Glimpses of Riverside

The Downtown Marriott, host hotel for the 2009 SCA Annual General Meeting, sits in the midst of the “Mile Square”. This was the original town of Riverside. It is characterized by streets with numbers – 14 should about do it – intersected by those bearing the names of trees. Conference attendees will soon find themselves amidst Orange, Lemon, Lime, Almond or Chestnut streets in the vicinity of the hotel.

John W. North, an abolitionist judge, promoted and founded the city in 1871. He also established Northfield, Minnesota. While some trances of North can be found, there is a park and a high school named for him, it was the citrus industry which really helped Riverside bloom and boom.

In today’s urban expansion (that single mile square has grown to 84 square miles) it is difficult to imagine standing along Victoria Avenue in Riverside and seeing nothing but palm trees and orange groves in any direction. The avenue, named for England’s queen, provides evidence of the heavy English influence upon the development of the city and owning your own orange grove was part of the attraction.

By 1882, there were more than half a million citrus trees in California, almost half of which were in Riverside. The development of refrigerated railroad cars and innovative irrigation systems established Riverside as the wealthiest city per capita by 1895.

Gold grew on trees in Riverside. The trees flourished due to a favorable climate, and abundant water from nearby springs and underground aquifers. There is a river, but it flows largely underground and was not a principal source of irrigation for the citrus industry. If you want to dangle your feet in the water in May, you will have to be satisfied with the hotel pool.

Some have described the American Dream as a house of your own. That is all Jukihi Harada wanted—a house he could own in a better neighborhood. There were just two problems: Harada was Japanese and the house he purchased, close to the Washington Restaurant he operated, was not in the right part of town. The result was a decision which had ramifications far beyond a modest house on Lemon Street in Riverside.

Harada knew California’s anti alien laws prevented him, a native of Japan, from owning any property, include a house. His children, however, were born in the United States. Surely they could legally own land. Thus, he recorded the deed for the house in the name of his three native born children, the oldest of which was not yet 10. Ultimately the courts upheld his position and members of his family. The house remained in family ownership and Jukihi’s daughter resided in it for nearly 80 years after the court decision. It is a National Historic Landmark and was given to the city of Riverside by the Harada family in 2004.

Mark Rawitsch, who went on to become Dean of Instruction at Mendocino College, completed the Field Report for his Masters Degree detailing the court case and the history of the Harada case. It is in the Department of Special Collections and Archives at the University of California Riverside.
P R E S I D E N T ’ S M E S S A G E

Over the summer, SCA saw some changes in Committee Chairs. David Farrell (UC Berkeley) and Sal Guerena (UC Santa Barbara) have taken the reins of the Development Committee as Co-Chairs. Joshua Schneider (UC Berkeley) has taken over as Publications Chair, succeeding Susan Jones, who has served as the Publications Committee Chair for the past two years. (Many thanks to you, Susan!) The Co-Chairs of the Education Committee, Sarah Wilson and Clay Stalls, stepped down in late summer, but not before finding successors in Elizabeth Konzak (Hoover Institute, Stanford University) and Randolph Boyd (Chapman University). Sarah and Clay did a wonderful job in producing well-attended workshops in both northern and southern California – kudos to you both! In late summer, Anna Naruta (Chinese Historical Society of America, San Francisco) joined Liza Pozas as Co-Chair of Outreach and Publicity. On behalf of all of SCA, many, many thanks to all of you who have served, and to all of you who have stepped forward to volunteer your time and expertise.

This has been an eventful year for legislation. SCA wrote letters supporting AB 2595, the Protection and Recovery of Public Records Act, sponsored by Assemblyman John Laird (Democrat, 27th District, portions of Monterey, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz counties). AB 2595 enjoyed bi-partisan support and made it all the way to the Governor’s desk, where it was vetoed in the majority of bills that the Governor did not sign because of the delayed State budget. In other years, AB 2595 would most likely have been signed, but it, along with so many other worthy bills, was a victim of bad timing. The SCA Government Affairs Committee, Board, and other interested parties will continue to pursue this issue, but unfortunately for the California archives community, Assemblyman Laird has “termed out” and will no longer be serving in the Assembly. SCA must find a new advocate in that body; please let me know if you have any suggestions.

October was National Archives Month and California Archives Month. Again, due to the good work of Assemblyman Laird, the State Senate and Assembly passed a joint resolution proclaiming October 2008 as “Archives Month” in California. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger also issued a proclamation to that effect. This year, for the first time, SCA was asked by the California State Archives to co-sponsor the California Archives Month Open House, which was held at the State Archives on October 14th. SCA co-sponsored the California Archives Month poster, and had a table at the Open House, along with 13 other repositories.

At the Open House, SCA had the opportunity to present two awards: the Special Recognition Award and a Board Resolution. SCA presented the Special Recognition Award to Assemblyman Laird for his support of archives, preservation of historical records, and access to public records. SCA then presented a Board resolution naming the new Education Endowment Fund Scholarship for travel to SCA workshops in honor of the late Walter P. Gray III, to Walt’s widow, Mary Helmich. Assemblyman Laird spoke to those assembled on the importance of archives, and graciously presented the handsomely framed joint resolution to State Archivist Nancy Lenoil and me. (It will hang in the reading room of the State Archives for all to see.) Mary Helmich also spoke and had some very touching things to say in Walt’s memory. It was a great pleasure to meet both Assemblyman Laird and Ms. Helmich in person. Brand-new O&P co-chair Anna Naruta, Board members Lori Lindberg and Laura O’Hara, brave student volunteers Tiffany Mair and Elizabeth Henry attended, and of course many other SCA members were present representing other repositories. State Archivist Nancy Lenoil and the staff of the State Archives were wonderful hosts, and a great time was had by all. SCA looks forward to working with CSA again next year, to continue to make California Archives month even bigger and better.

