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The Primary Source

A Quarterly Publication of The Society of Mississippi Archivists

Volume 11

Summer 1989

Number 2

ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS TWENTIETH-CENTURY RECORDS

SMA's annual meeting held May 15-16 at the University of Southern Mississippi, provided many opportunities for professional fellowship, a chance to sample fantastic barbecue, and an excellent program on the theme "Documenting Twentieth-century Mississippi" put together by a program committee chaired by Julia Young. Sandra Boyd and Alexandra Gressitt co-chaired local arrangements with the help of other staff members of the McCain Library.

Monday's session consisted of a daylong workshop on documentation strategies, "Documenting Localities," given by Richard Cox, Lecturer in Library and Information Science at the University of Pittsburgh. Cox's presentation was comprehensive, accompanied by numerous handouts, and only the high points can be touched on here.

Cox pointed out that localities can be defined geographically, politically, culturally, historically, or in any other suitable way. The importance of localities (and the reason for documenting them) is that they provide identity for people, they tend to be self-contained and therefore manageable, there is interest on the part of amateur and professional historians, and the necessary repositories already exist. Cox defined documentation as "historical and archival records essential to understanding the past development and present nature of the locality." Kinds of sources include not only archives, but publications, artifacts, oral history and folklore, architecture, and media sources. The important thing is to assure that the essential aspects of past and present are adequately represented, and that the records are accessible.

Commenting that current documentation is often inadequate, Cox blamed a lack of collecting policies, lack of cooperation, and passivity on the part of archival repositories which are often underfunded and staffed by people who are poorly trained and overworked. When faced with records that are increasingly complex, rapidly changing and growing in volume, existing documentation methods do not work. The idea of comprehensive documentation strategy has grown in the archival profession in the 1980s, culminating in a model by Larry Hackman published in The American Archivist (Winter 1987.)

The key to successful documentation is planning, which involves understanding the phenomena to be documented and the problems involved, and then determining what to document and how to document it. The planning process involves not only archivists but records creators and users. The documentation process itself can lead archivists to persuade records creators to create new types of records needed to fill gaps--a result that

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Your contributions, newsnotes and letters are welcome. Send them to:
Sandra E. Boyd, McCain Library and Archives, Box 5148 Southern Station,
Hattiesburg, MS 39406-5148.

The deadline for the Fall 1989 issue is September 1.

This is the last issue of THE PRIMARY SOURCE that I will edit. I am pleased to announce that Sandra Boyd will assume the editorship with the next issue. The Newsletter couldn't be in better hands.

In exiting I would like to thank Sandra, Alexandra Gressitt, Mike Ballard, Terry Latour, Linda Overman and Mickey Hennen for their unfailing help, and h.t. holmes for putting up with the vagaries of newsletter production. Thanks also to Joe Brent for once again providing our feature article for this issue. My tenure as editor has covered some interesting times: meetings with SALA, the birth of SAC, the certification controversy, to name the most obvious. We have also tried to focus on the activities and holdings of some of the smaller repositories in Mississippi, with at least moderate success. Editing THE PRIMARY SOURCE has been an interesting, informative and instructive experience: I only hope that our readers have found reading it to be the same.

---Suzanne Steel

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Attended by more than forty archivists, historians, and other interested individuals from throughout Mississippi and elsewhere, the 1989 annual meeting of SMA in Hattiesburg in May was enlivening, informative, and enjoyable. As always, we left impressed with the diversity and quantity of challenges that the Society could and should undertake.

In addition to continuing to publish The Primary Source and to participating in the spring 1990 meeting of the Southern Archives Conference, during the year ahead I hope that SMA can accomplish three principal projects:

1. Compile and publish a guide to Mississippi repositories with special collections;
2. Initiate a series of topical guides to archival and manuscript holdings in Mississippi; and
3. Revise and update the SMA Constitution and by-laws.

Every member of SMA can contribute in tangible ways to one or more of these endeavors. Indeed, without your participation these projects will fail. If you have not returned a committee preference form (see last page), please do so; it will help ensure that your efforts are channeled in the direction you most prefer.

During the last three years, two individuals have contributed tremendous amounts of time, ideas, and energy to the Society of Mississippi Archivists. Many thanks to Linda Overman--SMA President, 1986-87 and 1988-89--and Suzanne Steel--editor, The Primary Source, 1987-1989. You've set tough acts to follow!

There's much to be done for archives in Mississippi. Like all small, voluntary, professional organizations, SMA depends upon the active participation of each of its members. I look forward to working with you in the year ahead.

-- Julia Young

INSTITUTIONAL SPOTLIGHTS

Heflin House

The Heflin House, a home furnished with 19th century period furniture, was founded in 1972.

Address: Heflin House
304 S. Main
Sardis, MS 38666

Phone: (601) 487-3451

Hours: Heflin House is open by appointment.

Contact Person: Ann Rippee

Pontotoc County Library

The Pontotoc County Library was founded in 1976.

Address: Pontotoc County Library
111 N. Main Street
Pontotoc, MS 38863

Phone: (601) 489-3522

Hours: Monday, Wednesday - Saturday 8:00 - 5:00
Tuesday 12:00 - 8:00

Contact Person: Mrs. Julie Hart, Director

Services Provided: Photocopying; interlibrary loan for all except non-circulating materials; limited searches.

Holdings: Special collections at Pontotoc County Library include a collection of fiction and non-fiction of Mississippi writers and biographies of famous Mississippians; a genealogical/local history collection composed of guides, periodicals, family and local histories, census records on microfilm, and census indexes; DAR materials; and a vertical file of Pontotoc County and City history.

