

The Greater New Orleans Archivists

Newsletter

Spring

1997

Next Meeting
Wednesday, March 19, 1997
Time: 6:00 PM
Special Collections, 4th Flr.
Howard-Tilton Library
Tulane University

Spring Meeting

Our Spring Meeting is being hosted by Tulane University's Manuscript Department on Wednesday, March 19 at 6:00 in the evening. The meeting will be held on the fourth floor in the Special Collections Reading Room, Howard-Tilton Memorial Library located on Freret St.

The agenda will include under old business the Treasurer's report and the distribution of GNOA brochures to those repositories that had not received their copies. Under new business we will discuss new project suggestions for the GNOA.

1996 Winter Meeting

Amistad Research Center at Tulane University was the setting for the Winter meeting. Carol thanked Amistad for hosting the meeting.

The treasurer's report shows that the GNOA began the year with \$542.22 and ended 1996 with \$533.19.

GNOA membership dues for 1997 should be sent to Rob Sherer as soon as possible.

Old business: The GNOA brochures are completed. Each of the twenty-five member archival institutions were given ten brochures along with a master copy of the original brochure for duplications.

Lee Miller has generously transformed the brochure into an illustrated, fully hyper-linked web page at the following address: <http://www.tulane.edu/~lmiller/GNOA.html>.

Carol suggested GNOA give partial scholarships for future workshops. Everyone think about this idea and we can discuss it further.

New business: Susan Tucker, curator of the Newcomb College Women's Center, was taking orders to purchase archival supplies for small archives to reduce costs. Please contact her for further information.

Architectural records survey discussed as a possible next project for GNOA. We were reminded that a committee had been established a few years back to establish

goals. The committee consisted of Sally Reeves, Gary Van Zante, and Bruce Raeburn.

Some questions posed at the meeting included a need for a clear definition of what architectural records consists of and what regions will we concentrate on or the scope of the survey? Should we reactivate this survey, establish a new committee or is there some other project the GNOA would prefer to develop? Please come with some ideas for the next meeting.

Members were reminded of the GNOA name authority project.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30.

News From The Archives

Amistad Research Center at Tulane University

The Second Annual Visiting Artists/Scholars Program will begin April 1 with the opening of the Center's exhibit of the works of famed watercolorist William Pajaud and noted painter, sculptor and educator John Biggers.

Recent Acquisitions

Molefi K. Asante (.8 cu ft) Addition. More material has come in to the collection of the leading proponent of the Afrocentric paradigm. **Black Data Processing Associates** (2 folders). Addition. Included in the donation by Willie Mackey are publications, reports, and a CD-ROM based tutorial promoting an internet student contest. **Black Patriots Foundation** (1 folder/ 1 videocassette). This new collection documents an organization that promotes the building of a monument to recognize the black contribution to the Revolutionary War. **Juanita C. Carman** (1 item). Addition. The final issue of "Super Seniors: African Americans 100 Years &

Plus" chronicling the lives of famous and ordinary African Americans. **Dr. James E. Conyers** (4 cu. ft.). Dr. Conyers, a prominent Sociologist and professor at Indiana State University, recently donated his papers to the Center. He is a frequent panelist and author on the subjects of black sociologists and black academics, the black family and affirmative action. Conyers is the 1981 recipient of the W.E.B. DuBois Award of the Association of Social and Behavioral Scientists and the Distinguished Scholar award from the Association of Black Sociologists. **Lloyd Davis** (1 item). Addition. Davis has added a large framed photograph of President George Bush signing the Martin Luther King Holiday into law. Mrs. Coretta Scott King and Vice President Dan Quayle are included in the photograph. **Hale Woodruff** (1 folder). This addition, from Professor Ronald Schnell, curator of Tougaloo College, consists of photocopies of correspondences between Woodruff and Tougaloo concerning his artwork presented to Tougaloo's Art Department. **Anonymous donors presented Four works of art:** Julius Ando's *Success Story of a Singer (Dorothy Minor)*; two untitled paintings by W.E. Scott and Irene Clark; and *Dogon Box 1*, a wood and cloth sculpture by New Orleans artist Jeffrey Cook, which was exhibited in the 1996 "Louisiana Story" show in London.

Staff news

Staff Librarian **K.G. Wilkins** has left Amistad. We wish her all the best; **Brenda B. Square**, Head of Archives and Library, has been appointed to the Board of the Louisiana Archives and Manuscript Association; The Center welcomed several new staff members, **Shannon Burrell**, archives clerk; **Donna Braquet**, archives clerk; **Allyson C. Ward**, Development

Assistant; and **Mark A. Phillips**, library clerk.

Exhibits

William E. Bertrand African Art Collection continues on display in the Center's mini-gallery until March 28.

