Archimedes’ ancient writings, contemporary California legislation, and an evening under the stars informed, intrigued, and entertained the registrants of the 38th Annual General Meeting in Riverside, May 7th – 9th. According to registrar Eric Milenkiewicz, including workshops there were a total of 177 attendees, comprised of 110 of SCA’s over 400 members, 28 non-members, and 16 students. Nearly a dozen vendors also attended to present their services to SCA members. A diverse array of repositories was represented, with the UC system, Huntington Library, Stanford University, CA State Archives and the Autry National Center particularly well represented. The Cultivating Collaboration theme challenged those in attendance to live in a world of cooperation rather than competition.

Retired Riverside County Superior Court Judge Victor Miceli, provided both the highlight of the opening reception with a tour of the historic Riverside County Courthouse, and insight into the successful coordination of various factions of historic preservation projects as the plenary speaker opening the formal portion of the meeting Friday morning.

After the Courthouse reception, which included a special reception for newcomers, attendees were welcomed by Riverside’s downtown art galleries and museums in concert with the monthly ARTSblock festivities. The exhibits were well received. Tours of the historic Mission Inn were another of the diversionary offerings at the AGM. Docents from the Friends of the Mission Inn led full tour groups through the historic, lavishly decorated Inn and shared information about Riverside’s past. Many conference attendees found the rich culture and history of Riverside very interesting and were previously unaware of what the city and region had to offer.

Dr. Uwe Bergmann presented an enlightening and fascinating luncheon speech on the use of modern x-ray fluorescence imaging to reveal what had been thought to be the long lost writings of Archimedes of Syracuse (287-212 BC). Dr. Bergmann provided information on the importance of Archimedes’ writings and the discovery of some of his fundamental concepts written on parchment which had been scraped clean and written over. Not all of the original text had been removed and modern technology was able to reveal the original writings, which Dr. Bergmann was able to illustrate once those attending the lunch donned 3-D glasses. His talk generated a lot of positive feedback.

Sessions ranged from an overview of The Bancroft Library Manuscript Survey Project on the opening day to the innovative Short Attention Span Theater which offered the opportunity discuss topics such as security, grant writing, and ethics in a small group environment; in the latter participants could move between subject groups during the course of the session. Other sessions addressed the need to collaborate with donors, the state wide preservation effort titled California: Connecting to Collections Project, a

(continued on p. 3)
For the past two years I have served you as Vice President/2008 Program Chair and President-Elect. I have attended Board meetings, passed budgets, set agendas, gathered together committees and task forces, appointed committee chairs, accepted committee chair resignations, written letters of support, attended some great conference sessions, and marveled at how smart, accomplished, and dedicated you, my colleagues, are. Everything I have done has been in concert with Board members, committee chairs, committee members, and members at large. It has been an incredibly rewarding experience. Your support and influence have been wonderful.

To the 2008-2009 Board, VP Laura O’Hara, outgoing Secretary Jacqueline Morin, Treasurer David Uhlich, outgoing Membership Director Gabriele Carey, Members-At-Large Julie Graham and Lori Lindberg, and Past President Lucinda Glenn, thank you so much for your responsiveness, patience, enthusiasm, creativity, institutional memory, and humor. I want to thank Jennifer Martinez-Wormser and Gabriele Carey (and their task force members) for excellent work on the Handbook Revision Task Force and the Electronic Environment Task Force, respectively. All the committee chairs have my deepest appreciation for carrying on the work of SCA so enthusiastically and brilliantly. At the AGM, as I listened to you present your reports, I was moved by the superlative job all of you do for SCA. It is voluntary activity and everyone is busy, and yet you put your considerable talents toward archives and archivists. I was (and continue to be) profoundly grateful.

Chuck Wilson, Jim Hofer, and Eric Milenkiewicz are a marvelous illustration of the endurance, generosity, and appeal of SCA. Chuck and Jim are both past Presidents, and, having served, one might think they would not be first to volunteer for such a labor-intensive committee as Local Arrangements, but they both did, giving freely of their time, their spouses’ time, and drawing on their family connections. This was only Eric’s second AGM, but he developed a guide for first-time attendees. This was something I had always hoped to develop, but Eric immediately saw the need and filled it. This is true testimony to the lasting benefits of involvement in SCA, as well as its promise and development. Working with and for SCA is an immensely enjoyable and rewarding experience; it exposes you to things you would never learn otherwise. We are so fortunate to have such riches in our colleagues, both those we have known for a time, our newer members, and those future young professionals we have yet to meet.

Earlier this year I had the pleasure to hear colleague Michele Wellck describe archival work as not only “good work, but ‘Good Work,’” with a capital ‘G’ and a capital ‘W.’” Michele’s words startled me from my daily complacency. Working in a specific environment, I enjoy the work I do well enough, but it must be framed in a larger context. That SCA exists is good work supporting Good Work, indeed. Let’s keep going.

Jane Rosario
Outgoing SCA President
jrosario@library.berkeley.edu

The Society of California Archivists, Inc.
The Society of California Archivists, Inc. exists to support and develop those who collect, care for, and provide access to the documentary heritage of California and adjoining areas. To this end it:

1. acts as a vehicle for dissemination of information about archival collections, issues, and methodology to the profession and the public;
2. provides a forum for the discussion of matters related to the creation, preservation, and use of historical documents;
3. develops, offers and supports archival education programs;
4. cooperates with individuals and organizations on matters of common concern; and
5. advocates the identification, collection, preservation, use, and appreciation of historical records and manuscripts.

The SCA Newsletter (ISSN 1931-5473) is published quarterly on March 1, June 1, September 1, and December 1. All submissions, advertisements for future issues, letters to the editors, and inquiries regarding the newsletter should be directed to the Editors of the Newsletter:

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Format for Submissions: Articles and other items submitted for consideration should be sent via e-mail attachment.

