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The Primary Source

MISSISSIPPIANA COLLECTION
McCain Graduate Library

A Quarterly Publication of The Society of Mississippi Archivists

Volume 10

Winter 1988

Number 4

ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR HATTIESBURG

Come to the "Hub City!" All SMA members, archivists and other interested persons are invited to come to Hattiesburg for the annual meeting of the Society to be held from Sunday, May 14 through Tuesday, May 16. The meetings's theme will be "Documenting Localities"--and in particular, Mississippi.

Highlighting the meeting will be a workshop on documentation strategies and documenting localities by Richard Cox. Formerly of the Alabama Department of Archives and History and the New York State Archives, and now on the faculty of the University of Pittsburgh's School of Library and Information Science, Cox is a nationally-recognized specialist on documentation strategies who has conducted seminars on the topic for SAA. Building upon the theoretical base and practical experience offered by Cox, additional sessions will examine past documentation efforts in Mississippi, prime topics to be documented, and how best to coordinate such activities. The conference will conclude with lunch and the annual SMA business meeting.

As always, there will be plenty of time for socializing, beginning on Sunday evening. A highlight of the meeting will be Monday's barbecue supper--pork or beef ribs, or chicken: whatever suits your fancy--at Leatha's, near Columbia. Many affirm that Leatha's is the best barbecue in Mississippi. Accommodations have been arranged at Cabot Lodge (\$39 double, \$33 government rate; includes breakfast) and meetings will be held on the campus of the University of Southern Mississippi.

For more information contact Julia Young, program chair, School of Library Science, USM, Southern Station Box 5146, Hattiesburg, MS 39406 (601) 266-5113; or Alexandra Gressitt and Sandra Boyd, local arrangements co-chairs, McCain Library, USM, Southern Station Box 5148, Hattiesburg, MS 39406, (601) 266-4348.

ARCHIVES ESCAPES STATE REORGANIZATION

A program for reorganizing and streamlining Mississippi's state government was passed by the Legislature in late January, but the Department of Archives and History was not named in the legislation. The Mississippi Library Commission also escaped. Various plans mentioned in the media, including one for placing the Archives and the Library Commission under an umbrella organization for cultural affairs, did not materialize. During the reorganization effort there had been some concern that the Archives might be placed under an elected official or might otherwise lose its independence.

The Primary Source (ISSN 0741-6563) is a quarterly publication of news and ideas produced by the Society of Mississippi Archivists, a non-profit organization of professional archivists and other interested persons.

Editorial Staff

Editor-in-chief: Suzanne Flandreau Steel, University of Mississippi

Features editors: Sandra E. Boyd
Alexandra S. Gressitt
University of Southern Mississippi

Book review editor: Michael B. Ballard, Mississippi State University

National events reporter: Terry S. Latour, University of Southern Mississippi

Conservation reporter: Linda Overman, Department of Archives and History

Production manager: Michael Hennen, Department of Archives and History

Your contributions, newsnotes and letters are welcome. Send them to:
Suzanne Flandreau Steel, Blues Archive--Farley Hall, University of Mississippi, University, MS 38677, telephone (601) 232-7753.

The deadline for the Spring 1989 issue is April 1.

Department of Amplification and Correction: Tim Erickson of SAA has written to correct a statement in our last issue that SAA "refused" to provide a listing of regional organizations to the Society of North Carolina Archivists for use in their poll on certification. He writes: "It is true that we were not able to issue a 1988 update of the directory of regional associations, but in lieu of that we compiled a special 'quick list' of contact persons. We have made this list available to SAA members and non-members alike on dozens of different occasions. It is not even my custom to ask why people want to use the list. I don't know what happened in the North Carolina case, but their not receiving a list was certainly not due to the fact that SAA refused to send one." Your slightly red-faced editor notes that the wording of the North Carolina document states only that they made an "unsuccessful attempt" to obtain an up-to-date list of regionals from SAA. We might also note that an up-to-date directory of regional archival organizations can be found in the January issue of the SAA Newsletter. Thanks, Tim, and good work!

Thanks also to our contributors for this issue: our reporters Sandra Boyd and Alexandra Gressitt, Joe Brent, who provided our feature article, Daryl Lewis for his report on the school history project in Clarksdale, and Jim Dawson who seems to be archiving up a storm in Lauderdale County.

INSTITUTIONAL SPOTLIGHTS

The Library Hattiesburg, Petal, and Forrest County

The Library of Hattiesburg, Petal, and Forrest County was founded in 1930.

Address: The Library Hattiesburg, Petal, and Forrest County
723 Main Street
Hattiesburg, MS 39401

Phone: (601) 582-4461

Hours: Monday and Tuesday 9:00 - 8:00
Wednesday - Saturday 9:00 - 5:30

Contact Person: Pamela Lambert, Director

Services Provided: Copying (including microfilm, microfiche), interlibrary loan, microcomputers and printers.

Holdings: Library holdings include 88,132 books. Two special collections are located at the Main Branch: a non-circulating genealogy collection shelved on open stacks, including census records on microfilm 1820-1910; and a Mississippi collection of reference materials, circulating materials, and periodicals.

Lauderdale County Department of Archives & History, Inc.

In early 1984, the Lauderdale County Board of Supervisors established a county archives to preserve threatened historical records.

Address: Lauderdale County Department of Archives & History, Inc.
Court House Annex Building
P. O. Box 5511
Meridian, MS 39302

Phone: (601) 482-9752

Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 - 2:30

Contact Person: Jim Dawson

Services Provided: Copying; sale of published materials on Lauderdale and Clarke Counties, including tax rolls, census, marriage records, church records, and indexes to county records. A publications price list is available on request.

Holdings: The archives includes reference materials for genealogy, specifically family histories, miscellaneous Mississippi and Alabama source books, and manuscripts on Choctaw Indian History. Also available are copies of more than 40 publications prepared by archives volunteers.

