

The Greater New Orleans Archivists

Newsletter

Winter

1994

Next Meeting
Wednesday, December 14
Time: 5:30 PM
Newcomb College Center
For Research On Women
64 Newcomb Place
Caroline Richardson Hall

Winter Meeting

The Winter meeting of the GNOA is scheduled for Wednesday December 14th and our host will be the Newcomb College Center for Research on Women. The meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. above the Parlor in Caroline Richardson Hall on the Tulane Campus. On the agenda is a report from the Name Authority File Project Committee and a discussion on the carnival study guides. Dr. Frederick Stielow, Amistad Research Center, will give a talk on his recent trip to Africa and Sr. Dorothy Dawes of the St. Mary's Dominican Archives, will report on the meeting of the Archivists of Congregations of Women Religious.

Autumn Meeting

Our Autumn meeting was held in the Counting House of The Historic New Orleans Collection on Wednesday 21 of September at 5:30 in the evening. Following the opening remarks of President Beatrice Owsley, those

present were introduced to two new archivists in town: Phyllis Magee-Lindsey, Research Archivist, Xavier University and Gary Van Zante, Curator of the Southeastern Architectural Archives, Tulane University.

Bill Meneray of Tulane and Sally Reeves of the Notarial Archives spoke on the 58th annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists held in Indianapolis, Indiana in September. In talking about the SAA convention Dr. Meneray focused on the session titled, *Without Consent: The Question of Third Party Privacy Rights in Collections of Personal Papers*, and recommended the purchase in audio-cassette form of this presentation to those who were unable to attend. Sally Reeves talked about following the architectural tract and mentioned "Aviator," a marc based description process, and the wonderful give aways that were offered by the Indianapolis institutions. Beatrice Owsley reported on the meeting of the Louisiana Folklore Commission.

Wayne Everard, of the New Orleans Public Library, spoke for the Name Authority File

Project Committee. The committee received very few responses to the call for names and the responses received were not written using MARC tags and sub-fields. Due to the lack of responses sent in, it was questioned whether GNOA should continue with this project. The decision to continue was postponed until the next meeting.

Proposals made at the Autumn meeting included checking into the number of *Guide To Resources In New Orleans Repositories For the Study of Carnival in New Orleans* the GNOA has left and the formation of a small archives cooperation committee within the GNOA. Cathy Kahn of Touro Infirmary Archives organized a group to go visit and determine what records remain at Charity Hospital.

News From The Archives

The Historic New Orleans Collection

In conjunction with the exhibition, *The Grand American Avenue: 1850-1920*, John W. Keefe, Curator of Decorative Arts, New Orleans Museum of Art, will give a talk entitled, "Along the Avenue: The Splendid Interior, 1850-1920" on Wednesday December 7 at 7:30 p.m. in the ballroom of the Royal Sonesta Hotel, 300 Bourbon Street. The exhibition, *The Grand American Avenue: 1850-1920*, will close December 10. A small exhibition of Christmas Cards from the William Russell Collection will be on display over the holidays and opening on December 20 will be the exhibition, *The Last Frontier of Bohemia: Tennessee Williams In New Orleans*. Now available and published by the Collection is *Elegant Entertaining Along St. Charles Avenue; Authentic Menus and 1890's Recipes from the Garden District of New Orleans* by Susan R. Laudeman.

Recent acquisitions of the Manuscripts Department include six reels of microfilm from the French Foreign Office Archives in Paris relating to colonial Louisiana and the Louisiana Purchase, 1712-1835; a Tennessee Williams' draft for the play *Vieux Carré*; Records of S. H. Livaudais & Sons, sugar brokers; Destrehan Family Papers, 1830-1884, and Records of Les Comédiens Français.

Latin American Library Tulane University

Among the recent acquisitions of the Library is the Donald and Martha Robertson Collection, 1940s-1992, which consists of research materials on pre-Columbian and early colonial Mexican Indian pictorial manuscripts and late 17th and early 18th century Tefhialoyan codices. Included in this collection are photographs, microfilms, kodachromes, photostats, photocopies, correspondence, research notes, manuscript drafts, and published works.

Descriptions of the daily life of Americans in Peru during World War II, trips to locations within Peru and to Bolivia and Chile, earthquakes, highway construction, and archaeological sites can be found in the Lyn Smith Manduley Letters, 1939 May 4-1945 April 22. This collection contains eighty-eight letters written by Manduley, a free-lance writer to her parents in the United States during her six year residence in Lima, Peru, with her husband who worked for Panagra Airline.

The library has also received a Mexican Revolution Field Hospitals Album, ca. 1914, which contains photographs by R. Z. Garcia of Monterrey, and others. The photographs taken at two railway field hospitals, one in Acámbaro, Guanajuato, contain operation scenes of amputations. There are also photos of nurses and surgeons, some of whom are named.

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

Currently on display in the Louisiana Division is the exhibit *A Glimpse of the Past; Photographs of George François Mugnier*. A copy of the *Friends of the Cabildo Line Item Index to Building Contracts in the Notarial Archives* is now available for use at the library.