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**Incoming President’s Message**

As SCA Vice President for the past year, it was my responsibility to chair the Program Committee which is responsible for the program part of the Annual General Meeting. I would like to thank the wonderful folks who served on the committee and provided so generously of their time and energy. Many thanks go also to Chuck Wilson and his crack team, the Local Arrangements Committee, without whom we would not have had a meeting. It was great to see many of you in Riverside, a place now on my list to visit when I do not have SCA duties.

In addition to the AGM, SCA has many grand traditions and venues for networking and the exchange of information including this newsletter, WestArch, our regional workshops, and our web site. All of SCA’s services are the result of the dedicated work of volunteers. It is only by becoming engaged that SCA can be the organization that you want. I encourage you to participate on a committee or accept when your president asks you to serve on a task force or say yes when the Nominating Committee calls you to run for office.

I would like to mention our newest initiative which is the result of the hard work of several individuals. The Electronic Environment Task Force has been exploring how SCA might move a number of its services and products to an electronic environment. At our Board meeting in Riverside, we decided to contract Wild Apricot to further that effort; more to come on this later.

If a tradition is set by doing something two or three times then we are about to start a new tradition. In 2003 we had a joint meeting with the Northwest Archivists in Sacramento, and in 2005 we had the fabulous Western Roundup in Las Vegas, a joint meeting with the Northwest, Rocky Mountain, and Inter-Mountain Archivists. Next year we will join forces again in another Western Roundup, we may even be joined by some Hawaiians and British Colombians. Save the date - Seattle, April 28-May 1!

A final note of thanks goes to Jane Rosario. I have always said “Choose your predecessors well.” When the Nominating Committee contacted me to run, my first thought was “Jane would be a good person to inherit from.” Many, many thanks Jane! It is a privilege to serve with you.

Laura O’Hara
Incoming SCA President
lohara@stanford.edu

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**38th AGM Held in Riverside**

(review of recent legislation and the use of archives by artists and writers. Three very popular sessions attracted more than 55 attendees each, verging on standing room only.

Another favorite among attendees, Friday evening’s dinner was hosted by the Hofer Ranch, owned by Local Arrangement Co-Chair Jim Hofer’s cousin. At the sold out dinner, the fruit of the ranch vineyards was enjoyed in liquid form by those attending, while they were serenaded by the music provided by Alfonso and Marian Arias. Paul Hofer, Jim’s cousin, graciously donated the use of the historic facility, as well as the wine and entertainment. The SCA membership will not soon forget his generosity and the pleasant atmosphere of the Hofer Ranch.

Attendees participated in a very successful silent auction which featured over nearly 40 individual packages put together by Sal Guerena and David Farrell of SCA’s Development Committee. Proceeds of the auction provided support for SCA’s scholarship and education programs. Dr. Larry Burgess enlivened the Saturday Awards Luncheon, serving as auctioneer for the society’s first live auction, which augmented the silent auction.

The pre-conference workshops were also well-attended, with Basics of Archives being a hit as usual, giving newcomers a good introduction to the archival field. First time attendee Sara Stilley summed up the Riverside AGM experience. “SCA was an uplifting and educational experience for someone contemplating becoming an Archivist. Everyone was helpful and supportive of the student attendees and acted more like shepherd’s to us rather than seeing us as a potential competition. For anyone thinking of becoming an archivist, I would give this conference a hearty ‘thumbs-up’!”

Chuck Wilson
University Archivist
Special Collections & Archives
University of California, Riverside

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**Note from the Editors:** We’d like to give a special thanks to the Local Arrangements Committee members, Co-Chairs Jim Hofer and Chuck Wilson, registrar Eric Milenkiewicz, Theresa Hanley, Rebekah Kim, Steve Spiller and Danette Cook Adamson.

Along with the Program Committee, these dedicated people invested a tremendous amount of work into the AGM.

Thanks for hosting a great conference, guys! For images of the conference, see page 4.
Liz Konzak and Jessica Lemieux enjoy Dr. Uwe Bergmann’s talk on the Archimedes Palimpsest during Friday’s luncheon. Photo courtesy of Kathy Restaino.

Jim Hofer talks to conference attendees at Friday’s BBQ at Hofer Ranch. Photo courtesy of Vlasta Radan.

Above: Barn interior at Hofer Ranch. Right: Judge Victor Miceli talks to some conference attendees at the Riverside County Courthouse. Both photographs courtesy of Kathy Restaino.
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For more information about these valuable webinars and to register, please visit www.oclc.org/western/training
The Bancroft Library announces completion of Spanish Borderlands Project

The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley is pleased to announce the availability of online finding aids for the following collections:

Herbert Eugene Bolton Papers
(BANC MSS C-B 840)

George P. Hammond Papers
(BANC MSS 70/89 c)

Abraham P. Nasatir Document Collection
(BANC MSS 92/50)

These Spanish Borderlands-related collections were processed with a grant from the National Historic Publications and Records Commission, and include research materials on the history of the Southwestern United States. The project processed a total of 310 linear feet over the course of thirteen months. The finding aids are accessible through the Online Archive of California (http://www.oac.cdlib.org).

The Herbert Eugene Bolton Papers document the career of an eminent historian who, as director of the Bancroft Library and Chairman of the History Department at the University of California, Berkeley, in the 1920s and 1930s, was a leader in the field of study known as Spanish Borderlands. The collection was originally processed in 1961 and now features an improved arrangement and description of his correspondence, writings, teaching materials, and other professional activities. His research materials, which are regularly used by scholars, remain in their original order. The total size of this collection, including oversize materials, is now 211 linear feet.