Smith Robertson Museum & Cultural Center

Founded in 1984, the Smith Robertson Museum and Cultural Center serves as a comprehensive depository of artifacts and archival materials relevant to the experiences of Black Mississippians from their African heritage to contemporary times.

Address: Smith Robertson Museum & Cultural Center
528 Bloom Street
P. O. Box 3259
Jackson, MS 39207

Phone: (601) 960-1457

Hours: Monday - Friday 9:00 - 5:00

Contact Person: Dr. Jessie Mosley, Executive Director

Services Provided: Daily guided tours; annual educational forums, programs, and special events; permanent and temporary exhibits; special arrangements for short term loans of materials or use of the facility for meetings or special tours.

Holdings: The center's diverse holdings of artifacts and archival materials of Black Mississippians include collections of artworks; quilts dating from the 1800's; blacksmith tools and farm utensils; materials relating to the Farish Street Neighborhood District in Jackson, Mississippi; cameras and related equipment of a renowned local photographer; and Black folk arts. Materials reflecting the Civil Rights Era, slavery and reconstruction, Black Mississippi political figures, social service workers, philanthropists, educators, and entrepreneurs are also on display.

MISSISSIPPI'S NEWSPAPERS: MICROFILM OR MILDEW ?

Since 1880, when the legislature decreed that chancery clerks were to collect and periodically bind newspapers from their counties, over 100 years of newsprint have been placed in Mississippi's courthouses. The task of the Mississippi Newspaper Project is to preserve these documents. Preservation in this case is preserving the information contained within the papers in the form of a microfilm replica; however, we are by no means advocating the destruction of the originals. This is the most misunderstood aspect of the work being done by the National Endowment for the Humanities-funded program.

As the archivist in charge of the preparation of the newspapers, I have been in the trenches for a year now. In that year I have met many of the curators of Mississippi's newspapers face to face. Dealing with these chancery clerks, newspaper editors, museum curators, and librarians has been both pleasant and frustrating. For the most part they understand the significance of their charges, but many are reluctant to allow us to do a proper job, and in some rare cases they forbid any work at all on their newspapers.

A proper job necessitates having the authority to loosen or disbind the bound volumes of newspapers in order to get a clear photographic image. As an historian who uses newspapers in my research and an archivist who understands the fragility of this medium, I am concerned that a lack of

trust and communication could thwart the Newspaper Project's goal. Having our hands tied concerning unbinding is the major complaint voiced by those of us who process the papers. The majority of newspaper curators have refused us permission to unbind. On the face of it unbinding damages the volumes and offers little in return. However, anyone who has ever used bound newspapers on a regular basis understands the difficulty involved in working with them. For example, have you ever tried to lift volume of newspapers and put it on a copy machine? Unless the item to be copied is on an outside corner the operation is a nightmare, especially if the machine does not have reduction capabilities.

We have also discovered a number of additional problems inherent to the binding process. Often late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century papers of two sizes were bound together. The smaller ones are usually fine, but the larger pages crack and tear along the overlapping edges. This problem is often compounded by attempts at mending. Use of plastic adhesive tape or opaque paper tape have added to the damage, causing discoloration and additional tears from these repairs which are stronger than the original material. Some papers from Natchez had an oversized Sunday edition. The bindery simply folded the pages so that they would fit the binding. When these pages were unfolded they tore along the seams created by this process.

Sometimes the bindery either receives or places issues out of order. The most bizarre example of this that we have seen to date had two years interfiled. True, often two or more years are bound together, but generally they are chronological. These two years had the months combined with the days arranged sequentially; i.e. January 5, 1886, January 6, 1887, January 12, 1886, January 13, 1887 and so forth for twelve months. Disbinding would have made the resolution of this problem simple. Since we were unable to unbind a "researcher's note" had to be placed in the volume explaining the problem.

Besides the unavoidable problems with bound papers there are worse ones caused by misinformed people trying to help. Aside from the assorted taping, gluing and various and sundry remedies for cuts and tears, there are two disastrous solutions that people have hit upon over the years: heat-sealing lamination and the rebinding of older papers.

The problems with heat-sealing lamination are inclusive to the process, which requires a great deal of heat to work. The high temperatures accelerate the deterioration caused by the acid in the papers. Once sealed within the sandwich created by the lamination, the acid is free to continue its ruinous work aided by the heat. The new entity that has been created also ages and becomes brittle which allows tears and cracks to form (Ritzenthaler 1983:80-81). Fortunately we have only seen a few examples of heat-sealing lamination and have discouraged those who have used it.

Rebinding papers is a much worse sin as the number of papers damaged is much greater. The effect achieved by putting old wood pulp newspapers in a new and stronger binding is disaster. That may be an exaggeration; if the old papers are rebound and no one ever opens the volume they would be fine save for the ever present acid deterioration. Unfortunately, genealogists, historians, and lawyers do use the papers and the result is immediate. The first and last several pages crack and break. The new pressure and stiff paper cause fissures in the next pages which causes them to break after use. This domino effect can dislodge an eighth of the volume. The weaker fibers in the older newspapers simply cannot stand up to the stress placed on them by the new binding. These are not isolated examples; they occur all too frequently. Newspapers were simply never meant to be permanent. They are

made of the cheapest, most acidic paper, yet they contain invaluable historical information.

Newspapers will last longer if stored properly. They should be kept in a dark, cool, dry place at 60 to 70 degrees, with a relative humidity of 40% to 50% with a fluctuation of both temperature and humidity of no more than five per cent. Well, we live in Mississippi where according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration the average temperature in Jackson in January ranges from 59 to 31 degrees and relative humidity from 65% to 94% within a twenty-four hour period. Both of the readings exceed the recommended five per cent fluctuation and the humidity does not approach 50%. The climate here is more suited to growing mildew than to preserving newsprint. The unfortunate truth of the matter is that many of Mississippi's newspaper collections are stored in attics or basements. Because of their bulk most curators just do not have a choice about where and how they store their papers.