***Newcomb College Center
For Research On Women***

On the 26 January, at 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel, the Newcomb College Center for Research on Women will host the Annual Adele Ramos Salzer Lecture in a program featuring Helen Lefkowitz Horowitz, Professor of History and American Studies at Smith College. Dr. Horowitz will speak on writing the biography of M. Carey Thomas, a woman who lived at a fever pitch, necessarily hiding her private life while serving as president of Bryn Mawr College. Dr. Horowitz also is the author of *Campus Life: Undergraduate Cultures from the End of the Eighteenth Century to the Present; Alma Mater: Design and Experience in the Women's Colleges from their Nineteenth Century Beginnings to the 1930s*; and *Culture and the City: Cultural Philanthropy in Chicago*.

***Nunez Community College
Library Archives***

The Library Archives recently received transcriptions of the minutes of the St. Bernard Police Jury, 1880-1929, from historian Frank Fernandez.

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

The Department has completed an inventory/guide to its Charity Hospital School of Nursing Collection (21 linear feet of

records, 1874-1990). Recent additions to existing collections include 15 linear feet of correspondence, 1960-1975, and several hundred audio cassettes of board minutes, 1975-1984, to the Orleans Parish School Board Collection. Additions to the university's own archives include 9 linear feet of records, 1990-1993, from the Student Government Association; 15 linear feet of records from the Office of Development; and 30 linear feet of records from the Chancellor's Office.

The department also acquired a possibly unique photographic print, ca. 1850-60s, of the second Convent of St. Michael in Convent, Louisiana which no longer stands. Another recent acquisition is two sharp, letterpress halftone views of the interior of Montalbano's Italian Delicatessen at 724 St. Philip Street.

The LSU Press has published *Slavery, The Civil Law, and the Supreme Court of Louisiana* by Dr. Judith Schafer of Tulane University. This first book length study based on a subject in the department's Supreme Court Collection of Legal Archives, examines 1200 case files involving slaves as plaintiffs, defendants, or objects of lawsuits or criminal actions. It is the first complete study of any state's slave law and its courts throughout the antebellum period.

William Ransom Hogan Jazz Archive

Curator, Dr. Bruce Raeburn presented a lecture at the Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame in Birmingham. The lecture, titled "New Orleans Jazz Origins and Early Development" was the first in a series running through March 1995 on which Raeburn has served as consultant. Recent acquisitions include the Robert L. Bradley, Mrs. Charles Callery, and Mrs. L. D. Smyth donations of recorded sound materials, consisting of vintage phonodiscs in various formats. Donations of sheet music from the period 1896-1930 were received from Marilyn

Painter and Ted Kline, respectively. During October the Archive collaborated with the Louisiana Jazz Federations's observation of Jazz Awareness Month in mounting a photographic exhibit at the Riverwalk, *Riverboats and Jazz*.

Xavier University Library University Archives and Special Collections Division

Most of the recent growth in manuscript holdings has come in the form of additions to the University records, which include 36 linear feet from the Office of Academic Affairs, 8 linear feet from the Education Department, and 6 linear feet from the Business and Economics Department. Non-University accessions consist of the Charles Roussève Library and the Sybil Kein Papers. Roussève a graduate of Xavier, served as a New Orleans public school principal and was the author of *The Negro in Louisiana*. Sybil Kein, another Xavier alumnus, is an English professor at the University of Michigan and the author of *Gombo People*, the first book of poetry in Louisiana Creole.

Sister Roberta Smith, S.B.S., has retired. Replacing her in the archives as Research Archivist is Phyllis Magee-Lindsey. Ms. Magee-Lindsey has two Master's degrees, one in history from Jackson State and the other in archives from Duquesne.

Colonial Dames Scholarship

A scholarship to the National Archives' Modern Archives Institute, to be held January 23-February 3, 1995 is available from the Society of American Archivists. The award, funded by the Colonial Dames of America, Chapter III, covers up to \$1,200 of the total tuition, travel and housing expenses at the Institute (Tuition is \$475). To be eligible, an

applicant must be an employee of an archival institution or agency with a fair percentage of its holdings in a period predating 1825; have been employed less than two years as an archivist or archives trainee; and actually be working with archives or manuscripts regardless of title.

Resumes accompanied by two letters of recommendation from persons having definite knowledge of the applicant's qualifications should be submitted in triplicate (original and two photocopies) to Carol A. Rudisell, Reference Department, University of Delaware Library, Newark, DE 19717-5267, by December 15, 1994.

GNOA New Members

Sr. Hyacinth Breaux, O. Carm., Archivist, and Sr. Frances-Therese Meyers, O. Carm., Assistant Archivist, of the Congregation of Our Lady of Mount Carmel have joined the GNOA. We welcome them to our organization.

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Please send submissions to Carol Bartels, care of The Historic New Orleans Collection, 533 Royal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130-3179. Fax number: 504-522-5108.

Greater New Orleans Archivists Officers

Beatrice Rodriguez Owsley, President
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