The SCA Board continues to grapple with some long-term issues: adapting to new technology, updating the handbook, and husbanding the Society’s resources to best benefit members. To this end, last year President Lucinda Glenn convened the Electronic Environment Task Force, which is chaired by our current Membership Director, Gabriele Carey. SCA recently sent a letter to all members explaining more about this very important task force, and it will be a topic of discussion at our Members Meeting at the AGM.

Committee work continues apace – the Education Committee put on two workshops this fall, O&P participated in the California Libraries Conference, Government Affairs monitors and supports the nation Preserving the American Historical Record bill (PAHR – you’ll be hearing more about that! www.archivists.org/pahr/index.asp), Local Arrangements and Program are in high gear, as is WAI and Nominating.

Which brings me to my last point: holding office in SCA is a most wonderful experience. Please consider running, nominating a colleague, and of course, saying “yes” when the Nominating Committee calls you to stand for office. Being an Officer, Chair, or Committee Member in SCA teaches you things you could never learn on the job – about other institutions, practices, standards, professional approaches, history, geographic locales – and life in general! Serving SCA is a great, rich opportunity for professional growth. (And it’s fun too!)

Jane Rosario
SCA President
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HELP US INVEST IN THE FUTURE OF THE ARCHIVAL PROFESSION BY BEING A MENTOR!

How many times have you thought about being a mentor, only to put it off because you were too busy or the time just wasn’t right? The UCLA Department of Information Studies Mentor Program is looking for archivists, special collections librarians, and curators from around the greater Southern California area to serve as mentors to UCLA Department of Information Studies (DIS) graduate students.

Both prospective mentors and mentees (DIS students) complete a brief survey which includes questions about their professional interests, geographic locale and outside activities. The pairings of mentors and mentees are made on the basis of the survey responses. This is not a formal course or workshop, and participation in the program for both mentees and mentors is completely voluntary.

As a mentor, the time you spend and the activities you engage in are left up to you. Often mentors invite their students to their place of work or take them to professional association meetings or workshops. Mentors stay in contact with their mentees either in person, by phone, or by email. Additionally, the DIS Mentor Program Committee hosts an annual Get Acquainted Reception held at UCLA, (usually in February).

The mentor program has been in existence for a number of years, introducing new professionals to the field. Mentoring is a vital part of the archival profession where you can invest in the future of new professionals by offering your support and advice.

For more information, please contact Julie Graham, DIS Mentor Program Committee member, at jgraham@library.ucla.edu.

SCA JOINS SOCIAL NETWORKS

The Society now has official group pages on Facebook (www.facebook.com) and LinkedIn (www.linkedin.com) two of the most popular sites for networking and social interaction with friends and colleagues on the World Wide Web. If you are a member of Facebook or LinkedIn, we welcome you to join the networks! The Facebook group is designed to take advantage of the social features of Facebook and is intended to be more of a fun, socially-oriented space to encourage participation at events and facilitate meet-ups and gatherings throughout the year. The LinkedIn group is more professionally-focused and aims to capitalize on LinkedIn’s business and professional slant. We will use both platforms to communicate events and announce news of interest to members of SCA. Come join us!
Do you have a story to tell? The community Digital Story Station at the Pioneer Room of the Escondido Public Library, in collaboration with the San Diego Media Arts Center and the Joslyn Senior Center, invites you to collect your thoughts, bring in your pictures, tell your story, and become a part of history in the California of the Past program! This project is funded by a grant from the California State Library. This year’s theme, California of the Past, is an opportunity for you to tell a story that relates to your experiences anywhere in California. Some ideas for recording your personal stories and memories of California - past and present - include: growing up here or being new here; working in California, raising a family here; or witnessing an historic local event.

Participants get to meet with us in person to make a 3 to 5 minute digital video clip that can tell their family story; personal story; a story about their school, community group or church; reminiscences of the neighborhood they grew up in; memories of interesting jobs they were involved in; or tales of special interests and activities. Stories help define who we are and how we fit into the world. Everyone has a story to tell! The Digital Story Station gives you an opportunity to spotlight something you deeply care about by using a variety of media to tell your story. We can include a selection of your photographs, slides, or other media that enhances your story. After being captured on digital media, these stories will be accessible online and will also be available for you to keep on DVD as a keepsake for you and your family. In the end, your story will be part of a growing collection of San Diego and greater California stories that will help us better understand one another by connecting our personal stories to the places we live.

The Pioneer Room, a local history and genealogy archive that is partially supported by the Pioneer Room Friends, is located in the Mathes Center Building at 247 South Kalmia Street, Escondido, CA 92025. For information about the project or if you are interested in scheduling an appointment to come in and share your story, please contact the Pioneer Room at (760) 839-4315 or (760) 839-4612. And if you are looking for some hands-on experience, we are seeking skilled, responsible, trustworthy, reliable, and dedicated volunteers to work on this and other projects. Please contact our volunteer coordinator, Cookie Allen, at (760) 839-4819 for further details.

Helene D. Idels
Pioneer Room
Escondido Public Library
hidels@ci.escondido.ca.us

Did you see the video clip of William F. Buckley interviewing Hugh Hefner on the Emmy Awards show last October? Buckley was remembered as one of television's stars who passed away this year. The clip came from one of about 1,500 Firing Line television programs on videotape at the Hoover Institution Archives. If you missed the clip, or saw it and want to see more of that conversation, you can buy a DVD of that program, and nearly seventy others, through Amazon.com.