The George P. Hammond Papers document the life and career of a Southwestern U.S. historian, who was director of The Bancroft Library from 1946-1965, and who wrote and published numerous books based on Spanish documents, as well as the history of California. A highlight of the Hammond Papers is his correspondence, which documents Hammond’s wide network of historians in the Southwest, especially during the 1930s-1970s. The collection also documents the growth of The Bancroft Library into its present-day form, for which Hammond is largely responsible. This collection is 64 linear feet.

The Abraham P. Nasatir Collection, at 15 linear feet, contains copies of documents from Spanish and American archives that he used to research the Spanish presence in the Missouri River Valley. These documents were used for his books Before Lewis and Clark, and The Imperial Osages, only two of his many writings from a career that spanned six decades. The bulk of his document collection was lost in a residential fire in 1985, but the materials now at Bancroft survived as they were stored in his office at San Diego State University where he spent the majority of his teaching career.

Anastasia Karel
Borderlands Project Archivist
The Bancroft Library
Dana Upton Lamb and Virginia “Ginger” Marshall Bishop Lamb chronicled their three year, 16,000 mile voyage in their homemade sixteen-foot canoe, the Vagabunda, from Southern California down the Pacific coasts of Mexico, Guatemala, Costa Rica, and Panama in their bestselling 1938 book, *Enchanted Vagabonds*. Their second book, *Quest for the Lost City* (1951), was the basis for a feature length film of the same name produced by Sol Lesser in 1954. In 2006 and 2007, the Sherman Library acquired the personal papers of Dana and Ginger Lamb, and the now processed collection contains an extensive amount of archival material documenting their travels, personal lives, and family history in the form of diaries, manuscripts, correspondence, photographs, ephemera, and film. Of note are over three hundred reels of motion picture film created by the Lambs; other than Lesser’s *Quest for the Lost City*, all of their films are unique documentary and visual resources for which there are no other known copies.

The voluminous nature of the collection forced the Sherman Library to consider approaching preservation for and access to the films in a piecemeal fashion. In 2008, the Sherman Library applied for and received a National Film Preservation Foundation (NFPF) Partnership Grant. Due to the design of the NFPF Partnership Grant program, the Sherman Library was assigned to work with Triage Motion Picture Services of Los Angeles, a film preservation and restoration company, as a lab partner for this project. Of the earliest films in the collection, four films related to the Lambs’ celebrated journey on the Vagabunda from 1933-1936 were identified for this project so that researchers and the public may view a small, but significant, portion of the collection. One of the selected films was a 35mm black and white nitrate reel, and the others were 16mm color films. Unfortunately, none had sound.

The team at Triage Motion Picture Services had to perform prep labor, cleaning and repair due to the numerous splices and lacquer applied by Dana Lamb as a “preservation” medium to some of the films. They made a 35mm answer print and a 35mm optical fine grain master of the nitrate film. Two of the 16mm films received contact liquid gate internegatives and color answer prints made from the new internegative, while the other 16mm film had an optical liquid gate internegative and a color answer print made. All the films were then transferred to Digibeta, and two DVDs generated. Triage staff took just over three months to complete this work.

The Sherman Library is delighted to be able to offer public

(continued on p. 8)
On May 9, “Sounds from the Circle”, an exhibit featuring the Charles F. Lummis wax cylinder and music collections from the Braun Research Library will open at the Southwest Museum of the American Indian, Autry National Center, located in Los Angeles, California. The exhibit will be installed in the Southwest Museum lobby and showcase cylinders, equipment, musical transcriptions and photographs of numerous California Hispanic folksongs from the turn of the 20th Century. It will run until June 9, 2009.

On May 16, Kim Walters, Director of the Braun Library, will take a very special look at Lummis and his rare California Hispanic folksong recordings through her lecture “Catching Archaeology Alive”. In a 1905 article of the same title, Lummis sought to persuade the Archaeological Institute of America that his “large-scale folksongs of the Southwest project” was archaeology and, if not recorded now, the songs would be “as dead and gone as the rest.”

Lummis’s interest in this music dated to the late 1880’s when he was recuperating from a stroke and living in New Mexico. At that time he started to collect the lyrics of folksongs in his diaries and notebooks. In early 1904, Lummis purchased an Edison recorder and cylinders and began his work.

As a result, more than 900 recordings were made. Of these recordings, 450 of them are Spanish songs with diverse origins from Mexican, Latin American and European music. According to the late Dr. Michael Heisley, former Curator of Folklore at the Southwest Museum, “one of the unique characteristics of this collection is the information about performance styles, vocal nuances, and instrumental accompaniment... few collections from this period offer researchers such rich possibilities [of study]”.

Hundreds of Native American songs from 23 different tribes are also part of the Lummis wax cylinder collection. Here one finds notable Serrano bird songs and over 100 songs from the Isleta Pueblo Indians. Other Native American songs were recorded at the Sherman Indian School and at the Mission Inn in Riverside, California.

Over the years, efforts were undertaken to preserve the recordings and make them accessible. Most recent is the wax cylinder repair and digital recording project being headed by Dr. Michael Khanchalian, cylinder conservator and member of the California Antique Phonograph Society.

The Braun Research Library is located at 234 Museum Drive, Los Angeles, California, 90065. For more information about the collection, exhibit, or lecture mentioned in this article, please contact room@autrynationalcenter.org or (323) 221-2164, ext. 255.

Kim Walters is the Director of the Braun Research Library and Associate Director for the Institute of the Study of the American West, Autry National Center. She has been with the Braun for over 19 years. Charles Fletcher Lummis envisioned and founded in 1907 the Southwest Museum of the American Indian, now part of the Autry National Center of the American West.
One of my tasks as Levi Strauss & Co. Historian is to research the company’s lost or hidden history. Lately, I’ve been doing some pretty serious work on the life of company founder Levi Strauss.

