

# The Greater New Orleans Archivists

## *Newsletter*

**Fall**

**1999**

Next Meeting  
Wednesday, September 22, 1999  
Time: 5:30 PM  
Longvue Vue House and Garden  
7 Bamboo Road  
New Orleans, LA

### **Fall Meeting**

Our September meeting is being hosted by Longvue Vue House and Garden, on Wednesday, September 22, at 5:30 in the evening. This will be our first meeting at Longue Vue and will be a treat for all, even to walk through the garden from the car to the Play House.

The agenda will include information on the GNOA web site, a report on the sales of *Jews of New Orleans*, a report from those who attended SSA and SAA this year, and beginning discussions on how GNOA can help with continuing education of its members. The consideration of how we might follow other models for Archives Week will be discussed, as well.

### **1999 Spring Meeting**

The meeting was held at Southern University at New Orleans, in the Washington Memorial Library. In the absence of

President Susan Tucker and Secretary Rebecca Hankins, Treasurer Robert Sherer ran the meeting.

The meeting opened with a welcome from Professor Dwight Webster. Dr. Sara Hollis then took us on a brief tour of the library to view African art objects from the holdings of the Center for African and African American Studies.

Rob Sherer passed out a letter of greetings from Susan Tucker, in which she noted the ongoing activities of the archives in Reykjavik. A copy of the letter appears on page of this newsletter. Sherer also reported on the organization's finances and reminded members that it was a new calendar year and time to pass dues. He also reported on the book sales of *Jews of New Orleans: an Archival Guide*.

Irene Wainwright reviewed the GNOA web page with those present. The web page is the work of the web committee: Wayne Everard, Carol Bartels, Lee Miller,

Rebecca Hankins, Susan Tucker, and Irene Wainwright. Special thanks went to Irene and Carol for their work in the design of the page. Members were asked for feedback on the design and content. The page is not yet linked anywhere so you must have the address to view it. The address is <http://www.gnofn.org/~nopl/gnoa/gnoa.htm>

Other business consisted of thanks offered by Barbara Vaughn to Rebecca Hankins for help provided with forms. Press releases that were received too late for publication in the newsletter were made available to members and the meeting was adjourned.

## News From The Archives

### *Amistad Research Center at Tulane University*

#### New Staff Appointment

Louisiana native **Mora Beauchamp-Byrd** has joined the staff as curator of Amistad's art collection. She is a graduate of Columbia University with an MA in Art History. She has also worked as Director of Special Projects at the Caribbean Cultural Center in New York and served as curator, coordinator, and consultant for the Museum of the City of New York. She has also served as guest curator for the Studio Museum in Harlem, the Bronx Museum of the Arts, and St. Lawrence University Art Gallery.

#### Recent Acquisitions

**The Reverend Dr. Charles Shelby Rooks Papers** (15 linear ft. manuscripts and 519 books) This donation documents the life and career of this United Church of Christ minister and former executive vice president of The United Church Board for Homeland Ministries. The papers include correspondence, sermons,

writings, news articles, photographs, personal items, plaques, degrees, awards, periodicals, and books.

**Elizabeth Catlett addendum** (1.4 linear ft) and her husband **Francisco Mora** (.4 linear ft.) have donated papers to the Center. The collections document the careers of these two celebrated artists. Ms. Catlett's papers contain information on her work as the leading African American sculptress and printmaker in this country and Mexico. Mr. Mora's papers document his career as a renown Mexican painter and print maker.

#### Exhibits

On display in our mini-gallery until November 1st are the works of African American artist **Malvin Gray Johnson: Symbolic Abstractionist (1896-1934)**. The exhibit contains paintings and drawings done by Johnson in his short career.

Southern University in Baton Rouge has on display **Prints and Drawings from the Amistad Research Center**. The exhibit, located in the Fine Arts Gallery, will be on display until October 1, 1999, 10:4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

### *Archives The Dominican Congregation of St. Mary*

The archives had re-bound a scrapbook assembled by a Dominican sister from the 1890's. It is now in four volumes, and contains a wealth of interesting information in the style of scrapbooks of the period. Much of the material relates to the journal **Salve Regina** (1888-1900) edited by **Sister M. Dominic O'Brien**, it is a safe guess that it was done by her, but no proof exists. The scrapbook, the bound volumes of **Salve Regina**, and a collection of artifacts preserved from the history of the

sisters from 1860 are in a small Heritage Room across from the archives. Leading up to the room is a Heritage Trail which documents the history of the nuns in photographs and mementos. Guests may visit by appointment.

