

The Greater New Orleans Archivists

Newsletter

Spring

1994

Next Meeting
Wednesday, March 9th
Time: 5:30 PM
Tulane University
Howard-Tilton Memorial Library

Spring Meeting

Wednesday March ninth is the scheduled date for our next meeting which will be hosted by Tulane University. The meeting will take place on the fourth floor of the Howard-Tilton Memorial Library at 5:30 in the evening. The agenda includes the election of a Treasurer. Andrew Simons announced that he has accepted a curatorial position at the National Sound Archive, a division of the British Library, and will be relocating to London. We congratulate Andrew and wish him well. The committee designated to investigate the feasibility of GNOA's name authority file project (Chuck Nolan, Bill Meneray, Wayne Everard, & Irene Wainwright) joined by Beatrice Owsley met in January to outline procedures to be adopted should the membership decide to go forward with the project. Their proposal will be presented at the meeting.

1993 Winter Meeting

The winter meeting was held on December fourteenth at the Broad Branch of the New Orleans Public Library. Following the welcome address by Sally Reeves, Andrew Simons gave the Treasurer's report. We have a total of \$594.64 in our account. Wayne Everard gave an interim report on the Name Authority File project. Elections were held for officers. Beatrice Owsley and Andrew Simons received nominations for President and Owsley won the election with twelve votes. Simons and Carol Bartels were re-elected to their respective positions of Treasurer and Secretary by acclamation. In her President's report Sally Reeves focused on the evolution of the organization from being strictly social to a more structured organization with a

project-oriented agenda. Highlights of this past year were the completion of the Mardi Gras documentation analysis and the Society of American Archivist Convention. Reeves thanked Simons for his work as Treasurer and Bartels for her work as Secretary. Thanks were also given to those who assisted in the various phases of the documentation analysis project and those who worked with the SAA Host Committee. Reeves stated her hopes for the organization are the compilation of bylaws and the continuation of the organization's move toward project oriented goals.

SAA Selects New Executive Director

Susan E. Fox, director of programs at the Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, has been selected as the new executive director of the Society of American Archivist (SAA) and will officially assume the post on 1 April 1994. She has extensive background in management, advocacy, fund raising, meeting planning, publications programs, and working with advisory boards.

Fox will replace Anne P. Diffendal, who has opted not to renew her contract with the Society. Diffendal will return to her hometown of Lincoln, Nebraska, to resume her career as a consulting historian in research, program planning, grant writing, and exhibit planning and coordination. Diffendal, a longtime SAA member, has served as the Society's executive director since March 1991.

News From The Archives

The Historic New Orleans Collection

Currently on exhibit in the Williams Gallery is the exhibition, "Through A Lens Softly: The Photographs of Eugene Delcroix." This exhibition is the first major survey of Delcroix's photographs since his death in 1967. A mini exhibition of photographs by Delcroix's contemporaries is also

on display.

The Photography of Eugene Delcroix will be explored in a symposium held on Tuesday, March 29th at 7:00 p.m. at the Historic New Orleans Collection, 533 Royal Street. The event is co-sponsored with the Laughlin Photographic Society of the New Orleans Museum of Art. The symposium will feature three speakers: Steven Maklansky, Curator of Photographs at the New Orleans Museum of Art, Joshua Paillet, owner of A Gallery for Fine Photography, and Anne Peterson, former Curator of Photographs at the Louisiana State Museum. Each speaker will comment on a different aspect of Delcroix's work and career. Moderator for the program is John H. Lawrence, Director of Museum Programs at the Collection. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact John Lawrence at 523-4662.

Upcoming events at the Collection include a lecture by Dr. Eunice Williams on the work of Pierre Paul Prud'hon and a slide presentation by Richard Sexton and Randolph Delahanty, authors of *New Orleans: Elegance and Decadence*. For more information on these events please call the Collection (504) 523-4662.