What then is the answer to the problem of the thousands of newspapers stored in the 82 Mississippi counties? Microfilm, of course. This is not an unexpected conclusion, and a realistic one. Microfilm would occupy approximately 10% of the space required to store hardcopy, and the permanence of microfilm is unquestionably superior to that of newsprint. It is also true that the cost of buying existing film is somewhat expensive, but the price is about the same as getting hardcopy bound. Certain machines are needed to read and reproduce the microfilmed image. However, one machine can do both for about the cost of a personal computer.

The substitution or addition of microfilm to a county courthouse also seems to be in accordance with the state law requiring chancery clerks to keep newspapers. According to the 1987 Cumulative Supplement to the Mississippi Code 1972, Section 9-5-167, page 268: "To preserve such newspapers the clerk shall carefully file the original or microfilm copies thereof in his office." There would be no reason to destroy the hardcopy. It could remain in storage at the courthouse or could be moved off site.

The most important consideration is the preservation of the historic record, either with micrographics or by proper storage of the hard copy. The information contained within these local journals is priceless. Mississippi has had a long and colorful past and records documenting that illustrious past must be made safe for use by future generations.

--Joseph E. Brent

Sources:

Gwinn, Nancy, E., ed., Preservation Microfilming: A Guide for Librarians and Archivists, Chicago, 1987.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Jackson.

Newsprint and Its Preservation: A National Preservation Program Publication, Washington, 1977.

Ritzenthaler, Mary Lynn, Archives and Manuscripts: Conservation, A Manual on Physical Care and Management, Chicago, 1983.

The Revised Code of the Statute Laws of the State of Mississippi, Jackson, 1880.

Cumulative Supplement to the Mississippi Code 1972, Norcross, GA, 1987.

NATIONAL NEWS

CERTIFICATION UPDATE

Development of the certification examination for archivists is under way. The test is being developed by Professional Examination Service of New York. SAA's role delineation working group has defined seven major domains of archival practice (plus one category of general knowledge) each with its attached task statements listing what archivists do and knowledge statements defining what the certified archivist should know in order to accomplish the task. The working group has weighted and assigned importance to each domain, and a cross-section of archivists were sent a questionnaire on which they were asked to comment on the categories and to weight them also. The domains are (1) selection, (2) arrangement and description, (3) reference services and access, (4) preservation and protection, (5) outreach and promotion of collections, (6) program assessment of archives, and (7) professional, ethical and legal issues. The complete role delineation statement, along with the working group's assessments and rankings of the importance of each area were published in the January 1989 issue of the SAA Newsletter. It is assumed that archivists with strong feelings about the statement are invited to express their opinions to SAA.

Certification petitions are available from SAA. The deadline for application for certification by petition is September 30. It should be stressed that all interested archivists are eligible for certification by petition. Petitioners do not need to be members of SAA. The necessary qualifications are stated on the petition. They were published in the Fall issue of The Primary Source. If you have questions or want a petition call or write SAA, 600 S. Federal, Suite 504, Chicago, IL (312) 922-0140.

SAA TO PUBLISH REVISED LIST OF APPRAISERS

The Acquisitions and Appraisal Section of the Society of American Archivists is revising its list of persons who appraise the monetary value of archives and manuscripts. The list is compiled periodically as a service, for information only, and it does not constitute a recommendation or an endorsement of any individual by the society.

Anyone wishing to be included on the list should send his or her name, address, telephone number and description of specialty to Mr. Robin Brabham, Atkins Library, UNC Charlotte, Charlotte, NC 28223.

Recommendations of appraisers to be contacted for possible inclusion are also invited. The deadline for receipt of submissions is March 1, 1989.

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY, MANUSCRIPT SOCIETY PLAN DATABASE

The Manuscript Society and the Department of Archives and Manuscripts at the University Library at Arizona State University are collaborating to form the Manuscript Society Information Exchange Database. The database will list primary source materials in private hands. Scholars will be able to search the database for a fee, and the Manuscript Society will provide further information facilitating access to needed documents. Under the agreement researchers may be able to use photocopies of needed materials through the University Library.

The database will become operational when 5000 items have been entered. It is estimated that this target will be met in 1989. For further information about the database, contact Edward C. Oetting, Head, Department of Archives and Manuscripts, Hayden Library, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ 85287-1006, (602) 965-3145.

PUBLICATIONS NOTED

File Management and Information Retrieval Systems: A Manual for Managers and Technicians, by Suzanne L. Gill is available from Libraries Unlimited, P.O. Box 3988, Englewood, CO 80155-3988. Price: \$26.50. ISBN: 0-87287-625-X.

A Guide to Special Collections in the OCLC Database (2nd ed.) edited by Philip Schieber, Virginia C. Voedisch and Becky A. Wright lists 267 special collections entered by 137 member institutions. Order from OCLC, MC 024, Special Collections Guide, 6565 Frantz Road, Dublin, OH 43017. ISBN: 1-55653-025-0. No price given.

Oryx Press announces two new reference books:

Directory of Popular Culture Collections, edited by Christopher D. Geist, et. al. lists and describes over 640 collections. Price: \$48.50, ISBN 0-89774-351-2.

Funding for Museums, Archives and Special Collections, edited by Denise Wallen and Karen Cantrell is a directory of funding sources. Price: \$48.00, ISBN 0-89774-344.

Order from: Oryx Press, 2214 North Central at Encanto, Phoenix, AZ 85004-1483. Call toll-free 1-800-457-ORYX.

Principles of Bibliographic Description, by Fredson Bowers, a staple of librarianship, is available for \$42.95 from St. Paul's Bibliographies, c/o Gower Publishing co., Old Post Road, Brookfield, VT 05036.

