PAHR ACT NEEDS URGENT SUPPORT IN CALIFORNIA

What is PAHR?
At a time when archives jobs are fewer and farther between than they have been in years, it is reassuring to know that there is something that individual archivists can do to help themselves and their peers in the profession. PAHR, or the “Preserving America’s Historical Record Act,” (HR 2256) was introduced in the House this past May by Representatives Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) and John McHugh (R-NY) and was a key issue at the SAA Annual General Meeting this past August.

PAHR is a joint effort of CoSA, SAA, and NAGARA that seeks $50 million in federal money which the state archives of all 50 states would distribute among a variety of repositories. Through the state archives PAHR would provide formula-based funding for statewide projects, redistributing the money to local governments, historical societies, library historical collections, universities, and other organizations.

Projects would include the creation of myriad types of access tools, preservation measures, digitization projects, surveys of records of under-documented communities, disaster preparedness initiatives, educational partnerships with public schools and other patron groups, and education and training for archivists, especially in managing electronic records. In the House of Representatives 111th Congress, the bill was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and the Subcommittee on Information Policy, Census, and National Archives. As of August there were only 7 co-sponsors for this bill from these key committees: many more co-sponsors are needed to get PAHR to the floor to be voted on and passed by the entire House.

Back at the SAA conference, everywhere I looked attendees were wearing buttons proclaiming: “I’m a PAHR Pusher.” Behind the push is Kathleen Rowe, Director of Operations at the New York State Archives, who is spearheading the organizing effort within SAA. At a session on archival advocacy Kathleen told an audience that the $50 million PAHR requests is considered a very small amount of money in Washington, and that political insiders indicated to her that this amount should be easy to get, if only constituents would approach their representatives to voice their support for the program.

Inspired, I spoke to Kathleen after the session to find out what I could do for the PAHR effort from my project position in Berkeley. While every state in the union stands to benefit if PAHR is passed, Kathleen told me that out of all the states, California stands to receive the largest amount of money- over $5 million dollars. This is nearly double the amount of money that any other state will receive, including New York. See http://www.archivists.org/pahr/PAHR_Funding%20by%20State%20Summary_01.30.09.pdf for a full breakdown. California also has four Congress people on the key committees- Darrell Issa (R), Brian Bilbray (R), Jackie Speier (D), and Diane E. Watson (D) but as of yet none of them have signed on to co-sponsor the bill. Because we stand

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October is Archives Month, a collaborative effort to highlight the importance of records of enduring value. We all can participate in Archives Month as representatives of our profession and of our institutions. At the organizational level SCA co-sponsors the creation of a poster for California Archives Month; the other sponsors are the California Historical Records Advisory Board (CHRAB), the California State Archives, and the National Archives and Records Administration. Members will soon be receiving their posters in the mail. SCA also supports an open house held by the State Archives at which repositories and historical organizations can show their wares and share information.

The LA as Subject Archives Forum holds its annual Archives Bazaar during Archives Month. The Bazaar includes exhibits by local historical collections and archives and provides the public with the opportunity to consult with experts and learn about the hidden stories of L.A. I am sure several of you use Archives Month at an institutional level to raise awareness of archives and support for your program.

At my institution we are holding our second Archives Month contest by asking SLAC employees and retirees to share the inside story on working at the lab. Entrants are asked to send a picture of something that means SLAC to them along with a brief paragraph explaining why. We plan to use entries in an exhibition to open a community discussion about our legacy and what it means to be a SLACer.

At the Presentation Archives in San Francisco, they mount a display to raise awareness about the Archives’ mission. The theme this year will emphasize the importance of keeping annals and the Archives’ commitment to collecting them. This October is the 20th anniversary of the Loma Prieta earthquake and the display will feature annals from that time. The domain http://www.archivesmonth.org is actually held by California Archives Month. At this site you can learn about events around the state and submit your own for inclusion.

Most of SCA’s Archives Month activities are coordinated by the Outreach and Publicity Committee led by Anna Naruta and Liza Posas. Other committees have been busy too. The Education Committee, led by Randy Boyd and Liz Konzak, presents workshops. “Describing Photographs in Archival Collections” with James Eason is being held on September 18 in San Francisco and “The Business of Audio-Visual Preservation” is being held on October 15 in Los Angeles. The Walter P. Gray III Education Endowment Fund Scholarship offers funds for registration and travel to SCA workshops.

Accompanying the Archives Month poster will be the annual fund letter from the Development Committee, led by David Farrell and Sal Güereña, and a candidate suggestion form from the Nominating Committee, led by Jane Rosario. The Development Committee pursues fundraising in support of the activities and programs of SCA. The Nominating Committee is seeking suggestions of candidates for three Board positions. Nominate early, nominate often, nominate yourself!