Scranton Floating Museum

The Scranton Floating Museum is a floating shrimp boat containing "living history" exhibits.

Address: Scranton Floating Museum
City of Pascagoula, P.O. Drawer 908
Pascagoula, MS 39567

Phone: (601) 762-6017

Hours: Tuesday - Saturday 10:00 - 5:00
Sunday 1:00 - 5:00

Contact Person: David Ruple, Museum Curator

Services Provided: Educational programs for civic groups and schools.

Holdings: The Scranton Floating Museum, through its deck, cabin, and other exhibits, explains the operations of a 70 foot shrimp boat. Other permanent exhibits focus on environmental education and "hands-on" displays. Temporary exhibits, such as a photo display "River Traffic," offer special glimpses into industry and water-dependent activities along the Pascagoula River.

Cox described as "archival heresy." The planning process is also dynamic, subject to constant evaluation. A written plan that can be constantly referred to and updated is essential, since it serves as a basis for discussion and a benchmark to test the process.

Cox stressed that the planning process should not be "just archivists talking to archivists." Neither is the aim a records survey. An advisory group should include staff members from local repositories, representatives of regional studies centers and local historical societies, the users of historical records, both professional and amateur, and creators of records. They should review the effectiveness of local documentation efforts using written questionnaires or checklists, with the goals of encouraging repositories to change their collecting policies to meet documentation needs, identifying records that are out of the area and encouraging records creators to fill gaps. The aim is to set priorities in these areas.

To end his discussion Cox briefly described the work of the Western New York project, which grew out of a statewide records assessment project begun in 1982. In 1987-88 Cox, as a representative of the New York state archives worked with the Western New York Library Resources Council in a test program to determine the quality of existing documentation and to test the documentation strategy process. Cox's description of the program was enlightening. A regional library district became the center of the project because it was already in place. A group of representatives met six times, but did not complete a documentation plan; instead they ended up focusing their attention on the state's grant-assisted documentary heritage program. Three regional archivists were funded through the program to continue the documentation plan.

The Western New York project raised numerous questions about the process, but Cox's conclusion is that though the documentation strategy model as it now exists may be flawed, it is both effective and needed. It did improve local documentation, helped to identify under-documented areas, persuaded records creators to establish archival programs, led to increased cooperation and built public support.

Following Cox's workshop, Cavett Taff, Exhibit Designer at the Mississippi State Historical Museum gave a presentation with the intriguing title "Documenting Mississippi History with Fat and Flat." The "fat" in the title refers to the artifacts and materials that also serve to document the history of the state. In Taff's words, "Documentation is more than flat stuff." The State Historical Museum has changed from being a passive repository for curios and oddities to an institution actively seeking to collect and exhibit items that have historical significance. Recent exhibits have combined artifacts with documents from the State Archives to provide total coverage of the state's past.

During the Tuesday morning workshop by archival users, five researchers presented ideas about use and collection of twentieth century archival materials.

Susan Tucker, Newcomb College Center for Research on Women, discussed her research on domestic workers. In her research, she has found little documentation and has had to create many of her own records through oral history interviews. Scholarly research on domestic workers is multi-disciplinary and uses census records, manuscripts, scrapbooks. Tucker would like to see more records of marginal groups donated to archives, but she

would also like more details about the significance of donated items.

Martha Swain, Texas Woman's University, referred to herself as an old-fashioned historian. For her biographical studies, she uses mostly personal papers, although papers of colleagues have also been helpful. She has used records from the Roosevelt Library in Hyde Park, and governmental agency records at the National Archives and Mississippi Department of Archives and History but feels that there are many groups of personal papers of Mississippians that have not been adequately used. She identified one of the problems for researchers as not knowing who else is researching the same subject. Suggestions which Swain made to the archival community included development of a union list of all oral history interviews in Mississippi, giving things to other institutions instead of discarding them, development of a state-wide data base for source materials, and the need to keep papers of ordinary people as well as those of the elite.

Arvarh Strickland, University of Missouri, also described himself as the old-fashioned kind of historian. His current project, editing the diary of Dr. Lorenzo Greene, head of the history department of Lincoln University, Jefferson City, Missouri, required him to use college alumni directories, city directories which he found in unusual locations, and old biographical dictionaries. He noted the rich source of history available through older Americans and recommended that their papers be sought out before they are lost; he also asked for archival help in finding materials on Afro-American history in other collections.

John Rachal, University of Southern Mississippi, represented the field of adult education, one which is difficult to document because of terminology and program changes. He noted that Syracuse University, which has the most complete set of adult education materials in the country, is beginning to computerize its holdings through a system called Plexis, which allows viewing of a document on computer. Rachel's suggestions for archivists included microfilming holdings, then renting film to users, and encouraging solicitation of faculty publications and papers as is done at University of Southern Mississippi.

Joan Embree, architectural historian, equated her activities with detective work. Her primary emphasis is on structures/buildings as artifacts; then she researches the people and events that combined to make the structure important. In researching Embree uses maps, books and journals, county histories, personal papers especially those with diaries, newspapers and magazines, promotional materials such as pamphlets and brochures of the Chamber of Commerce, and lists of belongings in a house. Oral histories and photographs are particularly helpful and so are all kinds of maps including plat, geological survey, and soil maps. Embree suggested saving such items as home video tapes, aerial photographs, city records including building permits which the city itself does not save, student school projects, programs for special events such as home tours, and reports of town surveys, along with catalogs showing home projects, and magazine ads.