The Historic New Orleans Collection

Recent Acquisitions

David C. Coxe, great grandnephew of **Grace King**, recently donated several items including tickets to social events, monographs, an autograph book, photographs, and letters from family members and friends to Grace King, her mother, and her sisters, Nan, Nina, and May. Other recent acquisitions include scrapbooks documenting **John Milliken Parker's** run for Governor of Louisiana in 1916 as the Progressive Party candidate and scrapbooks documenting the New Orleans Opera Association's activities from 1943-1995.

The Historic New Orleans Collection recently acquired an important collection of New Orleans German manuscripts that supplements the Collection's extensive holdings on the Germans in New Orleans. The collection, assembled by **Dr. Karl J. R. Arnolt** (covering the years 1852-1919) includes financial records of the Deutsches Gesellschaft (1888-1914), records of the 1866 German Festival in New Orleans, reports on activities of German societies in other U.S. cities sent to New Orleans, published immigration prospectus (in German) prepared by various Louisiana parishes to stimulate German immigration, records of the Franz Schubert festival held in New Orleans in 1897, and records of the New Orleans Quartet Club.

Exhibits

Discover what goes into the making of a Mardi Gras Ball as the Historic New Orleans Collection celebrates the seventy-fifth year of the Mystic Club. An exhibition of elaborate costumes, programs, invitations, set designs, and music that chronicles the Mystic Club balls on view through 16 August 1997. The exhibition *A Mystic Ball Masque: Seventy Five Years of the Mystic Club* highlights the year-long activities of research, design, and production that go into the making of a Mardi Gras ball. It is free and open to the public Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. until 4:45 p.m. at 533 Royal Street. The exhibit was prepared by John Magill.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow created the poem *Evangeline* in 1847. *A Celestial Brightness: 150 Years of Evangeline* an exhibition of books, photographs, paintings, manuscripts, and video in commemoration of the sesquicentennial of the composition of Longfellow's poem is on display at the Williams Research Center. The exhibit, on view March 14-September 20 1997, traces the mythic image of Evangeline and analyzes influences that altered it through 150 years. This exhibition is free and open to the public Tuesday through Saturday 10:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. at 410 Chartres Street. Mark Cave served as exhibition coordinator.

New Orleans Public Library, Louisiana Division

Recent Acquisitions

50 sets of blueprints from the **Vieux Carre Commission**. Addition to the papers of Councilmember **Jacquelyn B. Clarkson** (3 cu. ft); the new material includes former Councilmember Clarkson's files relating to the Mardi Gras "Anti-

discrimination Ordinance" (1991-1992) and her City Council agenda files.

New in NUTRIAS, NOPL's web site:

The Index to Suit Records of the First Judicial District Court, (1813-1830), which we have been gradually entering into NUTRIAS, is nearing completion; the index is currently complete through plaintiff's names beginning with "S." (<http://home.gnofn.org/~nopl/inv/1jdc/1jdcind.htm>)

We are also gradually adding an index to deaths recorded in the **Employer's Liability Agreements** filed in Civil District Court, 1915-1944. This index currently covers volumes 1 and 2 of this 18 volume series. (<http://home.gnofn.org/~nopl/inv/vt660.htm>)

The Louisiana Division's Index to Marriage Records of New Orleans Justices of the Peace, 1846-1880, nearly ten years in the making, is nearly complete. One of the last volunteers to work on the project used his personal computer to generate index cards; we were able to use this data to create a "sample" of the full index, which is now available in NUTRIAS (<http://home.gnofn.org/~nopl/inv/jp/jpmarr.htm>).

Exhibit

Currently on view in the Louisiana Division is *African-Americans in New Orleans: The Music*, our third annual exhibit in honor of Black History Month. The exhibit uses City Archives material, photographs from the Louisiana Photograph Collection, and material from the Louisiana Division's book and periodicals collections to celebrate the wide-ranging contributions African-American New Orleanians have made to the music scene, locally, nationally, and internationally. The exhibit will be on view in the Louisiana Division, third floor, Main Library, through the end of May. An online version is mounted in NUTRIAS at

<http://home.gnofn.org/~nopl/exhibits/black97.htm>

St. Mary's Dominican Sisters

St. Mary's Dominican Archives has launched a web page, including a brief history of the New Orleans congregation of Dominican sisters begun in 1860. Encouragement from Lee Miller, Tulane University, and participation in the workshop last spring at HNOC were positive factors; the contributing design and assistance of William R. Dawes, archivist's brother, was indispensable.

Dorothy Dawes, o.p., attended a workshop, *In Our Keeping*, for Dominican archivists and historians (Dorothy does both) in Nazareth, Kentucky in October. Prior to the workshop, she spent four days with mentor Sr. Emma Cecilia Busam, OSU, in the Kentucky Ursuline motherhouse. Sr. Busam is outgoing president of the Archivists for Congregations of Women Religious, and has long been active in SAA. Highlighted in the Kentucky workshop were visits to archives of Kentucky religious communities at Nazareth, Loretto, St. Catharine (Springfield), and historic sites at Gethsemane, Bardstown, and St. Rose (Springfield).

