

**GREATER NEW ORLEANS ARCHIVISTS**

**NEWSLETTER**

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**Volume 1, Number 3**

**June 1983**

**Published Quarterly**

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A good time was had by all when the staff of The Historic New Orleans Collection hosted the summer meeting and provided the opportunity for area archivists to discuss computers, conservation, and common concerns while enjoying canapes, beverages, and cool patio breezes.

President Mark Flynn would like to invite archivists interested in obtaining further information about the services offered by SOLINET to write him. He will in turn address a letter to SOLINET expressing our interests and concerns about its program. The April 1983 issue of SOLINEWS announced the new AIRS--"Affiliated Information Retrieval Services" program and the SOLINET grant proposal to establish a conservation program that might be of interest to us collectively or individually. Excerpts from the newsletter follow:

SOLINET TAKES ON AIRS -- For the last few years, OCLC has brokered information retrieval services through its Affiliated Online Services (AOS) program, which provides BRS and DIALOG access at reduced rates to subscribers. On July 1, 1983, OCLC will discontinue its AOS program and SOLINET will undertake it through a new service known as "AIRS..." Frank Grisham, Executive Director, is in the process of completing contract negotiations...so that SOLINET will have no interruption of service.

The price of SOLINET-brokered information retrieval services will be less than most members could receive as independent subscribers...and those interested in beginning participation are encouraged to consider the advantages of these new SOLINET-provided services...

CONSERVATION IN THE SOLINET PROGRAM -- The SOLINET staff has now begun developing a grant proposal to establish a conservation program through SOLINET.

...a number of libraries, archives, historical societies, and their associations have begun to focus attention on the urgency of conserving...records. These factors have made it difficult for them to satisfy that need: (1) the great amount of material in need of conservation treatment, (2) the high cost of some conservation processes and equipment, and (3) the limited number of trained conservators available. These factors have led some librarians to begin looking for national or regional solutions to their conservation needs.

In its present stage, the SOLINET conservation proposal projects a three year, grant-funded program along these general lines: An Office of Conservation Studies would be established and would coordinate conservation information and services for the region. During the first years, the conservation staff would emphasize educational, training, and consultative services. In the second year, a small-scale conservation laboratory would be established, equipped to provide preservation and restoration services for paper materials, and the educational activities would continue. During the third year, if sufficient need and interest had been demonstrated, SOLINET would begin a full-scale conservation lab, capable of such projects as mass deacidification, encapsulation, fumigation, and micrographic duplication; and a regional security storage facility could be established. After the initial three years, it is projected that the program will have generated sufficient interest and be sufficiently well established to be self-sustaining. While some of these projected restoration services are now available through vendors, SOLINET would provide them at a lower cost.

#### **AMISTAD RESEARCH CENTER**

Kenneth L. Coleman has joined the staff as part-time employee with the title of assistant archivist. He is arranging the archives of the Committee on Civil rights in Metropolitan New York. Established in 1949, CCRM, as the organization came to be known, concentrated its efforts on eliminating discrimination in restaurants and housing in New York.

Summer has brought former student employees to the staff and a first time student staff member. Charles and Virginia Mary Johnson have logged many hours in the Center during school vacations and as part-time workers. This

summer finds Charles, a recent graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, undertaking the new duty of arranging the records of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith Race Relations Work. He was recipient of the Thomas Cochran Prize for the best undergraduate thesis in American History. His thesis title was "Crusading Jurist: Chief Justice Chase and Reconstruction." He will become a member of the first year class of law students at Tulane this fall.

Virginia Mary Johnson is back to the clippings file and pre-arranging duties in the archives of the Berkeley Unified School District Office of Human Relations. The office was created in 1962 to plan and implement the voluntary integration of the city's schools. She will resume studies at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte, where she was enrolled as a freshman last year.

Taronda Spencer is again sandwiching in time between classes and internships for a Master's degree in History/Archival Studies at UNO. She is compiling a bibliography on Louisiana's Ethnic Groups. During a previous period of employment at the Center, she arranged the Fannie Lou Hamer Papers.

Robert Gordon, a senior at the University of Pennsylvania, continued the indexing begun by Charles Johnson and Charles Marcus for the archives of the American Home Missionary Society. To date, the index has progressed under the capable hands of University of Pennsylvania students or alumni.

Henry L. Coaxum, Jr. is Director of Development for the Center as the result of a \$225,000 Ford Foundation grant to create the position. Chicago's loss is New Orleans' gain. Coaxum was former development officer for the DuSable Museum of African American History, Inc., in Chicago.

Claudia Breland has been hired as secretary to the Director of Development. She was formerly employed by the United Negro College Fund.