--Reported by Suzanne Steel and Sandra Boyd

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE CARE AND FEEDING OF SOUND RECORDINGS

There are a number of kinds of sound recordings. However, there are only two types found in most repositories, discs and tapes, both reel-to-reel and cassette. There is a great deal of variation within these recording formats, but this simple division will do for the sake of simplicity.

A brief history of the development of sound recording will help in understanding the needs for preservation. In 1877 French scientist Charles Cros invented the phonautograph. This machine utilized sound waves to activate a diaphragm that caused a stylus to etch the pattern of sound onto a disc covered with lampblack. Obviously the pattern traced into the lampblack could not be played back due to the fragility of the medium. Yet, "the concept of a diaphragm, the stylus, and the rotating disc interlinking to record a continuous sonic event is the kernal of the idea that became the phonograph" (McWilliams, p. 4). Later that same year Thomas Alva Edison took the theory developed by Cros and put it to a practical application. He used tinfoil covered cylinders to record the sound and was even able to play it back, though the cylinder wore out after being played only a few times. At any rate due to his pragmatism the phonograph was invented on July 18, 1877. Edison's tinfoil cylinders soon gave way to a more durable "wax" compound.

The problem with the early cylinder format was that it could not be mass produced. The first mass producible format was developed by Emile Berliner in 1887. Berliner's process involved the use of discs rather than cylinders. The first were pressed on vulcanized rubber, which proved unsatisfactory because the grooves tended to flatten out over time. In 1897 shellac was introduced as an alternative. Shellac is a compound made from the excretions of the lac insect, combined with other ingredients including limestone, slate and carbon black. Shellac held its shape and was inexpensive enough to mass produce economically.

Competition from Berliner and others forced Edison to improve his cylinder process and by 1901 he perfected and introduced the first hard "wax" cylinders. His "wax," like shellac was a compound containing carnauba wax, lampblack, lye and several other elements. Early on cylinders proved technically superior to discs, but by 1929 that had all changed. By the eve of the Great Depression "the laterally cut, outside to inside [78 rpm] shellac disc format" (McWilliams, p. 10) had become the standard of the recording industry.

World War II with its shortages and technological changes had a great effect on the recording industry. The high price of shellac, coupled with the availability of vinyl due to wartime development of the plastic industry changed forever the medium of which discs would be made. Vinyl became the standard of the industry and on June 21, 1948 the first 33 1/3 long playing disc was released.

The Second World War also ushered in the era of magnetic tape recording. The Germans perfected the process during the war and it became commercially available in the United States by 1948. The earliest form of magnetic tape recording was done on paper covered with a magnetic coating, but the rough surface of the paper created an excessive amount of background noise. Cellulose acetate was tried next, and it is still used to a limited extent. Its major drawback is that it becomes brittle with age. In the 1950's a mylar based tape with an iron oxide coating was developed and it is the medium most used today.

The author's recommendation to those dealing with sound recordings is that you invest in a copy of Jerry McWilliams' The Preservation and Restoration of Sound Recordings, published by the American Association for State and Local History. While somewhat dated and perhaps not the definitive work it is short, concise, easy to understand, and nothing he suggests will harm your material. Always, as with other archival endeavors, use common sense and good judgement when you use and store your recordings.

Storage is a major concern with sound recordings as with all archival materials. Fortunately tapes and discs can be stored in the same environment as books. The storage temperature should be 70 degrees with a relative humidity of 40 to 50 per cent with fluctuations of no more than plus or minus 10 per cent. Dust is the primary problem in the storage of sound recordings. Light, except direct sunlight, will generally not harm them unless they are too close to the source. However, the Library of Congress keeps their lights out when they are not using the collections; if possible you should do the same. If storage and playback rooms are not one and the same McWilliams suggests that the item to be played be allowed 24 hours to acclimate before being auditioned. This in most cases is impractical, and unless there is a tremendous difference in the temperature between playback and storage areas (moving a disc from a very hot place to a very cold place could cause warping) little if any harm will come to your material.

Both tapes and discs should be stored vertically on shelves that are as wide as the largest item being housed. Discs should have inert spacers every 3 1/2 to 4 inches. All tapes may be stored flush. Cassettes should be placed on the shelf long side down.

McWilliams suggests that discs be filed by manufacturer's number and he warns against putting any additional labels or marking on the cover. However, the Blues Archive at Ole Miss stores its collections in alphabetical order by artist; based on that recommendation, and similar experience with my collection, I feel this would work well for most repositories.

To lengthen the life expectancy of discs they should be cleaned before playing. McWilliams warns against using any cleaning method that employs liquid. He suggests using a dry carbon fiber brush. The Library of Congress and the Blues Archive disagree with him on this point. They use the Discwasher System, diluting the liquid supplied one to one with distilled water. This system is available at most good record or stereo stores for less than \$25.00. Regardless of the method you choose the cleaning is done the same way. Place the disc on the turntable put the brush on the disc and gently turn the platter manually in the direction of play, of course applying the liquid first if you are using the Discwasher System.

McWilliams' narrative offers useful advice and here are the basic do's and don't's:

- *Change the stylus after every 1000 hours of play or once a year.

- *Keep your storage and playback area as dust-free as possible.

- *Always remove the manufacturer's shrink wrap from the package, otherwise the disc could warp!

- *The paper or glassine lining should be replaced with acid free paper linings. McWilliams suggests polyethylene linings but Suzanne Steel archivist at the University of Mississippi Blues Archive feels that in our climate paper is best.

