

# The Greater New Orleans Archivists

## Newsletter

Spring

1996

Next Meeting  
Wednesday, March 20  
Time: 5:30 PM  
Touro Infirmary Archives  
3450 Chestnut St.  
Corner of Aline

### Spring Meeting

Our Spring Meeting is being hosted by the Touro Infirmary Archives and will be held on Wednesday March 20 at 5:30 in the evening. Cathy Kahn and the Touro catering department have planned a menu which includes shrimp mouse, turkey on cranberry bread sandwiches, honey ham on marble rye bread sandwiches, cheese platter, brownies and lemon squares and white and red wine and soft drinks. On the agenda are the GNOA brochure, a discussion on the Name Authority Project, written bylaws and the Southern Archives Conference. Please come for a meeting which, in Cathy's words "includes the best exchange of conversation and information, and a fine repast."

### Southern Archives Conference, April 10-12

The Southern Archives Conference is an organization of regional associations in the

Southeastern U.S., including Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Tennessee. The organization meets biennially in alternating states with the Louisiana Archives and Manuscript Association hosting our 1996 conference. The conference center is the Hotel St. Marie, a small hotel in the Vieux Carre. Registrants will be treated to an interesting program and a variety of complimentary receptions and tours. Robert S. Martin, Director of Texas State Library will give the keynote address and a complimentary reception at the Historic New Orleans Collection are among the events planned. We urge you to attend and take this opportunity to exchange information with peers from neighboring states.

### 1995 Winter Meeting

The Archdiocese of New Orleans Archives hosted the annual Winter meeting of the GNOA on December 6. Outgoing President, Beatrice Owsley thanked our

host and welcomed everyone to the meeting. She spoke of enjoying her experience as president and the many accomplishments of the GNOA including the Name Authority Project, the architectural Records Repository Study and the pamphlet on GNOA institutions. Carol Bartels, secretary, and Robert Sherer, treasurer, were also thanked for their work.

Dr. Wilbur Meneray presided over elections. Carol Bartels was elected President, Rebecca Hankins, Secretary, and Rob Sherer remains Treasurer.

Wayne Everard spoke for the Name Authority Project Committee. The Project sponsored an Authorities Control workshop at UNO and has developed the initial list of authorities for New Orleans names from local archives. Members are invited to add new names as they verify them and put them in the LC format. There is a link to the GNOA Name Authority Project on the NOPL homepage. The URL is <http://www.gnofn.org/~nopl/links/archives/gnoa.htm>.

Robert Whitman, N.O. Fire Department Museum and Educational Center archivist gave a presentation on the recently opened museum and its archival holdings. Located on Washington Avenue, the Museum contains memorabilia, artifacts, and some records of the N.O. Fire Department.

Robert Sherer gave the Treasurer's Report and distributed the annual financial report.

## **News From The Archives**

### ***Amistad Research Center at Tulane University***

On Thursday, April 18 at 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Nkiru Nzegwu will present a one hour lecture entitled "Interpreting African Objects in Museum Collections: An African

Perspective" at the Center. A Nigerian born artist, author, writer, producer and philosopher, Dr. Nzegwu holds joint appointments in the Philosophy and Art History departments at the State University of New York at Binghamton. The recipient of several awards and distinctions for her work including: Nigerian Federal Government Scholarship, Smithsonian Institution Fellowship, Rockefeller Grant and Getty Research Grant. This event is free and open to the public and has been underwritten by the Louisiana Division of the Arts.

The Friends of the Amistad Research Center, N.O. Chapter host their annual membership luncheon June 15, noon-3 p.m. at Roje Grand Ballroom. Please contact the Center for further information.

Recent acquisitions include an addition to noted sociologist Dr. Hylan Lewis's papers including 13 cubic ft of manuscript documents and 200+ books and magazines from his library; an addition to the papers of author Dorothy Sterling's papers including photographs and manuscript documents used in her most recent book titled, "Ahead of Her Time: Abby Kelley and the Politics of Anti-slavery", 6 cu. ft.; and an addition to the papers of UNO professor and jazz artist/composer Harold Battiste, 1 cu. ft.