## THE HISTORIC NEW ORLEANS COLLECTION

Susan Cole, Curator of Manuscripts, recently attended the annual meeting of the Manuscripts Society in San Francisco, California. She was elected to the Board of Trustees of that organization.

Alfred Lemmon spent several weeks in Spain identifying manuscripts and documents in many remote Spanish repositories. He arranged for THNOC to be allowed to copy many items.

Mark David Luccioni, a recent addition to the Manuscript Division staff, is a graduate of the University of New Orleans with a Master's Degree in History/Archival Studies. Since coming to the Collection, Mark has worked with the Lawyer's Title Abstract Index, and he has prepared a lengthy inventory of the Ernest A. Carrere and Sons Real Estate Papers. He has inventoried and made a working calendar for the Thornhill Foundation Papers and is in the process of completing a calendar for the Nicholson Family Papers. Mark spends one day every week assisting Dr. Ellen Merrill with the German Archives.

Howard Estes and Tom Emerson are responsible for guiding the work of THNOC Cemetery Project. The staff of the Cemetery Project is currently working in Lafayette II and St. Joseph Cemeteries. Indexes have been compiled for many New Orleans cemeteries, including St. Louis I, St. Louis II, Lafayette I, Greenwood, Odd Fellows, and Cypress Grove. The indexes include all of the names appearing on each tomb, as well as the country of origin.

Tom Emerson, coordinator of the Cemetery Project, is an archaeologist who has done several other projects for foundations and museums, including the German Foundation for Scientific Research and the R. S. Peabody Foundation for Archaeology.

## **THE LOUISIANA HISTORICAL CENTER**

The Louisiana Museum Foundation received a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to support publication of the exhibition catalogue for "The Sun King: Louis XIV and the New World." The catalogue, edited by Dr. Steven Reinhardt of the Louisiana Historical Center, will contain thirteen scholarly essays in addition to photographs of the objects contained in the exhibit.

Joseph D. Castle, Curator of Maps and Manuscripts, attended the annual meeting of the Special Libraries Association held in New Orleans the week of June 4-9. He presented a paper, "Plantations, Transportation and Industry: The Changing Face of Louisiana," to the Geography and Map Division of the Special Libraries at the U. S. Mint on Esplanade Avenue. A tour of the map exhibition LOUISIANA: EXPLORATION AND SETTLEMENT, on display in the Presbytere, followed the presentation.

## **UNIVERSITY OF NEW ORLEANS--ARCHIVES AND MANUSCRIPTS DEPARTMENT OF THE EARL K. LONG LIBRARY**

The Department recently received the following collections:

Ambrose/Dwight D. Eisenhower Collection, Ac. 153 (gift). Nineteen archival boxes of xerographic copies of documents (1848-1958) from the Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library, Abilene, Kansas, including Eisenhower's private correspondence; summaries of meetings; minutes of National Security Council meetings and Cabinet meetings; diary entries by Eisenhower and members of his staff; drafts of speeches; miscellany. The collection of about 10,000 documents was accumulated by Dr. Steve Ambrose in the course of his research on the Eisenhower administration.

Alker-Bobet Collection, Ac. 152 (gift). Three linear feet of Alker and Bobet family papers, and records for the Bobet Brothers stove business of New Orleans. Dating between 1820 and 1930, the collection consists of clippings, correspondence, business ledgers, tax receipts, photographs, and miscellany.

Archives-History Committee, Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals Collection, Ac. 149 (gift). One-half linear foot of records, consisting of correspondence, reports, memoranda. The Committee was established by the

Fifth U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals to formulate rules and procedures for the preservation of its legal records. The collection is a gift of Dr. Warren Billings, a member of the committee.

Joseph Macheca Collection, Ac. 151 (purchase), 26 items. Mainly correspondence and shipping orders, to and from Joseph Macheca and Company, a New Orleans wholesale produce firm. The material dates from 1870 to 1878 and includes a few items from other New Orleans produce firms. Joseph Macheca was the prominent New Orleans Italian businessman who was lynched by a mob in 1891.

William Kernan Dart Collection, Ac. 154 (gift), 21 items. Collection includes a diary and two water color portraits of Louise Marie Lapace, wife of William Kernan Dart; photographs of Dart family members; and related miscellany.

#### **SEPTEMBER MEETING**

The fall meeting of GNOA will be hosted by the Amistad Research Center in the auditorium of the Old U. S. Mint. An audio-visual presentation, YOUR LOUISIANA ARCHIVES, will be screened through the courtesy of Bill Meneray.

Mark Flynn wishes to include students in the archival program at this and future meetings. Some of them will be known to some of us because of their assignments as interns within our repositories; however, having them attend at least one meeting will broaden our respective contacts.