The Government Affairs Committee, led by David Keller, monitors national and state legislation of interest to the archival community. Two bills currently working their way through the state legislature are AB 827, an act to add to the Government Code relating to records, and AB 1245, the replevin legislation. In addition the committee and a crew of volunteers are working on PAHR (see full story in this newsletter).
And last but by no means least is the Program Committee, led by SCA Vice-President Julie Graham. The Program Committee is responsible for the program of the Annual General Meeting (AGM). This is a huge task under normal circumstances. This year SCA is joining with the Council of Inter-Mountain Archivists, Northwest Archivists, and the Society of Rocky Mountain Archivists for our second Western Roundup in Seattle, April 28-May 1, 2010. Julie is working with program chairs and committee members from all of these organizations to put together a fabulous program. The meeting will include a three-day conference and a day of pre-conference workshops. Session proposals need to be received by October 9.

SCA could not do what it does without the hard work of its members and particularly the volunteers on the committees and task forces. If you would like to help please contact me or a committee chair directly.

Laura O’Hara
SCA President
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to benefit so much from this bill, California archivists must stand up with our fellows to fight for PAHR, and the time to fight is right now.

What California archivists have done so far

To date, SCA has endorsed the PAHR Act and a handful of California archivists have taken steps in the right direction, but all of us need to join them to help get PAHR passed. Among the archivist-activists is Jean Pasco, Director of the Orange County Archives, who met with Representative Ed Royce, a Republican from Orange County. Pasco reported that Royce was very supportive of keeping our public records open and accessible to the public. David Keller, chair of the SCA Governmental Affairs Committee, counts Pasco’s effort a “notable success… securing U.S. Representative Ed Royce’s vote for PAHR.” Keller goes on to note that “the Governmental Affairs Committee has actively lobbied various Federal Representatives and Senators in an effort to garner support for PAHR.” The Committee also organized a session on PAHR at SCA’s Riverside AGM in April. The session was well-attended and quite a bit of PAHR literature was distributed. Keller and Sue Hodson will also discuss PAHR and make literature available from the SCA booth at the upcoming Los Angeles Archives Bazaar on October 17, 2009.

David Crosson, Executive Director of the California Society had a very positive experience with the Chief of Staff in Jackie Speier’s office, regarding the papers of the 1979 congressional investigation into the Jonestown affair. Having established a relationship with Speier’s office and putting himself effectively “on their radar,” Crosson will use this experience to contact Speier and to argue why she should co-sponsor the PAHR bill. He quips, “I think that (people in Speier’s office) are pretty committed to public records and public access to them.” Other archivists, such as Nancy Lenoi in the California State Archives, are also working on PAHR, but we all need to do our part or PAHR will not survive the rough waters of Congress. This is our best opportunity to advocate for our profession and create more archives jobs in the coming years.

California archivists, PAHR needs your help!

October is Archives Month - I propose that each and every one of us makes it Archives Activism Month as well. This October, be the one to get your local congressional representative on board with PAHR. It’s much simpler and easier than you think, and sample letters and other documents are already available - all it takes is a fax, a phone call, and some follow up. The following advice comes from Kathleen Roe, who has a lot of experience.

1. Find your representative and their contact information. If you live in one of the key districts with reps on the crucial committees, see our list of CA reps and their contact information in this newsletter. Even if you don’t live in those districts, PAHR really needs your help. Find your rep and their contact info at: https://writerep.house.gov/htbin/wrep_findrep.

2. Open SAA’s Draft Letter for Prospective Co-sponsors at http://www.archivists.org/pahr/PAHR_Sample%20Letter%20to%20Congress_05.13.09.doc. Fill in your own name and your representative’s name, and customize the bracketed language for California. Add a statement about why you want PAHR for California and what important projects might be done in your district with PAHR funds. If you know your representative’s favorite issues and there is an archival tie-in, even better.

3. Fax your letter to your representative’s office. If Congress is in session, fax it to their Washington office; if (continued on p. 4)
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Congress is in recess, fax it to their District office. (Congress is currently in session but is scheduled to adjourn on October 30th.) For those of us who like to hide behind email, unfortunately email does not have the same effect, and snail mail is delayed by weeks because it gets irradiated before getting to their office. Just fax it!

4. Follow up: a week later call either the regional office and ask to speak to the Regional Office Director, or call the Washington D.C. office and ask for the Legislative Director and set up a time to meet or speak over the phone. (Note that some representatives prefer you always call their D.C. office for legislative matters.) When you meet or speak to the office or legislative director, pitch them PAHR, and explain why they should urge your representative (their boss) to co-sponsor the Act.

5. Follow up your phone call or in-person meeting the next week with another fax to your representative thanking them for discussing the PAHR Act with their Legislative Director or Regional Office Director, and again reiterate why you would like them to co-sponsor (or support) the PAHR bill, HR 2256.

California has 53 representatives in the U.S. House of Representatives - if we can just get 10 to sign on to support PAHR, we'll have a much better chance of seeing this money in the coming years. And there is no better time than Archives Month to start advocating for your future and the future of the archives profession!

Visit SAA’s PAHR page at http://www.archivists.org/pahr/index.asp for more information on how you can help.

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Key California Representatives
Committee Members Needed for PAHR Co-Sponsorship
Do You Live in One of These Districts? Contact Your Representative Today!

