

# GREATER NEW ORLEANS ARCHIVISTS

## NEWSLETTER

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At the December meeting hosted by Wayne Everard and Colin Hamer in the Latter Branch of the New Orleans Public Library, officers were elected. Mark Flynn, Head of Special Collections at Loyola University, will lead the organization as its president. Florence E. Borders, senior archivist at Amistad Research Center, and Beatrice Owsley, assistant archivist at the University of New Orleans, were elected secretary and treasurer, respectively.

Our organization gratefully acknowledges its debt of gratitude to the outgoing officers, President Wilbur E. Menaray of Tulane; Secretary Edward F. Haas of the Historical Collections, Louisiana State Museum; and Treasurer Clifton H. Johnson of Amistad Research Center.

### AMISTAD RESEARCH CENTER

Lester Sullivan reports that he is striking gold in collections held by repositories in New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Natchitoches, and Shreveport as he mines resources for four multi-image shows he is producing under grants from the Wisner Fund, Louisiana Committee for the Humanities, and other agencies. The theme will be race relations in Louisiana from colonial times to the Modern Civil Rights Movement. Without the cooperation of area archivists, curators, librarians, and administrators, the production would not be possible.

Clifton H. Johnson has announced the receipt of two large accessions among those added to the holdings this year; namely, the American Committee on Africa records and the Aaron Douglas collection. The Committee has deposited its inactive files, approximately 750,000 manuscript pieces, formerly housed in the organization's headquarters in New York City. Founded in 1952, the Committee chose to devote itself to activities in behalf of freedom and independence in Africa. Dating from 1952 to approximately 1977, the records include correspondence and other manuscripts written by numerous African freedom

leaders. Some of these persons have become heads of state, but others have suffered death or exile. Related collections in the Center on Africa include personal papers of Americans who have participated in African programs, such as Dr. Marguerite D. Cartwright, Dr. Inez Adams, Dr. James H. Robinson, former ambassador Judge Edward R. Dudley, Dr. W. E. B. DuBois, and Paul Cuffe. Native Africans for whom the Center holds personal papers are Fatima Massaquoi-Fahnbulleh and Thomas de Saliere Tucker. Other organizations that have conducted African programs and whose records are among the Center's holdings are the American Missionary Association and Operation Crossroads Africa.

Comprising over two hundred works by more than thirty nineteenth and twentieth century Afro-American artists, the Aaron Douglas collection has been transferred to the Center by the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries. Previously housed in the agency's New York headquarters, the collection includes the Toussaint L'Ouverture Series by Jacob Lawrence, works by Edward M. Bannister, Malvin Johnson, William Johnson, Richmond Barthé, Henry O. Tanner, Romare Bearden, Elizabeth Catlett, Lois Jones, Hale Woodruff, David Driskell, Aaron Douglas, and others. Traveling exhibits will be made available to other institutions from this collection.

#### **THE HISTORIC NEW ORLEANS COLLECTION**

Patricia Brady Schmit and Gail Larsen Peterkin brought delight to area archivists by circulating HNOC's newsletter which they edited. Typography, illustrations, and content combined to produce a beautiful and informative item.

#### **LOUISIANA STATE MUSEUM**

Earlier this year, New Orleans architect Solis Seiferth and his wife donated their collection of more than two hundred maps to the Louisiana Historical Center. The Seiferth collection, which contains rare maps from the sixteenth to the twentieth centuries, including many very important maps of Louisiana, is one of the largest private cartographical donations ever made to the Louisiana State Museum.

Joseph D. Castle chaired the session "Herman Moll, Geographer: An Early Eighteenth Century European View of the American Southwest" at the conference "Mapping the American Southwest" held on February 9, 1983, at the University of Texas, Arlington. A few weeks later he presented a paper entitled "Plantations, Transportation and Industry: The Changing Face of Louisiana" at the annual meeting of the Louisiana Historical Association at Hammond, March 25, 1983. His essay, "The Cartography of Colonial Louisiana," was published in Cummins and Jeansonne (eds.) A GUIDE TO THE HISTORY OF LOUISIANA (1982).

Edward F. Haas attended the annual meeting of the Louisiana Historical Association in Hammond, where he chaired the session "Ethnicity in Louisiana History." His essays, "The Louisiana State Museum's Louisiana Historical Center" (coauthored with John R. Kemp) and "Black Louisianians" were also published in A GUIDE TO THE HISTORY OF LOUISIANA. In addition, he recently attended the program, "Oral History in Ethnic Communities," at the Old U. S. Mint in New Orleans, March 23, 1983.