*Never play a disc more than once in a 24-hour period. (The weight of a one gram stylus produces pressure on the groove wall of between 6,000 and 16,000 pound per square inch. Additionally temperatures on the disc at the point of contact with the stylus can reach 2000 degrees Fahrenheit. Playing a disc twice in a row creates the same wear as 50 to 100 normal playings.)

*Never touch the surface of a disc.

*Always clean the disc before playback.

*Never clean a vinyl disc with a brush used on a 78. The debris picked up from the surface of a shellac based 78 can harm the surface of the disc. Keep two sets of brushes for this purpose. The staff at the Blues Archive washes their 78s with detergent and water before playing them. Do not use Discwasher on 78s: it could discolor or dissolve the shellac.

*A good rule of thumb for older discs is to record them onto tape, especially if they get a lot of use. It will save wear and tear on the disc and the patron will still have the benefit of the recording.

Tapes are much less persnickety than discs. As long as the playback equipment is in good working order and the area is reasonably dust free all one has to do is load the tape onto the machine and turn it on. As far as storage goes reel to reel tapes should be stored "tails out." That is they should be played through at the normal playing speed, stored, and then rewound just prior to the next auditioning. The reason for this is the tension placed on the tapes while they are playing is what they were designed to take. Tension from rewind or fastforward is greater, thus the chance of breakage, sound loss or distortion is increased if they are stored in this condition.

The best way to preserve sound recordings according to McWilliams is to record them onto 1.5 mil mylar based reel to reel tape. This is a very stable medium, and has very few associated problems if stored in a relatively dust free environment. In addition a tape can be played 100 times without any noticable deterioration. Copies of music should be recorded on professional quality equipment. Substandard recording will not do as a preservation copy. If you use cassettes use only the 60 or 90 minute varieties. Use a name brand such as TDK or Maxell high bias tape.

Finally if your vinyl discs are or become dirty you can wash them. But only resort to this if you can see a problem, e.g. mildew. In order to wash discs you need five things:

1. A clean shallow plastic basin, large enough to accommodate the largest disc. A 14x17 photograph developing tray works well.
2. Distilled water.
3. Liquid detergent (Ivory) or Kodak Fotoflow 200, (available in photo supply stores). Mix either at one teaspoon per gallon.
4. A lint free soft cotton cloth
5. A rack to hold the discs vertical while they dry.

The water should be lukewarm. Immerse each disc into the solution one at a time. Gently rub them with a soft cloth in the direction of the grooves, never across them, for about 30 seconds. Then remove the disc from the solution blot the excess water (there is no need to rinse the disc) and place it in the rack to dry. If the label comes off in the process place it between two thick pieces of blotter paper and put some weight on it so it will not wrinkle. It can then be glued back on with library glue. As always make sure that the area in which your discs are drying is dust free or you may do more harm than good.

If you were thinking of buying compact discs rather than vinyl discs perhaps you should rethink your options. According to studies done by Nimbus Records in England and Mobile Fidelity of California, advanced aging tests show that compact discs faded within five to eight years and sooner if stored in high heat or humidity. This is not good news, especially in Mississippi's climate.

In conclusion if you have a collection of sound recordings you should buy a copy of McWilliams and get a subscription to Stereo Review or some other audio magazine and get to know the local electronics store people. Above all use common sense. Keep your equipment in good working order, keep the area as dust free as possible, keep the environment stable and for the most part you will be all right.

Sources:

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--Joe Brent
Mississippi Department of Archives
and History

NATIONAL NEWS

GAO ISSUES REPORT ON FOIA

Over a year ago Representative Glenn English (D-OK) requested that the General Accounting Office (GAO) examine the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) operation at the State Department. For the past decade historians as well as other FOIA users who have requested State Department documents have experienced excessive delays and problems. The GAO report released in April confirmed many deficiencies. On receiving the report from GAO, Representative Robert E. Wise, Jr. (D-WV), the newly elected chair of the House Subcommittee on Government Information, Justice and Agriculture, said, "I knew that there were problems with FOIA operation at some agencies. I had no idea that things were so bad. "Wise did note that since the initiation of the GAO study, the State Department had hired additional staff to assist with the FOIA operation. But he also announced that he has requested Secretary of State James A. Baker III to advise the subcommittee in sixty days what steps the agency has undertaken to improve compliance with the FOIA. (Perspectives, May/June 1989)

PUBLIC HISTORIAN SEEKS REVIEWERS FOR ARCHIVES SECTION

The Public Historian is interested in expanding its review section to cover archives. The purpose of the proposed "archives review" section is to inform readers about holdings of various collections that may be of use to them in the course of their public history work, and to appraise the quality of the holdings as well as the accessibility of the documents.

The editors welcome suggestions about how this new section can best serve the needs of public historians. They would also like to receive the resumes of readers who are willing to serve as archives reviewers.

Please forward suggestions, questions, et al., to: The Editors, The Public Historian, Department of History, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA 93106. (SAA Newsletter, May 1989)

ILLINOIS DOCUMENTING ABE LINCOLN'S LAW PRACTICE

An estimated 75,000 records associated with Abraham Lincoln's quarter-century in legal practice are scattered throughout the United States and beyond, in libraries and personal collections. The Illinois Historic Preservation Agency is attempting to locate and photocopy as many of these documents as possible.

After the material is organized and edited, the agency will publish The Lincoln Legals: A Documentary History of the Law Practice of Abraham Lincoln, 1836-1861.

