historic and cultural benefits, preservation also yields a sense of constancy and permanence in today's fast changing world. The Society of Mississippi Archivists, for these reasons, welcomes membership and participation from a broad spectrum of life, united in the common bond of preserving the past for the present and the future. Thank you for your help. We look forward to many years of exciting and productive work together.

Claude E. Fike

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The initial year of the Society of Mississippi Archivists has been a successful one. Membership has exceeded all expectations and now numbers 413. The Society, as of August 1, 1978, has been incorporated as a non-profit corporation in the state of Mississippi, and the required report of organization has been filed with the Secretary of State. Application was made with the Internal Revenue Service for tax exempt status as an educational organization under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and we have written notification that our application has been approved. This exemption enables the Society to accept tax-deductible contributions and allows members to deduct dues.

At the urging of the president of the Society, I have agreed to edit the first issue of a newsletter for the Society. It is hoped that THE PRIMARY SOURCE may become a regular publication with data both educational and informative. News from only a part of the institutions represented in the Society appears in this issue of the newsletter. If your institution has news or other information which would be of interest to members of the Society, please send the details to your editor at the Society's business head-

quarters in Jackson.

With our present membership from varied backgrounds and experience, I consider it imperative that the Society look at possible programs and services. The role of the Society as it relates to its membership, to the archival profession, and to historical research in Mississippi have been topics discussed at two Council meetings during the last half of 1978, and I am certain will be subjects considered at the annual meeting in April.

We hope that one-day workshops may be initiated in the near future. There are a number of topics which need to be discussed, and the Council would welcome suggestions of possible themes.

We have an abundance of talent in the Society, which should be shared with fellow members. The seed of enthusiasm has been planted, and I believe valuable things can be accomplished for the archival profession in Mississippi. We would welcome your suggestions on ways the Society may be of benefit to your local situations.

Ronald E. Tomlin

NEWS NOTES

Mississippi State University:

Among the recent acquisitions at the Mitchell Memorial Library are the papers of former Jackson mayor Russell C. Davis. Consisting of approximately ninety linear feet, the collection focuses on his years as mayor, 1969-1977.

J.G. Shoalmire, Curator of the John C. Stennis Collection, recently chaired

the Senate Staff Panel at the conference on "Research Use and Disposition of Senators' Papers," sponsored by the Senate Historical Office in Washington D.C.

Michael Ballard, formerly an assistant in the Stennis Collection, has assumed an archival position at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, North Carolina.

University of Mississippi:

Recent acquisitions at the University of Mississippi Library include the Henry H. Bellamann Papers, 1917-1945; the Katherine Jones Bellamann Papers, 1917-1958; the David Lewis Cohn Autobiography; the John Davis Williams Papers, 1934-1978; and the Gage Family Letters, 1836-1908.

The University of Mississippi Department of Archives and Special Collections is publishing a one hundred page catalog to accompany a major exhibit on the history of the University, 1848-1906. The exhibit is scheduled to run from February through May, 1979. Copies of the catalog will be available from the Department of Archives and Special Collections.

University of Southern Mississippi:

Dr. Claude E. Fike, President of the Society and University Archivist at the University of Southern Mississippi, was instrumental in the establishment of a Department of Archives and Records for Forrest County. Dr. Fike is chairman of the governing board and other board members will be appointed by the Forrest County Board of Supervisors and the Hattiesburg City Council. The For-

rest County Archives is being supported by Forrest County, the city of Hattiesburg and the town of Petal. Anyone interested in applying for the job of county archivist may contact Dr. Fike at P. O. Box 5148, Southern Station, Hattiesburg, MS 39401.

Delta State University:

Among recent additions to the archives at Delta State University are the Melton Brothers Store Collection (Inverness, Mississippi), the Evelyn Hammett Papers, the Lucy Somerville Howorth Papers, the Nellie Nugent Somerville Collection, and the James Hand Collection. The Melton Brothers Collection consists of day books and ledgers for the Inverness store and represent the period 1900-1960.

