

# The Greater New Orleans Archivists

## Newsletter

Winter

1995

Next Meeting  
Wednesday, 6 December  
Time: 5:30 PM  
Archdiocese of New Orleans Archives  
1100 Chartres St.

### Winter Meeting

Our Winter Meeting is being hosted by the Archives of the Archdiocese of New Orleans and will be held on Wednesday 6 December at 5:30 in the evening. On the agenda are the President's Report, a discussion on the Name Authority Project, and elections for new officers. Please plan to attend the meeting.

### Society of American Archivist Leadership

Dr. Alfred Lemmon, Historic New Orleans Collection, is the Chair of the International Archival Affairs Committee and is a member of the Acquisitions and Appraisal Section Steering Committee. Lee Miller, Tulane University, is Co-Chair of the Institutional Evaluation and Development Committee with Kaye Lanning Minchew.

Sally Reeves, New Orleans Notarial Archives, is Co-Chair of the Architectural Records Roundtable with Enrique Vivoni and Susan Tucker, Newcomb Center for Research on Women, is Co-Chair of the Women's Collections Roundtable with Fernanda Perrone. Wayne Everard, New Orleans Public Library, is one of two local government representatives on the Steering Committee of SAA's Government Records Section.

### Autumn Meeting

The New Orleans Public Library hosted the annual Autumn meeting of the GNOA at the Broad Branch on 13 September. Thanks to our host and a welcome address were given by President, Beatrice Owsley. It was also announced that Bill Meneray of Tulane, Wayne Everard of New Orleans Public Library, and Charles Nolan of the

Archdiocesan Archives would serve as the 1995 nomination committee.

Wayne Everard spoke for the Name Authority Project Committee, which proposed that members, on a voluntary basis, submit to the committee up to ten names of relevance to their repositories, which are already in an authority file. Enclosed in your newsletter is a list of those names turned into the committee. It is hoped that the project will produce a useful list of local names that may be encountered in the papers and records held by the various repositories in New Orleans. To assist people in learning how to check names in an existing name authority Irene Wainwright of New Orleans Public Library held a small workshop at the library on 9 October.

Other business discussed at the meeting concerned the Architectural Records Committee, in which Sally Reeves stressed that we needed to lock into national standards. Lee Miller led the discussion on the GNOA pamphlet. Funding for the pamphlet is the big question, with an estimated cost of \$300-\$400 needed to printed 2,500 copies. It was suggested that to get money up front we might handle it on a subscription bases.

Bill Meneray reported on the annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists. It was proposed that the organization work out a plan to circulate SAA meeting tapes which have been purchased by members.

Charles Nolan spoke on the May 1995 flood damage to the Congregation of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Archives and on the recovery efforts. Cathy Kahn informed us of an important find for the Touro Infirmary Archives and on the Southern Jewish

Historical Society Meeting, Irene Wainwright spoke to us as the new Editor of the LAMA Newsletter and Sally Reeves mentioned the upcoming Southern Archives Conference. Look for you SAC registration packet to arrive in January.

## **National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections Web Page**

The National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections (NUCMC), a free-of-charge cooperative cataloging program operated by the Library of Congress, is pleased to announce the release of its NUCMC Web page. The page includes hundreds of links, not only to NUCMC program resources, but also to Library of Congress custodial division menus and information about other Library of Congress activities of interest to archivists and researchers, and to home pages of archives and manuscript repositories, professional societies, library schools, bibliographic utilities, grant-making institutions and more. The URL of the page is <http://lcweb.loc.gov/coll/nucmc.html>. NUCMC welcomes comments and suggestions concerning its Web page, as well as additional URLs.

NUCMC also continues to seek to identify archives and manuscript repositories located in the United States and its territories which are open to the public and which lack the capability to catalog their collections in a national-level database such as RLIN or OCLC. On the basis of data supplied by such institutions to the NUCMC program, NUCMC catalogers create RLIN bibliographic records describing collections held by participants and establish pertinent name and subject authority headings. The

NUCMC tapes are subsequently purchased and loaded by OCLC. Descriptions and locations of the material are then available to researchers on RLIN and OCLC throughout the United States and around the world.

For more information on this program contact the NUCMC Team, Special Materials Cataloging Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20540-4375, telephone: 202-707-7954, fax: 202-707-7161, internet: nucmc@mail.loc.gov.