Most of the programs on Amazon.com were remastered from obsolete 2-inch open-reel quad videotapes, the original broadcast masters. Each tape was cleaned, stabilized, and transferred to a modern, broadcast-quality digital tape format at a specialized laboratory under the supervision of Janel Quirante, Hoover's visual materials archivist. Grants from the Mericos Foundation and the National Television and Video Preservation Foundation supported some of this work. CreateSpace, an Amazon.com subsidiary, then digitized the tapes and creates DVDs as orders are placed. Janel will work with video preservation labs and CreateSpace to gradually add more programs to Amazon. A slideshow of the video preservation process is available at http://www.hoover.org/hila/collections/19296334.html.

In these DVDs, one sees the provocative, inquisitive, erudite, witty William Buckley duel with his guests. The programs show an icon of twentieth-century American culture, politics, and television in conversation with the likes of Ronald Reagan, Clare Booth Luce, Barry Goldwater, Malcolm Muggeridge, David Susskind, Allen Ginsberg, Dick Gregory, Timothy Leary, and Allen Weinstein as they discuss topics as varied as liberalism, religion, Alger Hiss, and the U.S. presidency. Most of the shows date from 1966 to 1968. A search of Amazon.com for "Firing Line" will get you started, or you can find those shows highlighted in the program browse list at Hoover's Firing Line website: http://www.hoohila.stanford.edu/firingline/index.php. Firing Line was broadcast from 1966 to 1999, first as an hour-long show and later as a half-hour program. In addition to videotapes, the Firing Line collection at the Hoover Institution Archives includes transcripts, still photographs, program preparation materials, and other items.

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Digitization of John Muir’s Correspondence: Expanding Online Access to Muir’s Life and Times

The University of the Pacific Library is partnering with The Bancroft Library and the California Digital Library to bring the correspondence of John Muir to the internet with the help of the California State Library’s Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).

The University of the Pacific Library and The Bancroft Library both hold extensive original correspondence of John Muir (1838-1914), the renowned California naturalist, explorer, writer, and conservationist. As one of the most important historical figures in California history, online access to Muir’s correspondence will provide users with new insight into Muir’s life, as well as topics such as California history, Yosemite National Park, the Sierra Club, and the American conservation movement. Currently, access to the thousands of letters written and received by Muir is limited to the original copies scattered across the United States, or microfilm versions that are difficult to use and located in only a few California libraries.

The digitization project, generously supported by LSTA and begun in Fall 2008, will result in a virtual collection of approximately 6,500 of Muir’s letters (consisting of 12,500 pages) dating from 1856-1914. The project will digitize the microfilm version of Muir’s correspondence, extract the descriptive metadata that accompanies each letter on the microfilm, and transcribe all of the handwritten letters. Image capture, metadata extraction, and transcription will be outsourced to OCLC, which will upload the data into CONTENTdm at the University of the Pacific. The compound objects in CONTENTdm will be transformed using 7train (an open source XSLT tool) to create METS digital objects for inclusion in the online finding aid. The workflow will build on the successful model established in the California Local History Digital Resources Program (LHDRP) by not only providing digital images of the letters but also including full-text transcriptions in the digital objects.

It is hoped that the Muir project will serve as a model of digitizing more content using fewer resources. By scanning from the microfilm, more letters can be digitized at less cost than traditional, full color scanning of originals while still providing high quality online images. The cost of describing the collection is also reduced by re-using extant descriptive metadata on the film, automatically capturing it during the post-scanning process. The result is that a more comprehensive collection of John Muir’s correspondence will be made available to users using few resources than creating a boutique collection of a small number of letters. An approach that would be applauded by our first “green” Californian.

The digital collection of John Muir’s Correspondence will be made available on the California Digital Library’s Online Archive of California and Calisphere web sites, as well as the Digital Collections web site of the University of the Pacific Library where digitized versions of Muir’s journals, photos, and drawings are currently available. The digital collection is expected to be online in Fall of 2009.

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**Hoover Institution’s Political Posters Going Online**

Images of the Hoover Institution’s 33,000 cataloged political posters are becoming available on the Internet at [http://www.hoover.org/hila/collections/19294749.html](http://www.hoover.org/hila/collections/19294749.html). Among the posters available so far are three thousand from Russia and the Soviet Union, nearly two thousand from France, three hundred from China, and a hundred from Cuba. At current rates, all cataloged posters should be available online by spring 2010.

This is Hoover’s first in-house, systematic digitization project, and its poster collection was an easy choice. As one of the largest such collections in the country, it is one of our most heavily used collections. Poster colors and imagery are well suited to Internet display, and the powerful visuals overcome language factors that limit use of Hoover’s archival collections to researchers fluent in a particular language. The impact of posters as visual images is clear to anyone who remembers the intense controversy sparked by the “Sun Mad Raisins” poster on the cover of the Winter 2003 American Archivist. From a practical perspective, the posters represented low-hanging fruit, with item-level cataloging and 35 mm slide photography completed under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education that ended in 1985. As an added benefit, the project would expedite many reproduction orders for the posters, freeing staff resources for other work.

The 35 mm slides are convenient source materials for batch digitization by a squad of student hourlies working for Russell Rader, Hoover’s digitization specialist. To expedite the workflow, images are not cropped to eliminate the black background present in the slide frame.

Project planning began more than a year before production commenced. The biggest hurdle involved copyright, and Hoover was fortunate to be able to consult Stanford’s General Counsel Office on the legal risks of publishing poster images online. Not surprisingly, the legal opinion greatly limited the size of Internet images of posters created since 1923, the year from which published materials may still be protected by copyright. The attorney recommended that the 4-inch images we were calling thumbnails be the largest size provided for pre-1980 posters without a copyright notice (a rough “orphan works” category). The need to check posters for the presence of a copyright notice had a significant negative impact on the imaging workflow.