I’ve been reading a lot of diaries, books and newspaper articles about the way men and women traveled from New York to California during the Gold Rush. More specifically, I’ve been researching the crossing via the Isthmus of Panama, because that was the route Levi Strauss took when he journeyed to San Francisco in February of 1853 to start his wholesale dry goods business. (For more biographical information on Levi Strauss visit http://www.levistrauss.com).

Levi left New York on February 5, 1853, on the steamship United States. The ship headed toward Panama via Jamaica and the Caribbean’s Windward Passage, landing on the fifty-mile-wide Isthmus of Panama after a trip of about ten days. Over the next two days Levi made his transit to the Pacific side of the isthmus via a train, a boat and on a historic trail. He likely waited a few days in Panama City for the next steamer for San Francisco, and he arrived in the city on either March 5 or 6.

In March of 2009, I decided to take a short holiday and go to Panama myself to recreate each leg of Levi’s journey. My guide was local legend Hernán Araúz, from Ancon Expeditions of Panama (http://www.anconexpeditions.com), and over the course of three days we did everything that Levi did. Well, as much as we could given the passing of 156 years and the building of the Panama Canal.

So, here are some highlights of what I call “The Levi Strauss Re-Creation Vacation.”

On the first morning after my arrival, Hernán picked me up at my hotel in the historic quarter of Panama City and we spent most of the day driving through jungles and tiny towns to get to the Caribbean side of the isthmus. We saw an amazing variety of wildlife along the way: a tree sloth, howler monkeys, toucans and a black and white anteater, which walked across the road right in front of our car and looked like a skunk with a really long nose.

Once on the Caribbean side we visited fort San Lorenzo and the town of Portobelo, built by the Spanish in the 16th and 17th centuries, when they were trying not to lose their treasure ships to pirates. Then we ended the day the way Levi started his: on a train.

From the start of the Gold Rush until the end of 1851, the only way to cross the isthmus was in boats on the Chagres River to an inland village, then by mule or on foot to Panama City. This could take days or even weeks. It could take even longer for a steam ship to show up in Panama City to take the miners and other entrepreneurs up to San Francisco. But by the time Levi arrived around the second week of February, 1853, he was able to take the partially completed Panama Railroad to the town of Barbacoas, about twenty-three miles from Aspinwall, the landing site on the Caribbean (now called Colón).

The railroad had been conceived as a way to speed the U.S. Mail across the isthmus, but it turned out to be a boon to Gold Rush travelers, who were happy that they could ride even part way through the steaming jungle. Hubert H. Bancroft crossed the isthmus in 1852, and also took the railroad. In his memoir of the experience, published in California Inter Pocula, he wrote: “Railway passengers wish the ride was longer, wish they could so ride all the way to San Francisco.”

Hernán and I caught the train in Colón, not far from where Levi boarded. We spent most of the train trip in the enclosed, air-conditioned car, but at one point headed out to a covered, open air platform, so I could come close to what Levi’s experience must have been like: hot, windy, with luscious green views of mangroves, and vines so thick they were like a living tunnel.
TRAINS, BOATS AND TRAILS
(continued from p. 9)

Today’s train parallels the old route, which was completed in 1855, but many of the towns that it used to pass are now at the bottom of Gatun Lake, created by the construction of the Panama Canal. Barbacoas, where Levi got off the train to take the next step on his journey, is one of them. Hernán is a certified diver, and he told me that you can dive in Gatun near these places and touch the steeple of old village churches.

After Levi got off the railroad about midway across the isthmus, he joined his fellow passengers on a ride down the Chagres River. Until the Panama Railroad began running in 1851, Americans traveling to California via the isthmus had to take a multi-day river journey in small canoes. They stopped for the night at hotels which were sometimes nothing more than bug-infested canvas shacks, and during the day they sweltered in the sun or got soaked by drenching tropical rainstorms. After that was endured there was still a long walk or mule ride ahead of them. But surprisingly, many letters and diaries of isthmus travelers expressed wonder at the beauty of the river voyage, and not its horrors.

Joseph Gregory, who published Gregory’s Guide for California Travellers via the Isthmus of Panama in 1850, said of his trip on the Chagres, “I received the greatest pleasure and never beheld more magnificent scenery, or luxuriant vegetation, than I witnessed while upon this river.” And Hubert H. Bancroft wrote, “Palm trees of various descriptions line the banks, and gorgeous water lilies dip their fragrant heads as the boat passes over them. Every shower of rain is like the sprinkling of perfume on the vegetation.”

On Day Two of my Panama adventure, I also got to experience the beauty of the river. Early in the morning Hernán and I drove into Chagres National Park outside of Panama City. There, we got into 15-foot long dugout canoes, made by the Embera people, who use them to navigate the river and to take tourists to their villages. The boats are long, narrow and wobbly, with wooden slats for seats, and there’s a man at each end. The one in the front has a very long pole, and the one at the back is in charge of something that would have made Levi’s trip a lot easier: an outboard motor.

Levi traveled in a flat-bottomed canoe called a “bungo,” rather than the long dugout, maneuvered by native people who used long poles to push the boat along the riverbed. In February, when he crossed the isthmus, it was the dry season, so the river was sometimes quite low, turning the transit into a crawl. It was still the dry season during my visit, and we hit a few shallow spots ourselves, scraping the rocks and almost coming to a stop. When that happened, the man in the front of the boat signaled to his partner in the back to cut the motor, and he dug his pole into the river bottom, pushing our canoe along until we were free. It took about a half hour to get to the Embera Drua village, which we toured, and then we returned to the starting point the same way.

Although I was on a different part of the Chagres than Levi was, Hernán assured me that the scenery would have been the same, a stunning green landscape which varied in color from emerald to palest jade. We saw fish of varying sizes in the clear, warm water, and overhead flew egrets, herons and Amazon kingfishers. I could have stayed on that river all day.