The *Salve Regina*, which now is available complete in photocopy, microfilm, and bound original copies, contains interesting original information about New Orleans' Catholic Winter School, the Columbian Exposition of 1893, and many other topics. The monthly journal was circulated through Dominican connections in Australia, South Africa and Ireland, as well as the United States.

**Lou Lavedan** lavedan@gs.verio.net is writing a history of St. John the Baptist Church in Folsom, LA. The church originated in Chinchuba. He is so far unable to find the date when it was built for Chinchuba. He would appreciate any tips. (He is confined to St. Tammany Parish for research because of his wife's illness.)

### ***Historic New Orleans Collection Williams Research Center***

Throughout the years, important donations to the Collection have resulted in a large holding of artworks in many genres covering more than 200 years of art in Louisiana. Paintings from the Monroe-Green Collection and the **Laura Simon Nelson Collection** are on permanent display at THNOC. The public is cordially invited to come to 533 Royal Street and see these fine examples of Louisiana art works.

Currently on display in the Williams Gallery through October 16, 1999 is the exhibition *Romance & Reality, American Indians in 19th-Century New Orleans*. Sketches, drawings, paintings, photographs, and travel accounts capture the

day-to-day activities of Louisiana's native tribes, including Houmas, Tunicas, Choctaws and Caddos. The exhibition is free and open to the public Tuesday - Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. In conjunction with this exhibition, guest curator, **Daniel H. Usner Jr.**, will give a lecture, "The Lost Century of Louisiana Indian History" on Thursday, September 16th at 7:00 p.m. at the Historic New Orleans Collection. On Saturday October 2nd, **Greyhawk Perkins**, from the Cannes Brûlée Native American Center in River Town, will give 2 living history presentations in the courtyard at 533 Royal Street.

The Williams Research Center is continuing its **Third Saturday lecture series**. This series introduces researchers to resources at the Williams Research Center. On Saturday September 18th, the focus will be **Photographic Collections** and on Saturday October 16th the focus will be **Visual Arts**. These lectures are from 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. and take place in the reading room of the Williams Research Center. Enrollment is limited; please call 504-598-7171 if you are interested in attending.

The exhibition **Queen of the South: New Orleans in the 1850s** will showcase aspects of life and culture in New Orleans from a peak of economic success to the crash of the Civil War. The exhibition will be on view at the Historic New Orleans Collection from November 2, 1999 through April 8, 2000. In conjunction with this exhibition the Collection is proud to announce the publication of **Queen of the South: New Orleans, 1853-1862**.

The Journal of **Thomas K. Wharton**. Books will be available at the Collection Shop or your local bookseller. A documentary film exploring the 1850s lifestyle and

and architecture portrayed in Wharton's Journal will air on November 14th on WYES (Channel 12). On Sunday, December 5th an 1850s House Tour of Coliseum Square from the Journal of Architect T.K. Wharton will be given. Tours will depart at 11:00 a.m. through 3:30 p.m.

### **New Orleans Public Library Louisiana Division**

The Louisiana Division has added two collections of photographs to NUTRIAS, the NOPL website: the **Cornelius Durkee Collection** (70 prints), all taken during Mardi Gras, 1901, and the **Harry D. Johnson Collection** (66 prints, ca. 1890-1935) including photographs of City Park and various New Orleans buildings and people. Also, in progress in NUTRIAS is an online inventory of the Louisiana Division's WPA Photograph Collection.

Also new in NUTRIAS is the Inventory of civil suits filed in the **Orleans County Court**, 1804-1807; the Index to the Roosevelt Review, the house organ of the Roosevelt Hotel, 1937-1968; and a finding aid for the New Orleans City Planning and Zoning Commission's Records relating to the creation of the 1929 Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance, 1910-1929 (bulk 1927-1929).

These additions can be found under either the "Archives and Special Collections Photographs or Archival Inventories" links or the "Main Library Louisiana Division" link from the NUTRIA homepage <http://www.gnofn.org/~nopl>.

The Louisiana Division's current exhibit, mounted in honor of FrancoFete, is **Que la Fete Commence!: The French Influence on the Good Life in New Orleans**. The exhibit uses large-scale reproductions and original photographs,

documents, and memorabilia to illustrate how French taste has left its mark on what we eat and drink, where we dine and drink, and how we entertain ourselves with music, theater, and even larger spectacles such as the Mardi Gras. The exhibit will remain on view on the third floor of the Main Library through the end of the 1999. An on-line version of the exhibit is available in NUTRIAS at <http://www.gnofn.org/~nopl>.