Based on this legal opinion, our image creation for the Internet follows the guidelines in the box below:

To partially overcome the limitations on the online display size, we will offer standard access-size images in the Hoover Archives reading room. This will greatly improve current researcher access to these posters, which is via 35 mm slides viewed with loupe and a light table.

In addition to addressing copyright issues, we needed to deal with the metadata. The posters had been cataloged in the early 1980s using a tailored schema and a database residing on Hoover’s early VAX computer. Fortunately, the database was moved to Microsoft Access before the VAX machine was permanently unplugged. In anticipation of this project, the data was exported from Access into a MySQL database and posted online in October 2007. The 1980s poster schema remains, working well as a stand-alone database. However, if we were to merge this metadata with metadata describing other collections, or open the database to harvesting, adjustments would be necessary.

One interesting aspect of the poster schema is that there is no clear title field. Perhaps the closest analogous data element is text transcription, which supplies the text written on the poster. Text that is short and smart, as in “Loose Lips Sink Ships,” could be construed as a formal title. However, many other posters contain extensive text akin to the first paragraph or two of a book rather than a title. DACS provides instructions on creating supplied titles, but they do not seem sufficiently robust to generate unique and useful titles for 33,000 posters, many of which do not have a creator name associated with them. Furthermore, we have about 65,000 uncataloged posters to add to the database, resources permitting. One possibility might be to combine (1) any available creator name, be it artist, printer or publisher, (2) the format “poster,” and (3) a colon followed by the first few words of the text transcription.

We look forward to completing this phase of Hoover’s poster digitization project, involving our 33,000 cataloged posters, in early 2010. Cataloging and digitizing the remaining 65,000 posters, a number that increases every year, is still just an apple in our eye.

Lisa Miller
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Poster Characteristics</th>
<th>Size for Internet</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) 1980 to present</td>
<td>Thumbnail file (protected by copyright)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2) 1923 to 1979 with copyright notice</td>
<td>3 inches on long side</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(3) Any posters known to be risky, e.g. Norman Rockwell images</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1923 to 1979 without copyright notice</td>
<td>Thumb/Access file (orphan work)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1922 or earlier</td>
<td>Access file (public domain)</td>
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AGM 2009 Theme Announced: Cultivating Collaboration

This year’s program promises to be a lesson in how we work together and with others to collect, preserve, and disseminate the historical record. The Program Committee is hard at work nailing down details, but here are some preliminaries for planning your trip to Riverside in May.

Back by popular demand is the pre-conference workshop The Basics of Archives with Laren Metzer and Teena Stern; this is the place to get practical advice and learn the basics of collecting, organizing, protecting, and making historical treasures available. In the other pre-conference workshop Cathy Aster, a Digital Collections Project Manager at Stanford University with a project management certificate from UC Berkeley, will cover the principles of project management so that it can be applied to any archivists’ project. Part of the day will be devoted to applying those principles to digital projects.

Kicking off the main program will be plenary speaker, retired Superior Court Judge Vincent Miceli for whom the Riverside County Law Library is named. Judge Miceli was a strong force in the restoration effort for the 1893 County Courthouse which is featured in Courthouses of California and has the Riverside building on the cover. He is also working on the restoration of Riverside’s first cemetery, Evergreen Cemetery.

The Friday luncheon speaker will be Dr. Uwe Bergmann, a physicist at the Stanford Synchrotron Radiation Lightsource. Dr. Bergmann leads a team of scientists using x-ray fluorescence imaging to reveal text on the Archimedes Palimpsest, a 10th century parchment document that is the unique source for two of the Greek’s treatises. The story of the Palimpsest involves ancient texts, repository loss, forgery, and groundbreaking conservation and study techniques. The Saturday luncheon will be bring us outside to hear our own Dr. Larry Burgess.

Sessions will range from the nitty gritty of a collection survey at the Bancroft to the collaborations and arrangements made with donors and others to bring in and develop collections with statewide, national and international significance. We’ll hear about technological issues including web archiving, moving image collections, and collection management software. On the user side we’ll learn about working with the National History Day researcher, spreading the word with the LA as Subject Archives Bazaar, and engaging with artists, writers, and other non-traditional users. On the allied professions side, a panel of cultural heritage service providers will share how their non-traditional collaborations have heightened interest in Riverside’s heritage, we’ll discuss the intersection of libraries, archives, and museums with colleagues who are blurring those distinctions, and we’ll hear from the Connecting to Collections folks who are creating a statewide preservation plan drawing upon the expertise of the archives, museum, library, and historical communities.

We will also have a free-form session that should mix things up a bit, introduce you to new ideas and people, and give you much to think about.

Laura O’Hara
Chair, Program Committee 2009
lohara@stanford.edu
2008 SCA Award Winners Announced at Monterey Meeting

Levi Strauss & Co. Historian, Lynn Downey, who serves as the company’s archivist, was on hand at the SCA Annual General Meeting Awards Luncheon to receive the organization’s Archives Appreciation Award. The award is presented to an institution, organization or agency which has provided support for archival collections. The Levi Strauss archive was founded in 1988 and contains 400 linear feet of documents, over 5000 garments, 4,500 photos and 750 linear feet of marketing materials in addition to posters and artifacts.

In 2003 exhibit space was provided for the display of archival materials in the lobby of the company’s San Francisco world headquarters. In August of 2007, “The Vault”, a new permanent exhibition area for the archives was opened to the public.

Rebecca Crowther, the recipient of this year’s James V. Mink Scholarship joined Ms. Downey at the front table. Named in honor of Jim Mink, the first president of the Society of California Archivists, the scholarship provides funding for students and recent graduates of archival education programs to attend the Annual General Meeting and a workshop held in conjunction with the meeting.

