



FALL  
1991  
NEWSLETTER

# THE GREATER NEW ORLEANS ARCHIVISTS

*A Report from Catherine C. Kahn  
of the Touro Infirmary Archives  
and Joseph Scott  
of the Historic New Orleans Collection*

## Workshop on Cataloging

Steven L. Hensen, compiler of *Archives, Personal Papers, and Manuscripts* (APPM), led a workshop concerning practical cataloging applications of this manual, now in its second edition, on July 25 and 26, in Austin. The event was sponsored by the Graduate School of Library and Information Science of the University of Texas.

Hensen spoke on the evolution of APPM and on general principles of archival cataloging. He also led discussions on specific rules in APPM; on the relationships among APPM, USMARC (the United States Machine-Readable Cataloging format of the Online Computer Library Center [OCLC]), and the second edition of *Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules* (AACR2); and on the current state of various bibliographic databases.

Some forty participants, including the authors of this report, were able to question Hensen on cataloging issues of concern to their institutions. The problems, frustrations, and gripes aired by the participants reflected varying experiences and specializations and helped attune Hensen, as the compiler himself acknowledged, to "what topics not to bring up" when he again directs the workshop in Austin in early December.



*The experience  
helped attune  
Hensen  
to "what topics  
not to bring up"  
again.*

## News from the Repositories

*Silver Anniversary*

*The Amistad Research Center at Tulane University* Amistad, which was founded in 1966, is celebrating its silver anniversary. On Friday, October 18, the Center will have an open house from 4 to 6 p.m. On Sunday, November 10, at 2:30 p.m., at Rogers Memorial Chapel, Amistad will sponsor a concert of music by nineteenth-century Louisiana Creoles of color to be performed by soprano Thais St. Julien and pianist Peter Collins. On Saturday, November 16, at 7 p.m., the Center will hold its annual Gala at the Fairmont Hotel. This year's fundraiser will honor composer Hale Smith and sculptor John Scott.

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*News from the Repositories—Continued from page 1*

For more information, please telephone 865-5535. Amistad Executive Director Clifton H. Johnson traveled to Europe, where he made a stop in Oslo, Norway, to visit Anne Wiggins Brown, the singer who created the role of Bess in *Porgy and Bess*. The Center is receiving her papers. It also received an addition to the papers of sculptor Richmond Barthé and a very large addition to those of sociologist James Blackwell.

*New Staff  
at HNOC  
and  
NOPL*

*The Manuscripts Division  
of the Historic New Orleans Collection*

Susan Massey recently joined the staff as cataloger of manuscripts. Among recent acquisitions are the Seghers Survey Files and other nineteenth-century materials and map files.

*The Louisiana Division  
of the New Orleans Public Library*

Mac Sintes, a 1991 graduate of the Louisiana State University School of Library and Information Science will join the staff as a curator of the photograph collection. An exhibit on the bicentennial of the French Market is showing at the Market through September 11. It will be on view through the rest of the year at three New Orleans Public Library branches. The show was partially funded by a minigrant from the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities. The Louisiana Division's micro-filming project funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities should be completed by the end of the year.

*Newcomb  
College:  
Research Guide*

*The Newcomb Center for Research on Women*

The Center recently published *H. Sophie Newcomb Memorial College: A Research Guide*. To receive a copy of this illustrated guide, please telephone (504) 865-5326.

*New Touro  
Archives*

*Touro Infirmary Archives*

Work is progressing on creating new accommodations for the Archives by remodeling the Gumbel Building mezzanine. The Archives anticipates a fall opening for the space.

*Jazz Archive  
Mounts Exhibits*

*William Ransom Hogan Jazz Archive  
of Tulane University*

The Jazz Archive has two exhibits on display. One is "The Eyes of Jazz: African-American Jazz Photographs in New Orleans, 1914-1945." Photographs on display include some by Arthur P. Bedou and his student Villard Paddio, as well as some by Magnolia Studios. The other exhibit was prepared to coincide with the annual meeting of the International Conference of Americanists, which was held in New Orleans. It is entitled "Anomalies of Racial and Ethnic Identity among New Orleans Musicians: Mardi Gras Indians, *Passe Blancs*, and Latin Americans as Creoles." Archive head Bruce Raeburn has been appointed by the Librarian of Congress to the Preservation of Jazz Commission of the National Park Service.