Recent acquisitions include a minute book, 1932-1935, of the Mysterious Forty Pleasure Club of Algiers and a pharmaceutical recipe book of Eugene May, 1886. The Manuscripts Division now has available on microfilm Series A, parts 3 and 4 of Southern Women and Their Families in the 19th Century: Papers and Diaries. Part three contains the Louisiana and Mississippi Collections and part 4 consists of the Nicholas Philip Trist Papers found at the Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

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

"At Nine of the Clock, Costume de Rigueur: The Municipal Auditorium and Carnival, 1930-1993" the Louisiana Division's annual Carnival exhibit is currently on view and will remain on display through April. This exhibition features photographs, memorabilia, and city records documenting the Mardi Gras balls and other events held at the Auditorium. In May there will be an exhibition celebrating the tenth anniversary of the Louisiana World Exposition.

The Louisiana Division recently received a six hundred dollar donation from the Kenner Rotary Club to microfilm three volumes of 19th century police records. As part of the Louisiana Division of the Arts planning grant to conserve the collection of architectural drawings by James Dakin, the Division purchased the *Art & Architecture Thesaurus*, which is now available for use in the Louisiana Division.

Notarial Archives

Archives staff have completed automated descriptive finding aids and some repairs to over 500 plans and surveys originally attached to notarial acts in the collection. This group of plans comes out of books and is not to be confused with the oversized water color collection known as the "Archival Drawings" or "Plan Book" plans. Many of these "attached" plans have received some inhouse conservation, including flattening, mending, and rehousing in Mylar pouches, and are now in fact "detached" plans. Documents processed to date range from 1768 to 1994. Surveyors represented include Pierre Francois Olivier de Vezin, Carlos Laveau Trudeau, and Vincente Sebastien Pintado, Barthelemy Lafon, Maurice Pelletier, James McLaughlin, Charles Appé, Gideon Fitz, and Joseph Pilié. Among the early surveys are plans of Orleans west bank and Plaquemines Parish plantations, the Bastrop lands in Ouachita Parish, the "Villa Gravier," the Bermudez grant for a wax

myrtle factory on the Carondelet Canal, and an 1819 drawing for an improved cotton press. The nineteenth century plans cover all districts of New Orleans as well as properties in the parishes of Jefferson, St. Bernard, St. James, St. Charles, St. Landry, Avoyelles, Ascension, Ouachita and more. Technological and industrial plans give specifications for a range of facilities or structures such as levees, wharves, tombs, a compass, a sugar mill, a water works, fire company building, slaughterhouses, a machine ship and more.

Among the many interesting modern surveys accessioned in recent weeks are plans for the D. H. Holmes building, the Broadmoor Branch Library, the Star Casino boat dock, the St. Vincent Gueat House, the "Penny Arcade" at 131 Royal, the House of Blues, and a timeshare conversion of a ca. 1850 building at 327 Tchoupotoulas.

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

New Acquisitions include over 40 linear feet of material to be added to the Orleans Parish School Board Collection. Documents include minutes of board meetings, 1965-1983, correspondence generated by the board office, 1920-1970's, and an index file to board meetings held from 1919 to 1960. As a consequence, the collection now contains a continuous file of board minutes from 1841 to 1983. Over 15 linear feet of material has been added to the University of New Orleans Collection. Materials include correspondence from the Student Government Office, 1975-1980, photographs and correspondence from the

UNO Yearbook office, 1988-1990, and minutes of committee meetings held in connection with UNO's accreditation process, 1992-1993.

A finding aid, listing titles of oversize items in the Supreme Court of Louisiana Collection of Legal Archives, is in process to supplement the present interim index, identifying oversize items by type. Case files in this collection are being used as texts for the UNO course in Historical Editing being offered this Spring. Subjects include regulations on quarantine in Louisiana, 1855, rules for the Metairie Jockey Club, 1856, management of Planters' and Merchants' hotels in New Orleans and diving bell machinery to raise sunken steamboats, 1850. Such studies have frequently been preliminary bases for masters' theses.

Certified Archivist Exam

The Certified Archivist exam will be administered on Friday, September 9, 1994, at the Society of American Archivists Meeting in Indianapolis, and at New York, Atlanta and Seattle. Applications must be requested by May 25, 1994, and must be postmarked no later than midnight June 10, 1994.