Ms. Crowther is a May 2008 graduate of California State University Sacramento with a Special Major which combines Public History and Art History work. Her specific work is on The History of Photography with an Archival/Curatorial Emphasis. Her interest in photography was sparked by her grandfather’s habit of taking family pictures. In the application essay, Rebecca revealed “Simply put, by creating these images he has allowed our unique story to live on.”

Future plans for the scholarship winner include enrollment in the San Jose State Library Science program while continuing her work at the Sacramento Archives and Museum Collection Center. She began at SAMCC as a volunteer in March 2007 and is now on staff as a half time assistant archivist.

SCA President Lucinda Glenn became the 15th member of the society to receive a Sustained Service Award. The award, instituted at the 20th Anniversary meeting in 1991 recognizes members who have contributed to SCA over the course of a 12 year period. Lucinda’s award cited her participation on the Program Committee in 1993 and 2004; Site Selection Committee in 1993-1995 and again in 2001. She served on several Program Committees, and as SCA Secretary prior to her tenure as Vice President and President. She is the only seated President to receive the award.

Chuck Wilson
Chair, SCA Awards Committee
chuckw@ucr.edu

California Historical Records Advisory Board
Archival Award of Excellence

The California Historical Records Advisory Board is accepting nominations for the Archival Award of Excellence to honor individuals within California who have made an outstanding contribution to the archives profession and accomplished exceptional work in the archives and records management field. These contributions include 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. Nominees must have accomplished the work within the state of California during the five-year period preceding the year in which the award is presented.

The Archival Award of Excellence (formerly the Archivist Award of Excellence) was established in 1989 by the California Heritage Preservation Commission, an advisory body to the California State Archives, which identified a need to recognize outstanding work done within the state. The Archival Award of Excellence is co-sponsored and presented by the Society of California Archivists, Inc.

The application deadline is December 31, 2008. Applicants must have worked with materials that are primarily related to California; must have performed work that is clearly identified as archival, record, or manuscript related; and must have completed it within the past five years.

Application forms are available from the California State Archives, 1020 ‘0’ Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 or phone (916) 653-7715. For questions, contact Nancy Lenoil at the California State Archives or by e-mail at nancy.lenoil@sos.ca.gov.
CALIFORNIANS CONNECTING TO COLLECTIONS:
PRESEVING THE HERITAGE OF CALIFORNIA PROJECT

California is rich with heritage institutions and historic sites and buildings containing hundreds of millions of cultural artifacts and documents. California is also a disaster prone state with potential problems including: earthquakes, mudslides, tsunamis, mold and insects, floods and fires. The state’s museums, libraries, archives, historic sites, and historical societies, and especially those with small collections and even smaller staffs, are at risk because they are isolated by geographic distances, because staff lack appropriate preservation information, because funds are extremely limited, and because there’s no readily available source of preservation assistance.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services has funded a California collaborative to conduct a one-year project to develop a statewide preservation plan for heritage institutions, titled Californians Connecting to Collections: Preserving the Heritage of California. The goals of the Californians Connecting to Collections Project are to create a shared vision for preservation among heritage institutions in California and develop a statewide implementation plan to achieve the recommendations spelled out in the Heritage Health Index. These recommendations include providing a safe conditions for collections, developing emergency plans, assigning assign responsibility for collections care, and marshalling public and private support for and raise public awareness about collections care.

The Project has five partners: California Association of Museums, California Preservation Program, California State Library, California State Parks, and Historic Monterey. These partners were selected to capture the multiple perspectives of several statewide and regional agencies and to inform the statewide preservation planning process. The Project Working Group members are: Kim Bui-Burton, Historic Monterey; Jim DeMersman, Dunsmuir Hellman Historic Estate; Celeste DeWald, California Association of Museums; Wendy Franklin, California State Parks; Susan Hanks, California State Library, Barclay Ogden, California Preservation Program; and Julie Page, California Preservation Program.

To achieve its goals, the Project has four objectives. First: Host two regional meetings for representatives of regional and statewide organizations of heritage professionals to discuss preservation needs and elements of an implementation plan to address the Heritage Health Index recommendations (October 2008). Second: Draft a plan for a statewide preservation program to articulate a shared vision for a program to assist California heritage organizations implement actions to achieve the four recommendations of the Heritage Health Index, and a development plan, including organizational infrastructure and funding, to provide the education, training and assistance needed by heritage institutions to achieve these goals (October-November 2008). Third: Conduct a series of feedback sessions at annual meetings of California heritage professionals on the draft plan (November 2008-February 2009). Fourth: Assess the attractiveness of the plan for funding from potential funders, particularly California funding organizations and key elected officials and state policymakers whose support could be integral to plan implementation (December 2008-February 2009).

Two meetings in early October 2008 convened numerous statewide and regional organizations to begin developing this vision. The first was held at the Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens in San Marino on October 2, 2008. The second was held at the San Jose Museum of Art on October 7, 2008. More than two dozen heritage organizations and key partners in preservation participated in these two meetings, the Society of California Archivists among them. (A complete list of the Participants and Invited Organizations is available via the California Connecting to Collections Project website). The participants spent the day answering four questions: Why are California collections important? How would you prioritize the Heritage Health Index recommendations for California? What should a statewide preservation plan look like? How do we make these activities happen?

The primary result of the two regional meetings is a draft vision and plan for a statewide preservation information service. The proposed statewide preservation information service offers opportunities to dramatically improve communication across the different types of geographically dispersed cultural heritage institutions in the state. It will be built on preservation services already being delivered to some segments of the community. It will also utilize the invaluable resources of technical expertise in major California heritage institutions and organizational expertise in California organizations to make development of a high impact, cost-effective statewide heritage preservation information service a realistic goal.

