The California Historical Society is pleased to announce that we are working in partnership with the California History-Social Science Project (CHSSP) at UC Davis to establish and implement Teaching California: an innovative, free, online resource of instructional materials to support the State’s new History-Social Science Framework. Funding for this exciting initiative was spearheaded by Assembly member Phil Ting (D-San Francisco) with the objective to make California’s rich archival resources readily accessible to all K-12 students, to foster a better understanding of California’s history, improve student literacy, and promote civic learning and engagement.

Teaching California helps teachers and districts implement California’s new History-Social Science Framework.
adopted by the State Board of Education in July 2016) by offering a free and classroom-ready collection of Framework-aligned resources. The CHSSP served as the primary writers of the new Framework, which outlines an instructional approach that promotes student-centered inquiry and encourages students to develop clear and persuasive arguments based on their own interpretations of the past, using relevant evidence. The Framework also details how teachers can develop their students’ proficiency in English as they teach students history and social science, integrating both Common Core and English Language Development Standards.

CHSSP researchers are hard at work assembling grade-specific inquiry sets that will form the basis of the online curriculum, and are working closely with CHS’s Library and Collections staff. Crucial to our work is ensuring that the curriculum connects students to a variety of rich and rarely-seen items from CHS’s own collections, as well as those from other California libraries and archives. By offering local and state examples of national and worldwide histories, these primary sources embody an interpretation of history that places California at the center of the study of the past, highlighting the rich, varied, and impactful contributions of Californians. And as a cultural heritage institution with a growing digital library, this process also supports the increased digitization of CHS’s collections, enabling students and the wider public to access and engage with primary source materials for years to come.

The first year of Teaching California focuses on the History-Social Science curriculum for elementary school children. Introducing primary sources to this age group requires carefully selecting images that capture a child’s attention, while also being appropriate for their level of literacy and comprehension. Kindergarteners, for example, generally see the world starting with themselves and their place in it. As they progress through higher grade-levels, a student’s outlook expands to develop a broader understanding of the diversity of the people, places, and environments that make up the state of California. By integrating select primary sources into classroom-ready inquiry sets, teachers will be able to engage their students with stories that reflect their own unique place within California’s history.

The photographs below are samples of the selections that CHSSP and CHS are examining for inclusion in Teaching California. By answering questions such as, “Who are in these photographs?”, “What are they doing?”, “How is that different from today?” students are learning the skills to work with and identify primary sources from the very start of their K-12 education.

With a summer 2019 beta launch on the horizon, we will be documenting our process on the CHS blog, so please subscribe if you are interested!

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Chinese public school children, ca. 1890, San Francisco Subjects Photograph Collection, California Historical Society, CHS2011.749

Garlock School House, Kern County, California Counties Photography Collection, California Historical Society, PC-CO_00008
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PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

As we enter summer it’s hard to believe many of us were gathered in the snow dusted mountains surrounding Tenaya Lodge just a few short months ago. The AGM at the beautiful Tenaya Lodge was arguably one of the most memorable in years, featuring stories with the Kitchen Sisters, frazzle ice and power outages! Despite the remoteness of the location we were thrilled to host over 250 registrants with packed sessions and sold out workshops.

A special thank you to our amazing Local Arrangements committee headed by Tanya Hollis and Alex Post for making arrangements from afar and rolling with the many punches thrown at them over the course of planning. And of course, thank you to the membership for submitting a strong pool of session proposals and to the Program Committee members who had their work cut out for them in needing to winnow submissions by almost half!

The meeting was full of educational sessions and intense dialogues. The Taskforce on Professional Ethics and Inclusion hosted a facilitated discussion of the draft Code of Conduct which resulted in great feedback; outgoing President David Uhlich announced a new fiscal sponsorship relationship with the Los Angeles Archivists Collective; and a new award was announced, named after Lynn A. Bonfield, a founding member of SCA, the award will support professional development for mid-career professionals.

This is the time of year that we turn over SCA leadership, Immediate Past President, Mattie Taormina, Treasurer, Kate Tasker and Member-At-Large, Chris Marino all completed their terms of service in May. It has been a privilege to work with all three this past year and to see the projects they initiated in their tenures come to fruition, from the drafting of a Code of Conduct to the hiring of a bookkeeper. Welcome to new Board Members, Vice President/ President Elect, Eric Milenkiewicz, Treasurer, Liz Phillips and Member-At-Large, Dee Dee Kramer to the Board. Thanks to all who said “yes” when asked to run for office and I encourage all members to do the same.