Launched in 1985, this project will take more than a decade to accession and annotate records from 3,000 cases argued before circuit courts, the Illinois Supreme Court, and U.S. district and appellate courts in Springfield and Chicago. If you have any information about documents relating to Lincoln's legal career, contact The Lincoln Legals, Old State Capitol, Springfield, IL 62701, (217)785-9130. (SAA Newsletter, May 1989)

GRANT AWARDED TO BENTLEY

The University of Michigan's Bentley Historical Library, Ann Arbor, has been awarded a grant from the Getty Grant Program to modernize the records systems for the Vatican Archives in Rome. The modernized system will provide a comprehensive inventory of archive holdings available through RLIN. (College & Research Library News, April 1989)

STATE AND REGIONAL NEWS

LSU IMPLEMENTS ARCHIVAL INFORMATION CLEARINGHOUSE

The Library of Louisiana State University has agreed to collect information about archival repositories in Louisiana and to share it with interested users. Currently, all types of written policies and procedures are being solicited for the clearinghouse, along with brochures and other materials relating to Louisiana repositories. LSU will provide information free of charge, though they may need to charge for extensive photocopying. The project was initiated by the Friends of the Archives of Louisiana. Contact: Louisiana Archival Information Clearinghouse, Hill Memorial Library, LSU, Baton rouge, LA 70803-3300. (Friends of the Archives of Louisiana Newsletter, March 1989)

ARCHIVES AND HISTORY REAPS PRAISE FOR COOPERATION

The following was received from Anne Ostendarp of the University of Connecticut, Storrs:

The Mississippi Department of Archives and History is a shining example of archival cooperation.

In February of 1989, the Department was given a small collection of Belding Brothers and Company records, as well as the diaries of Daniel and G.W. Stanton. Noting that the Belding brothers' textile mills and the Stanton family farm were located in Connecticut, Michael Hennen, Curator of Manuscripts, recognized the significance of these records for researching nineteenth-century Connecticut history and contacted the Connecticut State Archivist, Mark Jones. Dr. Jones brought the records to the attention of Rand Jimerson, Archivist at the University of Connecticut.

The records are now at the University of Connecticut's Historical Manuscripts and Archives, a significant to the holdings of Connecticut history after 1850, especially in the areas of economic and social history.

The records had gone far astray, but thanks to the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Michael Hennen, and Mark Jones, they have returned to their home state and an appropriate repository. congratulations and thanks to all those who participated in this fine example of archival cooperation.

TOUGALOO RECEIVES GRANT

The Cullman Library at Tougaloo College has received a grant of \$108,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities for a project entitled "Documents of the Mississippi Civil Rights Movement, Phase I." The project will arrange and describe civil rights collections at Tougaloo, including the papers of Aaron Henry, Ed King and Fannie Lou Hamer.

INFORMATION ON WOMEN'S COLLECTIONS SOUGHT

Dr. Jan Hawks, assistant professor of history and director of the Sarah Isom Center for Women's Studies at the University of Mississippi is seeking information on archival collections pertaining to women in Mississippi. Letters of inquiry have been sent to Mississippi repositories, and Dr. Hawks will be visiting many this summer. SMA hopes to collaborate with her on a guide to women's sources in Mississippi, to update the entries in Women's history Sources, now ten years old. If you know of archival or manuscript collections pertaining to women, please contact Dr. Joanne V. Hawks, Sarah Isom Center for Women's Studies, University of Mississippi, University, MS 38677, (601) 232-5916.

OVERMAN MOVES TO ALABAMA

Linda Overman, immediate SMA past president, has accepted a position as Conservation Officer at the Alabama Department of Archives and History, effective July 5. Linda's efforts on behalf of SMA have been tireless and effective, and we wish her all good fortune in her new job.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

NARA MODERN ARCHIVES INSTITUTE

The National Archives and Records Administration's Modern Archives Institute will be held in Des Moines, Iowa, from July 31 through August 11, 1989. Topics covered include appraisal and acquisition, arrangement and description, reference, preservation, automation and machine-readable records, planning, and programming. The tuition of \$400 includes reading materials, instruction, and field trips. Three semester hours of graduate credit from Drake University School of Public Administration will be available for an additional fee. For more information, contact Gordon Hendrickson, State Archivist, State Historical Society of Iowa, 600 East Locust, Des Moines, Iowa 50319, (515)281-8875. (SAA Newsletter, May 1989)

NHPRC FELLOWSHIP CHANGES

Several changes are in effect for the 1990-1991 Archival Fellowship Program, jointly funded by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Although individuals must still have between two and five years' archival experience, NHPRC hopes to attract a broader pool of applicants by implementing the following changes: reducing the number of fellowships each year from three to two; increasing the stipend to approximately \$35,000 with a corresponding increase in benefits; and adding flexibility to the length of the fellowship term by allowing it to run between nine and twelve months.

In addition, instead of having an open competition for host institutions, those institutions would be pre-selected--perhaps on a modified competitive basis--by the NHPRC Records Committee in consultation with the Records Program staff. Institutions would be selected to represent one or more specified areas of archival activity, such as state archives.

Details of the new format for the Archival Fellowship Program will be refined by NHPRC, and additional information will be made available later in

the year. Fellowship awards for 1988-1989 and 1989-1990 will not be affected by the changes. (SAA Newsletter, May 1989)

PUBLICATIONS NOTED

NARA PUBLISHES GUIDES TO HOUSE AND SENATE RECORDS

The Center for Legislative Archives of the National Archives has published two guides to legislative records at the National Archives: the "Guide to the Records of the United States House of Representatives at the National Archives, 1789-1989," (House Document 100-245), and "Guide to the Records of the United States Senate at the National Archives, 1789-1989," (Senate Document 100-42). The Office of the Bicentennial of the House of Representatives (now the Office of the Historian) has recently published "A Guide to Research Collections of Former Members of the House;" it is the result of a national survey to locate former House members' papers. It is available from the Office of the Historian, U.S. House of Representatives, Cannon House Office Building, Room 138, Washington, D.C. 20515. (Mac Newsletter, April, 1989)

"Guidelines for the security of rare book, manuscript and other special collections" drafted by the Rare book and Manuscripts Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries appeared in the May, 1989 issue of College and Research Libraries News. They will be discussed at a hearing in Dallas on June 24, during the ALA meeting.