## News From The Archives

### *Amistad Research Center*

In October Dr. Molefi Kete Asante, who popularized the word, "Afrocentricity" presented his personal and professional papers to Amistad Research Center. Professor Molefi Kete Asante's papers inaugurate the nation's first Afrocentric Archives, which will document the development and thinking of the nation's proponents of Afrocentrism. The Afrocentric Archives is the fulfilled brainchild of Clyde Robertson, Director of the African Studies and Culture Unit of the New Orleans Public Schools.

Other acquisitions include the Jose Madison Papers, Madison a member of the National Board of the NAACP and host of "Lunch with Joe" a talk-radio program on WRC in Washington, DC donated his papers to the Center. The tapes, clippings, photographs, and videos in the collection document a life spent in the front lines of civil rights. Lifelong collector Lloyd Smith donated his collection of jazz memorabilia and a collection of classic, original jazz

recordings. The Lloyd and Helen Smith Jazz Collection includes over 500 original jazz LPs, including Okeh, Bluebird, and Columbia impressions. The collection is heavily weighted toward the "big band" and swing era. Recording artists include: Earl Hines, Louis Armstrong, Ella Fitzgerald, Jimmie Lunceford, Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Charlie Parker, Glenn Miller and hundreds of other artists in issues from the 1930s to 1960s. Books, clippings, and jazz memorabilia were also included with the collection. Marvin Ellis, a native of Miami and Xavier University graduate, has donated to the Amistad Research Center manuscripts, numerous photographs, and clippings from an extensive collection on the Afro-Cuban, Black Catholic, and Haitian Creole culture in Miami.

On December ninth Amistad will hold it's 1995 Amistad Arts Gala at the Fairmont Hotel. This year awards will be presented to Debbie Allen, Meshach Taylor, and Debra Brown. The exhibition **Terms of Endurance: Living Legends in African American Art The Work of Elizabeth Catlett, Jacob Lawrence, and John T. Scott** opens December third. The artists will participate in a Visiting Artists/Scholar Program February 7-10, 1996, which will include a reception, workshops, signing sessions and lectures. The visiting Scholars Program is underwritten by the Louisiana Division of the Arts, the Edward Wisner Trust Foundation, and the Crescent City Chapter of Links, Inc.

*Center For  
African and African American Studies  
Southern University New Orleans*

The Center recently acquired a 45 item collection of African art and artifacts through donation by Dr. Hassimi Magai, assistant professor of French at SUNO. Magai is also the founding president of the Bureau d'Etudes et de Recherches Appliquées pour le Développement en Afrique, Gao, Mali. The collection includes woven mats, fans, leather sandals, mud cloth, and beaded jewelry produced for daily, occupational, symbolic and religious purposes. A mosaic painting of Pelicans, mounted photographs, and audiocassettes of Songhay and Bambara music, contemporary and traditional, are also included in the collection.

Recent activities have included a lecture by art historian, Dr. Mikelle Omari-Obayemi of the University of Arizona faculty and a screening of "Black Is...Black Ain't" as part of the archivist's Brown Bag Series. Other events which recently took place were the African American Male Symposium and the African American Women's Art Symposium.

*Congregation Of Our Lady of  
Mount Carmel Archives*

Work continues on the archives restoration project. Several archivist and records management colleagues have given of their time to help the Sisters since their documents were returned in July and August. Appeals for assistance may be forth coming in the months ahead.

*The Historic New Orleans Collection*

The Historic New Orleans Collection is moving its library, manuscripts, and curatorial departments. Reading rooms in the 533 Royal Street complex will close at 4:30 p.m. Saturday, December 2, 1995. The new Williams Research Center at 410 Chartres Street will open to researchers on Tuesday, January 23, 1996, at 10:00 a.m.

During the relocation of research collections and personnel, reference services must be suspended. Photograph orders will be handled on a case-by-case basis, depending on the availability of materials.

The new research facility, named for Collection founders General Kemper and Leila Williams, occupies a restored Beaux Arts building one block from our Royal Street complex. At Royal Street, the Louisiana History Galleries, the current **Raising Cane** exhibition, the Williams Residence house museum, the Museum Shop, and other offices will remain open.

The grand opening celebration for the Williams Research Center is scheduled for Saturday, January 20, with a symposium about Bienville, Andrew Jackson, and Zachary Taylor--**A Founder, A Defender, and a Conqueror**--of whom the Collection now owns significant portraits.

