

GREATER NEW ORLEANS ARCHIVISTS

1989

NEWSLETTER

JULY

ASSOCIATION NEWS

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*July 19*

NEXT MEETING

The summer meeting of the Greater New Orleans Archivists will be held jointly with the New Orleans Association of Records Managers on Wednesday July 19th at Masson's Restaurant, 7200 Pontchartrain Blvd. Cocktails will begin at 5:30, followed by a presentation at 6:30. Dinner (7:30) will cost \$20.00. Please make reservations with Nancy Hinnenberg at 596-2832 by Monday July 17.

SPRING MEETING

The spring meeting of the Greater New Orleans Archivists was held at the Notarial Archives on April 5. The meeting featured a tour of the Archives followed by a round table discussion of the micrographics experiences of members.

INSTITUTIONAL NEWS

Louisiana Historical Center, Louisiana State Museum

The Historical Center is now open by appointment only, between 10:00 a.m. and 4:45 p.m. Wednesdays through Fridays. Call Kathryn Page at 568-8214 for appointment.



Governor Roemer's current budget omits \$179,000 in a line item of the Museum's overall budget that is required to keep the Mint open to the public. The Department of the Interior has notified Museum administrative personnel that closing the building to the public would violate the terms of agreement by

which the federal government turned ownership of the Mint over to the state. The American Association of Museums has also notified the State Museum that threatened budget cutbacks would leave the institution so under-funded as to cause the AAM to have to reevaluate its accreditation of the Museum.

The Museum board has released a strongly worded resolution asking the governor and the legislature to reassure the public that it will give the State Museum adequate funding and not waste the \$3 million spent to renovate the Mint, give up the building, nor further threaten the Museum's ability to secure grants, for which accreditation is generally necessary. Recent Senate action has restored funding for the Mint to the budget, as legislators have become aware that it would cost a great deal more to close the Mint than it would to keep it open. Museum personnel have calculated that closing the building and losing ownership of it would force the expenditure of over \$800,000 in moving and storage costs for its contents. Not only would the tens of thousands of books and documents in the Historical Center have to be moved and stored, but all of the furniture and artifacts removed from the Cabildo, as well as significant collections in storage there, would also have to be moved and stored.

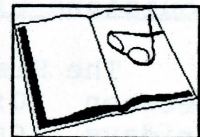
### Historic New Orleans Collection

Alfred Lemmon reports three recent or upcoming travel occasions. He attended the Society of Southwestern Archivists' meeting in Santa Fe, where he particularly enjoyed three papers on the early public records of New Mexico, Arizona, and Oklahoma. In late June he attended a National Trust symposium on Cemeteries as Historic Sites in Charleston, S.C., where he read a paper on surveying cemeteries. In September, Alfred will participate in the Latin American Archival Preservation and Conservation Institute at the Ransom Humanities Center at the University of Texas at Austin. He is one of three U.S. archivists the selected as participants in the institute by the Society of American Archivists.



### New Orleans Public Library

At long last the La. Division is set to begin its NEH-funded micrographics project for the ~~1769~~ 1861 City Archives records. The first application was submitted to the NEH in November, 1986, and received "extremely enthusiastic support" from NEH reviewers, but was not immediately funded. After a "planning survey grant," the Division did receive funding in 1988, but the mazes of City bureaucracy delayed the project almost a full year after that. The project includes filming city council minutes, police records, city surveyor records, mayors' records, tax records, some private manuscripts, and more; as well as making copies of previously-filmed Cabildo minutes. We will try to make more space for this multi-year saga in a future newsletter.



## Tulane\ Special Collections



Tulane University announces the appointment of Dr. Robert G. Sherer as University Archivist. Dr. Sherer received the Ph.D. in American history at U.N.C. and an MLIS from the University of Texas at Austin, where he worked with David B. Gracy. For the past fourteen years he has been professor of history at Wiley College in Marshall, Texas.

Bruce Raeburn has been appointed Curator of the William Ransom Hogan Jazz Archive. Bruce is a candidate for the Ph.D. at Tulane and has been working at the staff level in the Jazz Archive. His dissertation is on the history of jazz. Both will report to Dr. Wilbur Meneray.

### Notarial Archives

The Notarial Archives has been offered a planning grant from the NEH to support a visit from two consultants to "advise on the proper methods for treating individual watercolor drawings, and on the most efficient means of handling a massive number of items." The grant is in response to the Archives' 1988 proposal to the NEH for matching funds to rehouse [in plat cabinets], deacidify, and encapsulate its archival drawings collection (1802-1902). As did the proposal submitted by the New Orleans Public Library to the NEH (see above), the Archives' proposal received "nearly unanimous and sometimes extremely enthusiastic support from NEH reviewers, [but] also raised a number of technical concerns." Consultant recommendations hopefully will resolve technical concerns prior to a resubmittal of the proposal in December.



A trek through state bureaucracy, also similar to the library experience, has finally brought the Archives almost to "ground-breaking" for its Dreyfous Family Reading Room and Archival Center. The room will house Colonial and early Territorial Period series, a book repair center, supervised reading room, microfilm reader-printer, and archival office. Completion is scheduled after about six weeks.

Arguments were heard June 23 by Civil District Court Judge Robert A. Katz in the matter of consolidating the state's cases against former Custodians Raoul P. Sere and Nat G. Kiefer for drawing excessive salaries from 1981 through 1988.

### Upcoming Events

- National Archives 65th Modern Archives Institute, Des Moines, Iowa, July 31-Aug. 11
- AASLH 49th Annual Meeting, Seattle, Sept. 6-9
- American Records Managers' Association --New Orleans, 1st week October
- Society of American Archivists Annual Meeting, St. Louis Oct.25-29