Media Access and Organization by Carolyn O. Frost is a manual on cataloging media materials, including maps, sound and video recordings, microcomputer software, realia and microforms. \$26.50 from Libraries Unlimited, P.O. Box 3988, Englewood, CO 80155.

Building Security and Personal Safety is Spec Kit 150, compiled by ARL's Office of Management Studies. It includes policies from 30 ARL libraries on security and emergency procedures. \$20 prepaid to "ARL Office of Management Studies." Order from: SPEC, Office of Management Studies, 1527 New Hampshire Ave. NW, Washington DC 20036.

The tenth anniversary issue of For the Record, the newsletter of the New York State Archives and Records Administration is an informative history and report on that dynamic organization. Contact: New York State Archives and Records Administration, State Education Department, 10A46 Cultural Education Center, Albany, NY 12230.

The Special Collections Department, University of Arkansas Libraries, Fayetteville, announces the publication of Manuscript Resources for Women's Studies, compiled by Andrea Cantrell, Special Collections Librarian, the guide describes over 140 collections preserved by the department which pertain primarily to Arkansas women. \$5.00 from: Special Collections, University of Arkansas Libraries, Fayetteville, AR 72701, (501) 575-5577.

CONSERVATION NEWS

MASS DEACIDIFICATION PROCESS UNDERWAY

The Cleveland Public Library has contracted to have over 50,000 volumes printed overseas on high-acid paper deacidified using a new mass deacidification process. An article in the May, 1989 issue of American Libraries reports that the process is "a relatively new adaptation of an industrial sterilization process that deacidifies (as well as sterilizes) by ammonia and ethylene gas permeation in a large treatment chamber." The books can be treated in cardboard boxes in shelf order, and there is no toxic residue. The cost will be about \$3.00 per volume, making the process comparable in cost to the Library of Congress's DEZ method.

The process is too recent to appear in any of the current literature on mass deacidification. It is a joint venture of Book Preservation Associates of Carteret, N.J., which treats the books, and Information Conservation, Inc. of Greensboro, N.C., which works with libraries to market the process.

COMPUTERIZED BULLETIN BOARD FOR PRESERVATION ANNOUNCED

A new, computerized bulletin board system for persons, organizations, and groups involved in preservation has been set up in Chicago. This system is available 24 hours a day via telephone. The number is 312-262-6173. The system is available at no cost to users and is offered as a public service by Photographic Conservation Associates, Ltd. This system is dedicated to the opening of pathways for communications and to the exchange of ideas, knowledge, and information within the preservation community. The purpose of this system is to provide an easily accessible medium for interdisciplinary and intradisciplinary communications for all persons, groups and organizations studying, producing, servicing or caring for historical artifacts and/or data with the intention of passing those materials on the future generations.

First-time users will be limited to 30 minutes access but will get more time on later accesses. New users may not leave public messages, but only a private note to the system operator, (sysop), by using the "E" (enter message) command. The communications protocol is 8-bit, no parity, 1 stop bit. If you don't know what communications protocol your computer uses, don't worry. This is standard micro-computer protocol. It is also known as X-Modem or Y-Modem. If you have any difficulty with or questions about the system, call the System Operator (Sysop), at 312-262-8282 or leave a message for the sysop via the "E" option. (MAC Newsletter, April 1989)

CONTRIBUTIONS NEEDED FOR SPECIAL ISSUE

The summer 1990 issue of The American Archivist will be devoted to the subject of preservation in an archival setting. Anne R. Kenney of Cornell University will serve as guest editor. Initial plans for the issue call for preservation-related contributions in all sections of the journal. Four or five major articles will examine such topics as the national preservation context, research and development, preservation planning, and a survey of the field. Suggestions for "Case Studies", pieces for "Perspectives", the "International Scene", and materials for the "Reviews" section are especially welcome.

Although the deadline for submissions is December 1, 1989, interested individuals are encouraged to contact the guest editor as soon as possible.

Anyone who wishes to discuss prospective pieces should contact Anne Kenney, Conservation Department, 701 Olin Library, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853, (607)255-6875. (SAA Newsletter, May 1989)

CONSERVATION PUBLICATIONS NOTED

Conserving and Preserving Materials in Nonbook Formats, the proceedings of the 30th Allerton Institute held in November 1988 at the University of Illinois will soon be published. The prepublication price is \$20. Order from: Graduate School of Library and Information Science, 410 David Kinley Hall, 1407 West Gregory Drive, Urbana, IL 61801.

The 1988 Paper Preservation Symposium in Washington DC last October was sponsored by the Technical Association for the Pulp and Paper Industry (TAPPI). Preprints of the papers are available and the proceedings will be published. Contact: TAPPI, 1 Dunwoody Park, Atlanta, GA 30338.

Meeting the Preservation Challenge, edited by Jan Merrill-Oldham, contains papers on preservation concerns in research libraries presented at the ARL meeting in October 1987. \$28.00 (\$14.00 to ARL member institutions). Order from: Association of Research Libraries, 1527 New Hampshire Ave., NW, Washington DC, 20036.