The Board has a number of items on its docket in the coming year much of which will focus on the refinement of new policies and workflows. A key focus will be the continued fine-tuning of the Code of Conduct to incorporate feedback from the membership. The last few years have brought about a significant amount of change to SCA, from a more robust website and new logo to reimagined committees (Communications & Outreach) and new processes for better managing the work of the society. I anticipate the work of the coming year to focus on finessing many of these new workflows and procedures. Maybe not the most exciting charge, but certainly integral work that will allow the society to better serve its continually growing membership in coming years. I look forward to sharing our progress with you at the 2019 AGM in Long Beach!

Teresa Mora
SCA President
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 is published quarterly in January, April, July, and October. All submissions, advertisements for e newsletter should be directed to the Editors of the Newsletter:

Newsletter Editors
Email(s): newsletter@calarchivists.org

Copy Deadlines: September 1, December 1, March 1, & June 1

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

Newsletter editors and layout designers: Steve Kutay, Nicole Shibata and Patricia Delara.

www.calarchivists.org ©2016
COLLECTIONS SPOTLIGHT

UCSF INDUSTRY DOCUMENTS LIBRARY ADDS MONSANTO AND AGRICHEMICAL INDUSTRY COLLECTIONS

The UCSF Industry Documents Library is pleased to announce the addition of two new collections to our Chemical Industry Documents Archive: The "Roundup Litigation Collection" and the "USRTK Agrichemical Collection". These document sets were acquired in an effort to shine a light on the scientific, legislative, regulatory and public relations activities of the U.S. agrichemical industry. Topics include pesticides, GMOs, glyphosate, front groups, and academic partnerships with industry public relations staff.

The Roundup Litigation Documents: Known as ‘The Monsanto Papers,’ this collection contains a set of significant internal company documents obtained during the Roundup Products Liability Litigation (Case No. 3:16-md-02741-VC). Manufactured by the agrichemical giant Monsanto, Roundup contains the chemical herbicide glyphosate and is widely used by farmers, agricultural workers and the public throughout the United States. Studies have shown that exposure to glyphosate in Roundup can cause cancer and other serious health problems yet Monsanto has repeatedly denied these claims and worked to influence regulations that would address these harms.

The USRTK Agrichemical Collection: This collection was donated by U.S. Right to Know (https://usrtk.org/), a nonprofit consumer and public health watchdog group working for transparency and accountability in our nation’s food system. The materials are a mix of unsealed documents obtained during the Roundup/glyphosate cancer cases (the Monsanto Papers), communications to and from the EPA, FDA and US Department of Agriculture regarding glyphosate and herbicides, and emails between key academics and industry PR staff from Monsanto, Dow, Syngenta, Ketchum, Bayer and the Council for Biotechnology Information. These documents have been used as the source for a number of publications including:

- Food Industry Enlisted Academics in G.M.O. Lobbying War - Eric Lipton, New York Times
- These Emails Show Monsanto Leaning on Professors to Fight the GMO PR War - Tom Philpott, Mother Jones
- La Discrète Influence de Monsanto - Stéphane Foucart, Le Monde

Originally developed with grants from the Marisla Foundation and Rachel’s Network, we will continue to build the UCSF Chemical Industry Documents Archive so that researchers and the general public will have access to internal documents that reveal the inner workings of these large chemical companies and their activities that directly affect public health.

Rachel Taketa
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On March 8, 2018 nearly 75 students, instructors, librarians, historians, archivists, and Sonoma County citizens gathered at the University Library of the Jean and Charles Schulz Information Center at Sonoma State University. They were there to honor former Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey and to celebrate the opening of her Congressional papers to students, scholars, and the public.

The event, called “First Wave,” featured a lively panel discussion on the history of women in politics in the North Bay region. Library Dean Karen G. Schneider opened the proceedings and Rep. Woolsey was then joined on the dais by three other distinguished Sonoma County women: Teresa Barrett, member of the Petaluma City Council; Debora Fudge, former Mayor of Windsor and current Councilmember; and legendary Santa Rosa Press Democrat journalist and local historian Gaye LeBaron, who acted as moderator. Attendees could also take in a slide show of photographs from Rep. Woolsey’s career and a display of materials from her Congressional archive.

Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey represented California’s 6th Congressional District from 1993 to 2013. During her tenure in Congress she influenced critical national issues and championed causes of deep importance to her constituents in Marin and Sonoma counties. Ms. Woolsey also served on the Petaluma City Council before her election to the House. She donated her Congressional papers to the Special Collections Department at Sonoma State University in 2014, where they are housed in the Lynn Woolsey Room of the University Library.

At the close of the event the Library presented Rep. Woolsey a copy of the finding aid and inventory of her collection, at which she quipped, “It’s better than a plaque!”

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From left to right: Gaye LeBaron, Debora Fudge, Teresa Berrett, and Rep. Lynn Woolsey
SHIRLEY KENNEDY PAPERS DONATED TO UCSB LIBRARY’S SPECIAL RESEARCH COLLECTIONS

In a recent accord reached between the UC Santa Barbara Library with the family of the late Dr. Shirley Graves Kennedy, the papers of this African American community leader and UCSB campus leader will now be housed in the Library’s Special Research Collections.

Dr. Kennedy was an integral member of UCSB and the surrounding Santa Barbara community for 34 years. She co-founded the campus’ Black Studies Department, served as Acting Director for the Center for Black Studies from 1982 to 1983, and was a longtime lecturer in the Black Studies Department. She also served as the Community Affairs Coordinator for the Center for Black Studies for over ten years.

Dr. Kennedy made many cultural and social contributions to UCSB, Goleta, and Santa Barbara. She believed that the ultimate goal of scholarship and research is to effect societal change, and fought tirelessly to transform the local community to a place that was welcoming to African-Americans and other people of color.

Kennedy organized annual cultural events through the Martin Luther King Junior Committee of Santa Barbara. She actively participated in Democratic political campaigns that included the Shirley Chisom for President and Jesse Jackson for President Campaign visits to UCSB.

In addition to her work with the local chapter of the NAACP, she was instrumental in the creation of two organizations dedicated to promoting tolerance in the Santa Barbara area: Not in Our Town, and the Building Bridges Community Coalition. The singular purpose of the latter organization was to bring to Santa Barbara the Henrietta Marie slave-ship exhibition. This was a 7-year effort for her. This powerful exhibition took place at the Karpeles Manuscript Library and attracted more than 7,000 young people and countless community members.

Like most of her life’s work, this effort was aimed at improving race relations. In a January 30, 2003, obituary for the Santa Barbara Independent, her close friend Sojourner Kincaid Rolle wrote, “[Kennedy] believed that real healing could only begin when people knew the truth of our collective history.”

Oftentimes the public does not get to hear the backstory about how our archival collections come about. It’s not at all unusual to hear of close calls involving important historical materials as well as the lament of irreversible losses.

In the case of the Shirley Kennedy Papers it was not a near miss but rather a downpour of rain that ruined Dr. Kennedy’s photo scrapbook and other files covering the 1998 visit to UC Santa Barbara of Regents Scholar Fan Shengqi, a Chinese jazz musician she discovered while doing research in China. It was there that she learned first-hand about a thriving Chinese jazz scene that she could trace back to World War II-era African American soldiers who brought swing and be-bop to that country. She went on to create a documentary film on the subject.

That rain incident prompted Dr. Kennedy to send out an alarm to her colleagues in the UCSB Black Studies Department. In an e-mail on January 14, 2001, she said, “All of us have archival materials. If some accident were to befall any of us, the person cleaning our effects might not even recognize what is important
and what is not.” She went on to describe the types of historical materials in her possession that deserved to be preserved.

Following Dr. Kennedy’s untimely death in 2003 her collection went into a storage facility until 2018 when an accord was finally reached between the Kennedy family, the Center for Black Studies Research, and the UCSB Library. This agreement brought the Shirley Kennedy papers into the fold of the Library’s Special Research Collections.

Staff will be working with faculty to find ways to incorporate archival research into the undergraduate curriculum using Dr. Kennedy’s papers.

This accord pursues a broader vision by ensuring not only the preservation of the collection but that it will form the basis of an annual UCSB Library recognition of Dr. Kennedy and a commitment to seek ways to engage students and the community at large through the materials. This could take the form of an exhibition, a lecture, community workshop, or other outreach activity in collaboration with the Center for Black Studies Research.