Barbara Lee - 9th District:
http://lee.house.gov/?sectionid=128&sectiontree=18,128

Barbara Lee Washington, D.C. Office
2444 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515
Phone: (202) 225-2661
Fax: (202) 225-9817

Barbara Lee District Office
1301 Clay Street Suite 1000-N
Oakland, CA 94612
Phone: (510) 763-0370
Fax: (510) 763-6538

Jackie Speier - 12th District:
Includes the cities Brisbane, Burlingame, Colma, Daly City, Foster City, Hillsborough, Millbrae, Montara, Moss Beach, Pacifica, Redwood City, San Bruno, San Carlos, San Mateo, and South San Francisco.
http://speier.house.gov/?sectionid=54&sectiontree=54

Jackie Speier Washington D.C. Office
211 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-3531
Fax: (202) 226-4183

Jackie Speier District Office
400 S. El Camino Real, Suite 750
San Mateo, CA 94402
Phone: (650) 342-0300
Fax: (650) 375-8270
Michael Honda - 15th District:
Encompasses much of the central, northeastern and southwestern area of Santa Clara County. This includes the cities of Cupertino, Milpitas, Santa Clara, Campbell, Los Gatos, Gilroy, and one third of the city of San Jose.

Michael Honda Washington D.C. Office
1713 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-2631
Fax: (202) 225-2699

Michael Honda District Office
1999 South Bascom Ave Suite 815
Campbell, CA 95008
Phone: (408) 558-8085
Fax: (408) 558-8086

Sam Farr - 17th District
Covers cities in Monterey and San Benito Counties, including Monterey, Salinas, Marina, Hollister, Watsonville, as well as Santa Cruz.

Sam Farr Washington D.C. Office
1126 Longworth House
Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-2861
Fax 202-225-6791

Sam Farr District Office
100 West Alisal Street
Salinas, CA 93901
831-424-2229
800-340-FARR
Fax 831-424-7099
(see also Santa Cruz office)

Adam Schiff - 29th District:
Includes Alhambra, Altadena, Burbank, Glendale, Griffith Park, Monterey Park, Pasadena, San Gabriel, South Pasadena, and Temple City.
http://schiff.house.gov/HoR/CA29/Contact+Information/Contact+Form.htm

Adam Schiff Washington D.C. Office
2447 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515
Phone: (202) 225-4176
Facsimile: (202) 225-5828

Adam Schiff District Office
87 N. Raymond Ave. #800
Pasadena, California 91103
Phone: (626) 304-2727
Facsimile: (626) 304-0572

Diane E. Watson - 33rd District:
Within Los Angeles County, including all of Culver City and some parts of unincorporated L.A. County
http://www.house.gov/watson/district_list.shtml

Diane Watson Washington D.C. Office
2430 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515-0533
Phone: 202-225-7084
Fax: 202-225-2422

Diane Watson District Office
4322 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 302
Los Angeles, CA 90010
Phone: 323-965-1422
Fax: 323-965-1113

Lucille Roybal-Allard - 34th District:
Downtown Los Angeles, Boyle Heights, Little Tokyo, Pico Union, and portions of Chinatown, Filipinotown, and Westlake, Bell, Bell Gardens, Commerce, Cudahy, Huntington Park, Maywood, Downey, Bellflower, and Vernon.
http://roybal-allard.house.gov/Contact/

Roybal-Allard Washington, DC Office
2330 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-1766
Fax:(202) 226-0350

Roybal-Allard District Office
255 E. Temple St., Ste. 1860
Los Angeles, CA 90012-3334
Phone: (213) 628-9230
Fax: (213) 628-8578
Jerry Lewis - 41st District:
San Bernadino County, including the cities of San Bernardino, Loma Linda, Highland, Redlands and Yucaipa, Crestline, Lake Arrowhead and Big Bear Lake, Hesperia, Apple Valley and Adelanto, Baker, Needles, Joshua Tree, Yucca Valley, and Twentynine Palms.
http://www.house.gov/jerrylewis/IMA/ WritetoRepresentativeLewis.htm

Jerry Lewis Washington D.C. Office
2112 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
Phone: 202-225-5861
Fax: 202-225-6498

Jerry Lewis District Office
1150 Brookside Avenue, Suite J-5
Redlands, CA 92373
Phone: 909-862-6030
Fax: not listed

Ken Calvert - 44th District:
Includes parts of Riverside and Orange Counties- including cities of San Clemente, Corona, Norco, Mira Loma, Belvedere Heights, Las Flores, and Riverside.
http://calvert.house.gov/Contact/

Ken Calvert Washington D.C. Office
2201 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-1986
Fax: (202) 225-2004

Ken Calvert District Office
3400 Central Avenue, Suite 200
Riverside, CA 92506
Phone: (951) 784-4300
Fax: (951) 784-5255
(see also Orange County Office)

Darrell Issa Washington D.C. Office
2347 Rayburn House
Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: 202-225-3906
Fax: 202-225-3303

Darrell Issa District Office
San Diego County Office
1800 Thibodo Road, #310
Vista, CA 92081
Phone: 760-599-5000
Fax: 760-599-1178
(See also Riverside County office)

Brian Bilbray - 50th District:
Carlsbad, San Marcos, Escondido, Encinitas, Solano Beach, Del Mar, and San Diego.
http://www.house.gov/bilbray/contact.shtml

Brian Bilbray Washington D.C. Office
2348 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
Phone: 202-225-0508
Fax: 202-225-2558

Brian Bilbray District Office
462 Stevens Ave., Suite 107
Solano Beach, CA 92075
Phone: 858-350-1150
Fax: 858-350-0750

Dianne Feinstein - U.S. Senate:
Senate Committee on Appropriations.