### ***The Historic New Orleans Collection***

The Collection has relocated its priceless collection of photographs, manuscripts, and books to the new Williams Research Center, located at 410 Chartres Street. The new facility opened to the general public on Tuesday, January 23, 1996. The Collection's museum, gift shop, and administrative offices remain at 533 Royal Street.

The Center has recently opened the William Russell general correspondence and working files, 25 linear ft.; Baby Dodds Collection, 2 linear ft.; Johnny Dodds Collection, .5 linear feet; Correspondence with San Francisco Musicians, .5 linear ft.; Correspondence with New Orleans (and other ) Musicians, 1 linear ft.; Mahalia Jackson Papers, 8 linear ft.; and Bunk Johnson Papers, 10 linear ft.

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

The City Archives has received 3 cubic ft. of records from the Office of Property Management; 15 cu. ft. from the Clerk of Council, ca. 1920s to 1980s; 18 cu. ft. of hearing files from Department of Civil Service; and 15 cu. ft. from the Board of Zoning Adjustments.

Black History Month activities included the Library's 5th annual presentation of "Tracing Your roots: African-American Genealogy Day"; Wayne Everard and Irene Wainwright spoke to a freshman assembly at SUNO on African-American genealogical resources in the Louisiana Division; The Louisiana Division's 2nd Annual exhibit titled "African-Americans in New Orleans: Making a Living" will remain on display on the third floor of the Main Library through early April and is available for viewing on NOPL's web site.

A new exhibit, "Let the Record Speak: 100 Years of Service at New Orleans Public Library" will open on April 19 as part of the Library's celebration of its 100th anniversary. It will also be mounted on the NOPL's web site.

### ***Touro Infirmary Archives***

For all of you who have not visited the Archives since its opening in 1990, the staff

has assembled a display of antique medical instruments, all used at Touro Infirmary sometime in the last 143 years and a display of selected documents and photographs.

Also of interest is the new MicroMARC for Integrated Format, which is up and running, and which has many features far superior to the old MicroMARC:amc program.

### ***University of New Orleans, Archives and Manuscripts/ Special Collections Department***

The department is serving as consultant to the newly-created state archives in Coahuila, Mexico; Black History Month activities included a WYLD radio discussion of department holdings and an exhibition sponsored by the UNO Diversity Committee.

The department is collaborating with the UNO School of Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism in an ongoing oral history program with local restaurateurs. Among those interviewed to date have been Ella Brennan, Horst Pfeiffer and Alex Patout. In connection with the department's oral history program, interviews with Betty Wisdom and judge John Minor Wisdom has been added to the collection.

University of New Orleans Collection: over 20 linear feet of material from UNO's public relation officer have been received and processed. Included are press releases from 1960 to the present, 2 linear feet of reports have been received from the School of Urban Affairs.

Orleans Parish School Board Collection: Five linear feet of material from W.C.C. Claiborne school were added to the collection.

Photographs from the department's holdings were provided for inclusion in a

videotape production on former New Orleans Mayor, Moon Landrieu, and for a forthcoming exhibition at Le Pavillon Hotel.

Beatrice Rodriguez Owsley received UNO's Marcus B. Christian Community Service Award for 1996 and she also prepared an exhibit on John McDonogh Senior High School (1924-1989) at the Earl K. Long Library.

Marie Windell was a member of the American delegation last fall to visit archives in St. Petersburg, Moscow, and Warsaw and she arranged the fall program for LAMA at L'Hermitage Plantation.

Other recent acquisitions include: several thousand reels of 16mm film and videocassette recordings from Channel 6 Television; Columbia Iron Works and Dry Dock Collection; the Thiberg Collection from the Sisters of the Society of the Sacred Heart; photographs include a 1922 panoramic view of the Jerusalem Temple Band, two views of students at Alcee Fortier High School (1942-43) and students in grade 10-5 at Xavier University in 1922.