It is our hope that the preservation of Shirley Kennedy’s papers will allow the continuation of her life’s work and passions for education and improving the lives of African-Americans and people of color, as well as overall race relations in Santa Barbara.

Once processed, this collection will be made available to researchers locally in our reading room, as well as worldwide through selective digitization.

Salvador Güereña  
Director, California Ethnic and Multicultural Archives  
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Digital Access to Historic Collections of Yosemite National Park

A collaborative effort between the University of California, Merced Library, Yosemite National Park, the National Information Services Center of the National Park Service, and the California Digital Library has made two important Park collections available to the public online. After establishing a loan and digitization agreement with Yosemite National Park, the UC Merced Library digitized a set of panoramic photographs taken from fire lookouts in the Park in the 1930s, and the Park Superintendent's Annual Reports from 1891-2008. Digital files and metadata were transferred to the Resource Information Services Division of the National Park Service (NPS), which manages the NPGallery Digital Asset Management System for NPS parks and programs. The NP Gallery team worked with the California Digital Library to establish an OAI-PMH feed to enable the digital collections ingested and made available to the public in the NP Gallery platform to be harvested and also made available in Calisphere and the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA).

Lester Moe, a junior forester of the National Park Service, took the photographs using an Osborne camera as part of a four-year project to capture fire lookout prints from national parks, between 1934-
The tri-fold panoramic photograph sets were used at fire lookout points along with the Osborne Fire Finder in order to locate and coordinate responses to wildland fires. Today, they serve as valuable documentation for researchers examining changes in the landscape, including vegetation, geology, and other physical features in the park. UC Merced researchers are undertaking a repeat photography project to capture current images from the same locations.

The Superintendent reports offer another form of documentation of the changes in Yosemite over the last century. In the first report dated 1891, Acting Superintendent Captain A. E. Wood of the Fourth Cavalry outlines the boundaries and townships of the park and general topography, and provides an inventory of the varieties of timbers found and the approximate elevations of their growth. He writes of his efforts to control the impingement of human activities in the park, including the tens of thousands of sheep brought by herders from the San Joaquin Valley and the coast into the Sierra Nevada ranges every summer for grazing: "The sheep have been the curse of these mountains. As they graze in masses, they trample the nests of the quail and grouse to pieces, destroy the eggs, or crush the young before they are able to fly. They separate the young deer from the mother and cause its death from lack of nourishment. As the autumn approaches, the herds retire from the high mountains towards their winter grazing grounds, and the herders set fire to and burn over the forests in their rear so the rays of the sun can penetrate to and melt the snows, thus giving an early and abundant crop of grass the next season. I have effectually stopped such vandalism within this park, and now the possibilities are that it will be alive with game in a few years."

Later reports highlight special events, infrastructure improvements, administrative changes, and include statistics, photographs, and occasional maps. The digitization effort gathered together reports that had been housed separately in the Yosemite Park Archives, Museum, and Library collections and are the first collections from the Park's holdings made available in NPGallery, Calisphere, and DPLA. UC Merced, the tenth and newest campus of the University of California system established a partnership with the Park before the campus itself opened, conducts interdisciplinary research and programs in and around the park, and manages the Sierra Nevada Research Institute field station in Wawona, Yosemite.

Emily Lin
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OH NO!! WAVERLY LOWELL RETIRING IN JUNE

After forty years in archives, Waverly Lowell, SAAF will be off to new adventures. During the past two decades as Curator of the Environmental Design Archives (EDA) at Berkeley, Waverly transformed the ‘Documents Collection’ into a national and international model for design archives, mentored an outstanding cadre of archivists, established a Research Fellowship, and oversaw the transition of the slide library into the Visual Resources Center. Under her leadership, the archives increased its holdings, sponsored a publication series, developed a complex and vibrant website, managed a program of speakers and competitions, established the Friends of the Archives, relocated on-campus and offsite collections into environmentally controlled facilities, and mounted highly engaging exhibitions. In addition, Waverly’s scholarship and publication projects included: Living Modern: A Biography of Greenwood Common, and Architectural Records: Managing Design & Construction Records.