Senator Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: (202) 224-3841
Fax: (202) 228-3954

Please take the time to contact your Representative for Archives Month this October. If you have further questions about what to do, please contact Dana Miller at dmiller@library.berkeley.edu or Kathleen Roe at KROE@MAIL.NYSED.GOV.
Four Year Grant Funds PhD Fellowships in Archival Science--Archival Education and Research Institutes Launched at UCLA

A four-year $950,000 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) was awarded to UCLA's Center for Information as Evidence (CIE), within the Department of Information Studies at UCLA's Graduate School of Education & Information Studies (GSE&IS). The grant will build the field of Archival Studies and expand its diversity through the development of cohorts of outstanding scholars, and will support a series of Fellowships to doctoral students starting in the Fall of 2009. The doctoral fellowships offer four years of funding to recipients to undertake a doctoral degree specializing in Archival Science at one of eight participating institutions that are partnering in the grant and matching IMLS Fellowship funding.

"Archival Science is one of the fastest growing areas of research and practice within the information professions. This initiative provides us with an unparalleled opportunity to convene and build a cohort of educators and researchers in the United States and around the globe that is equipped to lead and re-conceptualize the field in the Twenty-first Century as it grapples with enduring and emergent issues such as those related to digital record-keeping, preservation, and access; community and institutional memory; human rights; and globalization," stated UCLA Professor Anne Gilliland, Principal Investigator of the project and Chair of the Department of Information Studies at UCLA's GSE&IS.

This year’s Fellowship recipients are Joanna Steele, who will pursue her Ph.D. at the School of Information at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; Michelle Caswell will attend the School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Wisconsin, Madison; and David Kim, will attend the Department of Information Studies at UCLA.

The grant will support four annual Archival Education and Research Institutes (AERI), the first of which was held at UCLA July 6-11, 2009 and will be attended by more than 75 faculty and doctoral students from academic programs across the U.S. and around the world, including England, Canada, Australia, Germany, Croatia, and China. Among the scheduled activities are mentoring sessions for both doctoral students and recently appointed faculty; field trips to many archival institutions in Los Angeles, including the Getty Conservation Institute, the ONE Archives, the Braun Research Library, and the Mayme Clayton Library and Museum; and workshops on publishing in scholarly journals, oral history methodology, and ethnographic methods, among others.

Information on how to apply for a 2010 Doctoral Fellowship in Archival Studies or to attend the 2010 AERI, to be hosted at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, including competitive-based scholarships for doctoral students to attend the Institute, will be made available in Fall and Winter 2009 respectively.

Further information about the IMLS grant project can be found at http://aeri.gseis.ucla.edu/.

Further information about the 2009 AERI can be found at http://aeri2009.wordpress.com.

Further information about the UCLA Center for Information as Evidence can be found at http://www.gseis.ucla.edu/cie/.

Joshua Sternfeld
Associate Director, UCLA Center for Information
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- Intro to Developing and Managing Digital Programs – January 22
- Digital Image Quality – February 11
- Intro to Funding for Digital Programs – February 19

For more information about these valuable webinars and to register, please visit www.oclc.org/western/training
The founder of Levi Strauss & Co. was born “Loeb” Strauss in 1829 in Buttenheim, in the Bavarian province of Germany. (Actually, he was born in the Franconian region of Bavaria, but we’ll get to that.) In 1847 or 1848 Loeb, his mother and two of his sisters left Germany for New York, to live with two older brothers and work in their wholesale dry goods business. Levi’s father had died and the tiny village of Buttenheim offered few opportunities for young Jewish men and women.

After working in New York and possibly in the Louisville, Kentucky area, Levi (who had changed his name around 1850) moved for good in 1853. He made his way to gold rush San Francisco by traveling via the Isthmus of Panama. In 1873 he and tailor Jacob Davis created the first blue jeans when they received U.S. Patent #139,121 for making riveted men’s trousers.

Buttenheim changed with the times, and many original homes and buildings dating to the 17th century or earlier crumbled or were demolished. But one structure survived into the 20th century: the house where Levi was born, at 83 Markstrasse (renumbered 33 sometime in the last century).

The city bought the rickety two story dwelling in 1987 and proceeded to renovate and turn it into a museum, to celebrate the town’s most famous citizen. In 2000 the Levi Strauss Museum (www.levi-strauss-museum.de) was opened, and today the facility greets more than 15,000 visitors a year. Its director is Dr. Tanja Roppelt, and the Museum is affiliated with a number of local institutions, including the University of Erlangen, about fifteen miles away.