Dr. Sammy O. Cranford, University Archivist, continues an oral history project whose focus is on economic and social changes of life in the area. Dr. Cranford is presently interviewing migrant workers and store owners in the Baldwin Landing area near Benoit, Mississippi.

Catholic Diocese of Jackson:

Sister Catherine Markey, M.H.S., Archivist for the Diocese, relates the following. The Archives for the Catholic Diocese of Jackson was started by Bishop R.O. Gerow. He wished to become acquainted with all facets of his diocese when he came here in 1924, and therefore attempted to collect as much historical data as he could. He continued this work during his episcopacy (1924-1966) and after, ending his activities in the early 1970's.

Presently, the Archives is processing material from the first eight years of Bishop Brunini's administration. Conservation of older records in the local parishes is the top priority of the Archives of the Jackson Diocese. A microfilm program is being used to preserve these local records.

Judge George W. Armstrong Library (Natchez):

A recent acquisition of the Armstrong Library is the Edith Wyatt Moore Papers, 1920's-1960's. Mrs. Moore was the recognized historian for Natchez. She was one of the organizers of the Natchez Historical Society and was very active in the Natchez Trace Association. The collection is partially indexed and is available to researchers.

First Presbyterian Church (Jackson):

The archives of Jackson's First Presbyterian Church consists of various church records including slides dating from 1963 of the Women's Bible Class. Roll books for this class from its beginning August 8, 1909, are among the archives. The Archives Room at the church was opened August 8, 1977, with Mrs. John T. Caldwell as archivist. Mrs. Caldwell is also archivist for the Mississippi Opera Association and has served in that capacity since 1964.

Biloxi Public Library:

The Biloxi Public Library is currently collecting and copying photographs of Biloxi scenes and people and would welcome any photos, new or old. The oral history project of the library also continues.

American Association for State and Local History:

The American Association for State and Local History is offering seven new slide/tape presentations on architectural preservation. Titles in the series are: (1) Reading a Building:Colonial; (2) Reading a Building:Adobe; (3) Overall Planning for Historic House Restoration; (4) Victorian House Colors: Exterior; (5) Wallpaper and the Historic House; (6) Curatorial Care:The Environment; and (7) Curatorial Care: Furniture.

Jackson State University:

Recent additions to the archives of the Jackson State University Library include the following: galley proof for JUBILEE, by Margaret Walker Alexander; Charles B. Brown's "Happy Hours in Coon Town," 1899 (sheet music); Thurland Chattaway's "My Honey Lou," 1904 (sheet music); Roland Freeman's photographs of Mississippi Folklife Project; uncorrected proof for A POETIC EQUATION:CONVERSATION BETWEEN NIKKI GIOVANNI AND MARGARET WALKER ALEXANDER, by Nikki Giovanni and Margaret W. Alexander, 1973; Scott Joplin's "Sunflower Slow Drag," 1911 (sheet music); the Opera South file containing "Scoreboard" and "Rapnotes" and newsletters; Jacob L. Reddix Papers, 1940-1967; and Henry Von Tilzer's "My Bamboo Queen" (sheet music).

Lowndes County Department of Archives and History:

The Lowndes County Archives has added a reference room in which are contained approximately 1000 historical

and genealogical reference books. Presently, Betty Thomas, Director of the Archives, is talking with the chancery and circuit clerks of Lowndes County about records management for county records. An ongoing project to sort, arrange and box valuable records of the County Estate Court, 1830-1900, is continuing. It is reported that the papers of former Senator Bill Burgin will be deposited at the Lowndes County Archives.

Mississippi Department of Archives and History:

Robert J. Bailey, Director of the Archives and Library Division, has been selected for the National Association of State Archivists and Records Administrators Committee on Association Development. Ronald E. Tomlin, Chief of the Archives Section, has been chosen as a member of the Society of American Archivists Committee of Access and Reference Policies.