This year applicants may qualify to take the exam by achieving a master's degree which includes a minimum of nine semester hours or thirteen quarter hours of graduate archival education; or a minimum of one year of qualifying professional experience plus a master's degree with includes or is supplemented by at least nine semester hours of graduate archival study; or two years of qualifying professional archival experience plus a master's degree; or three years of qualifying professional archival experience plus a bachelor's degree. For more information contact the Academy of Certified Archivists Secretariat, Society of American Archivists, 600 S. Federal, Suite 504, Chicago, Il., 60605 or call (312) 922-0140.

Congressional Papers Conference

Nationally prominent scholars, political commentators, and archivists will convene in Portland, Maine, on September 16 and 17, 1994 for a two-day conference on issues facing the preservation, use and accessibility of the personal and official papers of members of Congress. This conference, sponsored by the Margaret Chase Smith Library in Skowhegan, is the first of its type held since the 1985 Harpers Ferry, West Virginia conference, Congressional Papers Project. A conference on the research and disposition of senator's papers, was held in Washington, D.C. in 1978.

The Congressional Papers Conference will focus on the many changes since 1985 that hold significant implications for the research, educational and archival communities. Panelists representing archivists, scholars, and current former members of Congress and their staffs will present their thoughts on both current issues of access, preservation, automation, technology, value and educational programs, as well as the outlook for the future.

Panelists will include, among others, Richard Baker and Karen Paul of the Office of the U. S. Senate Historian; Raymond Smock and Cynthia Miller of the Office of the Historian, U. S. House of Representatives; Michael Gillette, Director, Center for Legislative Archives at the National Archives; and Trudy Peterson, Acting Archivist of the United States. Former Florida Congressman Dante Fascell and archivist William Brown, responsible for Fascell's papers at the University of Miami, will be among those representing the creators of the papers and the

challenges they face. A nationally recognized political commentator will provide an outsider's point of view and the value of congressional papers in general.

For further information or to add your name to the mailing list for registration materials contact: Margaret F. Viens, Conference Coordinator, Margaret Chase Smith Library, P.O. Box 366, Skowhegan, Maine 04976. Phone (207) 474-7133, Fax (207) 474-8878.

Non-Paper Based Collections: Strategies for Preservation

The graduate school of Library and Information Science at the University of Texas at Austin is offering a one day seminar on strategies for the preservation of non-paper based collections. This program will take place on Friday April 8th at the Joe C. Thompson Conference Center on the University's campus. The purpose of this program is to offer a broad overview of the challenges presented by photographic, sound recording, digital, and other newer media and some strategies to help ensure their survival for future users. The focus will be primarily on handling photographic materials, sound recordings, works of art, and computer media in a setting of mixed collections in which specific media may play a minor role (as opposed to specialized organizations such as a sound archives or computer centers). Registration deadline is March 25th. For more information contact David Terry, CE coordinator, or Mrs. Mel Boggins, Director of Placement and Continuing Education, Grad. Sch. of Libr. & Info. Sci., EDB 564/MC 37000, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas 78712. Phone: (512) 471-8806; Fax (512) 471-3971.

Eighth Annual Western Archives Institute To Be Held

Planning for the 8th annual Western Archives Institute is well underway. The intensive, two-week program will be held at the Kellogg West Center for Continuing Education on the campus of California State Polytechnic University in Pomona, July 31-August 12, 1994. The institute is designed to offer an introduction to modern archival theory and practice for a variety of participants, including those whose jobs require a fundamental understanding of archival skills, but have little or no previous archives education, those already in the profession who want to update and renew their archival knowledge, and those who wish to explore the possibility of an archival career.

The 1994 program will feature David B. Gracy II of the University of Texas at Austin, Graduate School of Library and Information Science as the principal faculty member. Joining Dr. Gracy on the faculty will be distinguished working professionals noted for selected fields of archives education. In addition, the program will include site visits to historical records repositories in the area.

Topics will include history and development of the profession, theory and terminology, records management, appraisal, arrangement, description, manuscripts acquisition, archives and the law, photographs, preservation administration, reference and access, automation, outreach programs, managing archival programs and institutions, and several practica.