POSITION AVAILABLE

SAA SEEKS EDUCATION OFFICER

The Society of American Archivists is seeking an experienced and qualified archivist to direct the Society's expanding program of continuing education opportunities and to perform other duties. The Education Officer is responsible for scheduling and promoting SAA's existing short courses and workshops; for designing and developing additional educational offerings; for evaluating, supporting and improving all of these educational services; and for supervising SAA's special initiatives in preservation, automation and related areas. The Education Officer works with instructors, regional archival associations, the Committee on Education and Professional Development, and others, to ensure that the Society's educational program is professionally and financially successful. The Education Officer also assists the Program Committee in developing the annual meeting program, directs the Society's employment services, takes on special assignments, provides staff support for certain SAA groups, and assists in the overall operation of the SAA office.

This is a full-time, permanent position in the Society's Chicago office. The successful applicant will have a broad archival background, familiarity with archival education, strong leadership skills, and a high degree of commitment to the archival profession. A master's degree is preferred. Salary is expected to be in the mid-30's. Available September 1, 1989. Send applications and nominations to Donn C. Neal, SAA, Suite 504, 600 South Federal St., Chicago, IL 60605. Deadline: August 1, 1989.

CALENDAR

July 3-28 Rare Book School, School of Library Service, Columbia University, New York, NY. 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, Texas. Tuition: \$325. Send \$75 deposit to Fine Arts Continuing Education, Fine Arts Building 2.4, University of Texas, Austin, TX 78712. (512) 471-8862.

July 26-29 NAGARA annual meeting. Seattle, Washington. Registration is \$148.00. Contact: Jeff Jagnow or Mary Alice Sosby, Council of State Governments. (606) 252-2291.

July 31-August 11 NARA Modern Archives Institute, Des Moines, Iowa. Tuition is \$400. Contact: Gordon Hendrickson, State Archivist, State Historical Society of Iowa, 600 East Locust, Des Moines, Iowa 50319. (515) 281-8875.

September 6-9 American Association for State and Local History 49th annual meeting. Seattle, Washington. The theme of the meeting is "Maintaining Standards for Today and Tomorrow." Contact: Linda DiCiaula, annual Meeting coordinator, AASLH, 172 Second Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37201. (615) 255-2971.

October 23-24 Society of American Archivists annual meeting, St. Louis, Missouri. Numerous preconference workshops are scheduled. For more information, contact SAA at 600 S. Federal, Suite 504, Chicago, IL 60605 or (312) 922-0140.

ACCESSIONS

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Manuscript Collection

Airheart, J.L. Mercantile Ledgers. 1880-1881. (1.33 c.f.)

Two accounting ledgers of J. L. Airheart, Satartia, Mississippi, documenting general merchandise sales for the years 1880 and 1881. Purchased from Bookworm and Silverfish, Wytheville, Virginia.

Boland, M.M. Mercantile Ledgers. 1894-1895. (.66 c.f.)

Two mercantile ledgers of M. M. Boland, a merchant who operated a general store in the Big Creek community in Calhoun County, Mississippi. Presented by William F. Winter, Jackson.

Lauderdale, Samuel M. Collection. ca. 1930s-1940s. (1 c.f.)

Correspondence, photographs, broadsides, manuals, printed material, other records of Samuel M. Lauderdale, director, Division of Safety, Civilian Conservation Corps. Presented by Samuel M. Lauderdale, Long Beach.

Lawless, J.T. and Family. Papers. 1861-1865; 1869; n.d. (.10 c.f.)

Includes letters of J. T. Lawless, a Confederate soldier serving in Company F, Sixteenth Mississippi Infantry, and other family members. Presented by Patrick Boyd Lawless, Memphis, Tennessee.

Miscellaneous Manuscripts collection. Accretion. 1864. (.10 c.f.)

Confederate commission signed by Governor Charles Clark appointing G. W. Stubbs lieutenant colonel of the Sixth Mississippi Cavalry on November 17, 1864. Presented by Grace Stubbs, Dallas, Texas.

Miscellaneous Manuscripts collection. Accretion. 1920. (.10 c.f.)

Commission certifying the election of R. L. Ammons as mayor of Beulah, Bolivar County, Mississippi. Presented by Betty Ammons Brown, Jackson.

Old Madison Presbyterian Church. Session Book. 1845-1891. (.10 c.f.)

Session book of the Old Madison Presbyterian Church in Madison County, Mississippi. The session book also contains baptismal records and membership rolls of the church. Presented by Eddie L. Johnson, Canton.

Reese, Donald M. Papers. ca. 1940s-1970s; n.d. (.10 c.f.)

Includes a typescript history of the Jackson Petroleum Club written by Donald M. Reese in 1978 and scattered copies of minutes, by-laws, correspondence, and other records of the club. Presented by Donald M. Reese, Jackson.

Walker, Kirby P. Collection. Accretion. ca. 1930s-1980s. (1 c.f.)

Correspondence, scrapbooks, and other papers of Kirby P. Walker, superintendent of the Jackson Public School System, from 1937 to 1969. Of interest is a three-volume typescript history entitled "Prelude to Desegregation of the Jackson Public Schools, May 1954 - September 1964" that was written by Walker. Presented by Kirby P. Walker, Jackson.

Warsaw Plantation. Ledger. 1898-1902. (.66 c.f.)

Accounting ledger of J. H. Casey, owner of Warsaw Plantation located near Hollandale, Mississippi. Presented by Senator Kenneth O. Williams, Clarksdale.

Graphic Records Collection

Confederate Camp Photograph 1989. 1 item.