We had lunch in the Casco Antiguo, the historic section of Panama City, which dates to 1673. Afterward, as we walked on a nearby esplanade overlooking the ocean, Hernán pointed westward and said, “That’s where Levi saw the Pacific Ocean for the first time.”

Next was a visit to the National Library of Panama, where the librarian, Nitzia Barrantes, let me view original issues of the Panama Herald. This was one of a number of English-language newspapers published for people making the trip across the isthmus to get to California. It had ads for hotels, bars, restaurants, and the latest news from the United States and Europe. It also – most importantly – advertised when the next steamers were headed to San Francisco. But before he could board the steamer Levi had to get to Panama City.

Back to Levi’s part of the journey. After spending a few hours on the Chagres River he got out at the town of Gorgona. Ahead of him was an uncomfortable trip on the only transport available for this final part of the journey: riding a mule on a rough and rutted trail.

There were two trailheads to get to Panama City from (continued on p. 10)
Barbacoas, where the train ride ended: via Gorgona or Venta de Cruces. The decision on which trail to take depended on the weather. In the dry season (January to April) the Gorgona Trail was quicker and easier than the Cruces road. It being February, Levi likely stayed the night in Gorgona, and took off for the Pacific in the morning.

He then had a choice to make: either walk to Panama City or ride a mule. I expect (and hope) that Levi could afford to rent a mule for this last part of the trip. Hurtado y Hermanos was one of the largest rental firms, and they were also the agents for Wells Fargo & Co. in Panama. Woolsey’s Express and Transportation Line kept a stable full of the sturdy animals on hand for travelers too. Once on his way it probably took Levi an entire day to get to the Pacific, where he caught a steamship for San Francisco.

When Gatun Lake was created by the construction of the Panama Canal, Gorgona and its trail were inundated. But the ruins of Venta de Cruces and its road still survive. My goal for this historical vacation was to experience every aspect of Levi’s journey, so on the final day Hernán and I got into an Ancon Expeditions boat and zoomed to one of the terminuses of the trail. Along the way we saw crocodiles on the banks of the lake, watching them slip without a splash into the water. I asked Hernán if they were aggressive. “Yup,” he replied. Subtext: don’t trail your hand in the water.

A few minutes later the boat pulled up to a small beach and we got out, heading onto the actual Cruces Trail. This rock-strewn road had been built hundreds of years earlier by the Spanish. They carried silver and gold from the mines of Peru and Bolivia along the trail and across the isthmus to ships at anchor in the Caribbean, waiting to head back to Spain. You can walk the entire thing (it’s about nine kilometers), but that wasn’t on the agenda for the day. I also wasn’t allowed to ride a mule in the area, because it was a national park, but sometimes you have to be a little creative when it comes to this kind of research.

The trail is well-maintained, and the original river rocks used to pave the road still litter the ground. We walked about a quarter mile to the ruins of the church of Venta Cruces, and Hernán showed me where the altar and side entrances used to be. We trekked a bit further and the road suddenly narrowed to only about twelve inches across. It reminded me of Hubert H. Bancroft’s 1852 trip on the Gorgona trail: “Often we passed through ravines which had been washed out by the rain, and so narrow at the bottom that on entering at either end persons must shout in order to notify others wishing to come from the opposite direction.”

As we got back into the boat I asked Hernán where the village of Gorgona used to be. We putted to another part of the lake near a tree-covered peninsula jutting into a small bay. “Most of it is underneath us,” he said. Then he and the boatman Jacobo suddenly had a rapid conversation in Spanish. Hernán pointed to a nearby finger of land and said, “Jacobo has friends who’ve seen some old structures in there.”

Well, of course we had to check that out, so Jacobo drove the boat deep into a narrow tributary, where the trees grew tall and forbidding, right down to the water line. We found a small spit of sand and beached the boat, jumping off the bow and splashing into ankle-high water. Both men had machetes, and before leaving the boat Hernán slipped a 10mm pistol into his pocket.
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I followed them at a cautious distance as they hacked away at the thick foliage. We walked uphill, grabbing at branches and exposed roots for balance, and I kept getting entwined in sharp vines that wouldn’t yield to a machete. The men were out of my sight for awhile, and then I heard an excited yell. I climbed faster and came upon Hernán pointing to a thirty-inch square rock and stone pillar, covered with dead leaves. There were at least six more in the same area and looked like the foundations of buildings or perhaps a bridge.

Had we found the remains of old Gorgona?

We couldn’t get close to some of the pillars because the jungle growth was too thick, but that didn’t lessen our excitement. I then noticed I had a cut on the back of my ankle and a very bloody cut on my right index finger, which was drawing some interested insect life. But neither seemed serious, so we kept on exploring, and soon found a tiny brick arch set over what looked like a dry creek bed. Was it part of a sewer tunnel? A walkway over a rushing stream? We chatted about what we’d found as we climbed back to the boat, and Hernán said he would talk to his cartographer/historian father about the site. Jacobo treated and bandaged my finger, I slapped some hand sanitizer on my ankle and we set off.

Next we sped across the lake and the boat pulled up to a small island, where more huge trees dipped over the water. Hernán and our boatman Jacobo pulled out bags of peanuts and cut-up bananas and started whistling. Within seconds the trees came alive with a family of white-faced Capuchin monkeys, who stood on the branches with their paws stretched out waiting for us to throw them some food. When that didn’t happen fast enough they leapt onto the boat, crawling along the edge or climbing onto the awning, running toward Jacobo for bananas, and also taking peanuts from my hands.

Lunch on another island, at a table under a thatched overhang, was next on the agenda (though Hernán had to shoo away a large flock of black vultures first). We ended the day at the Miraflores Locks visitor’s center on the Panama Canal, and I went back to the hotel to pack for my journey home.