A draft plan in its entirety, as a pdf, is available via the California Connecting to Collections Project website at www.calmuseums.org/c2c.html.

The members of the Project Work Group invite all California heritage organizations to review this draft document and provide feedback on the plan. SCA hopes all its members will accept this invitation. The goals of this Project are to create a shared vision to support preservation efforts among heritage institutions in California and collaboratively develop a plan to address these challenges. The review and thorough vetting of this draft document with California’s heritage organizations is an important step in achieving these goals.

All comments should be emailed to c2c@calmuseums.org for the Project Work Group’s review and consideration.

Julie Graham
Board Member-at-Large
jgraham@library.ucla.edu
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SJSU LIBRARY RECEIVES NHPRC BASIC PROCESSING GRANT

The San José State University Special Collections & Archives (SJSU), Martin Luther King Jr. Library has been awarded a Basic Processing grant of $151,704 from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) to make accessible all the permanent archival collections. This grant has made it possible for SJSU to hire Erin Louthen as the project archivist.

Erin graduated from the San Jose State University School of Library and Information Science program in 2007, with an emphasis in archival management. Prior to graduation, Erin worked in the department as a graduate student and played a key role in the initial appraisal of the university archives. Erin has implemented a new records management schema for these records and she is in the process of surveying and cataloging the president office records, which date from 1862 to the present.

This project is based on MPLP and the inventories will be available on the OAC. We expect to have the first set of records available in late January. Our goal is to survey, catalog and encode approximately 80 manuscript and university record collections. This will advance our mission to provide significant research collections and discovery tools for our students, faculty, and the larger community.

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NEW 2009 DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS IN ARCHIVAL SCIENCE

Doctoral Fellowships in Archival Studies are currently available through a new eight-campus initiative for individuals who are interested in pursuing careers as educators and scholars and who would be entering doctoral programs in Fall 2009. Applicants must apply for both the Fellowship and admission to one or more of the eight participating doctoral programs: University of California, Los Angeles; University of Michigan; University of Maryland; University of Texas, Austin; Simmons College; University of Wisconsin, Madison; University of Pittsburgh; and University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Each Fellowship will provide full tuition and annual stipends of $20,000 to Fellows for the first two years of their doctoral study at partnering academic programs. Those academic programs will provide full tuition and stipends to their Fellows for two additional years of study.

To underscore the Fellowship initiatives’ emphasis on strengthening archival education and scholarship, all Doctoral Fellows will attend, expenses-paid, annual Archival Education and Research Institutes (AERI). These weeklong summer institutes will be held each year for doctoral students and faculty in Archival Science from academic institutions nationally and around the world and will address a broad range of research methodologies, pedagogical techniques, and curriculum development. The first institute will be held at UCLA during the week of July 6th, 2009. A limited number of additional scholarships to attend the institutes will be available each year for doctoral students who are enrolled in any U.S. Program. Further information about the AERI is available at aeri.gseis.ucla.edu.

The Fellowship application deadline is January 9, 2009. Applicants must be a U.S. citizen or a permanent resident in the U.S. Persons of minority racial and ethnic backgrounds are particularly encouraged to apply. Further details on the Fellowship and how to apply may be found at aeri.gseis.ucla.edu/fellowships.htm. Information on each participating university’s specializations in Archival Science as well as contact information may be found at aeri.gseis.ucla.edu/institutions.htm. For questions about the Fellowship application process, please contact Joshua Sternfeld at joshuas@ucla.edu.

This initiative is directed by the UCLA Center for Information as Evidence (www.gseis.ucla.edu/cie) and is made possible in part by support from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (www.imls.gov).

Joshua Sternfeld
Associate Director and Post-Doctoral Scholar
Center for Information as Evidence
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The Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration (CCBER) at the University of California, Santa Barbara is pleased to announce it has completed a “Museums for America” grant project, sponsored by the Institute for Museum and Library Services. The grant allowed CCBER to hire an archivist in 2007 to catalog its historical biological manuscript collections, located in its C.H. Muller Library. Covering such areas as plant anatomy, oak systematics, and plant ecology, the collections represent the life’s work of some of UCSB’s esteemed faculty and researchers in the biological sciences, such as plant anatomists Katherine Esau and Vernon Cheadle, and taxonomist and plant ecologist Cornelius Muller. The collections, approximately 100 linear feet, contain biographical materials, correspondence, photographs, research notes, publications, and artifacts. Finding aids for all the collections have been uploaded to the Online Archive of California and the collections are catalogued in the library’s online catalog.

The Cheadle Center has also been awarded a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant from the California State Library for the 2008-2009 period. The grant will be used to digitize and publish 400 historical images depicting the life and achievements of plant anatomist Katherine Esau and will form the foundation for the “Katherine Esau Digital Archive of Plant Anatomy.” Once digitized and cataloged, these images, taken from her manuscript collections at CCBER and UCSB’s Davidson Library, will be available for research use through the California Digital Library’s website “Calisphere,” designed for K-12 teachers and students. About half the images will depict anatomical views of plant cells from many common vegetables, flowers, and trees, useful for the teaching of plant structure. The rest will illustrate Esau’s fieldwork, research, experience at several UC campuses, and scenic views of California and the West from the 1920s on.

To learn more about CCBER’s collections and its library, please visit our website: ccber.lifesci.ucsb.edu.