Prior to the EDA, Waverly served as the Director of the National Archives-Pacific Sierra Region, Director of the California Cooperative Preservation of Architectural Records (CalCOPAR), Curator of the National Maritime Museum Archives, Curator of Manuscripts for the California Historical Society, and as an Archives & Research Consultant. During her extensive and varied career, Lowell was honored as a Fellow of the Society of American Archivists, made a Distinguished Librarian by the Librarians Association of UC Berkeley, received an AIAASF Design Award for contributions made by the Environmental Design Archives, a Certificate of Recognition from the California State Assembly, and the Archivists Award of Excellence from the California Heritage Preservation Commission.

CHRIS MARINO NAMED CURATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN ARCHIVES

The College of Environmental Design is delighted to announce that Christina Marino, Assistant Curator agreed to assume the position of Curator following the retirement of Waverly Lowell. Hired as Reference & Outreach Archivist in 2014, Chris was promoted to Assistant Curator reflecting her increasing administrative and academic responsibilities. Marino manages all reference, outreach programs, and rights and reproductions; the Friends of the Archives, and the Archives website, lecture series, and exhibits programs. In addition she recently conducted a study of active learning techniques for primary sources and the resulting paper is currently under review for publication in American Archivist. Her professional involvement includes presentations at conferences and leadership roles in university, state, and national archival and library organizations. Prior to joining the Archives, Chris served as the archivist managing collections at UC Santa Barbara’s Architecture and Design Collection at the Art, Architecture & Design Museum where she curated the exhibitions Year of Rebellion: The 1970 Isla Vista Riots, and Unbuilt Santa Barbara. Chris received her Masters of Library and Information Science degree with an Archival Studies specialization from UCLA and a Bachelor’s degree in Ethnic Studies from UCSD.

Environmental Design Archives
University of California, Berkeley
Waverly Lowell: wlowell@berkeley.edu
GALLERY TALKS AT THE ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN ARCHIVES

Following on the heels of a successful series of programs, the EDA is planning next year’s lineup of speakers.

Although the schedule is still in progress, the Archives is pleased to announce these confirmed speakers: Rick Prelinger of Lost Landscapes of San Francisco fame, noted architect Cathy Simon, Heath Ceramics Scholar Rosa Nova, as well as Jan Novie and Allen Green who will speak on the life and career of Architect Aaron Green. Mark your calendars 7 to 8pm for: October 9, November 8, February 12, March 12, and April 9.

The presentations by the 2017-18 speakers can be watched at http://archives.ced.berkeley.edu/lectures-presentations

Morley Baer: Transforming the Ordinary
The Environmental Design Archives summer exhibition features the work of esteemed photographer Morley Baer (1916-1995). The former head of the photography department at the San Francisco Art Institute, Baer is well known for his photographs of architecture, farmlands, and coastlines. Curated by student Gabrielle Clement, the photographs, 1950s-1990s, document people, landscapes, and buildings in places such as the American Southwest and Spain, will be on display June and July in the Environmental Design Library in Wurster Hall on the UC Berkeley campus.

Environmental Design Archives
University of California, Berkeley
Waverly Lowell: wlowell@berkeley.edu

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*The deeper you look, the more you discover!*

Big news: over one million historical images, texts, recordings, and other primary resources are now available in the statewide digital resource aggregation represented by Calisphere and the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA)! This burgeoning collection contains unique objects from more than 200 libraries, archives, and museums throughout California. It is now one of the largest subsets of DPLA’s national-level aggregation, offering students, researchers, and the general public increasingly comprehensive access to the digitized treasures and special collections of the state of California.

The Center for Sacramento History Photo Collection takes the honor for pushing us over the one million mark. As this image reveals ("Immigrant Raid Protest", 5/6/1982), this collection provides significant historical context for some of the most pressing issues facing our state and our nation today.

![Immigrant raid protest, May 6, 1982. Courtesy of Center for Sacramento History.](image)

The Center for Sacramento History Photo Collection also represents another milestone: our first foray into harvesting from PastPerfect, a collection management software popular with a number of historical societies, museums, and public libraries. Calisphere is one of the initial users of PastPerfect’s new export tool, paving the way for other PastPerfect implementers to contribute to Calisphere and increase the discoverability of their collections.

These accomplishments were made possible by a multi-year grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services funds under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). Administered in California by the State Librarian, this financial support has enabled us to explore and quickly harvest new digital collections from across the state.