Guide to Kentucky Manuscript Collections, Volume One amplifies information found in the 1986 Guide to Kentucky Archival and Manuscript Repositories by describing the holdings of twenty-eight repositories in more detail. For order information contact Barbara Teague, Kentucky Guide Project Coordinator, Public records Division, Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives, at (502) 875-7000.

The latest issue of the Manuscripts Division Update of The Historic New Orleans Collection (Volume 7, 1988) features "Microforms at the Historic New Orleans Collection." Listed are newspapers and periodicals, microfilms from French and Spanish archives, and miscellaneous records including the Historic American Buildings Survey and National Register of Historic Places for Louisiana, cemetery records, church records, manuscript collections and city directories.

A publication noted in our last issue, Constitutional Issues and Archives, edited by Mary Boccaccio and published by MARAC can be ordered for \$6.00 from Bro. Dennis Sennett, Friars of the Atonement Archives, Graymoor, Garrison, NY 10524.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

NHPRC ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR 1989-90 FELLOWSHIPS

The Records Program of NHPRC encourages interested archivists with two to five years' archival experience to apply for a Commission fellowship in archival administration. Jointly funded by NHPRC and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the three fellowships will provide advanced administrative training in archives. They carry a stipend of \$21,000 and up to \$4200 for fringe benefits, for a nine- to ten-month period beginning between August and October 1989. Applicants should have between two and five years' archival work experience and are encouraged to have completed the equivalent of two semesters of full-time graduate work in a program with an archival education component.

The three host institutions for 1989-90 are the Carl Albert Congressional Research and Studies Center, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma, where the fellow will be expected to participate in general administration, process a congressional collection and institute and oral history program, the Government Records Division of the New York State Archives and Records Administration in Albany, where the fellow will develop a long-range plan for a microfilming program, and the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, where the fellow will coordinate work on the state's NHPRC-funded assessment report.

Applications may be requested from NHPRC, National Archives Building, Washington, DC 20408. For further information call Laurie Baty at (202) 523-5386. Deadline for applications is March 1.

COLONIAL DAMES SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE

A scholarship to the National Archives' Modern Archives Institute, to be held June 5-16, 1989, is available from SAA. The award is funded by the Colonial Dames of America, Chapter III. To be eligible, and applicant must be an employee of an archival institution or agency with a fair percentage of its holdings in a period predating 1825, have been employed less than two years as an archivist or archives trainee, and actually be working with archives and manuscripts, regardless of title.

Resumes accompanied by two letters of recommendation from persons who have a definite knowledge of the applicant's qualifications should be submitted to Ronald L. Becker, Special Collections and Archives, Rutgers University Libraries, New Brunswick, NJ 08903, (201) 932-7006. The deadline is April 3.

CONSERVATION NEWSNOTES

PERMANENT PAPER POLICY URGED BY SENATOR PELL

Senator Claiborne Pell (D-R.I.), chair of Congress's Joint Committee on the Library, introduced a sample resolution to establish a national policy on permanent paper, although it was too late for Congressional action for this session. Pell announced his intention to reintroduce the legislation in January, and to hold public hearings soon after that. The resolution recommends that federal agencies require the use of permanent paper "for publications of enduring value," that archival quality paper be used for federal records, and that American publishers use permanent paper

and indicate such in ads, catalogs, and bibliographic listings. (Library Journal, November 15, 1988.)

CENTER FOR PAPER PERMANENCY, AUTHORS' GROUP SET UP BY NYPL

The newly formed Center for Paper Permanency of the New York Public Library will serve as a clearing house for information about ongoing efforts by the various organizations involved in permanent paper advocacy efforts. The center will provide information on permanent/durable, alkaline paper. Alkaline paper does not self-destruct so easily as the acidic papers used in much of contemporary book and periodical production. Acid's effect on the destruction of books was graphically illustrated in the film, SLOW FIRES. NYPL's Center for Paper Permanency is located at 160 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10010; 212-727-1642. Bill Raggio is the contact person. (Library Journal, November 15, 1988.)

PRESERVATION COMICS

Preservation Comics has released the first issue of THE LIBRARIAN, whose female superhero "fights the never ending battle against acidic paper, book vandalism, and the destruction of books." The black-and-white comic strip features The Librarian tracking down a torn-out page and convincing the vandal to return it to the library. When asked, "Who are you?" she replies, "I am the keeper of knowledge. I maintain the written and recorded word for use by everyone. Inside the library is the inspiration for new dreams and ideas. When there are questions or you have the need to know, then I can help. I am The Librarian!"

Writer Joseph Grant, whose wife Charlane Grant is the preservation officer of Arizona State University Libraries, Tempe, not only distributes the comic, but has had it translated into Russian and Spanish. The Grants' daughter distributed Russian copies in the Soviet Union where she attended summer camp, and they expect to distribute Spanish copies in Mexico shortly. Future issues will offer the history and background of the The Librarian, and she will travel back in time to hear an address given by Helen Keller.

Preservation Comics has thus far been funded out of the Grants' own pockets, and a new penciler and inker may need to be found. For further information, contact Joseph Grant, The Librarian/Preservation Comics, Box 951, Scottsdale, AZ 85252; 602-921-2709. (Library Journal, October 1, 1988.)

NARA NIXES SELF-STICK NOTES

Tests by the Document Conservation Branch at the National Archives on two brands of self-stick notes have determined that adhesive from the notes remained on sheets to which they were affixed after two weeks of accelerated aging tests at 65% humidity. Adhesive residues were found even when the notes were affixed to sheets then removed immediately. After aging the notes also lifted electrostatic images. NARA also noted that the colors of some notes are impermanent when wet, and that the paper used for the notes contains lignin and alum-rosin sizing. NARA recommends that no self-stick notes be used on any paper records of permanent value. (Reported in the Conference of Intermountain Archivists Newsletter, January 1989.)

PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARIES SURVEYED

The results of a preservation survey of the presidential libraries appeared in the 1987 annual report of the National Archives. As reported in The Abbey Newsletter (November 1988) the survey found that the preservation needs of the libraries vary according to the age of their holdings and the types of paper they contain. Thirty-three percent of all holdings were found to be on newsprint, electrostatic or thermally produced copies, carbons, or stencil-produced copies, all of which are prone to rapid deterioration. Seventy-six percent of the storage containers were in either poor (16 %) or fair (60%) condition and six percent were overloaded. Of the actual holdings, six percent are in excellent condition, fifty percent in good condition, thirty-four percent in fair condition and nine percent in poor condition. Only six percent of the documents sampled had suffered from excessive handling or other major damage. It is expected that, since the collections are in fairly good condition, the libraries will be able to deal with preservation problems as they arise.

CONSERVATION PUBLICATIONS NOTED

Making Darkrooms Safe: A National Report on Occupational Health and Safety is available for \$6.50 from the National Press Photographers Association, 3200 Croasdaile Drive, Suite 36, Durham, NC 27705.

"Salvage Operations for Water Damaged Collections," by Betty Walsh, published in the WAAC Newsletter for May, 1988 contains a centerspread chart that tells how to salvage a variety of materials, from books to floppy disks to videocassettes. For each type of material the chart gives priority, handling precautions, packing method and drying method. Subtypes of material, such as vellum bindings and coated papers are also covered. Issues may be ordered for \$5.00 from Chris Stavroidis, 1272 North Flores St., Los Angeles, CA 90069.

A Core Collection in Preservation compiled by Lisa Fox of SOLINET for the Preservation of Library Materials Section of ALA is a 24-page annotated bibliography available for \$5.00 from RTSD Publications, 50 East Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611. ISBN 0-8389-7224-1.

NEWS FROM MISSISSIPPI REPOSITORIES

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS PUBLISH RESEARCH

During the 1987-1988 academic year the Riverside High School Chapter of the Junior Historical Society of Mississippi used many primary sources to complete an interstate research project. In conjunction with students in California, Virginia and North Carolina, the Avon, Mississippi, junior historians perused the holdings of William Alexander Percy Library in Greenville, Mississippi, the Washington County Courthouse, and the Department of Archives and History in Jackson for information pertaining to the Richard Lawrence Dixons, an 1840s pioneer family of Leland, Mississippi.

Spearheaded by Bill Coate of Madera, California, the project called for students to cull information from censuses, slave schedules, court records, tax rolls, agricultural censuses, Confederate service records, wills, cemetery records, diaries and letters to write a book titled Refuge,

published by Classroom Chronicles Press of California. In addition to the book, the Riverside students also published some of the 130 year old Dixon letters in the Leland newspaper on a weekly basis. Moreover, during the course of the research, students from Mississippi and California exchanged visits, which allowed for a valuable cultural exchange.

Because of the success of the first project, the Riverside historians are currently utilizing the photograph collection of the Percy Library to compile a pictorial history of Washington County. Meanwhile, application has been made to the state Department of Education to incorporate this method of primary source research and publication into the public school curriculum. Anyone wishing to know more about the project should contact Daryl Lewis, 403 Sixth Street, Leland, MS 38756.

--Daryl Lewis

LCDAH RECEIVES GRANT, PUBLISHES BOOK

The Lauderdale County Department of Archives and History has been awarded a \$3,500 grant from the Mississippi Power Foundation, Inc. to conduct an oral history project. Meridian Junior College students will conduct and tape interviews with local residents who have ties to the history of the area. The interviews will be added to the Archives. "The project will benefit the students, the Archives and the community the college serves," Archives Executive Director Jim Dawson said.

The Mississippi Power Foundation, Inc. is a nonprofit organization formed by Mississippi Power Company to fund programs designed to improve education in the state.

December saw the publication of Paths to the Past: An Overview of the History of Lauderdale County, coauthored by Jim Dawson and Nan Fairley, and sponsored by the Lauderdale County Department of Archives and History. The 200-page book has over 100 illustrations and covers the period from settlement in the late 1700s through the Great Depression. Included are examples of folklore, biographies, and descriptions of events such as the Chunky Rivier Railroad Disaster. A guide to historic sites and information on now-extinct towns are also featured. Paths to the Past is available for \$30.00 (plus \$1.80 tax to Mississippi residents) from LCDAH, P.O. Box 5511, Meridian, MS 39302.

JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY

Among the grants announced by NHPRC in October was a grant of up to \$5000 to Jackson State University for a consultant to aid in planning the survey and collection of organizational and business records and personal papers of Black Mississippians of the twentieth century.

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

Michael Ballard recently traveled to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the National Archives in Washington, D.C., and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia to conduct research for a biography of Confederate General John C. Pemberton. The trip was funded by a grant from the American Philosophical Society.

Retired Senator John C. Stennis is occupying an office in the MSU Special Collections Department. Along with other various activities at MSU

he will be assisting in the further development of the oral history section of the Stennis Collection.