In early 2009 I received an invitation from Dr. Heike Paul, director of the university’s American Studies Program, to come to the school and give a lecture about the history of LS&CO. and Levi’s® jeans. Dr. Roppelt chimed in and invited me to tour the Levi Strauss Museum, visit local historical sites and the Bavarian state archives in Bamberg. The university sweetened the deal by offering to pay all my expenses, so I flew to Germany at the end of April.

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I started my visit in Buttenheim, which was a real thrill, because even though I have worked for LS&CO. for nearly twenty years, I had never been to the place where Levi was born. The village has 3,000 people and two breweries, and its mayor, Johann Kalb, has been involved with the museum project since the beginning. Some press interviews were scheduled for my visit to the museum, but Tanja Roppelt took me there before they arrived so I could have the place to myself for awhile.

The house has the same configuration that it did 180 years ago, though remodeled to accommodate exhibits and visitors. There are two floors, each with just three rooms. Levi, his parents and two or three siblings lived on the bottom floor and another family lived above. The house is tall and narrow with the original low ceilings and doorways. I was suspicious of the blue paint on the exterior shutters (the color of denim?), but the museum's architect, Christoph Gatz, assured me that this color was original to the house.

Talks with Tanja Roppelt and other people in Buttenheim provided me with a very important piece of information: Levi was not a Bavarian. He was a Franconian. Buttenheim is in Franconia, the northern portion of the state of Bavaria, and people from this region will be the first to tell you that they are not Bavarians, and neither was Levi Strauss.

My first day also included a visit to the Jewish cemetery in Buttenheim, where I saw the grave of Levi’s father, Hirsch Strauss. I asked Tanja if the synagogue where Levi would have worshipped was still around. “Yes it is,” she said. “But it’s now a warehouse for the Lowenbrau brewery.” We walked a couple of blocks from the museum to see it; it’s a beautiful old building, and you can still catch a few faint traces of its original design and function. Even more fascinating, the museum’s souvenir shop is located a few doors away from the main building, on the site where Levi’s mother Rebecca was born in July of 1800.

Interviews completed, Tanja then took me to the town of Reckendorf, about ninety miles away, which is where the Haas and Hellman families came from. The Haas family owns Levi Strauss & Co. and is descended from Levi’s sister Fanny; in their early history they were associated with the Hellmans in a grocery business in Los Angeles. While in Reckendorf, I met with city archivist Adelheid Waschka for a tour of the archives, the town and the Jewish cemetery.

I brought a souvenir from the cemetery back to my hotel in Bamberg, which I didn’t notice until late that night: a big, fat, leggy tick, which had been munching on my knee (continued on p. 12)
Cuadra’s **STAR** is the most flexible collections and records management software available today. It is used by organizations with the most challenging needs because STAR’s functional robustness and its precise browser-based retrieval, together with Cuadra’s commitment to its customers, are invaluable in helping them to manage their cultural and intellectual assets.

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all afternoon and evening. A cab ride to the emergency room of a local hospital at 11pm was not on the agenda for this trip, but I couldn’t remove the tick myself, and I also needed a tetanus booster. Tanja came down to the hospital to give me moral support, and I was also cheered by the presence of two American soldiers in the hospital’s waiting room (there is a very large U.S. army base in Bamberg). One of them offered to use his knife to get the tick out of my knee, in order to save the cost of an ER visit. I declined.

The next morning made up for the night’s horrors. Tanja and I went to the state archives in Bamberg, where we saw the documents that the Strauss family had to file to get permission to emigrate to the United States. We also saw tax documents relating to the house that is now the museum.

Wednesday evening we drove to Erlangen. Before the lecture, there was a short ceremony in the office of the president of the university. I signed the guest book of the city of Buttenheim (as well as a pair of jeans for mayor Kalb, who has a rather wacky collection of signed Levi’s® jeans), and received a beautiful beer stein from the Bavarian Interior Minister, plus other Buttenheim-related gifts from Mr. Kalb. There was a crowd of about 200 for the lecture a little while later. It was very well received, and so was the “XX”, the oldest pair of jeans in the Levi Strauss & Co. Archives – and the oldest pair of jeans in the world, which I displayed on a table and showed to the very rapt audience. I repeated my lecture for the employees of the LS&CO. office in Frankfurt the next day, and flew home the following morning.

This homecoming visit was a great mixture of business and pure historical research. Tanja Roppelt and her staff have done the serious work in German archives that I could never do. The long chats with Tanja about Levi’s early life while we drove around the region gave me incredible insight into his formative years. There are still a few questions to be answered, but I now have resources in Franconia (that’s right, not Bavaria) to help me track them down, and that makes this Historian very happy.

Lynn Downey
Levi Strauss & Co. Historian
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UCSB ETHNIC AND MULTICULTURAL ARCHIVE LAUNCHES
TEATRO CAMPESINO ONLINE

More than 100 vintage video recordings of the world-renowned Latino theater company El Teatro Campesino are now available online courtesy of the California Ethnic and Multicultural Archives (CEMA) at UC Santa Barbara’s Davidson Library. The digitized videos, 118 in all, make up the Teatro Campesino Online Collection, and can be accessed on CEMA’s ImaginArte Web site at http://cemaweb.library.ucsb.edu/ETCLlist.html.