One 8"x10" black and white copy print of a photograph of the Port Gibson Riflemen in Pensacola, Florida, ca. 1861 by J. D. Edwards. Presented by the J. Paul Getty Museum, Santa Monica, California.

Governors' Portrait Photographs 1975. 48 items.

Forty-eight 2.5"x2.5" color transparencies; including images of forty-five governors (1820-1972), Mrs. Theodore G. Bilbo, and two unidentified groups; which were used in the production of The

Governor's Mansion: A Pictorial History. Presented by Dr. David G. Sansing, Oxford.

"Greenville Miss. on the Mississippi River." Photograph. 1880s. 1 item.

One 3.5"x7" black and white stereo-view of Greenville, Mississippi photographed by the Union View Company. Purchased from Robin Stanford, Houston, Texas.

The Levee at Vicksburg, Miss. February 1864 Photograph. ca. 1880. 1 item.

One 4"x7" stereo view from the "War of the Union" series. Purchased from Mrs. Robin Stanford, Houston, Texas.

Lynching photograph. n.d. 1 item.

One 2.5"x4" black and white photograph of the scene of a lynching in which four black men have been hanged. Presented by Richard Criss, Imlay City, Michigan.

Union and Confederate Uniforms Print. ca. 1895. 1 item.

One 29"x18" chromolithograph double-page spread of Union and Confederate uniforms and insignia. Purchased from The Old Print Gallery Showcase, Washington, D.C.

Cartographic Records Collection

Auto Road Map of Mississippi / Standard Oil Company. 1924. 1 item.

This highway map includes trail and highway markings. Presented by Senator Kenneth O. Williams, Clarksdale, Mississippi.

Gray's Atlas Map of Mississippi. 1873. 1 item.

Map with excellent detail of towns, roads, canals, and railroads named, and exact dates of railroad completion shown. Purchased from Murray Hudson-Antiquarian Books and Maps, Halls, Tennessee.

Johnson's Cyclopedia Map of Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi. 1870. 1 item.

Drawn and engraved on copper plate, this map shows counties and towns. Purchased from Murray Hudson-Antiquarian Books and Maps, Halls, Tennessee.

Mississippi / William Bradley. 1887. 1 item.

This map shows counties, railroads, towns, and rivers and is accompanied by one page of text. Purchased from Murray Hudson-Antiquarian Books and Maps, Halls, Tennessee.

Mississippi, Louisiana and Arkansas / J. Wells. 1860. 1 item.

This map shows counties, towns and railroads. Purchased from Murray Hudson-Antiquarian Books and Maps, Halls, Tennessee.

A new map of Mississippi : with its roads and distances / H. S. Tanner. 1846. 1 item.

A map with excellent detail of roads, towns, forts, ports, railroads, caves, and post offices. Purchased from Murray Hudson-Antiquarian Books and Maps, Halls, Tennessee.

Vicksburg National Military Park : topographical survey, exhibit C, sheet 3
/ U. S. Corps of Engineers. 1902. 1 item.
Presented by Mrs. Fred Jones, Birmingham, Alabama.

Audio-Visual Records Collection

WDAM-TV Newsfilm Collection. 1970 - 1972. (ca. 90,000 feet)
Local newsfilm used at WDAM-TV in Hattiesburg. Presented by WDAM-TV,
Hattiesburg.

University of Mississippi - Department of Special Collections

Fernwood Industries, Fernwood, Miss. Business records. 75 l.f.
Records relating to softwood lumber activities . Included are records
of the firm's privately-owned railroad. Presented by Iddo Enochs.

L.Q.C. Lamar Society, Oxford, Miss. 1960s-1970s.
Materials include various pamphlets on the society, material on school
desegregation, NEA Task Force Report on Desegregation, miscellaneous
correspondence. Presented by Dr. John Crews, Oxford.

Locust Grove Plantation. Slave ledger. 1825-1844. 1 item.
A 101-page manuscript ledger detailing planting and gathering dates,
load sizes, stock collected and purchased. There are 23 named slaves
monitored in the ledger and an 1844 list of slave children.

Mississippi League of Women Voters. papers. 1950s-1970s. 9 l.f.
Collection of materials from the state office of the Mississippi
League. Includes 5 scrapbooks of clippings and ephemera concerning the
League.

Oxford Council on Human Relations.
Miscellaneous materials and correspondence dealing with minority
employment. Presented by Dr. John Crews.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE OVERDUE

SMA membership renewals are due annually at the spring meeting. If
you have not renewed in 1989, your renewal is overdue. Membership
categories are: Student: \$3.00 Individual: \$7.50 Institutional: \$15.00
Patron: \$25.00 up. Send your check to: Membership Chairman, Society of
Mississippi Archivists, P.O. Box 1151, Jackson, MS 39205.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

ACTIVITIES PREFERENCE FORM

Indicate below at least two SMA committees on which you'd be willing/like to serve, as well as any definite likes and dislikes.

NAME _____

daytime telephone no. _____

_____ nominations	_____ publications
_____ education	_____ ways & means
_____ membership	_____ annual meeting/program
_____ conservation	_____ constitution revision

_____ Yes, I would like to contribute to The Primary Source

How? _____.

_____ Yes, I would like to work on the guide to archival and manuscript repositories in Mississippi.

_____ Yes, I would like to work on a guide to women's history sources in Mississippi.

_____ Yes, I would like to work on other topical guides to MS materials; suggested topics : _____.

Return to: Society of Mississippi Archivists
c/o Julia Marks Young
School of Library Science
S. S. 5146
University of Southern Mississippi
Hattiesburg MS 39406-5146