The City Archives received ca. 100 boxes of records from the Clerk of the New Orleans City Council. The records include the official proceedings of the Council, 1986-1991, and related material.

The third edition of the Louisiana Division's genealogy guide, *Genealogical Materials in the New Orleans Public Library's Louisiana Division and City Archives*, by **Collin Hamer, Wayne Everard, and Irene Wainwright**, has been awarded the 1999 ALA/RUSA Gale Group Award for Excellence in Reference and Adult Library Services. The award carries with it a citation and a \$1000 cash prize, which will be used for the purchase of genealogical materials and for preservation microfilming.

The guide is available for purchase from the Friends of New Orleans Public Library for \$10.00 (\$8.00 for Friends of NOPL members) plus \$2.00 shipping and handling. Mail order can be sent to Friends of New Orleans Public Library, 219 Loyola Ave., New Orleans, LA 70112. Orders using credit cards can be faxed to (504) 596-2609. The full text of the guide is also available in NUTRIAS at <http://www.gnofn.org/~nopl/guides/genguide/ggcover.htm>.

On May 15, the Louisiana Division and the Genealogical Research Society of New Orleans hosted their annual **Spring**

**genealogy seminar** at the Main Library, which, in keeping with the FrancoFete theme, focused on sources for researching French ancestry. Speakers included **Wayne Everard**, who presented "Wayne's Top Ten Neglected, Non-Traditional, Unexpected, or Unusual Sources for Information on Your French Ancestors in the City Archives and Louisiana Division of the New Orleans Public Library"; **Jack Belsom**, who discussed French records available at the Archives of the Archdiocese of New Orleans; and **Sally Reeves**, who described French records at the Notarial Archives.

**Collin Hamer** has been reappointed to the Louisiana Advisory Council for State Documents Depository Program for a term extending through June 2002.

### **TULANE UNIVERSITY LATIN AMERICAN LIBRARY**

In the past few months The Latin American Library has received and cataloged some of the following items:

The **Robert E. Low Medical Mission Papers**, the donation of an Alabama physician, who participated in nine medical missions to the Guatemalan Highlands between 1990 and 1995. The collection includes Dr. Low's personal journals, 1500 photographs and patient treatment records.

The **Hector Alirio Interiano Ortiz Collection of Partido Guatemalteco del Trabajo Papers**; This collection consists of a number of documents and periodicals issued by the Guatemalan Labor (Communist) Party between 1969 and 1987. The Latin American Library is currently presenting an exhibition of this collection through the end of October.

The **Pal and Elizabeth Kelemen Collection**: A group of over 3000 photographic prints and negatives showing

colonial churches, public buildings, artwork, landscapes and scenes from daily life in Mexico, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia and Central America.

**The Mexican Glass Images Collection**: A series of 155 glass lantern negatives from various places in Mexico which focus on the daily lives of the Mexican Working Class.

### **NEWCOMB ARCHIVES, CENTER FOR RESEARCH ON WOMEN**

**Doris Stern Despres Collection** dedication took place Friday, April 30th. The collection consists of books, periodicals, documents and materials about women in art. The collection was established and endowed by Loraine Despres in memory of her mother, Doris Stern Despres N'33 (1912-1998). Doris Stern Despres was the first female editor of The Hullabaloo, an athlete, journalist, businesswoman, life master bridge player and artist. Newcomb Dean Valerie Greenberg, Center Director Beth Willinger, Assistant Visiting Professor of Women's Studies Susanne Dietzel, and Veronica Leandrez N'00 accepted the gift on behalf of the Nadine R. Vorhoff Library and Newcomb College Center for Research on Women.

**Gillian Sutherland To Be 1999 Adele Ramos Salzer Lecturer.** On Sunday September 19th, Dr. Gillian Sutherland of the faculties of history of the University of Cambridge and Newnham College, Cambridge University (UK) will deliver the 5th Annual Adele Ramos Salzer Lecture on Women and Higher Education. The lecture is titled "From the Drawing Room to the Lecture Hall: Changing Models of Education for Women." Dr. Sutherland is a noted historian of education, and has published widely on the topic of the education of women. She organized the 1998 confer-

ence "'The Transformation of an Elite': Women and Higher Education since 1900" to mark the 50th anniversary of the admission of women to full membership of the University of Cambridge, and is currently at work on a double biography of Anne Jemima Clough (1820-192) and Blanche Athena Clough (1861-1960), the first and fourth Principals of Newnham College, Cambridge, and the aunt and niece, respectively, of the controversial poet Arthur Hugh Clough.