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

Michael Hennen's article, "Judith Sargent Murray: First American Feminist Writer," appeared in the December 1988 issue of Focus on the Humanities, published by the Mississippi Humanities Council.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS

- March 1 Conference on Current Trends in Preservation of Audiovisual Collections, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C. Registration is \$40. Send check payable to National Archives Trust Fund to Conference Coordinator, Archival Research and Evaluation Staff, NARA, Washington, D.C. 20408.
- April 12-13 Society of Florida Archivists, Tallahassee. The new SAA workshop on Arranging and Describing Archival Records will be offered. Fee: \$50. Prospective participants should enroll through SAA. Enrollment is limited to 25.
- April 17-19 Bookbinding Restoration Workshop, Rochester Institute of Technology. The workshop will be taught by renowned binder Bernard Middleton. Fee: \$275. Enrollment is limited to 16. Contact: T & E Center, RIT, One Lomb Memorial Drive, Rochester, NY 14623 (716) 475-5000.
- May 14-16 SMA, Hattiesburg (See page 1)
- May 15-17 International Council on Archives Symposium on Current Records, Ottawa, Canada. The theme of the symposium is "Converging Disciplines in the Management of Recorded Information." Registration: \$300. Contact: Winston A. Gomes, Symposium on Current Records, ICA, P.O. Box 3162 Station "D", Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1P 6H7.
- June 12-23 Georgia Archives Institute. Tuition is \$375. Deadline for applications is April 1. Contact: A.V. Lawson, School of Library and Information Studies, Atlanta University, Atlanta, GA 30314.
- July 3-28 Rare Book School, School of Library Service, Columbia University. The program offers a series of five-day non-credit courses. Tuition for each course is \$435. Contact: Rare Book School, School of Library Service, 516 Butler Library, Columbia University, New York, NY 10027. (212) 854-4734.
- July 13-15 Workshop on Microcomputer Applications in Visual Resource Collections, University of Texas, Austin. Tuition: \$325. Send \$75 deposit to Fine Arts Continuing Education, Fine Arts Building 2.4, University of Texas, Austin, TX 78712. (512) 471-8862.

ACCESSIONS

Mississippi Department of Archives and History - Manuscript Collection

Anonymous Agricultural Almanac/Diary. 1819. (.10 c.f.).

Printed agricultural almanac containing diary entries concerning the planting and harvesting of crops from January to August 1819, presumably on a small Mississippi farm. Transferred from the MDAH library.

Bank of the State of Mississippi Papers. Accretion. 1821-1824. (.10 c.f.)

Account book of Gabriel Tichenor, cashier of the Bank of the State of Mississippi, documenting the disbursement of funds to Revolutionary War pensioners living in Mississippi from 1821 to 1824. Transferred from the Official Records Section.

Beets, Eva D. Manuscript. 1985. (.33 c.f.).

Typescript of an unpublished autobiography of Eva D. Beets documenting twentieth century women's social history in Marion County, Mississippi. Presented by Eva D. Beets, Columbia.

Bourgeois, Alfred. Jewelry Company records. 1897-1900. 2 items.

Two accounting ledgers of the Alfred Bourgeois Jewelry Company, Jackson, Mississippi, from 1897 to 1900. Individual accounts are alphabetically indexed. Presented by Jerry Mitchell, attorney-in-fact, estate of Adrienne and Louise Bourgeois, Jackson.

Catching, Walter Wilroy. Diary. 1891-1908; 1910-1911 (.33 c.f.).

Diary of Dr. Walter Wilroy Catching, a physician who practiced in Beulah, Jackson, and Georgetown, Mississippi, until his death at the age of thirty-eight in 1913. Presented by Margaret Catching Keil, San Mateo, California.

Chapel of the Cross Scrapbook. ca. 1970s-1980s. (.33 c.f.).

Scrapbook, circa 1970s-1980s, containing artwork, brochures, historical sketches, a lithograph, newspaper clippings, and programs pertaining to the Chapel of the Cross, Mannsdale, Mississippi. Presented by Mrs. Charles E. Daniels, Jackson.

Common Cause of Mississippi. Records. 1980s. (2 c.f.).

Correspondence, memoranda, draft legislative bills, newspaper clippings, printed material, and other records of Common Cause of Mississippi, a non-partisan lobbying group dedicated to making federal, state, and local government more accountable to the public. The group has actively promoted ethics, open records, and open meetings legislation. Presented by Common Cause of Mississippi.

Daniell, Smith Coffee IV Collection. Accretion. 1955; n.d. (.10 c.f.)

Includes genealogical information relating to the Daniell and allied families. Presented by Nancy McElroy, Center, Texas.

Desk and Derrick Club (Jackson, Miss.) Records. ca. 1940s-1970s. (2 c.f.)

Includes minutes, scrapbooks, and other records of the Jackson chapter of the Desk and Derrick Club, a national women's organization whose

- membership is drawn from the petroleum and allied industries. Presented by the Desk and Derrick Club, Jackson.
- Elias, Charles H. Papers. 1933; 1937-1941; 1947-1948; 1965; 1980; 1983; 1985-1986; n.d. (.10 c.f.).
Correspondence file of Charles H. Elias supplementing our knowledge of scholarship pertaining to the De Soto expedition prior to and after the publication of the Final Report of the United States De Soto Expedition Commission, 1939. Presented by Charles H. Elias, North Little Rock, Arkansas.
- Jefferson Military College Papers. Accretion. 1899. (.10 c.f.)
Form letter signed by J. S. Raymond, superintendent, Jefferson Military College, Washington, Mississippi, dated August 31, 1899, and addressed to F. L. Riley. The letter stresses the advantages of attending Jefferson Military College. Presented by Mrs. Howard L. Green, Hazlehurst.
- Lambdin, S. H. Papers. 1851; 1866-1868; 1870; ca. 1873. (.10 c.f.).
Scattered papers of S. H. Lambdin, a Natchez businessman, planter, and president of the Planter's Bank, who built the Italianate-style mansion, Edgewood, shortly before the Civil War. Presented by J. H. Lambdin, Jackson.
- Lloyd, Mrs. W.B., Sr. Collection. ca. 1920s-1950s. (.66 c.f.)
Includes a diary/scrapbook documenting the experiences of Mrs. Lloyd while at the Mississippi State College for Women in the 1920s and photographs and postcards of various scenes on the MSCW campus during the 1920s and 1930s. Presented by Mrs. W. B. Lloyd, Sr., Ridgeland.
- Miscellaneous Manuscripts collection. Accretion. ca. 1942. 1 item.
World War II ration book (incomplete) of Bethany Elizabeth, Route 1, Florence, Mississippi, circa 1942. Presented by Elizabeth Mahaffey, Jackson.
- Natchez Private Wire Company. Letterpress. 1904-1905. 1 item.
Letterpress book of the Natchez Private Wire Company, a Natchez firm engaged primarily in cotton trading. The book contains a record of cotton trading information dispatched by telegraph. Presented by Kathy Elmore, Jackson.
- Ricks, Eliza Barry. Papers. 1847; 1874-1878; 1900; n.d. (.33 c.f.).
Diary of Eliza Barry Ricks, wife of Benjamin Sherrod Ricks, a wealthy Madison County planter who lived at Bellevue. The diary provides an interesting view of late nineteenth century rural life in Madison County, Mississippi, from the perspective of a plantation mistress. The collection also contains letters written to Eliza Barry Ricks from her sister, Amanda, and the last will and testament of Eliza Barry Ricks. Presented by Sara Ricks Caldwell, Canton.
- Sale, Sallie. Letter. 1868. 1 item.
Letter dated July 26, 1868, written by Sallie Sale, a Baldwyn, Mississippi, schoolmistress, to A. Murdock, a Lowndes County farmer. Sale was requesting permission to transport furniture intended for her