I traveled to Panama to understand what it must have been like for Levi to make this tropical passage. I went to the same places he did, but it was impossible, of course, to truly grasp what his experience was like. I spent my evenings in comfortable, clean hotels, ate delicious meals and rode from place to place in air-conditioned vans or on breezy speedboats, with insect repellent and sunscreen at my disposal. Levi was at the mercy of heat, bugs, bad water and food, and real personal danger, and I could never recreate that.

But being able to put my feet on the ground that he walked, to see the scenery and wildlife that he encountered, even just to smell the same scented air, was the thrill of a lifetime.

Lynn Downey on the Cruces Trail

In the next issue, look for Lynn’s adventures in Levi Strauss’ hometown in Bavaria, Germany.
**More News from the Riverside AGM:**

**Johnson and Carey Recognized for Sustained Service**

Pat Johnson and Gabriele Carey joined an elite group of SCA members who have been recognized for their service to the organization. Recipients of the Sustained Service Award must have provided a minimum of twelve years service to SCA. Since the initial awards at the society’s 20th anniversary in 1991, fewer than 20 members have been awarded this recognition. Both Pat and Gabriele have served in a variety of positions. Pat has been a board member, President, and, most recently, chair of the Elections Committee. Gabriele has served as Membership Director and was recently elected to the Board as an At Large member. She initially served as a Board member in 1988 and has been on two local arrangement and two program committees, as well as serving as a site selection coordinator.

For the first time, this year awards were presented both at the Friday dinner and the Saturday Awards Luncheon. Pat and Gabriele received their awards at the dinner, as did Mink Scholarship winner Jessica Knox. Jessica completed her undergraduate work at UC Davis and enrolled in the Public History Program at CSU Sacramento. She has served as a Graduate Intern at the California State Archives and a volunteer at the Sacramento Archives and Museum Collection. In her letter of recommendation, State Archivist Nancy Lenoil described Jessica as “…a bright, enthusiastic professional who…will be a great asset to our profession.” The Mink Scholarship winner receives a $500 check to cover the expenses associated with attendance at the AGM and a pre-conference workshop.

Riverside County Assessor - Clerk - Recorder Larry Ward accepted the Archives Appreciation Award for his office’s support of the Riverside County Archives. The county archives, one of the few in California, was established under Mr. Ward’s administration and the award noted his strong support for the collection and the facility dedicated to the archives. In his acceptance remarks, Mr. Ward challenged those attending the Awards Luncheon to be cognizant of the dangers to historic records lurking in bills currently being considered by the Legislature. The award is sponsored and funded by Hollinger - Metal Edge.

Brad Westbrook was selected as the winner of the Archival Award of Excellence which honors individuals within California who have made an outstanding contribution to the archives profession and accomplished exceptional work in the archives and records management field during the past five years. Brad was recognized for the work he has done to establish the Archivist’s Toolkit. Upon receiving the award, he noted the efforts of the team members with whom he had worked to develop and service the Toolkit. This award is presented by the California Historic Records Advisory Board and was established in 1989 as an occasional award for contributions including activities such as contributing innovative or creative ideas to the profession, improving the profession's effectiveness through advocacy or services, or promoting greater public awareness of archives and the archival profession.

In closing remarks to those attending the Awards Luncheon, Chuck Wilson, Chair of the Awards Committee introduced the committee members in attendance and encouraged members to contact them with suggestions for future award winners.

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**An Honoree’s Response:**

“It is with surprise and honor that I received one of the Sustaining Service awards… In that beautiful setting, I could only muster a grateful thank you to all attending. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all of you so much for the recognition. I have enjoyed working with Society colleagues on the Board and various committees over the years. I especially look forward to continuing serving the Society wherever there is a need.”

Patricia J. Johnson
Senior Archivist
Sacramento Archives & Museum Collection Center

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**Burgess Advocates for Collaboration**

In his talk at the Awards closing luncheon, Larry E. Burgess, Director of the A.K. Smiley Public Library, urged members to engage in cooperative projects, but to also recognize the complexity inherent in such projects. He particularly emphasized the imperative of annualized costs for projects of digital cooperation. Burgess urged SCA members to maintain the splendid spirit of cooperation so evident throughout the operation of SCA. He stated that in many ways SCA remains the most important resource available to members seeking colleague assistance and urged members to carefully confront the thorny question of ‘who owns history.’ He noted that in terms of preserving the material of history, archivists are constantly bedeviled by the question of ‘whom do we serve?’

Chuck Wilson
University Archivist
Special Collections & Archives
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RePOSITORY SPOTLIGHT: News from the California Historical Society

The California Historical Society has recently been awarded two grants for 2009-2010. A National Endowment for the Humanities Preservation Assistance Grant for $5,996 will provide each of our collection storage vaults with Climate Notebook™ environmental monitoring equipment and software, as well as custom-made boxes to protect 550 of our most treasured books. The Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) has awarded the California Historical Society and three collaborating institutions a Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives grant of $247,738 to support the California Ephemera Project. [More about this project on p. 19]

Processing of the California Tomorrow Records (MS 3641) was completed in December 2008 by Project Archivist Laurie Skophammer. The papers are now open to the public for use and the finding aid is available through the Online Archive of California. The records of California Tomorrow document the organization’s growth and influence from its initial meeting in 1961 through its dissolution in 1983. Linking the objectives of conservationists, planners, regulators and California residents, California Tomorrow called for comprehensive state planning to address challenges faced by the state in an integrated manner. It issued a series of reports, published the journal, Cry California, and forged the California Tomorrow Plan from town hall meetings throughout the state. Funding for processing of the collection was generously provided by the Clarence E. Heller Charitable Foundation, Michael J. Connell Foundation, and several individuals formerly associated with California Tomorrow. For a contemporary look back at the issues addressed by California Tomorrow by San Francisco Chronicle columnist, John King, check the online version for March 9, 2009, via www.sfgate.com.