**Looking ahead: towards a collaborative statewide service network**

We've made great progress in building a comprehensive statewide research resource, but many libraries, archives, and museums still cannot participate due to capacity constraints in building and managing their digital collections. This year, with Knight Foundation funding administered by DPLA, we will begin to tackle these barriers by forming a collaborative statewide service network. CDL will function as the DPLA Service Hub for the network. Once launched, the network will provide cultural heritage organizations throughout the state with services supporting the broader lifecycle of building and managing digital collections, complementing other existing statewide-level grant programs and initiatives. Stay tuned for further developments!

**Interested in gaining more exposure for your digital collections?**

Does your organization have digital collections not yet discoverable through Calisphere and the DPLA? **Let us know!** Our mission is to help institutions of all sizes and technical capacity contribute their materials and, thus, increase visibility for their treasured collections.

*Adrian Turner*
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NOW ONLINE: DIGITIZED SACRAMENTO POLICE MUG BOOKS FROM 1860S-1940S

This 1911-1926 book of women offenders from San Quentin State Prison is our most fragile. The pages are so brittle, they break apart when even lightly handled. (Sacramento Police Department copy of San Quentin State Prison women mug book, 1911-1926, 1995/013/084, Center for Sacramento History)

The Center for Sacramento History (CSH) is excited to share a recently completed project: We have digitized 126 Sacramento Police Department (SPD) and Sacramento County Sheriff’s Office mug books and uploaded them to the Internet Archive.

The mug books date from the 1860s to the 1940s, and they provide a wealth of data, which can include arrestees’ photographs, names, physical descriptions, criminal histories, aliases, judgments, and death dates. While most of the books are arranged by arrest number and date, several books are dedicated to specific crimes, including safe-cracking and pickpocketing, and specific categories of people, including political dissidents, union members, juvenile offenders, female offenders, and various ethnic groups. The collection also contains wanted books and mug books from other police departments and prisons that the SPD copied in order to create a criminal card file database, including departments throughout the Bay Area, Southern California, Denver, Portland, Stockton, and Reno, plus San Quentin and Folsom prisons.

To complete this project, CSH worked with the Utah-based nonprofit FamilySearch.org, who digitally photographed the books on-site at our research center over several weeks. Once digitization was complete, we hired a student assistant from California State University, Sacramento’s public history program to create a minimal amount of metadata for each book and upload the images, metadata, and searchable indices to the Internet Archive. We hope that with the help of volunteers and crowdsourcing, we will eventually be able to expand the metadata to include information about the people in the books. The final part of this project was to rehouse the books, which range in size from 5 x 6 inches to 11 x 17 inches. Previously, the books were housed standing on end in unlidded boxes. Now, each book is housed flat in its

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Photo courtesy of Sonoma County Library
own acid-free box.

The availability of these books online will allow more researchers to access the material without needing to visit CSH in person or to handle these fragile objects, thus aiding their long-term preservation. Users are able to virtually flip through a book’s pages as though they were flipping through the book itself, and zoom in to see a close-up of the high-resolution images. You can browse our collection of mug books at archive.org/details/cshtext.

Kim Hayden
Reference and Government Records Archivist
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Eleven-year-old Frank Wall, alias “Candy,” was sentenced to the notorious San Francisco Industrial School in 1871 for stealing a watch and locket. (Sacramento Police Department mug book, 1870-1883, 1995/013/020/04, Center for Sacramento History)

This man was sentenced to six months in the Sacramento County jail for stealing a 100-pound box of soap in September 1895, but it’s noted that he escaped from the jail a month later. (Sacramento Police Department mug book, 1894-1897, 1995/013/027, Center for Sacramento History)

THE BLACK DRAGON OF A BACKLOG VS. THE LONE ARRANGER

As the archivist at the Fresno Historical Society, I manage a regional archive in the central San Joaquin Valley that has been collecting materials since 1919. At our small nonprofit, I am part of a four-person team that does everything from design exhibits, to manage grant partnerships, to plan and implement programs at our historic house museum, Kearney Mansion. I enjoy wearing many hats, but it does not allow very much time for detailed archival work.