### **ZALE '99 NEWS**

The Zale Writer-in-Residence Committee is pleased to announce that Nashville-based writer **Ann Patchett** will visit campus October 24-30, 1999 as the 15th annual Zale Writer-in-Residence. Patchett is best known for her novels *The Patron Saint of Liars*, *Taft* and *The Magician's Assistant*. She also writes for a range of popular magazines.

One of the most popular annual events on the Tulane campus, the Zale Writer-in-Residence Program facilitates a situation which encourages the Newcomb /Tulane and New Orleans literary communities to commune with the works, ideas and skills of an established woman writer. Past Zale Writers have included Octavia Butler, Deb Margolin and Dorothy Allison. The Program is made possible through a generous gift from Dana Zale Gerard N'85 and the M.B. and Edna Zale Foundation of Dallas, Texas.

An exhibit featuring correspondence and manuscripts from previous Zale writers can be viewed during October.

### **News Notes**

(letter from Susan Tucker, April 7, 1999)

Dear All,

Greetings from the Borgarskjalasafn Reykjavikur. I hope all is well with you.

Irene and Carol, along with Wayne, Lee and Rebecca did a great job on the new GNOA web page. Thanks to all of them. The archivists here, working on their own web page, were quite impressed. And for me it is pleasant to be able to visit you and to feel closer to home.

My work proceeds well, though, and the country is very interesting. They are moving their Archives next week so I have been able to witness last minute details, as well as hear about and see all the state-of-the-art equipment they have. Much easier being an observer in this process. The new archives overlooks the port of Reykjavik and reflect the ports work and the Scandinavian background both from its windows and in its clean lines of furniture and alternating pastels and bright colors. The architect has arranged the desks in the reading room in a semi-circle and there is now a controversy over this.

The Archives has four professionals, one with training in the US, as well as one secretary. It is wonderful for me to have co-workers daily, having been a lone arranger for so long. The week I arrived they were busy choosing thirteen items for an exhibit on European culture. This is part of an overall project of cooperation between nine cities selected to represent culture in the year 2000 -- Reykjavik being one among Bergen, Avignon, Bologna, Santiago de Compostela, and others. The overall theme focuses on the role of cities in providing for their inhabitants.

Reykjaviks theme centers on nature and environment, whereas other cities will select documents reflecting such themes as art, work, communication, knowledge, and history. The exhibit will emphasize the part played by archives in the foundations of society and culture, and will highlight similarities and differences within the

Europeans community. The powers-that-be purposefully selected mostly local (as opposed to national or religious) archives for participation in this project to highlight the work of institutions not often affiliated with museums, for example, and not often thought about, when the average person considers culture.

For their part in this exhibit, Reykjavik chose documents concerned with early plans for their City hall, photographs from an active theater group, a deed for the ownership of land by the daughter of a Lutheran bishop, and other items, mostly from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The Icelandic people are proud of their geothermal springs, for example, and in the early twentieth century began plans to heat the whole city and to build public swimming pools. These plans, two of which will be included in the exhibit were somewhat like early Disney Worlds - with tropical plants to be included in partially enclosed and heated verandas overlooking the town pond, for example. For the most part, such plans were implemented. Inside buildings and in the swimming pools, you can stay warm here, even too warm!

They are a younger city, by some standards. Their stories date from the ninth century but their history as much more than disparate farms mainly dates from the 1700s. The City Archives, founded in the 1940s, contains records mainly from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, with scattered documents from 1500 onward.

The Archives most resembles -- in its users -- our Notarial Archives. The collection is used daily by people looking for deeds and other transactions concerned with housing. They also have records from

all city offices, associations, and private companies located in Reykjavik. They make a very big effort to collect material on the lives of people in the city. For example, they collect all propaganda from elections, posters about concerts, reports, and in a concentrated way, junk mail. In regards to the latter, they collect everything that comes into selected homes for one week. They similarly collect Christmas cards every five years.

In regards to my project, we have done one Gallup poll concerned with knowledge of what an archives is and will do another next week concerned with the use of archives and the private keeping of family records. Other parts of my work concern the design of their registration form and interviews with researchers.

More about Iceland, when I return. Visit me....

## **The Greater New Orleans Archivists Newsletter**

Please send submissions to Rebecca Hankins care of The Amistad Research Center, Tilton Hall/Tulane University; New Orleans, Louisiana 70118-5698; Fax (504) 865-5580; e-mail: hankins@mailhost.tcs.tulane.edu

## **The Greater New Orleans Archivists Officers**

Susan Tucker, President  
Rebecca Hankins, Secretary  
Robert Sherer, Treasurer

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