Significant accessions of official archives during 1978 include the following: notebooks of Thomas Rodney, Territorial Judge of the Mississippi Territory, 1804-1809, containing court briefs and notes on the Superior Court for the Mississippi Territory including notes on the Aaron Burr trial (1 roll of microfilm); minutes of the State Board of Health, 1936-1970 (3 volumes); studies prepared by an advisory committee of the Joint Committee on Salaries and Expenses to investigate the need and feasibility of a job classification system for Mississippi, 1965 and 1970 (1 manuscript box and 5 volumes); Natchez Trace Parkway files(101 upright boxes, 1 oversize box and 6 map boxes); proceedings of the Senate Cor-

rections Sub-Committee with regard to undue political influence in the Department of Corrections, February 23-March 16, 1978; minute books of the mayor and council of the city of Bay St. Louis, 1858-1903 and 1916-1956 (13 volumes); Anselm J. McLaurin senatorial correspondence, February 29-March 27, 1908 (480 items); Historical information relating to military posts and other installations, ca. 1700-1900 (8 rolls microfilm); orders issued by General James Wilkinson, December 31, 1796-March 8, 1808, with name and subject card index (2 rolls microfilm); commission of Seth Lewis as Territorial Supreme Court Justice for Mississippi, signed by President John Adams, 1800 (1 item); and William L. Waller Gubernatorial Papers, 1972-1976 (unprocessed).

Among noteworthy manuscript acquisitions are the following: Manship Family Papers (9 boxes); Sam Lumpkin Papers (2 boxes); William F. Winter Collection (2 boxes); William Etheridge Papers (1 box); Burnita Shelton Matthews Collection (6 boxes and 10 volumes); Isaac Ross Wade Letters, 1845-1855 (16 items); International Womens Year 1977 Papers (3 boxes); James Rankin Collection (2 boxes); A. Klaus Store Records (47 volumes and 1 box); and J.C. Zeller Collection (42 boxes).

Society of Mississippi Archivists:

One hundred and three municipalities in Mississippi are represented in the membership of the Society. In addition, seven out-of-state cities boast members. Jackson's 100 members represents the largest group from one city, and Hattiesburg ranks second in number of members with sixty-three.

Approximately 16% of the membership questionnaires have been returned to the executive director. Results of the survey received so far are as follows: (1) most popular workshop and/or seminar topics: local history research, genealogical sources, documents restoration and archival education; (2) most popular services: newsletter, workshops and clearinghouse for information on publications; and (3) most popular committees: publications, publicity and program.

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

Available from the Society of American Archivists, 330 South Wells Street, Suite 810, Chicago, IL 60606:

3rd Edition of the SAA EDUCATION DIRECTORY, single copies are available free of charge from the office of the Executive Director.

BUSINESS ARCHIVES:AN INTRODUCTION, by Edie Hedlin, Corporate Archivist for the Wells Fargo Bank, available from the office of the Executive Director, \$4 to members and \$6 to nonmembers, published by SAA's Business Archives Committee.

MODERN ARCHIVES AND MANUSCRIPTS: A SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY, compiled by Frank B. Evans, published by SAA, 1975, softbound, \$8 members, \$11 others, add \$1 postage charge for orders under \$10 not prepaid.

SAA Basic Manual Series: ARCHIVES AND MANUSCRIPTS:APPRAISAL AND ACCESSIONING, by Maynard J. Brichford, SAA, 1977; ARCHIVES AND MANUSCRIPTS: ARRANGEMENT AND DESCRIPTION, by

David B. Gracy II, SAA, 1977; ARCHIVES AND MANUSCRIPTS:REFERENCE AND ACCESS, by Sue E. Holbert, SAA, 1977; ARCHIVES AND MANUSCRIPTS:SECURITY, by Timothy Walch, SAA, 1977; ARCHIVES AND MANUSCRIPTS:SURVEYS, by John A. Fleckner, SAA, 1977 - set of 5, \$12 members, \$16 others, \$3 ea. members, \$4 ea. others, postage and handling charge of \$1 will be added to orders under \$20 which are not prepaid.