The recordings, which represent the first 25 years of El Teatro Campesino’s history, include vintage theater performances, historical documentaries on the farm workers movement, scenes from the award-winning play and film "Zoot Suit," and such shows as "Rose of the Rancho," "Los Corridos," and "La Pastorela." Also part of the collection are interviews with founding director Luis Valdez and other members of the theater company, and commentaries by United Farm Workers leader César Chavez.

The most influential Latino theater company in the country, El Teatro Campesino has made major contributions to Chicano culture in the United States, and, more broadly, to the development and expansion of the boundaries of theater. The videos are a part of the theater company’s archives that has recently been opened for use. The complete archives also include scripts, production notes, photographs, audio recordings, graphic art, set designs, and correspondence files.

"The Teatro Campesino Online Collection is an indispensable medium for illustrating the history of this seminal Chicano theater company," said Carlos Morton, professor of theater and dance at UCSB.

"The goal of the project was to digitize and make accessible these rare videos as a teaching and research resource about the historically important Teatro Campesino," said CEMA director Salvador Güereña. "Obsolete U-matic video recordings were reformatted into Beta SP, DVD, and streaming video. Now the vintage videos that were once at risk are both preserved and accessible on the Web."

The project, which was funded through a grant from the University of California Institute for Mexico and the United States, contributes to UC’s ongoing outreach and community education efforts. The videos will help meet the growing need for teaching and research materials on the social and cultural history of the Chicano movement in this country, especially in the theater arts.

El Teatro Campesino began in 1965 with short performances for audiences of farm workers in the fields of California’s central valley. Within five years, it had gained an international reputation and had inspired the formation of many other Chicano theater companies. The performances drew on traditions from European drama, such as commedia dell’arte; Spanish religious dramas adapted for teaching Mission Indians; the Mexican tradition of performances in California that began in the mid-19th century; and Aztec and Maya sacred ritual dramas. Another influence was that of Bertolt Brecht on El Teatro Campesino director Valdez, who explored the theater as a forum for political ideas.

During the company’s early years, all the actors were farm workers. Valdez emphasized ensemble work, in which all actors contributed to the interpretation of the performance. Most troupe members took on multiple roles, with one person serving as an actor, technical director, company manager, and tour coordinator. Members of the Teatro created their own material, which gave them the freedom to express what they knew and felt. They often used comedy to make social statements, and humor became a major asset that added understanding and appeal to the messages of the actors.

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Repository News

New San Francisco Public Library Blog

The San Francisco History Center and Book Arts & Special Collections (SFHC/BASC) of the San Francisco Public Library have launched a blog, What’s On the 6th Floor? It features announcements about SFHC/BASC programs, exhibits, and new accessions; topical tie-ins to SFPL programs and exhibits; collection highlights; and semi-regular columns, such as "It Came from the (Photo) Morgue" and "From Our Test Kitchen." We invite archivists and the public alike to visit, subscribe, follow, comment, and share.

What’s on the 6th Floor? is at http://sfhcbasc.blogspot.com/. The San Francisco History Center and Book Arts & Special Collections are physically located on the 6th floor of the San Francisco Public Library’s Main Library at 100 Larkin Street, San Francisco.

New Archives and Manuscripts Processing Center at Huntington Library

A new program began at the Huntington Library in July 2008. A three-year, $700,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation brought history graduate students to the Huntington to learn how to process manuscript collections and write finding aids. This project creates a training ground for graduate students in the Huntington–University of Southern California’s Institute for California and the West, and allows the Huntington Library to reduce its manuscripts collection backlog, in accordance with the national agenda of the Association of Research Libraries’ “hidden collections” project.

With this grant, The Manuscript Department started processing over one hundred collections currently waiting to be cataloged. The program’s ultimate goal is to give the Manuscripts Department time to incorporate the Processing Center into the department’s organizational structure and make this program sustainable beyond Mellon’s funding.

As of May 2009 the students completed 30 collections dealing with California and the West. They have cataloged such collections as the records of the Cawston Ostrich Farm, an early tourist site in Southern California famous for feathers used in boas and hats, to the papers of Nathan W. Stowell, an engineer who worked on irrigation and land development projects throughout Southern California in the late 19th century, and the papers of the Bernal family, which include the letters, diaries and legal documents of a California family who owned a large amount of land in San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties in the middle 19th century as well as the papers of science-fiction writer Robert Silverberg.

Online Archive of California: An Update

The past months have seen exciting developments at the California Digital Library’s Online Archive of California (www.oac.cdlib.org). The OAC provides access to over 20,000 collection guides and 200,000 digital objects from more than 150 California institutions.

In July we released a completely redesigned website. The new interface helps researchers navigate the collections and identify primary sources; plus it aggregates MARC and EAD records in the same system for more comprehensive searching. It also includes an interactive browse map that graphically displays the location of OAC contributing institutions, so users can see the exact location of the materials they want.

