

The Greater New Orleans Archivists

Newsletter

Fall

1996

Next Meeting
Tuesday, September 17
Time: 5:30 PM
Loyola University
Miller Hall
Room 218

Fall Meeting

Our Fall Meeting is being hosted by Art Carpenter of Loyola University and will be held on Tuesday September 17 at 5:30 in the evening. Items on the agenda under old business include the GNOA brochure and voting to adopt the new set of by-laws written by the By-law Committee. Copies will be available at the meeting. Under new business an \$80 partial scholarship is being offered to a GNOA member to attend the SSA workshop "Automating Finding Aids" to be held at the HNOC on December 7th. Sally Reeves will speak on the latest from the 1996 SAA meeting in San Diego.

1996 Summer Meeting

The New Orleans Notarial Archives provided the setting for our Summer Meeting. Carol thanked Sally Reeves for hosting the meeting.

New listings from the Name Authority project were distributed. Again, members are invited to add new names as they verify

them and put them in the LC format. View updates at <http://www.gnofn.org/~nopl/links/archives/gnoa.htm>. Please continue to send names for this very worthwhile project.

125 GNOA brochures were distributed during the SAC Meeting. Suggested changes to the brochure include placing a date on the back, removing the black boxes, and using the font from the old brochure. The Archdiocese Archives Conference has requested GNOA brochures for its upcoming meeting in Chicago. We will send copies when changes are made. Thanks to Lee for all your hard work on the brochure.

Carol suggested we think about new projects for discussion at the next GNOA meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:10.

Sally gave an excellent presentation on 19th Century architectural sketches housed at the Archives. Thanks Sally for an informative and enjoyable evening.

News From The Archives

Amistad Research Center at Tulane University

Our public hours have changed as of September 1st: Weekdays 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Saturdays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Fourteen works by Aaron Douglas, artist of the "Harlem Renaissance" will be exhibited at the Center until October 1. Decorative Arts collector and curator Derrick Beard lectured at the Center on the topic of influences in African American Culture.

The Charles Rousseve Papers have been arranged and a register completed. Rousseve, a longtime New Orleans educator was author of *The Negro in Louisiana*. LSU library school graduate student, Geraldine Harris arranged the collection under the supervision on Brenda Square during an internship.

Recent acquisitions include an art donation of two Jules Lion lithographs and two prints by Richard Hunt; long-time Amistad supporter **Mr. Warren Marr** of New York donated a watercolor landscape by artist Henry Wilmer Bannarn and three plates by Bruce Nugent; two books and biographical materials from prominent electrophysiologist **Ronald Oliver, Ph.D.; Sparkle Theatre Production Co.** donated the history of this Alabama-based African American performance art and computer literacy company with two promotional flyers; **Charlotte Knipmeyer**, Amistad volunteer donated articles and other collected materials including *Melrose Plantation Cookbook*.

Amistad's 1996 Fine Arts Gala will honor actress Lynn Whitfield and UNO professor

and jazz great Harold Battiste, December 7th. Please contact the Center for further information.

Archdiocesan Archives

The Association of Catholic Diocesan Archivists chose the New Orleans Archdiocese from among 150 members to receive its inaugural Joseph Cardinal Bernardin Award of Excellence, named in honor of the Archbishop of Chicago. Presented Aug. 5 at the organization's annual seminar held at St. Mary of the Lake University in Mundelein, Illinois is given in recognition of the extreme care and expertise in pursuing, arranging and maintaining historic records.

Dr. Charles Nolan and his dedicated staff have been involved in a number of activities that brought about this recognition including a massive research project on Mother Henrietta Delille, a major project to coordinate current record keeping in the archdiocese, a program to preserve sacramental records, and the restoration of more than 250 books, with the oldest dating to 1718.

The Historic New Orleans Collection

Among recent openings in the William Russell Collection are "**Ragtime Orchestrations and Brass Bands**," and "**Bunk Johnson Publicity Materials**." The guides to both collections were prepared by Richard Jackson with Nancy Ruck. Mr. Jackson, retired Curator of Americana of the Music Division of the New York Public Library at Lincoln Center, is a volunteer at the Williams Research Center.

If a member of the Greater New Orleans Archivists Association does not receive the *Historic New Orleans Collection Quarterly*

and would like to do so, please contact us by sending a note with your name and address to 'Mailing List," Historic New Orleans Collection 533 Royal St., New Orleans, LA. 70130.

The third portion, which focuses on Elsworth and William Woodward, of the Laura Simon Nelson Exhibition will open on September 13. On Sunday, October 27th at 7 PM WYES will air "Brothers in Art: Elsworth and William Woodward and Southern Art," produced by THNOC and WYES. Among sponsors are Carl E. Woodward, Inc. and New Orleans Auction Galleries.

Complementary Visions of Louisiana Art: The Laura Simon Nelson Collection at the Historic New Orleans Collection with essays by William Gerdts, George Jordan and Judith Bonner and 80 full color illustrations of Louisiana art from the 1790s and 1970s is scheduled for release in conjunction with the third portion of the Nelson exhibition.

Jackson Barracks Library Military & Historic Records

Jackson Barracks was purchased by the United States government for a military post in 1833. Buildings erected in 1834 and 1835 are still in use. On 7 November 1976, Jackson Barracks was officially entered into the National Register of Historic places.

Jackson Barracks is presently the headquarters for the Louisiana National Guard and houses the office of the Adjutant General. Particularly in the last 50 years, efforts have been made to preserve the military heritage of Louisiana. As a result, a small military library is now an integral part of this Headquarters. In 1977, the Louisiana Military History and State Weapons Collection Museum was opened in the old

Powder Magazine which was built in 1837.