I jumped at the chance to attend the “How to Tame Your Dragon: Learning to Befriend your Backlog through Efficient Processing” workshop taught by Kelly Spring of UC Irvine at Tenaya Lodge on April 11. My position was vacant for a number of years before I was hired in 2016 and there are few systems in place to manage the repository as a whole. Dealing with a processing backlog is especially challenging as I have my MA in history rather than archival science. I have worked to learn best practices with professional memberships, online classes, and task specific reading, yet this was my first opportunity to be a student archivist.

The workshop proved to be a valuable introduction to the archival field in general. As one of the few lone arrangers to participate in the class, it was fascinating to learn how universities and large libraries prioritized and thought about their projects. I enjoyed meeting other archivists in a variety of staffing situations and learning about their workflows. To assist with processing projects, I have developed a team of seven archives volunteers and three graduate interns from the Fresno State History Department. This number of volunteers and interns seemed to shock my fellow workshop attendees. I understand that they have fewer non-staff assistants, perhaps so that they do not have to manage them, which can be a daunting task.

Our “black dragon” of a backlog would be a challenge for any archivist. The workshop was a great opportunity to help me develop systems to tackle what at times seems an overwhelming project. Kelly Spring’s systems were deceptively simple. She
recommended that we generate a repository-level inventory spreadsheet with basic categories which can be tailored to the needs of the institution. Once you have the big picture, Kelly directed us to use the DACS minimum requirements to create a baseline that “is the least amount of work to gain physical and intellectual control of all of your archival collections.” The baseline could also be used to gather re-housing and condition information for future processing projects. From there, we worked on implementation from revising the accessioning process through working on a workflow chart.

I appreciate that the content was flexible enough to work for my situation. Thus far, implementation is slow as a lone arranger. When I took over collections management at the Fresno Historical Society, I was advised by Tammy Lau, head of the Special Collections Research Center at Henry Madden Library at Fresno State, to avoid being idiosyncratic in description and practice, a common pitfall of small institutions. With this in mind, I need to gain some expertise in DACS before beginning this process. I look forward to having more intellectual control over our holdings, but expect it to take a couple of years. I am grateful to have received the Walter P. Gray Scholarship from the Society of California Archivists to fund my continuing education and travel expenses. The workshop helped to advance my skills and knowledge at a time when I am ready to start developing my own repository-level processing plan.

Katy Hogue
Archivist
Fresno Historical Society

CHASING THE BRIGHT LIGHT, CELEBRATING GRAPHIC DESIGNER, MARGO CHASE

This spring, design students, professionals, and enthusiasts were able to catch a glimpse of the unique process and work of Margo Chase (1958-2017) in an exhibition titled, Margo Chase: Chasing the Bright Light at Texas A&M University-Commerce in Dallas, Texas, 24 March - 2 May, 2018.

Margo Chase was founder and creative director of Chase Design Group and created iconic logos, posters, brand identities and package designs that are instantly recognizable around the world.

Chase began her career pursuing medical illustration but quickly turned to graphic design as a more creatively satisfying vocation. Some of her early successes were in the music business designing identities and album covers for the likes of Cher, Prince, and Madonna. Building off of her successful foray into designing for the music business, Chase founded Margo Chase Design in 1986.

Though her career spanned into the digital age, she remained dedicated to the tactile experience of drawing. Her early process involved crow quill pen and ink on vellum. She often started with photographs and hand drawn designs, then moved on to four color separations and offset printing. Chase embraced the computer and early design programs when she bought her first Macintosh in 1990, but only as an extension of her hand-work. Chase would often scan in drawings and complete the design process as she did for Bram Stoker’s Dracula film poster, stating, “I could do almost everything on the Mac. But I always begin with hand drawn letterforms and layouts. The process of drawing things seems to make the ideas and forms flow together more naturally.”
Margo Chase Design became Chase Design Group (1998-present) and is now a global creative agency with offices in Los Angeles, New York, and London. Their award-winning branding and design has earned them a long roster of prestigious clients such as Nestlé, Procter and Gamble, and PepsiCo. In the summer of 2017, Margo Chase passed away in an untimely aviation accident.

Margo Chase: Chasing the Bright Light, was a celebration of her impactful career and achievements and an honor as Chase was the first female designer to be featured in Texas A&M University-Commerce's Viscom Gallery.

The exhibition showcased projects and process drawings spanning three decades of Chase's career from 1986-2017, and included album designs such as Paula Abdul's award-winning Spellbound, film titles such as the iconic Buffy the Vampire Slayer, and product samples for major household brands such as Procter and Gamble's Gain detergent products. Chase's early work in lettering and logo design for entertainment was displayed alongside recent branding and packaging for global brands illuminating four aspects of Chase's design ethos: Curiosity, Culture, Craft, and Courage.