Another OAC innovation is the availability of PDF versions of EAD finding aids. They even retain series titles on each page for quick reference. The source code we used to create the PDFs has now been made freely available for use at other institutions at http://code.google.com/p/oacead-to-pdf/.

Additional improvements to the OAC are in the works, including a new bookmarking and sharing feature due out later this month. Let us know what you think about the changes!

Of course, our contributors are constantly adding new content to the OAC. Recent highlights include the finding aid for the Huntington Library’s Maynard Parker collection, as well as a selection of images from the portfolio of the architectural photographer; 2,000 items documenting local history as part of the Local History Digital Resources Program; and, coming up, about 6,500 John Muir letters from The Bancroft Library and the University of the Pacific Library (highlighted in the winter SCA newsletter).

To keep informed of OAC developments and new services, join our listserv at http://www.cdlib.org/inside/projects/dsc/resources/liserv.html. We also welcome new contributors. For more information, contact oacops@cdlib.org.
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

JUST PUBLISHED: LIVING MODERN, BY WAVERLY LOWELL

Berkeley/Design/Books (B/D/B) is pleased to announce the publication of its fifth volume: Living Modern: A Biography of Greenwood Common, by Waverly B. Lowell. Launched in 2004 under the editorial supervision of Marc Treib, the series—published by William Stout Publishers for the College of Environmental Design—is devoted to the study of architectural and landscape history subjects drawn from the holdings of the Environmental Design Archives (EDA) at the University of California, Berkeley. Simultaneously, the series is intended to make the ED Archives—one of the nation's most extensive for architecture and landscape design—more accessible to a broader audience.

B/D/B #5  Living Modern: A Biography of Greenwood Common by Waverly B. Lowell

"Planned and developed between 1951 and 1957 by the architect William W. Wurster, Greenwood Common is an enclave of eight distinctly modern houses set in the hills of Berkeley, California. Clustered around a common green space designed by Lawrence Halprin, these homes coupled a contemporary aesthetic to regional traditions and an idealistic sense of community. Designed by a group of the San Francisco Bay Area’s most significant architects—including Joseph Esherick, Harwell Hamilton Harris, Henry Hill, and Don Olsen—the buildings and gardens of the Common relate sensitively to each other and to their sites. Each in its own way captured the postwar ideal of indoor-outdoor living, while embodying Wurster’s belief that to thrive, families and communities required both public and private outdoor space.

At Greenwood Common, a community of upper-middle-class professionals, working with talented architects and landscape architects, created homes that showcased a uniquely Californian lifestyle reflecting the mild climate and distinctive geography, and combined a sense of the suburbs with the intimacy of a small town. As a result, Greenwood Common has become a landmark of regional mid-century modernism and thrives as an attractive, well-maintained, comfortable community that appeals to its occupants and visitors alike.”


Other titles in the series are: B/D/B #1 - Maybeck's Landscapes: Drawing in Nature, by Dianne Harris; B/D/B #2 - The Donnell and Eckbo Gardens: Modern California Masterworks, by Marc Treib; B/D/B #3 - Modern Public Gardens: Robert Royston and the Suburban Park, by Reuben M. Rainey and JC Miller; and B/D/B #4 - Appropriate: The Houses of Joseph Esherick, by Marc Treib.

EXHIBITION ON THE MISSIONS OF CALIFORNIA AT SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA PIONEERS

The Society of California Pioneers’ current exhibition focuses on the history of the missions in California. The title of the exhibition is Incompletely Visible: The Legacy of the Bay Area Missions. Focusing on the daily lives of the Catholic missionaries, Spanish soldiers and Native Americans who established a rudimentary agrarian society along California’s Pacific Coast, it contains rare photographs, maps and drawings from the Society’s archives as well as a wealth of artifacts and objects from the permanent collection at Mission Dolores and The Presidio.

Mission Dolores has graciously lent us many artifacts related to the church, and a small altar has been reconstructed to display the items. There are photographs – most from the turn of the century – of all the missions in California. The Presidio has also lent a reproduction uniform, which is on display as well. There are also many reproductions of materials used by the Native Americans for hunting, fishing, cooking and leisure activities.

The education program that accompanies the exhibition introduces students to the complex political and economic forces that fostered the rise of the mission communities as well as the reasons for their eventual decline. The exhibition will also include an educational DVD (the first of its kind produced by The Society of California Pioneers) that will help highlight and clarify the dense history of the California Missions for the students. The DVD features noted scholars such as Dr. Kevin Starr, Dr. Randall Milliken, Rose Marie Beebe, Bob Senkewicz and Eric Blind, to lend their knowledge and voices to the project by appearing on-camera for a series of interviews that deal with specific facets of the history of the missions.

The Society’s Seymour Pioneer Museum is open Wednesdays through Fridays, 10am – 4pm, and the first Saturday of each month. For more information visit our website, http://californiapioneers.org, or call 415.957.1849. The exhibition runs through Spring of 2010.