*Xavier University Archives and Special Collections*

By far the largest project for the summer was the development of formal record groups for the records of the University itself, which have grown in the last year from a few boxes to more than two hundred linear feet.

Xavier cooperated with the French Market Corporation and the Public Library Louisiana Division in gathering materials for the *Market Memories* exhibit mentioned above. University Archivist Lester Sullivan directed the taking of oral histories for the project. The original tape recordings and typescript transcriptions of the interviews will be housed permanently in the Xavier Archives and Special Collections Division. The Archives was among the major contributors of loaned materials to "Louisiana Creoles of Color" an exhibit at the Lafayette Natural History Museum, including one of the few copies of *Les Cenelles*, the antebellum New Orleans publication that was the first anthology of poetry by people of African descent in the United States.

A display that was mounted to coincide with the exhibit on black photographers at the Hogan Jazz Archive mentioned above was one on Arthur P. Bedou. The Xavier Archives has the largest and most comprehensive collection of photos by Bedou, who was the leading black photographer in New Orleans in the first part of the century and who also was the travelling photographer to Booker T. Washington. Among the pictures on view were the last ones ever taken of Back-to-Africa movement leader Marcus Garvey in the U. S. Among exhibits currently on display in the Archives are "Traditional African Craft," "Richard Wright: Retrospective on a Native Son," and "Woman in the Vanguard: Katharine Drexel." The Archives also mounted a display entitled *Honor and Glory: The African-American Military* in the lobby of the University Library. The next lobby exhibit, on women's history, will open in late September.



## Some Manuscripts No News To Yale (or TV Journalist?)

*The Dusty Shelf*, newsletter of the Kansas City Area Archivists, reports in its July-September 1991 issue that a private collector has discovered papers of Kingman Brewster, U. S. ambassador to Great Britain and president of Yale University. The collector was rummaging through a public dump on Martha's Vineyard for old postage stamps when he uncovered papers dating from 1930 to 1941, including the years when Brewster was a student at Yale and a leader in the America First Committee. The discovery includes, among many other things, a letter to Kingman from Charles A. Lindbergh and the text of a statement Brewster made before the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee in 1941. Brewster died in 1988, and his summer house on Martha's Vineyard was sold to CBS newsman Mike Wallace. The private collector restored the collection and contacted Yale, where Brewster's official papers are maintained. Thus far, the discoverer feels that no offer of fair compensation has been forthcoming from either Yale or the Brewster family. (This story originally was reported in *The Manuscript Society News* of Spring 1991, pp. 46-48.)

In another development, Yale's renowned Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library is chided, if only in euphemistic terms, in a recent story in the *The New York Times* (August 28, 1991, p. C11). The article announces the forthcoming publication by the Library of America of the unexpurgated Richard Wright. Previous publishers often changed

PLEASE  
BE SURE  
TO ATTEND  
THE NEXT  
MEETING  
OF  
THE  
GREATER  
NEW  
ORLEANS  
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SEPTEMBER  
12  
AT 6 P.M.  
AT  
THE  
NOTARIAL  
ARCHIVES

*The papers  
were found  
in a dump.*

or cut the author's hard-hitting works, mostly because of their sexual, political, or racial candor. The new editors, trying to determine Wright's original intentions, discovered page proofs for his most famous work, the novel *Native Son*, that, according to the Times, "had been overlooked by scholars because they were catalogued in an unusual way at Yale University."

Scholars visiting New Orleans repositories have reported and a call to officials at Yale confirms that the Beinecke segregates all materials about African Americans into a single collection, the core of which had been donated by photographer Carl Van Vechten as the James Weldon Johnson Memorial Collection. Everything since acquired on black people goes into this one (now artificial) collection.

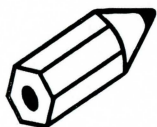


Nominations are being sought for the office of president of the Greater New Orleans Archivists. The election will take place at the December meeting.

## NEXT MEETING

**TIME:** 6 P.M., THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1991

**PLACE:** THE NOTARIAL ARCHIVES  
(ELEVATOR TO) THE BASEMENT, ROOM B-4  
ORLEANS PARISH CIVIL COURTS BUILDING  
421 LOYOLA AVENUE  
TELEPHONE 568-8577



THE GREATER  
NEW ORLEANS  
ARCHIVISTS

All submissions, please, c/o Sally Reeves  
The New Orleans Notarial Archives  
Room B-4, 421 Loyola Avenue  
New Orleans, LA 70112