school across the toll road on Murdock's property at no charge.
Presented by Jack Horton, Collinsville, Alabama.

Union Female College (Oxford, Miss.) Diploma. 1857. 1 item.

Diploma of Miss Laura Viola Bratton, a graduate of the Union Female College, Oxford, Mississippi, June 19, 1857. Presented by Juanita Montgomery Lindsey, Jackson.

Van Osdel, W.S. Papers. ca. 1900s-1950s. (2 c.f.)

Includes financial records, advertising ephemera, photographs, postcards, and other records of W. S. Van Osdel, Grenada, Mississippi, from the 1900s to the 1950s. Presented by G. C. Perry, Jackson.

Walker, Robert J. Letter. 1843. (.10 c.f.).

Letter written by Mississippi Senator Robert J. Walker to [Mr. Worthington, editor, The Columbus Democrat, Columbus, Mississippi], while traveling on an unknown steamboat en route to Washington, D.C. Walker was requesting a list of the newspaper's subscribers annotated with the political party of each. He also refers to Senator Henry Clay in the letter. Walker later served as Secretary of the Treasury under President James K. Polk. Purchased from Havlor Americana, Clarendon Hills, Illinois.

Wallace, Gladys. Collection. ca. 1900s-1980s. (2.33 c.f.)

Includes photographs, printed material, scrapbooks, and other records of the late Gladys Wallace of Crystal Springs, Mississippi. The collection contains a variety of documentary photographs from the Crystal Springs-Copiah County, Mississippi, area from the 1900s to the 1980s. Presented by Elois Dickson, Jackson.

Williams, Howard S. Collection. 1889-1969. (2.33 c.f.).

Correspondence, photographs, printed material, newspaper clippings, and other records documenting the career of journalist, editor, publisher, and lay evangelist Howard S. Williams. Williams was publisher of the Hattiesburg American prior to his religious conversion which was heavily influenced by evangelist Gipsy Smith. Presented by Helen W. Spiars, Ridgeland.

Graphic Records Collection

Covington, Gen. Leonard and Wailes, B.L.C. Pictures. 1988. 6 items.

Two 4"x5" color transparencies and four 4"x5" black and white copy negatives of color copy prints of miniature portraits of Covington and Wailes. Made available for copying by Hartwell Cook, Jackson.

Harper, Luther. Portrait. ca. 1914. 1 item.

One 8"x10" crayon portrait of Luther Harper, a World War I black soldier, in uniform. Presented by Bertha Jones, Jackson.

Painter, Milton McFarland, Sr. Photograph Collection. 1912 - ca.1925. ca. 1,000 items.

Approximately one thousand 3.5"x6" black and white negatives and two albums of black and white photographic prints of Friars Point and the

surrounding area accompanied by the photographer's log book. Presented by Mrs. M. M. Painter, Sr. and Mr. M. M. Painter, Jr., Clarksdale.

United Press International Photograph Collection. 1988. 114 items.

Fifty-seven 4"x5" black and white copy negatives and fifty-seven 8"x10" black and white copy prints of captioned UPI transmission prints of James Meredith's enrollment at Ole Miss, Dr. Martin Luther King, and miscellaneous Civil Rights related activities in Mississippi and Alabama. Made available for copying by Gary Haynes, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Cartographic Records Collection

Cours du Mississippi et la Louisiane. 1749. 1 item.

Didier Robert de Vaugondy from his Atlas Portatif Universel. Paris, 1749. Acquired from Old Print Gallery.

Mississippi / Jeremiah Greenleaf. 1833. 1 item.

Presented by Helen Cain, Jackson, on behalf of the Marnie Brown Memorial Fund which purchased the map from Murray-Hudson Antiquarian Books & Maps, Halls, Tennessee.

Mississippi / Bradford. 1836. 1 item.

Purchased from Old Maps & Prints, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Mississippi / Bradford. 1841. 1 item.

Purchased from Prints & Books, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Mileage map of the Best Roads of Mississippi / C. M. Co. ca. 1922. 1 item.

Original map made available for copying by Mrs. Clemmie Goodman, Mendenhall.

Plan of the town of Natchez : with the old fort built by the Spanish in 1794. 1 item.

Original map reproduced for MDAH by the Historic New Orleans Collection.

Mississippi State University - University Archives Division

Butler, Bugene. Accretion. 1930s-1970s. ca. 3 cu. ft.

Correspondence, unpublished manuscripts, research data, all reflective of Butler's activities as editor of the Progressive Farmer magazine. Presented by Eugene Butler.

Moak, James E. Collection. 1960s-1980s. 8 cu. ft.

Files of Moak, Professor Emeritus of Forestry. Deposited by the Forestry Department.