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In the last column I showcased a blog that focused on the lighter side of the archival profession with Rebecca Goldman’s Derangement and Description. For this column, I will highlight a blog that delves into some of the more serious issues affecting archivists.

ArchivesNext is a blog by Kate Theimer, a professional writer and blogger who previously worked with the Standards and Electronic Records Archives programs at the National Archives and Records Administration. This blog was developed as a result of her research into how archives can take advantage of emerging technologies in order to promote collections and reach out to users. Ms. Theimer is also responsible for the Archives 2.0 wiki and is currently working on a book for Neal-Schuman Publishers titled Web 2.0 Tools and Strategies for Archives and Local History Collections that is due out this fall.

ArchivesNext covers a wide range of topics that affect archivists with a primary focus on the application of Web 2.0 and new technologies in archival settings. Each week one can expect to find several blog entries on a variety of topics including everything from the aforementioned Web 2.0 and technology for archives to archival description and outreach. Entries are tagged with keywords that represent their topical area and are then arranged into a categorical list by the author. This list allows readers to browse through entries by topic instead of by date so that individuals can quickly and easily access those entries that are most relevant to their interests. A Twitter page for ArchivesNext has been established as an additional access point to this information where the author primarily tweets about archival issues, though as she warns on her site can contain “...a mixture of the serious and the trivial.” RSS feeds are also available for both the blog and the Twitter page to update readers when new entries have been posted.

There are many aspects of ArchivesNext that make it an appealing and unique blog. One of this blog’s most appealing characteristics is its utilization and integration of information from the broader online archival community. Information from and links to other online sources are consistently incorporated into the blog entries thus giving the reader a comprehensive view of the many issues currently being discussed on the Web by the archival community. Additionally, ArchivesNext holds an annual “Best Archives on the Web Awards” with categories including the best archives website, best institutional blog, and most whimsical archives-related website. The winning websites are then highlighted in a series of blog entries following the awards to further promote and illustrate the innovative ways in which archivists are using the Web.

ArchivesNext is also appealing to users because it encourages involvement and stresses the importance of reader participation. The ability for readers to participate in dialogue with one another is seen as a vital component to the overall user experience and this interaction is accomplished by allowing readers to post comments on blog entries. Some entries never receive a single user comment while others prompt lengthy discussions and, at times, even debates. Another impressive and unique feature of this blog is the “Archives & ‘new’ technology” guide that provides a list of archival websites that have employed new technologies. The list includes the name of the institution and/or the project along with a short description of the technology being used and a link to its location on the Web. Included are blogs, podcasts, Flickr collections, wikis, Twitter feeds, and other technologies that archival institutions are using in an attempt to provide access to and promote their collections. While this page is no longer being actively maintained it still contains a useful list of new technologies being used by archivists and can be a good starting point for those interested in learning more on the subject.

The Archives 2.0 wiki, which has since replaced this page, can be accessed for a more exhaustive and current list of examples as the information contained here is regularly updated. ArchivesNext is a great online source for information regarding the current issues facing archivists. There is a little something for everyone here, not just for those archivists with an interest in new technologies and the future of Web applications. So, the next time you find yourself online perusing the Web for the latest news in the world of archives you should take a look at ArchivesNext.

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I am always interested in learning about new and interesting websites related to the archival field. If you know of a site that we should consider for a future “Top of the Web” column please email me at, ericm@ucr.edu.
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The Local Arrangements and Program Committees invite you to join us in Seattle, Washington, for the Western Roundup 2010 Inter-regional Meeting. This meeting will be the second joint meeting of the Northwest Archivists, the Society of California Archivists, the Society of Rocky Mountain Archivists, and the Conference of Inter-Mountain Archivists, (inspired by the great success of the Western Roundup 2005 held in Las Vegas, Nevada).

We will gather from April 28 to May 1, 2010, in beautiful downtown Seattle at the Renaissance Seattle Hotel (http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/seasm-renaissance-seattle-hotel). The registration fees have not yet been set. The Room rates will be $155/night.

The 2010 Program Committee is working hard to create an electrifying series of sessions and pre-conference workshops devoted to the issues you care about. We invite your submissions for session proposals and pre-conference workshops. Submission forms (electronic and hardcopy) are available on the SCA website http://www.calarchivists.org/ and need to be received by October 9, 2009.

Don’t miss this unique opportunity for CIMA, NWA, SCA and SRMA members and supporters to meet, share information, and work together.

Julie Graham
SCA Program Committee Chair
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Calendar

September 18, 2009: SCA Workshop “Describing Photographs in Archival Collections;”
San Francisco, CA.

October 9, 2009: Deadline for 2010 AGM session proposals.

Los Angeles, CA.

October 16-17, 2009: Conference of California Historical Societies Fall Symposium;
Ukiah and Willits, CA.

October 30 - November 2, 2009: Calif. Library Association Annual Meeting; Pasadena, CA.

November 4 - 7, 2009: Association of Moving Image Archivists Conference; St. Louis, MO.

February 28, 2010: James Mink Scholarship application deadline.

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