Steven G. Reinhardt's article entitled "Crime and Royal Justice in Ancien Regime France: Modes of Analysis" appeared in THE JOURNAL OF INTERDISCIPLINARY HISTORY, XIII:3 (Winter 1983), 437-460.

#### **LOYOLA UNIVERSITY LIBRARY, DEPT. OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS & ARCHIVES**

Arthur Carpenter, a doctoral candidate in history at Tulane University, has joined the staff to process archival collections. He earned his M. A. in history from the University of New Orleans in 1979.

Recent openings include the Moon Landrieu papers, 1966-1978. Occupying 78.5 linear feet and containing eleven scrapbooks, the former mayor's papers deal with the administration of New Orleans as well as various facets of state and national government. Included are records from his service as Councilman at Large (1966-1970), Mayor of New Orleans (1970-1978), and president of the U. S. Council of Mayors.

Approximately 150 linear feet of the papers of Louis J. Twomey, S. J., 1947-1969, are being arranged. These papers document Twomey's career as founder and head of the Institute for Human Relations at Loyola University. The Institute was active in race and labor relations in Louisiana and the Southeast. In his work, Twomey became a trusted collaborator of Archbishop Joseph Rummel in his effort to desegregate the schools and institutions of the Archdiocese of New Orleans. He also worked with the Vicar General, Father Pedro Arrupe, in drafting Arrupe's letter on racism in 1967. The latter years of his life were spent establishing an international institute to train Central American social activists called the Inter-American Center.

#### **NEW ORLEANS PUBLIC LIBRARY, LOUISIANA DIVISION**

On February 14 Wayne Everard was promoted to the position of Librarian 1. This was at least partially motivated by the recognition by the Library Administration and the City Civil Service Commission of the archival responsibilities of the position.

"Afro-Louisiana...Materials from Special Collections" is one of two current exhibits at the entrance to the Division. Designed to coincide with Black History Month, the display includes manuscripts, photographs, and books representative of the Division's Black History holdings. The display will remain through the end of March. "Documenting Louisiana Women in History," put up in conjunction with Women's History Week, displays a sampling of the Division's materials on women in Louisiana and New Orleans. Included are letters of Grace King and Sophie B. Wright, a photograph of Margaret Haughery, and several "mug shots" of early twentieth century prostitutes of New Orleans. This selection will remain on exhibit at least through the end of April.

The four year effort to organize the original suit records of the Civil District Court's first twenty years (1880-1900) was recently completed. These manuscripts were almost totally disarranged in the course of the August, 1978 transfer from the Courthouse

to the Library. A piece-by-piece sorting project was required to restore the records to their original order. This project was conducted almost entirely by volunteers until mid-1982 when a part-time employee was hired to physically arrange and inventory the 60,000 individual documents. The employee also organized and inventoried the 41,000 original suit records of the Second District Court, 1846-1880. These two record groups complete the repository's holdings of the pre-1900 New Orleans Civil Court records, a collection spanning twenty separate courts and numbering over 750,000 suit records and approximately 2,000 volumes.

Librarians wish to thank the members of the Association who came to their aid following the June, 1982 theft of materials from the Divisions's Special Collections. This assistance, along with that offered by local antique dealers, enabled them to recover most of the stolen items, and helped the Police Department (which was very cooperative) apprehend the thief, John Fleming. He came to trial in October in Judge Alvin Oser's court. Several curators and dealers were prepared to testify, but Fleming decided to plead guilty to possession of stolen property rather than stand trial for the actual theft. Judge Oser sentenced him to ten years with hard labor at Angola. The judge suspended the sentence, but put Fleming on five year's active probation and ordered him to serve one year in Orleans Parish Prison. He further ordered Fleming to make restitution to the Library and to the affected dealers. His failure to do so will result in the reimposition of the original ten year sentence. As a result of this episode, several improvements have been made in security procedures. Specifically, furniture has been rearranged to create an isolated reading area for Special Collections users, researcher registration forms have been re-designed, and use of individual call slips for all Special Collections materials has been instituted.

Recent acquisitions:

City Council. Official proceedings, 1970-1974, 20 cu. ft. An addition to a record series dating back to 1909. These are the complete files of the Council minutes, including zoning dockets and alcohol beverage dockets, in addition to the regular meetings of the body.

City Demonstration Agency. Records, 1969-1975, 49 cu. ft. These records of the city's Model Cities Program were arranged and inventoried by David Deakle during his Fall, 1982, UNO Internship.