Archivist Tanya Hollis has fully implemented Archivists’ Toolkit to complete the encoding of two important legacy finding aids for collections that were processed in recent years. The James Rolph, Jr. Papers, 1904-1934 (MS 1818), opened for research last spring, consists of more than 97 boxes of material from his five consecutive terms as San Francisco mayor from 1912 to 1931, as well as campaign material from his mayoral elections and scrapbooks from his term as governor, plus a small amount of private business and family correspondence. The Rolph finding aid is available through the Online Archive of California.

Serious scholars of baseball history will also take note of the finding aid for the Dick Dobbins Collection on the Pacific Coast League, 1866-1999 (MS 4031, MSP 4031). The collection consists of approx. 64 linear feet of materials pertaining to the Pacific Coast League (PCL), and the teams and individual players that comprise the league. Also included are typescripts for Dobbins’ works on the PCL, Nuggets on the Diamond and The Grand Minor League, as well as audio recordings of interviews Dobbins conducted with players and PCL staff, scrapbooks and newspaper clippings, and a small amount of material related to Major League Baseball.

Finally, we are pleased to report that CHS is back to regular public service in the library following a mid-December flood that resulted from a car hitting the fire hydrant in front of our building. A portion of the book collection was soaked, but thanks to the quick and heroic action on the part of library and archives staff, all wet books were packed and removed within 24 hours and sent for treatment. Fortunately, CHS was well prepared to respond to this emergency, and all of the damaged books can either be conserved or replaced.

Mary Morganti, Director of Library & Archives California Historical Society
“Top of the Web” will be a recurring column in the SCA newsletter that highlights some of the more interesting and innovative sources on the Web related to the world of archives. This will include unique blogs and websites as well as other inventive web-based methods used to display finding aids, digital images, and electronic documents.

In this inaugural column I would like to highlight Derangement and Description, a webcomic about archives, digital preservation, and metadata that was started in November 2008. This blog is the brainchild of Rebecca Goldman (aka Dee Dee), the Digital Archives Technician at the Drexel University Archives, and focuses on the lighter side of the archival profession. Each week, typically on Monday, this blog serves up witty content and entertaining artwork complete with references to the current issues affecting archivists as well as to popular culture. It includes everything from pencil drawings that depict anthropomorphic document boxes engaged in dialogue to comical manipulations of the content found in EAD tags. From a technical standpoint, this site offers many of the Web 2.0 amenities that have become standard on blogs such as support for tagging, commenting, and even an RSS feed. The simple, user-friendly design combined with the creator’s clever and often humorous take on the world of archives makes this a blog that you will want to follow regularly. In fact, just last month Derangement and Description was voted by users as the “Most Whimsical Archives-Related Website” in the 2009 Best Archives on the Web Awards sponsored by ArchivesNext. So, if you have ever wondered how to make EAD entertaining, were curious what an archival box turtle was, or just wanted to see an animated document box then you need not look any further than Derangement and Description.

http://www.derangementanddescription.wordpress.com

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.
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.

Visit our web site to learn more about it.

SCA OPEN SURVEY: WEB 2.0 TOOLS IN THE ARCHIVES

Help us imagine the technological landscape for archives in California! Submit your answers to these questions to:

newsletter@calarchivists.org

- Does your repository use Web 2.0 tools?
- Why- or why not?
- What tools do you use? (examples include blogs, wikis, Facebook, Twitter, Google Docs)
- What works best for your repository and why?
- What would you like to try in the future?

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The Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) has awarded the California Historical Society (CHS) and three collaborating institutions a Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives grant of $247,738 to support the California Ephemera Project. The California Historical Society is administering the grant through the leadership of Mary Morganti, CHS Director of Library & Archives. Wendy Welker is serving as Project Manager, assisted by Tanya Hollis as Project Archivist. Partners on the project include Susan Goldstein and the San Francisco Public Library, Pat Keats and the Society of California Pioneers, and Rebekah Kim with the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society.

The California Ephemera Project will link descriptions of ephemera collections of all four institutions, as well as create collection-level MARC records and Online Archive of California finding aids. There is overlap in topics among the collections of all four institutions, yet many of the items themselves are unique. The wide variety of ephemera at the participating repositories includes advertisements, brochures, flyers, catalogs, menus, billheads, mining certificates, theater programs, bylaws, travel guides, and labels, as well as biographical and general ephemera.

The collaborative grant project is off to a promising start. Through site visits at each institution and evaluating existing collection lists, Ms. Welker and Ms. Hollis have been working with each partner institution to determine the procedures and workflow needed for each collection. Records will be created using Archivists’ Toolkit™. Welker, Hollis, and four student assistants will be undertaking the majority of the work, with partners from each institution contributing 10% of their time.

City Archivist Susan Goldstein of the SFPL’s San Francisco History Center reported that an extensive write-up in the Chronicle in early February generated many calls, and has greatly increased visibility for her often "hidden" department. Pat Keats of the Society of California Pioneers notes: “It’s always great for a small institution such as ourselves (4 part-time employees) to be included in a project with larger institutions. We could never do this on our own, and this project will give our collections a much wider exposure to researchers and the public in general.” Rebekah Kim, Managing Archivist at the GLBT Historical Society, says that, “we are very excited to be part of the California Ephemera Project. We look forward to the greater exposure it will offer for such a valuable but underutilized collection.” The GLBTHS collection includes early Gay Liberation flyers, Anti-Briggs and Anti-Anita Bryant material, as well as napkins and matches from Gay and Lesbian bars.

For more information about the California Ephemera Project or to follow the group’s decision-making process in devising a methodology for improving access to such diverse materials, visit the project’s blog at 36 Pages or Less at http://36pagesorless.wordpress.com.