Dorothy also attended the SAA workshop by Megan Desnoyers in Tempe, Az, Jan. 26 on Arrangement and Description.

The Religious Community Archivists of Greater New Orleans (RCAGNO), chaired by **Dorothy Dawes**, o.p., and guided by **Charles Nolan**, Archdiocese of New Orleans Archives, are planning a book which will incorporate essays on the lives of priests, brothers, and sisters who served in the archdiocese. The response has been overwhelming.

Touro Infirmary Archives

Catherine C. Kahn, archivist of Touro Infirmary, has had a biography of Elizabeth D. A. Cohen, M.D., first woman physician in Louisiana (1857), accepted by JEWISH WOMEN IN AMERICA: A HISTORICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA. Carlson Publishing, Inc. New York.

Brian Cohen, of Applewest Productions, has interviewed **Cathy** on the life and contributions of Judah Touro for his *Jews of Louisiana* video to be aired on public television.

LEGACY, a History of The Community Chest and The Greater New Orleans Foundation, written by **Cathy** for the GNOF, is in the hands of the printer, and will be distributed shortly.

Tulane University Archives/Special Collections

Manuscripts Department

The Tulane Special Collections web site was just rated one of the "Top Ten" in its category by World Wide Web Associates, a Los Angeles-based Internet consulting firm. The "Top Ten" awards were based on content, design, and overall contribution to the Internet. The Special Collections web site also recently received a "gold site" rating by NetGuide.

Lee Miller, Tulane Manuscripts Librarian, has been working with David Mattison, British Columbia Archives, Victoria, Canada, to create a web page for "The Fictional World of Archives." Archives have been used as settings and characters in many stories, novels, movies and TV shows, as well as jokes and cartoons. This is an attempt to begin documenting archives' many representations in popular culture. GNOA members are encouraged to

contribute to the site. You may surf to it at: <http://www.tulane.edu/~lmliller/fiction/index.htm>

Lee spoke to about seventy-five members of the Jefferson Genealogical Society February 13 on "So Others May Live On: The Mission of Archives Today." Lee also spoke November 12 to the Louisiana Historical Society on "The Internet as an Archival Research Tool."

Kevin Fontenot, Tulane Manuscripts Department, passed his doctoral examinations in History (both written and oral exams) December 12, 1996. He is now working on his dissertation, a biography of Louisiana Governor and singer/songwriter Jimmy Davis.

On September 23, 1996, **Rob Sherer**, Tulane University Archivist, presented the "National Society Daughters of the American Colonists, Colonel Robert Bolling Chapter, Fourth Annual Endowed Lecture" at Wilmington College, Wilmington, Ohio. Rob's lecture was entitled "Penning Paths to the Present: Jefferson and Smith in 1776."

Irwin Lachoff has passed the written examination to become a Certified Archivist. He will be admitted as a full member of the academy after fulfilling the one year full-time professional experience requirement.

Exhibits

The Tulane Manuscripts Department sponsored an exhibit from its extensive original Carnival costume design collection. The exhibit runs from November through March and was created by Manuscripts Department member **Mary LeBlanc** with the help of volunteer **Ann Henriquez**. Mary and Ann originally created the exhibit for a Friends of the Tulane University Library meeting which featured a theatrical costume designer as speaker. For the February Friends meeting, at which a music

historian spoke, Mary and Ann reworked the exhibit to highlight original Carnival costume designs featuring musical instruments. You can view a selection of four of the original designs on the web as an "animated gif." The four designs illustrate the main Special Collection web page at <http://www.tulane.edu/~lmliller/SpecCollHomePage.html> A new design is shown every six seconds as a sort of "slide show" on the web. You can also find further information about the exhibit at <http://www.tulane.edu/~lmliller/Comus.html>

W. R. Hogan Jazz Archive

Renowned documentary film maker Ken Burns taped three hours of interviews with **Bruce Raeburn**, Curator of Tulane University's Hogan Jazz Archive, November 18 in New York. The interviews were for Burns' upcoming television documentary series *Jazz*. The series is scheduled to appear on the Public Broadcasting Service in the Fall of 2000 in eight ninety minute segments. It will be the third part of Burns' trilogy on American civilization, having been preceded by *The Civil War* and *Baseball*. Bruce is also on the Board of Advisors for the Jazz series. Burns was in New Orleans in April to videotape photographs from the Hogan Jazz Archive for the series and will be making return trips to mine the archives' holdings during the coming year.

Hogan Jazz Archive will provide photographs for the upcoming *Sidney Bechet Centennial Celebration* at LaBelle Gallery, April-May 1997. The archive will also participate in Bechet conference activities May 6.