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM MANUAL, by William W. Moss, \$11 members, \$13.50 others.

THE MODERN MANUSCRIPTS LIBRARY, by Ruth Bordin and Robert Warner, \$5 members, \$6 others.

ARCHIVES AND THE PUBLIC INTEREST: SELECTED ESSAYS BY ERNST POSNER, edited by Ken Manden, \$5 members, \$6 others.

Available from the American Association for State and Local History:

AASLH DIRECTORY OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES AND AGENCIES IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA, \$18 members, \$24 others.

COLLECTION, USE AND CARE OF HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPHS, by Robert A. Weinstein and Larry Booth, \$10.50 members, \$16 others.

NOMENCLATURE FOR MUSEUM CATALOGING:A SYSTEM FOR CLASSIFYING MAN-MADE OBJECTS, by Robert G. Chenhall, \$18.75 members, \$25 others.

MODERN MANUSCRIPTS:A PRACTICAL

MANUAL FOR THEIR MANAGEMENT, CARE AND USE, by Kenneth W. Duckett, \$12 members, \$16 others.

LOCAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS:A MANUAL FOR LIBRARIANS, by Enid T. Thorson, \$4.25 members, \$5.75 others.

TRANSCRIBING AND EDITING ORAL HISTORY, by Willa K. Baum, \$4.50 members, \$6.75 others.

ORAL HISTORY FOR THE LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY, by Willa K. Baum, \$2 members, \$3 others.

EXHIBITS FOR THE SMALL MUSEUM: A HANDBOOK, by Arminta Neal, \$6 members, \$8 others.

RESEARCHING, WRITING AND PUBLISHING LOCAL HISTORY, by Thomas E. Felt, \$4.50 members, \$6 others.

CARE OF HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS: A CONSERVATION HANDBOOK FOR THE NON-SPECIALIST, by Per E. Guldbeck, \$4 members, \$5.50 others.

GUIDE TO THE CARE AND ADMINISTRATION OF MANUSCRIPTS, by Lucile M. Kane, \$2.25 members, \$3 others.

REGISTRATION METHODS FOR THE SMALL MUSEUM, by Daniel B. Reibel, \$5 members, \$6.75 others.

A PRIMER FOR LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES, by Dorothy Weyer Creigh, \$4.75 members, \$6.50 others.

For further information about ordering copies of these books, contact the office of the executive director at P. O. Box 571, Jackson, MS 39205.

EVENTS

Jan. 21-27:

American Library Association Midwinter Convention, Washington, D. C.

Feb. 3-25:

Society of American Archivists 6th Archives Study Tour: Archives in the South Pacific (Australia, New Zealand & Fiji). Contact Archives Study Tour, SAA, 330 S. Wells St., Suite 810, Chicago, IL 60606.

Feb. 10:

General Brown Memorial Military History Conference, Tuscaloosa, AL.

Feb. 12-15:

International Symposium on Art Security, University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware.

Feb. 25-27:

Mississippi Governor's Library Conference.

Feb. 26-28:

Microfilm in Records Management, sponsored by the American Management Association, AMA Management Center, Chicago, IL. Contact AMA, 155 W. 50th St., New York, NY 10020.

Mar. 1-3:

Mississippi Historical Society Annual Meeting, Coliseum Ramada Inn, Jackson, MS.

Mar. 4-8:

American Association for State and Local History Seminar on Techniques and Use of Oral History,

Memphis, TN.