Laurie Hannah
Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration
University of California, Santa Barbara
hannah@lifesci.ucsb.edu
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Dedication of the Dennis G. Casebier Library

The Mojave Desert Heritage and Cultural Association (MDHCA) formally dedicated its recently completed research library that will house the collections of the Mojave Desert Archives. The dedication ceremony, in which the building was named after founder and desert historian Dennis Casebier, was held Saturday, October 11, 2008 in the old Santa Fe Railway town of Goffs, California, during the 29th Annual Mojave Road Rendezvous. The dedication included the unveiling of a bronze plaque, a ribbon-cutting ceremony, and tours of the new building. Mr. Casebier, San Bernardino County Supervisor Brad Mittelfelt and Mojave National Preserve Superintendent Dennis Schramm addressed the audience during the ceremony.

A $500,000 grant from the California Cultural and Historical Endowment (CCHE) made possible the construction of the research library that is a reincarnation of the historic Goffs Depot (1902-1956) built by the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railway. The library is built on the grounds of the 75-acre Goffs Cultural Center, which also boasts the restored Goffs Schoolhouse, a National Register property. The new building is a state-of-the-art, climate-controlled repository designed to process, protect, and make available to the research community a unique, extensive and ever-increasing volume of gathered materials pertaining to Mojave Desert history.

The Mojave Desert Archives is the largest single collection of archival materials covering the American history of the Mojave Desert—a history rich in the stories of western migration and pioneering spirit. This unique collection, formed by desert historian Dennis G. Casebier over the last fifty years, consists of more than 100,000 historical photographs, 6,000 volumes of published works, tens of thousands of pages of news clip files, 5,000 maps of the region dating from earliest times, 2,000 loose subject files pertaining to specific individuals and cultural sites, more than 1,000 oral histories, an extensive collection of old area newspapers, periodicals and pamphlets, and materials culled from federal records in the National Archives.

Goffs is a former railroad junction and Route 66 highway stop that has become a repository of historical buildings, artifacts, and lore relating to the Eastern Mojave. The Goffs Depot formerly stood at the junction of the short line Nevada Southern Railroad with the Santa Fe, the main east-west line through the Southern California desert. For about 30 years beginning in 1893, this junction connected isolated mining communities, homesteaders, and cattle ranchers to the outside world.

Chris S. Ervin
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SFMOMA Finding Aids Now Available Online

SFMOMA’s Research Library and Archives is pleased to announce the online launch of fifteen finding aids, including our Office of the Director Records (1935-1972), Curatorial Records (1959-78), Education Department Records (1957-66), and Photograph Collections (1935-75).

The recent completion of our 2-year Getty Foundation Grant to establish the Archives and process core collections coincided nicely with the launch of SFMOMA’s new website (www.sfmoma.org) where we have made our finding aids electronically available.

Please check in regularly on the Archives page (www.sfmoma.org/pages/library_finding_aids) as we’ll be putting more finding aids online in the coming months!

SFMOMA Staffing Update

In November, Peggy Tran-Le joined SFMOMA’s Research Library and Archives department as Archivist. Before coming to SFMOMA, Peggy was the Research Archivist at Pixar Animation Studio. She received a B.A. in Art History and US History from the UC Santa Cruz, an M.A. in Art History from the University of Chicago and an M.L.I.S. from San Jose State University. “I am excited to return to my roots in art history,” says Peggy. “I hope to be of service to SFMOMA’s research community.”
The Western Archives Institute (WAI) marked its 22nd successful program in San Diego, CA this past summer, ending a three year visit to the southern region of the state. A total of 26 students traveled from all over California, as well as Colorado, Oregon, Idaho, Missouri, New Mexico, Iowa, Florida, Utah, to participate in the program. The participants represented a variety of repositories and organizations such as the Utah State Historical Society, the Utah State Archives, Capital Group Companies, the Naval Postgraduate School, the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, public libraries, and a number of university and secondary education archives. This year's scholarship winners were Leslie Seigal of the Florida Atlantic University Library and John Elliott of Santa Ana Public Library.

WAI is the only program of its kind offered annually in the Western United States. The Institute is designed to offer a balance of basic archives theory and practice to individuals whose jobs require an understanding of basic archival skills but who have little or no archival education or training. This year’s curriculum included records management, appraisal, arrangement and description, legal and ethical considerations, reference and access, outreach and public relations, electronic records, preservation, care of photographs, grant funding, starting and managing an archives, and administering personal and family collections.

The principal faculty member for this year’s institute was Tim Ericson, Senior Lecturer Emeritus at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's School of Information Studies. Prior to his Emeritus status, he was the Director of Archival Studies. Ericson is active in a number of archival organizations including service as the President of the Society of American Archivists in 2003-2004. Mr. Ericson served as the Principal Faculty member for WAI in 2002 and a special Tribal Institute held in 2003. Additionally, this year’s adjunct faculty Peter Blodgett, James A. Eason, Sara S. Hodson, Adam Jansen Lorna Kirwan, Pat Johnson, Paul Wormser, and Nancy Zimmelman Lenoil enhanced the program with insight into various subjects in our shared field.

This year's WAI participants also had the opportunity to meet with members of the California Historic Records Advisory Board at a special dinner during the Institute. Site visits, built into the two-week instruction, featured behind the scenes looks at the day-to-day operations of a sampling of archival repositories. Katrina Pescador, archivist at the San Diego Aerospace Museum, offered a rare look into the workings of a small museum Archives. Kevin Sheehan, former WAI graduate and archivist at the San Diego Maritime Museum, hosted a visit to the MacMullen Library and Research Archives, located aboard the Berkeley, an 1898 steam ferryboat. Ellen Jarosz, Special Collections and University Archives Librarian at SDSU hosted the group in the SDSU Library's Special Collections department. Participants also visited Jane Kenealy, Archivist, and the San Diego Historical Society in San Diego's Balboa Park.