MSU Women's Club. Scrapbooks. 1975-1982.

Records of club activities. Deposited by Lenna Bishop.

President's Commission on the Status of Women. Addition. 1984-1987. 2 cu. ft.

Files documenting commission activities. Deposited by Susannah Turner.

Schumpert, Paul Artis. A & M Cadet Uniform. 1925.

Deposited by the Industrial Education Department.

John C. Stennis Division

Stennis, John C. Addition. 1970s-1980s. ca. 200 cu. ft.

Office files, photographs, memorabilia, documents and audio-visuals.

Presented by Senator John C. Stennis. Collection is partially closed.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Manuscripts Librarian, Mississippi State University (Re-advertised)

Qualifications: ALA accredited MLS with advanced degree in history or other appropriate subject preferred. At least two years experience in an academic library with demonstrated successful experience cataloging and processing manuscript collections. Duties include processing and preparation of finding aids and reports, reference service in Special Collections (some weekends and special assignments), supervision of support staff and student workers. Salary: \$19,000 or higher. Deadline: until filled by suitable applicant. Send application, resume and three or more references to Frances N. Coleman, Search Committee Chair, P.O. Box 5408, Mississippi State, MS 39762. Mississippi State is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution. For a complete description of this position see the Fall 1988 issue of TPS.

Archivist/Records Manager Lauderdale County Department of Archives and History. (Pending funding)

An archivist/records manager is needed to provide professional expertise and supervision necessary for the establishment of an archives and records management program for Lauderdale County and the City of Meridian. With the aid of two Assistant archivists he/she will conduct a records inventory and develop records retention schedules for all city and county offices, supervise the transfer of records into the archives and records center, and oversee all arrangement and description. He/she will be responsible for researching laws and regulations to determine records retention guidelines and for compiling a guide to the collection suitable for publication. The first year of employment will be funded by a grant from NHPRC. Upon completion of the project, the Archivist/Records Manager will become a permanent full-time employee and will supervise the archives and records management program.

Minimum qualifications: Master's degree in archival studies, history, library science or related field. At least two years of work experience in archives, preferably working with local government records. Training and/or experience with records management highly desirable. Effective oral and written communication skills.

Salary: \$21,000. Starting date: April 1, 1989.

Assistant Archivist (two positions) Lauderdale County Department of Archives and History.

Two Assistant Archivists needed for a one-year NHPRC-funded project to conduct an inventory of city and county records and to process all collections transferred to the Archives. Primary duties will be the arrangement and description of archival records and the development of a guide to the collection.

Minimum qualifications: Bachelor's degree in history, library science or related field. Effective written and oral communication skills. Training or experience in records management or archives administration highly desirable.

Salary: \$16,238. Starting date: April 1, 1989 (pending funding)

To apply for LCDAH positions send application letter, resume and the names of three references to Jim Dawson, Executive Director, LCDAH, P.O. Box 5511, Meridian, MS 39302 (601) 482-9752. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

Appraisal Archivist (three positions) Alabama Department of Archives and History.

Work responsibilities: Researches and analyzes the legal mandates, administrative histories, functions, policies, procedures, and archival records of state and local government agencies. Appraises public records on the state and local government levels. Includes on-site visitations and consultations with government officials, descriptions of individual record series, and determination of the administrative, legal, fiscal and historical values of the records. Completes records disposition schedules using information gathered during records appraisal. Duties may also include preparation of manuals and reports, and participation in training workshops.

Required qualifications, knowledge and abilities: Any combination of training and experience equivalent to: a bachelor's degree in history, political science, or a closely related field including or supplemented by courses in archival administration. Knowledge of archival principles and established archival practices, and some knowledge of sources, methods and techniques used in historical research. Ability to arrange and describe archival materials, conduct projects, make sound recommendations concerning records management practices, maintain records control systems, establish and maintain effective working relationships with public officials, private groups and individuals, and express ideas clearly and concisely, orally and in writing.

Salary range: \$17,358-26,390. To be filled as soon as possible.

Contact: Deborah S. Skaggs, Head, records Management Division, ADAH, 624 Washington Ave., Montgomery, AL 36130, (205) 261-4361.

Processing Archivist Alabama Department of Archives and History.

Work responsibilities: This position in the Special Collections section of the Archival Services Division primarily entails surveying, prioritizing, and processing private records. Processing involves the arranging, describing, and preserving of the private record collections. The deaccessioning of some private records and the internal transfer of other private records are also included. Other duties include writing letters, reports, and studies, working on special projects and answering reference correspondence with occasional reference desk duty. Professional development and activities are encouraged.

Educational qualifications and skills: Any combination of training and experience equivalent to: a bachelor's degree in history, political science, or a closely related field including or supplemented by courses in archival administration. Ability to arrange and describe archival records, conduct projects, make sound recommendations concerning records management practices, and express ideas clearly and concisely, orally and in writing. Knowledge of the following is desirable, but not required:

MARC-AMC format, Anglo-Saxon Cataloging Rules II, and Library of Congress Subject Headings.

Salary range: \$17,358-\$26,390. To be filled as soon as possible.

Contact: Alden N. Monroe, Head, Archival Services, ADAH, 624 Washington Ave., Montgomery, AL 36130.

Reference Archivist, Archives of the Billy Graham Center, Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois.

Responsibilities include supervising the archives reading room, answering phone and letter reference requests, conducting entrance and exit interviews, leading (in cooperation with other staff) orientation sessions and classes in archival research methods.

Qualifications: Archival training at the graduate level, graduate degree in history or a social science, archival experience. Substantial knowledge about one or more areas of the history of nineteenth and twentieth century North American Protestant missions and evangelism very desirable. Salary: \$16,900-20,000 depending on training and experience. Please send cover letter, resume and names of three references to the Director of Human Resources, Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL 60187. Open until filled. Equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.