*Mercy Archives*

Mercy archivists and historians held their quadrennial network meeting the 12-15 of October. One of the papers given was that of Sr. Mary Hermenia Muldrey, who spoke of the research entailed in writing a biography based completely on archival data, as she did with *Abounding in Mercy: Mother Austin Carroll*. Sister will be going to England and Ireland in March and April

for further research on some of the nineteenth-century Irish women who served as Sisters of Mercy in New Orleans and to gather information pertaining to Margaret Haughery.

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

Wayne Everard's book *How to Research the History of Your House (Or Other Building) In New Orleans* is now available on-line in NUTRIAS, New Orleans Public Library's web site (<http://www.gnofn.org/~nopl/guides/house/title.htm>). Also accessible in NUTRIAS is a home page for the Louisiana Archives and Manuscripts Association (LAMA), containing the LAMA Newsletter and other information regarding the organization. It can be accessed at <http://www.gnofn.org/~nopl/links/archives/ama>.

A new exhibit **African Americans in New Orleans: Making A Living**, is in the planning stages and due to open in February as part of the Library's annual celebration of Black History Month. The exhibit will draw upon materials in the City Archives and the Louisiana Division collections to explore the ways in which African American New Orleanians were employed throughout the city's history. It will be on view on the third floor of the Central Library through March.

### ***Southeastern Architectural Archive Tulane University***

There are two exhibitions currently on display through May 1996 at the archives. **New Orleans 1895** surveys nineteenth-century architecture in New Orleans,

tracing developments in building technology and the evolution of nineteenth century architectural drawing, from the architects James Gallier, Sr. and Jr. through the work of James Freret, Albert Diettel and Thomas Sully at the turn of the century. The other exhibition concerns the work of Richard Koch.

**Photographs by Richard Koch for the Historic American Building Survey** documents lost Louisiana plantation houses and other buildings, through the work of New Orleans architect and photographer Richard Koch (1889-1971), director of Louisiana HABS in the 1930s.

The Southeastern Architectural Archive collections include drawings, photographs, office records and other documentation relating to the architectural and urban history of New Orleans and the Gulf South region, from 1830 to the present. For more information contact Gary Van Zante, Curator (telephone: 862-8000, ext. 1806; e-mail: [vanzante@mailhost.tcs.tulane.edu](mailto:vanzante@mailhost.tcs.tulane.edu)).

### **1996 Environment Monitoring Workshop**

The Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts, the New Jersey State Archives, Department of State, the New Jersey Caucus of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference, and the New Jersey Historical Commission, Department of State are co-sponsoring a one-day environmental workshop, "**Instituting a Conservation Environment Monitoring Program**," in Trenton, NJ on **Monday, March 11, 1996**. A registration fee of \$50.00 includes a box lunch and materials. The workshop is partially funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Intended for library, archives, house museum, and museum professionals, as well as for architects, engineers, and staff involved in facilities management and design the workshop will supply the technical background to develop support and documentation for improving environmental conditions for long-term preservation of cultural collections. The workshop will present the rationale, techniques, and equipment used to monitor the critical environmental conditions for cultural collections. Ways to develop realistic methods to monitor humidity, temperature, lighting, particulates, and gaseous contamination will be discussed, including analysis and interpretation of hygrothermograph data. Various types of monitoring equipment will be demonstrated, and a useful packet of supportive information will be provided.

For further information and a registration form please contact: Ann Craddock, Preservation Services Representative, Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts, 264, South 23rd Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19103. Telephone: 215-545-0613, Fax: 215-735-9313, email:ccaha@shrsys.hslc.org.

### **Annual NAGARA Meeting Set for July 17-20, 1996, in Washington, DC**

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 Alliances and Partnerships* is the theme of the conference. It will include several sessions focused on the need and opportunities for

government records and archival programs to seek alliances and proceed in partnership with other organizations and institutions.

The meeting will also feature sessions on other records and information management issues, problems, and needs. It is expected to begin with a plenary session that will provide perspective and set the stage for the rest of the meeting. Part of the meeting will be held at "Archives II," the National Archives and Records Administration's new facility in College Park, Maryland, giving attendees a chance to see a state-of-the art archival facility. There will be plenty of opportunities for informal networking at the conference. A number of pre-conference workshops are also being planned.

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.

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

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

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

Beatrice Rodriguez Owsley, President  
Carol O. Bartels, Secretary  
Robert Sherer, Treasurer