Mar. 5-7:

Graphic Arts Center, Rochester Institute of Technology Seminar on the Preservation and Use of Photographic Images. Contact William D. Siegfried, Training Director, College of Graphic Arts and Photography, Rochester Institute of Technology, One Lomb Memorial Blvd., Rochester, NY 14623.

Mar. 7-9:

Microfilm in Records Management, sponsored by the American Management Association, AMA Headquarters, New York, NY.

Mar. 19-22:

Publications Management Symposium, sponsored by Museums Collaborative, Inc., The Biltmore, New York City. For final brochure with details of faculty members and full registration information contact Patricia L. Jobling, Director, Continuing Professional Education Program, Museums Collaborative, Inc., 15 Grammercy Park, South, New York, NY 10003.

Mar. 26-30:

American University Records Management Institute #4, Atlanta, GA. Contact The American University College of Public Affairs, Ward Circle Bldg., Room 203, Washington, D.C. 20016, Attention: Mr. Alex Soroko.

April 4-9:

Society of Architectural Historians Annual Meeting, Savannah, GA.

April 8-12:

American Association for State and

Local History Seminar on the Administration of the Outdoor History Museum, Shakertown, NY.

April 9-11:

Microfilm in Records Management, sponsored by the American Management Association, Washington, D.C.

April 10:

Society of Mississippi Archivists Annual Meeting, Hattiesburg, MS.

April 11-14:

Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, Hyatt Regency, New Orleans, LA.

May 8-11:

National Micrographics Association 28th Annual Conference and Exposition, Georgia World Conference Center, Atlanta, GA.

June 4-15:

National Archives and Records Service and Library of Congress Modern Archives Institute, National Archives, Washington, D.C. Contact Modern Archives Institute, NARS, Washington, D.C. 20408.

June 24-30:

American Library Association Annual Conference, Dallas, TX.

July 15-27:

9th Annual Institute for Historical Editing, Madison, WI, sponsored by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. Contact NHPRC, Na-

tional Archives Bldg., Washington D.C. 22408. (Application deadline Mar. 1, 1979).

Sept. 25-28:

Society of American Archivists Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.

Oct. 7-10:

Association of Records Managers and Administrators Annual Conference, Hyatt Regency, Phoenix, AZ

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY, 1978-1979

President: Claude E. Fike, University Archivist, University of Southern Mississippi.

Vice President: Sammy O. Cranford, University Archivist, Delta State University.

Treasurer: Anne S. Wells, Manuscript Librarian, Mitchell Memorial Library, Mississippi State University.

Board Members:

Robert J. Bailey, Director, Archives and Library Division, Mississippi Department of Archives and History (2 year term).

Bernice Bell, Assistant Librarian, Sampson Library, Jackson State University. (3 year term).

Julia Guice, Historic Preservation Officer, City of Biloxi. (3 year term)

Jim G. Shoalmire, Curator of the John C. Stennis Collection, Mississippi State University. (2 year term)

Executive Director/Secretary: Ronald E. Tomlin, Chief, Archives Section, Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

Primary Source

Newspaper of the Society of Mississippi Archivists

Change of address form:

Name:
City:
State: Zip Code:

In case of a change in address, please send this form to the Executive Director, P.O. Box 571, Jackson, MS 39205

July, 1977

Number 2

Interest into an even greater archival effort. Please inform me of your archival needs and interests which may assist us in planning our activities. The Society welcomes your suggestions and participation.

It is an honor to serve as your president and I look forward to an exciting and productive year.

Sammy Crawford

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

When the Society of Mississippi Archivists was established on November 17, 1977, it was the hope of the organizers that the Society might provide for improved communication among those working in the archival profession in Mississippi. During the year and a half since that organizational meeting, the SMA has proved to be a valuable avenue for cooperation among archivists, manuscript curators, and librarians. The program of the Society is actively being developed, but it has already been of service to the profession.

A large majority of the 1978-1979 membership is made up of persons not working in the archival profession but interested in preserving the recorded history of Mississippi's organizations and