Tuition for the program is \$450 and includes a selection of archival publications. Housing and meal plans are

available at the Kellogg West Center for additional charges. Enrollment is limited. The application deadline is 1 June 1994. For additional information and an application form, contact Nancy Zimmelman, Administrator, Western Archives Institute, 201 N. Sunrise Avenue, Roseville, CA 95661. Telephone (916) 773-3000, Fax (916) 773-8249. The Western Archives Institute is sponsored by the Society of California Archivists and the California State Archives.

Advanced Appraisal

The Society of American Archivists is offering a two day workshop on advanced appraisal April 7-8, 1994. The workshop will be held at The Atlanta Historical Society, Atlanta, Georgia. This workshop is designed to help archivists and curators define the process they use to make decisions on which records are worth keeping for future researchers and to gain new insights into factors they should consider in deciding what to keep. Julia Marks Young, Head of Special Collections and Director of the Southern Labor Archives at Georgia State University, is the instructor for the workshop. Registration deadline is March 14th. For further information contact Jane Kenamore or Tara J. Shimandle, (312) 922-0140, fax (312) 347-1452, Society of American Archivists, 600 S. Federal, Suite 504, Chicago, Illinois 60605.

1994 SAA Awards Competition

The Society of American Archivists announces its 1994 awards competition to recognize achievements of the 1993 calendar year. Individual and institutional members of SAA are invited to nominate themselves or others for these awards. This year's competition features two new awards--Minority Student Award and Preservation Publication Award. Winners will be presented on September 8, 1994 at the SAA

annual meeting in Indianapolis. The deadline for awards nominations is April 29, 1994. The SAA awards include the following:

- **Distinguished Service Award** recognizes a North American archival institution, organization, education program, or nonprofit or governmental organization that has given outstanding service to its public and has made an exemplary contribution to the archival profession.

- **J. Franklin Jameson Archival Advocacy Award** honors an individual, institution or organization not directly involved in archival work that promotes greater public awareness, appreciation, or support of archival activities or programs.

- **C.F.W. Coker Prize For Finding Aids** recognizes finding aids, finding aid systems, projects that involve innovative development in archival description, or descriptive tools that enable archivists to produce more effective finding aids.

- **Philip M. Hamer and Elizabeth Hamer Kegan Award** recognizes an individual, organization, institution, or group of individuals, organizations, or institutions who have increased public awareness of manuscripts and archives through compilation, transcription, public presentation, exhibition or publication.

- **Oliver Wendell Holmes Award** enables overseas archivists already in the United States or Canada for training to travel to or attend the SAA annual meeting.

- **Waldo Gifford Leland Prize** encourages and rewards writing of superior excellence and usefulness in the field of archival history, theory, or practice.

- **Theodore Calvin Pease Award** recognizes superior writing achievements by students enrolled in archival administration classes or engaged in formal archival internship programs (eligible manuscripts must be

unpublished).

- **Sister M. Claude Lane Award** (co-sponsored by the Society of Southwest Archivists) recognizes individual archivists who have made a significant contribution to the fields of religious archives.

- **Minority Student Award** encourages minority students to consider careers in the archival profession and promotes minority participation in SAA. The award provides complimentary registration to the SAA annual meeting to a minority student enrolled in a postsecondary institution. Nominees must have a minimum scholastic grade point average of 3.0 while enrolled in the academic year preceding the award.

- **Preservation Publication Award** recognizes the author(s) or editor(s) of an outstanding work, published in North America, that advances the theory or the practice of preservation in archival institutions. Eligible publications include articles, reports, chapters, and monographs in print, audiovisual, or electronic form.

For further information about the awards and nomination forms, contact Thomas Battle, Howard University, 13004 Chalfont Avenue, Fort Washington, Maryland 20744, phone (202) 806-7241, fax (202) 806-6405.

GNOA New Member

Nancy Faye Gray, Assistant Librarian at Nunez Community College has recently joined the GNOA. We welcome Nancy to our organization.

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 number is (504) 522-5108.

The Greater New Orleans Archivists Officers

Beatrice Rodriguez Owsley, President
Carol O. Bartels, Secretary
Andrew Simons, Treasurer

**Next
Meeting**

Wednesday

March 9th

Tulane University

**Howard Tilton Memorial
Library**

4th Floor

5:30 p.m.