Coroner's Office. Autopsy records, commitment records, examination records, death records, and property books, 1950-1972, ca. 94 cu. ft. and 90 volumes. An addition to a record series dating back to 1844.

Department of Safety and Permits. Non-residential building plans, 1974, 36 rolls. An addition to a record series dating back to the mid-1890's.

New Orleans Public Library. Records of the Jambalaya program, 1977-1980, 10 cu. ft. and 147 reels of sound recordings. Office files, including correspondence and contracts, of the Library's NEH-funded learning program. Also included are original recordings of the lectures, interviews, and performances sponsored by the program. Cassette copies of the tapes are available for research along with a detailed index of the programs.

Leander Perez. Briefs, periodicals, and books, dates undetermined, 5 cu. ft. An addition to an earlier group of letters, contracts, pamphlets, books, and sound recordings, mostly from the 1950's and early 1960's.

The Division has also received microfilm copies of the 1910 Federal Census for Louisiana and the Soundex Index. New Orleans and Shreveport are not included in the Soundex. They are indexed on a separate Miracode, which is on order.

### **TULANE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES**

The manuscripts Department of the Special Collections of Tulane University Library reactivated the project to complete the publication of the Favrot Family papers. The Favrot papers consist of correspondence and documents of a prominent Louisiana family since the early eighteenth century. The W.P.A. began the project in 1939 and published volumes I-VII and IX which covered the period 1659-1803. Connie Griffith then published volumes VIII, X-XII. The present project is under the editorship of Dr. Guillermo Nanez and will encompass the Favrot Papers from 1817-1870. Volumes XIV, XV, and XVI which carry the story to 1860 have been published and a final volume will appear in late summer, 1983.

Notable acquisitions to the Manuscripts Department include:

The papers of Alice Moser Claudel, New Orleans poet and editor of the **NEW LAUREL REVIEW**.

The papers of Amy Boudreau, New Orleans poet.

The papers of Ben J. Williams reflecting his career with the American cotton Shipping Association, the Public Belt Railroad Commission, and the Harry Byrd for President Campaign.

The papers of the New Orleans Section of the National Council of Jewish Women from 1913 to 1976.

The papers of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans.

The papers of the Congregation Gates of Prayer from 1865 to 1972.

526 pieces of sheet music published by A. E. Blackmar and notes on the Blackmar firm by Dorothy Blackmar. More than half the music was published during the Civil War.

The papers of the Simon Family including two diaries of Rev. Samuel Markham.

The papers of the New Orleans Area/Bayou-River Health Systems Agency.

The Manuscripts Department will hold on deposit for twenty years the papers of the Special Citizen's Investigating Committee at which time they will be turned over to the New Orleans City Archives at the Public Library.

The papers collected by L. Pick Thomas in writing his history of the Provosty-LeDoux Family.

The papers of the Gulf Intracoastal Canal Association.

The newspaper columns of James Gillis.

The papers of the United States Daughters of the War of 1812. Various New Orleans chapters.

Finally, over 500 cubic feet of the Congressional papers of T. Hale Boggs.

**UNIVERSITY OF NEW ORLEANS—ARCHIVES AND MANUSCRIPTS DEPARTMENT  
OF THE EARL K. LONG LIBRARY**

The Department recently received the following collections:

Dart and Dart Collection, Ac. 150 (gift), 3 linear feet of legal records, and ca. 105 linear feet of books, including numerous rare works on Louisiana. This gift is an addendum to the extensive legal files of Dart and Dart already donated.

Michael J. Molony, Jr. Collection, Ac. 146 (gift), 16 boxes of records compiled by Mr. Molony while serving as Chairman of the Governor's Citizens Advisory Committee—Comprehensive River Area Study (1970-1974); activities in Chamber of Commerce of the New Orleans Area (1970-1974); activities in Goals to Grow Foundation

(1971-1973); member of Board of Commissioners of the Port of New Orleans (1972-1981).

Frank B. Moore Collection, Ac. 145 (gift), ca. 600 glass plate negatives and 58 record books (ca. 1906-1972) of the New Orleans photographer, Frank B. Moore.

Orleans Parish School Board Collection, Ac. 147 (deposit), 82 boxes of records, including scrapbooks, brochures, annual reports, photographs, and miscellany, dating ca. 1840-1982. Included are the legal files concerned with the desegregation of the New Orleans Public Schools.

We thank the staff of Loyola University for hosting the March meeting and for preparing the interesting demonstration.