Latin American Library

Recent Acquisitions

A recent acquisition in the photographic

archive of the Latin American Library is the collection of thirty black and white photographs by Peruvian photographer **Lorry Salcedo-Mitrani**. These vivid photographs show the blacks of Peru and Brazil in activities of daily life. In October, 1996, the photographer gave a public lecture on his photographs and the cultures they reflect.

An earlier acquisition was the addition of photographs and negatives by **Sidney Markman**. These are to be added to the already extensive collections we have of photographs of architecture in Guatemala, Mexico and Ecuador by Markman.

Exhibits

Currently in the Latin American Library we have mounted an exhibit *The Maya Rubbings of Merle Greene Robertson*. During the 1960's and 1970's Mrs. Robertson recorded in rubbings as many as humanly possible of the relief sculpture on the stone monoliths, temples, and structures at Maya sites in Mexico and Guatemala and other sites in Central America, thus helping to preserve the all too fragile legacy of this advanced culture. Her extensive collection of rubbings has been donated to the Latin American Library. The exhibit shows the process by which the rubbings were made and includes a number of small rubbings and photographs in exhibit cases, as well as eight large rubbings mounted on the wall. The exhibit will be up through February.

University of New Orleans

Archives and Manuscripts

Special Collections Unit

Florence Jumonville, former Head Librarian of the Historic New Orleans Collection, has been appointed head of Louisiana and Special Collections of the E.K.Long Library of UNO. Her contributions

to the local history and research fields are well known, especially for her indispensable Bibliography of New Orleans Imprints, 1764-1864. She holds not one but three master's degrees, M. Ed. and M.A. in history from UNO, and M.S. from LSU. She is now completing her dissertation for a Ph.D. in Education from UNO, entitled, "Charting the Course of Louisiana Studies," a history and biography of Louisiana studies in the schools.

Beatrice Owsley retired at the end of 1996. we regret especially the loss of her expertise in Oral History and familiarity with the records of Orleans Parish School Board.

Marie Windell will chair a session, entitled, "Order and Disorder in 19th century New Orleans," at the 1997 annual meeting of the Louisiana Historical Association.

Exhibits

For Black History Month, certain archival items were on display. **The Supreme Court of Louisiana Collection** contains not only the famous *Plessy v. Ferguson* appeal, but other landmark cases, including the ruling on integrated schools after Reconstruction. According to a register in the Orleans Parish School Board Collection, Ursin Dellande's son was dismissed from the New Orleans Fillmore School, no longer integrated in 1877. The restrictive Constitution of 1879 had replaced the liberal Constitution of 1868 by the time of Dellande's appeal to the Louisiana Supreme Court.

A rare photograph shows a uniformed and determined corporal in the 80th U.S. Colored Volunteer Infantry, **Jules Dickerson**, during the Civil War.

News Notes

Western Archives Institute

The 11th annual Western Archives Institute will be held at The Terrace Inn in Palo Alto, California July 27-August 8. The intensive, two-week program is designed to offer an introduction to modern archival theory and practice for a variety of participants. The principal faculty member will feature Frank G. Burke, Professor Emeritus, of the College of Library and Information Services at the University of Maryland, College Park. **Information will be available at the next GNOA meeting.** For additional information and application please contact Administrator, Western Archives Institute, 1020 O Street, Sacramento, CA 95814.

Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts

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

Workshops offered in 1997 include: 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: Susan W. DuBois, Preservation Services Office, (215) 545-0613.

NUCMC

Reminder from Winter '96 Newsletter

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 that during the current fiscal year

(October 1996 - September 1997) the NUCMC World Wide Web page will contain a link to a search form that will provide researchers with free access to the RLIN AMC file through LC's WWW/z39.50 gateway. The RLIN AMC file is widely recognized as a critically important source of information concerning archival and manuscript collections and includes all online cataloging created by NUCMC. To find the gateway, simply locate the NUCMC Web page at <http://lcweb.loc.gov/coll/nucmc>. Once there, click on either the NUCMC cataloging icon or the Utilities icon. No account number or password will be necessary to search the RLIN AMC file. Comments regarding the usefulness of the gateway and suggestions of ways to improve it are welcome. For more information concerning the gateway or the NUCMC program, contact the NUCMC Team, Library of Congress, 101 Independence Ave., SE, Washington, D.C. 20540-4375 (telephone: (202) 707-7954; fax: (202) 707-7161; Internet: nucmc@mail.loc.gov).

New York State Archives and Records Administration (SARA)

SARA's website at <http://www.sara.nysed.gov> now includes an index to the scripts of 55,000 motion pictures produced between 1921 and 1965. Users can search the index by movie title, director, or writer and get basic information and a form for ordering the entire script.

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