Mary Morganti, 
Director of Library & Archives 
California Historical Society

Other California repositories to win CLIR Awards in 2008 were the University and Jepson Herbaria, University of California, Berkeley, winning $253,794 for their project “Cataloging Hidden Archives of Western Botany and Beyond”; and the Getty Research Institute, winning $274,889 for “Uncovering Archives and Rare Photographs: Two Models for Creating Accession-level Finding Aids Using Archivists’ Toolkit.” See http://www.slir.org/hiddencollections/awards/index.html for more information on Award Winners and CLIR.
**Imagining Santa Monica through the Image Archives**

Explore images of Santa Monica’s history through the Santa Monica Public Library Image Archives which is now available online through a new database called Imagine Santa Monica. Access the site directly at [http://digital.smpl.org](http://digital.smpl.org), or click on the link to the Imagine Santa Monica search portal from the Library’s home page, [www.smpl.org](http://www.smpl.org).

New photographs have been added to the more than 4000 images in the original Archives which illustrate Santa Monica City, its landscape, piers, bathhouses, historic buildings, ballrooms and more. Images donated by the Pacific Palisades Historical Society are now also a part of the Library’s image collections, creating an extended regional archive of the Santa Monica Bay area.

The searching capabilities of the new database are flexible and user friendly. Select the “Browse” option and choose the Santa Monica Image Archives Collection or Palisades Historical Image Collection from the drop-down menu to casually scroll through the collections. Use the simple search box for a specific keyword or click on “Advanced search” to combine more options. High resolution digital images and photographic reprints are available for purchase from the Library.

*Marion Davies home on Pacific Coast Highway, Santa Monica, Calif., 1935.*
Carolyn Bartlett Farnham collection, Santa Monica Public Library Image Archives.

**For any questions please contact:**

Cynni Murphy
Image Archives Librarian
(310) 458-8630
[cynni.murphy@smgov.net](mailto:cynni.murphy@smgov.net)

Or call the reference desk at (310) 434-2608

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**Cal Poly Pomona Acquires Robert Lawrence Balzer Collection**

In 2008 Cal Poly Pomona Library was honored to begin receiving the personal collections of renowned wine connoisseur, journalist and wine educator, Robert Lawrence Balzer. Balzer is recognized for having had an enormous impact on the California wine industry, and on the acceptance of California wines worldwide. He began championing quality California wines in the 1930s, decades before the rest of the world realized their stature. In 1973 he organized a blind tasting with the New York Food and Wine Society, where California Chardonnays received the top four scores. That contributed momentum toward the famous 1976 “Judgment of Paris” blind tasting where again California wines received top scores over French wines (portrayed in the 2008 film *Bottle Shock*). The acquisition of the Robert Lawrence Balzer Collection builds on an already significant Wine Industry Collection at Cal Poly Pomona Library and further strengthens the library as a research venue for the wine industry.

Visit the Robert Lawrence Balzer Collection website to learn more about Balzer’s fascinating life and view a selection of his artifacts, photographs and artwork at: [www.csupomona.edu/~library/specialcollections/balzer/index.html](http://www.csupomona.edu/~library/specialcollections/balzer/index.html)

*Danette Cook Adamson*
University Library
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

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**New Hires**

**George Thompson** has been appointed to the position of Director of Special Collections and University Archives at California State University, Chico. The Special Collections is a department of the Meriam Library and has been managed by William (Bill) Jones since its inception in 1970s. Bill is moving on to pursue his interests with the LDS church archives. George will take over the management of the collections which include manuscripts, rare books, historic photographs and maps and university archives. He can now be contacted by email at ghthompson@csuchico.edu, or by phone at (530) 898-6603.
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SCA REPORT OF DONATIONS 2008-2009

The SCA Annual Fund Drive of 2008-2009 raised $1,740 through the generosity of the membership. This translates into more robust educational programs, scholarship support to those entering the profession, and a more diverse range of special speakers to inform and enlighten us. The Development Committee recognizes the 22 donors listed below who gave to the Annual Fund.

In like manner, the 19 donors to the Silent and Live Auctions at the Annual General Meeting made for an amazingly eclectic array of auction packages, including rare books in slip cases, museum tickets, posters, wine, and historical recordings. The bidding wars brought an additional $1,004 into the SCA coffers.

We thank the following donors for making this possible:

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- Chuck Wilson, 2 autographed books

**Other Donors:**

- Teena Stern - James V. Mink Scholarship Fund
The Western Roundup 2010 Inter-regional Meeting will be held at the Renaissance Seattle Hotel (http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/seasm-renaissance-seattle-hotel) in beautiful Downtown Seattle from April 28 to May 1, 2010. The registration fees have not yet been set. Room rates will be $155/night.

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 anticipate a wonderful program and some exciting activities taking advantage of the great natural and urban resources of the center of the great Northwest.

The Local Arrangements Committee is headed by John Bolcer of the University of Washington. The Roundup's Program Committee will be issuing a Call for Papers shortly.

Claude B. Zachary
University Archivist & Manuscripts Librarian
Doheny Memorial Library
University of Southern California

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### 2010 Joint AGM to Take Place in Seattle!

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

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**Western Archives Institute:**
Sydney Bailey  
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Calendar

June 14 - June 26, 2009: Western Archives Institute, UC Berkeley.

June 17 - June 20, 2009: Rare Books and Manuscripts Section ALA Preconference; Charlottesville, VA.

June 19, 2009: SCA Workshop: Demystifying and Adopting Web 2.0 Technologies in the Archives; Lane Medical Library, Stanford School of Medicine.

July 3, 2009: Application Deadline: California Rare Book School.

August 1 - 9, 2009: SAA Annual Meeting; Austin, TX.

August 1 - 14, 2009: California Rare Book School; UCLA.

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.

Society of California Archivists
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