Many other Society of California Archivists members contributed to the success of this year’s program. Julie Graham served as Onsite Coordinator during the two week program and (as always) kept things running smoothly. The local arrangements team, Ellen Jarosz, Paula Brown Peeling, and Diane Maher did an excellent job of planning and preparing for our final program at San Diego State University. Sydney Bailey, WAI Administrator, and Ellen Jarosz, Assistant Administrator, worked on the program year round, seeing to all the details that make the institute such a success.

The WAI Management Team is already planning for the 2009 Western Archives Institute, which will be held at UC-Berkeley.
THE ARCHIVES WAR

The Society of American Archivists' annual meeting will be held August 11-16, 2009, in Austin, Texas, and the SAA Host Committee hopes to see you there!

Here in Austin, we have been experiencing what Seattle and Portland experienced in the early 1990s; what NYC has been experiencing since the early 20th century, exceptional growth. Austin has grown from 250,000 folks in 1970 to an estimated 750,000 in the city limits today.

Whether or not Austin can continue to grow at its current rate of 30% every ten years while maintaining a pleasant and unique quality of life is a debate that has been raging (legitimate or not) since the building boom of the 1890s. Every generation of newcomer has put down roots, assimilated, sung the praises of Austin and then turned right around and bemoaned the next generation of newcomers. Ironically there was a time where the continued existence of Austin was in doubt:

“Poor Austin has sadly changed since you saw it, as indeed, has all the Western part of the County – We have now but a small population, – no business, –& are living under great privations – We have however, held on to the ‘Archives,’ & will battle for them to the death…” - James Webb to M.B. Lamar, May 4, 1843, in Lamar Papers, IV, Part 1, p. 20.

At the time Webb’s letter was written, the Country, i.e. the Republic of Texas was experiencing it’s own kind of Great Schism. Government officials and offices had been moved to Washington-on-the-Brazos where President Sam Houston conducted the affairs Texas. Meanwhile, Austin still contained the Archives of the Republic.

As long as the Archives remained, the legitimacy of Austin as the Capitol of Texas could not be challenged. The circumstances that led to this brief governmental schism is known as the Archive War of Texas.

Austin was founded in 1839 near the former settlement of Waterloo near the Colorado River. It was favored by then-President of the Republic, Mirabeau B. Lamar to be the Capitol of Texas. And so it was until 1841 when Sam Houston was elected President.

Houston had never been a fan of Austin, calling it “the most unfortunate site upon earth for the Seat of Government,” a site that he would “not risk his scalp, up in that damned hole, called Austin.”

Houston had his legitimate concerns however. Austin was still on the outer edges of the western frontier at that time and Indian raids were still a concern. In March and later September of 1842, Mexican forces invaded, occupied and were soon repelled from San Antonio. In both instances, Houston used the invasions as reason to remove the Archives and the Government from Austin. He tried both times to do it through Acts of Congress, both times failing. Finally, as in modern times, Houston simply ignored Congress and sent twenty men and three wagons to retrieve the Archives from Austin and bring them to Washington-on-the-Brazos, where government business was being conducted.

On December 30, 1842, Houston’s men snuck into town disguised as a military patrol and began to load, into 3 wagons, the Archives of Texas. Overloaded with what Houston himself had advised would take 10-15 wagons to carry, the convoy slowly began to make their way out of Austin.

It was then that Mrs. Angelina Eberly, who ran a boarding house near Pecan (6th Street) and Congress, saw the Archives thieves and alerted the citizenry. It was not difficult. Austinites had grown vigilant over the past year, as President Houston had twice attempted to remove the Archives. They were ready and a group was quickly mobilized to pursue Houston’s men. Mrs. Eberly retreated back to Pecan and Congress where a small cannon left over from the Indian Wars of the Lamar administration remained loaded and ready to fire.

A couple of blocks down at the General Land Office (GLO) at Hickory (9th St.) and Congress where the convoy was slowly getting away, Houston’s men heard the cannon fire and saw grape shot* on the side of the GLO building. No one was injured but the convoy quickened the pace while the gunfire rallied the town.

The Austin posse eventually caught up with the wagons and, without resorting to violence, convinced Houston’s men to return the Archives to Austin. But this time, they’d be deposited with Mrs. Eberly. No blood was spilt in the brief Archive War and the would-be thieves spent a peaceful New Year’s Eve at Mrs. Angelina Eberly’s boarding house enjoying a hot meal and a warm bed, courtesy of the hospitality of Austin.


Daniel Alonzo
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1 Sam Houston to Anna Raguet, December 10, 1839, in Amelia Williams and Eugene C. Barker (eds.), Writings of Sam Houston (8 vols.; Austin, 1939-1943), II, 322.
2 Texas Centinel (Austin), August 5, 1841.
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- 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
SCA NEWSLETTER

Winter 2009


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SCA Invites Your Gifts

Now that the season of giving is upon us, the Development Committee would like to remind our members that the annual fundraising program has been revived. A solicitation letter was mailed in October, and a number of generous donations have been received. Members may designate their gifts for the AGM (to fund our speakers), and/or for scholarships for students and members to attend AGM and SCA professional development programs. For more information contact the Development Committee co-chairs: David Farrell (dfarrell@library.berkeley.edu; 510-643-9498) or Sal Guerena (guerena@library.ucsb.edu; 805-893-8563).

All gifts are fully tax-deductible, so think generously!

David Farrell & Sal Guerena
SCA Development Chairs, 2009

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Calendar

January 1, 2009: Applications available for Western Archives Institute.

February 15, 2009: Application deadline for James V. Mink Scholarship.

March 13, 2009: Application deadline for Western Archives Institute.

May 7 - 9, 2009: SCA Annual General Meeting, Riverside.

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

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

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

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