Chasing the Bright Light pulled from archival materials in the newly formed Margo Chase Collection and showcased Chase's tactile process. Students were able to view portfolios of Chase's process drawings leading up to iconic logos such as the Four Weddings and a Funeral film title and logo, and process photography for Cher's Love Hurts album.

The Margo Chase Collection spans 400 linear feet and is comprised of mechanical drawings, sketches, snapshots, and creative musings that illustrate Chase's thoughtful design process. The collection also contains posters, albums and packaging samples, press, and audiovisual files related to the work and operations of Margo Chase the graphic designer (1958-2017) and Margo Chase Design Studio (1986-1997). The bulk of this collection has been in storage for two decades and is now being processed and re-housed for long-term preservation. Chase's logo designs, awards, case studies, and press are also searchable in a newly minted Chase Design Group digital archive database.

Chase Design Group's exhibition program illustrates Margo Chase's story through her work and unique point of view, thus ensuring the cultural record reflects Chase's lived experiences and achievements. Chase Design Group hopes to educate a new generation of designers and thought leaders about Margo Chase's extraordinary career by participating in local publishing and exhibition projects.

The exhibition was curated by Chase Design Group’s CEO Chris Lowery, Chief Creative Officer, Clark Goolsby, and Executive Creative Director, Paula Hansanugrum; and was the culmination of efforts by Joshua Ege, Assistant Professor of Visual Communication at Texas A&M University-Commerce.

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Margo Chase: Chasing the Bright Light exhibition installation, Texas A&M University-Commerce, Dallas, Texas. 24 March - 2 May 2018
DIGITIZING GIANT MAPS FOR THE SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

The archive at the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission is the most extensive collection of documents, photographs, blueprints, drawings and maps that chronicle the development of the water system for Northern California. The system is a public works infrastructure on the same scale as the railroads and highways, with a profound influence on the history of California.

What started as the Spring Valley Water Company in 1860 morphed into a vast system of dams, aqueducts, canals and pipes that stretches from the Sierras to the ocean – and fueled the growth of San Francisco, the East Bay and Silicon Valley.

Big projects seem to beget big maps. That was clearly the case when the PUC recently discovered a treasure trove of documents and maps from the 1860’s to the early 1900’s that were presumed lost in the 1906 earthquake.

These are truly one-of-a-kind historical assets, and include a set of hand-drawn wall maps that were used to manage the acquisition of real estate and track the development of the system. They’re huge – some as large as 18 feet long! On top of that, after decades in a storage container they were covered with dust and dirt, and were brittle and difficult to unroll. The PUC wanted them digitized to share with historians but did not want the maps to leave the archive annex.

We base our digitizing process on what we call “Raw Rapid Capture” which is a high-resolution photographic capture in the wide-latitude RAW format. It’s fast, low impact, and produces exquisite...
detail. Each frame can be up to 50 megapixels. Large maps present a special challenge because they frequently involve very fine detail on a very large surface. For maps up to 4 x 6 feet we have a proprietary system that allows us to carefully move the map under the camera while taking a series of accurately aligned 50 megapixel images. These shots are stitched into a final composite image using Adobe software. The final files are often hundreds of megabytes in size with astonishing detail.

A six-foot map is a large item to capture. An eighteen-foot map is ridiculous! It’s especially challenging in the PUC archive because there isn’t eighteen feet of unobstructed space anywhere in the annex!

Necessity being the mother of invention, we rigged a novel pipe and drape system that simulated the flat moving map system we use for smaller maps. We draped the map over a horizontal bar near the ceiling and successively pulled section after section over the bar and into the camera’s field of view. A pair of construction lasers helped assure that the map was perfectly flat to the camera, which is the key to getting a good stitched result. It sounds complicated but once we were set up the maps were captured in mere minutes!

It’s satisfying to know that these amazing relics of California history have been brought out of complete obscurity and can now be seen in sharp detail by a wider audience.

Preparing to pull a linen map over a cross bar to shoot the five separate shots that would be stitched into a final image.

To learn more about our Raw Rapid Capture Process visit us at Act3Partners.com.

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