## News Notes

### LAMA

(Marie Windell)

Now is the time for us to urge Governor Foster to appoint additional members of the LSHR Advisory Board who are experienced in the administration of historic records and archives. This Board serves as a liaison between the state and the National Historical Publication and Records Commission, which is one of the major sources for federal grants. The Board is designed to help us to compete on the national scene for those ever declining funds. Many worthy programs cannot now be undertaken.

The LAMA Board has written to the governor to encourage his appointment of professionals in this field. If members of GNOA and other archival organizations join in this effort, the appointment of those who will work to preserve and promote our state historical records becomes more likely. His address is: Office of the Governor, PO Box 94004, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9004.

### Annual NAGARA Meeting

Mark your calendar! The annual meeting of the National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators will be held on July 17-20, 1996, in Washington DC. **Strategic Partnerships** is the theme of the conference. Speakers scheduled to appear include: U.S. Archivist John Carlin, David Bearman and William Saffady.

The Sheraton City Center Hotel will be the site of the conference. More information on the conference is available from Steve Grandin, NAGARA Publications and Membership Services Office, 48 Howard Street, Albany, NY 12207, phone 518-463-8644, fax 518-463-8656.

### Library of Congress

LC's Manuscript Division publishes 1993 Acquisition Report. The 91-page, illustrated report details the collections of author Philip Roth, Watergate Judge John Sirica, and historian John Spencer Bassett among others. For further information contact : Janice Ruth (202) 707-5383.

### Plessy Conference

History will be made and discussed at "*When the Future was the Past: The Plessy Conference: A Centennial Reflection on the Past, Present, and Future Status of American Race Relations Under the Law*"

in New Orleans May 17 and 18, 1996.

The 1896 Supreme Court decision in *Plessy v Ferguson* gave the United States "separate but equal" until the 1954 decision *Brown v Board of Education*, after which Jim Crow was dismantled in the South. In this Centennial year of the *Plessy* decision, leading scholars will examine how race relations are evolving.

Panelists include: Hon. Constance Baker Motley, Henry Louis Gates, Jr., John Hope Franklin, Elaine Jones, Cornel West, Hon. John Minor Wisdom, Adolph Reed, C. Vann Woodward, and Joseph Logsdon.

The Amistad Research Center is a Conference co-sponsor with the Tulane Law School, the Southern Institute for Education and Research (Tulane) and the W.E.B. DuBois Institute for Afro-American Research (Harvard). Funding is provided by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, NEH, the Midlo Center for New Orleans Studies, and the University of New Orleans.

For further information, contact Julia Burka at the SI (504) 865-7050; FAX (504) 866-1635.

### **Western Archives Institute**

The tenth annual Archives Institute will be held at The Guest House at Fuller Seminary in Pasadena, California, July 28-August 9, 1996. For additional information and an application form, contact Administrator, Western Archives Institute, 1020 O Street, Sacramento, CA 95814; (916) 653-7715, fax: (916) 653-7134.

### **Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts**

Preservation overview surveys of paper-based collections by the CCAHA are available at a greatly reduced rate, thanks

to the generosity of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Four workshops offered in 1996: 2 sessions of *Instituting a Conservation Environment Monitoring Program* and 2 sessions of *Have You Got the blues? Architectural Records: Their Identification, Management, Storage, and Treatment*.

For further information please contact: Ann Craddock, Preservation Services Representative, (215) 545-0613.

### **ERRATUM**

Part of the URL for the NUCMC web page mentioned in the winter issue of the GNOA Newsletter was inadvertently left out. The correct URL is: <http://lcweb.loc.gov/coll/nucmc/nucmc.html>

### **GNOA New Members**

Mrs. Brenda Billips Square, Head of Reference Services at the Amistad Research Center and Ms. K. G. Wilkins, Staff Librarian of the Amistad Research Center have recently joined the GNOA. We welcome you to our organization.

### **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. (504) 862-3229; fax: (504)865-5580; e-mail: [hankins@mailhost.tcs.tulane.edu](mailto:hankins@mailhost.tcs.tulane.edu).

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

Carol O. Bartels, President  
Rebecca Hankins, Secretary  
Robert Sherer, Treasurer

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