The library, except on special holidays, is open to the public between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Appointments are encouraged due to the nature of the material in the library. Presently, the operation of the library is strictly for reference purposes. There are no lending privileges.

Our material on Louisiana military history includes individual service records, records of events pertaining to regimental units, and campaigns assembled from numerous original sources. Also included are transcripts of documents containing Louisiana military data covering the period 1698 through 1936. This work was accomplished by WPA and is contained in about 420 typed and bound volumes. Materials relating to Confederate personnel and military units from Louisiana are bound in about 166 volumes of Photostat records produced in 1912 from War Department Records in Washington, DC. There are various records of the United Confederate Veterans Association, records of the Old Soldiers home at Camp Nicholls, and Louisiana National Guard unit and personnel records on microfilm. The more current National Guard personnel records are somewhat restricted in accordance with the provisions of the Privacy Act. There are records of the Washington Artillery, the oldest military unit in the state, office of the Adjutant General received microfilm reels of about 80,000 discharge records of Louisiana personnel who served in World War I, plus all Louisiana casualty records.

Flag data and maps of military sites and fortifications are also housed at the library. The library maintains over 1,000 books and files concerning genealogy.

New Orleans Public Library, Louisiana Division

New accessions in the City Archives: 228 feet of records from the **Arts Council of New Orleans**, covering the years ca. 1976-1992; 3 boxes of photographs and 3 boxes of Public Information records from the Mayor's Office of Communications (**Barthelemy administration**); records of the Board of Zoning Adjustments, 1943-1992; the finding aid for this collection has been added to NUTRIAS, our WWW home page.

Also new to the Archives Inventories link in NUTRIAS is a search mechanism which allows users to search all inventory files for specific keywords or search strings. Dave Cash of the Greater New Orleans Free Net created the search script for us.

The exhibit "**Let the Record Speak: Celebrating 100 Years of Service at New Orleans Public Library**" continues on view on the second and third floors of the Main Library. The second floor portion of the exhibit will come down soon, but the third floor portion will remain up through the end of 1996. The text and some of the images from the exhibit are mounted in NUTRIAS at <http://www.gnofn.org/~nopl/exhibits/nopl.htm>.

Center for African and African American Studies/SUNO

Two notable collections have been acquired by the Center. One was donated by Norbert Davidson, and the other was donated by Dr. E. Jack Jordan. Both of the donors are faculty members at SUNO. The collections are as follows:

Dashiki Project Theater Records,

1968-. The collection documents activities of the group from its founding by Davidson and Dr. Theodore Gilliam. Numerous scripts, collected and works of the founders, are among the record types. In addition, there are correspondence, clippings, photographs, rehearsal schedules, playbills, reviews, biographical data, etc. Gilliam's positions at SUNO included responsibility for the theater component of the Center. Names in the collection include that of Carol Sutton, Dashiki's best known actress; Lindy Boggs, an honorary member of the board; nationally known playwrights such as Ed Bullins, James Baldwin, Douglas Turner Ward, Wole Soyinka, Tennessee Williams, and co-founder Norbert Davidson. The latter's play, *El Hajj Malik* (about Malcolm X) was produced by Dashiki. The records measure ca. 15 linear feet.

Eddie Jack Jordan, Sr. Papers. ca. 1960-1994. 7 ft. Jordan is a longtime member of the SUNO family who had served as Chairman of the Art Department and is a present professor in the department. He is a noted multi-media artist and art educator. His papers document his work in both capacities. Interaction of his family members in the art recitals he presented, his commissions and religious art, historical murals (such as that in Clark Hall on SUNO's campus), and professional activities have contributed to a collection which has great potential for future researchers. Correspondence, clippings, programs, photographs, and biographical and genealogical materials are included. Also, there are records about his wife Gladys, and their children Eddie, Gregory, and Lakara. Names in the collection include Margaret Burroughs, Ron Bechet, Sara Hollis, Lindy Boggs, Rufus Clement, Alfred Guillaume, Cliff Webb, and Charlie T. Johnson.

ACTIVITIES

Our Summer Brown Bag included a reading by Sybil Kein and the introduction of her compact disc as an opening activity in the new space to be occupied by the Center's archives and art collection, Room 202, Washington Memorial Library. Dr. Kein is known for her poetry in the Creole language and is a tenured professor at the University of Michigan in East Lansing. She has New Orleans and New Roads ties in Louisiana and is an accomplished musician as well as poet.

Tulane University Manuscripts Department

Members of the Academy of Certified Archivists have elected Leon C. Miller Regent for Outreach. The Board of Regents serves as the executive board for the ACA. As Regent for Outreach, Lee will chair the academy Outreach Committee and oversee the academy promotional and educational functions. Lee has been Manuscripts Librarian at Tulane University, New Orleans, since 1991. In 1989 he participated in the first class to take the archival certification examination. He subsequently served on the academy first membership committee (1990-91), the ACA Task Force on Development and Outreach (1991-1992), and since 1993 has served on the ACA Outreach Committee.

Lee is also active in outreach for the Society of American Archivists and the Society Of Southwest Archivists. From 1992 to 1995 he chaired SAA Membership Committee and created the SAA Mentoring Program, for which SAA Council passed a Resolution of Commendation in his honor.

Lee also chaired the SSA membership committee from 1989 to 1990. During those two years, the Society Of Southwest

Archivists membership roughly tripled. Since 1991 he has edited this publication. For his work with mentoring, membership, and publications, the SSA presented Lee with its Distinguished Service Award in 1995. "The ACA exists so archivists may define themselves," Lee said. "No longer need we defer to others to choose who may be an archivist or the directions archives will take. With the ACA, archivists have taken the wheel and can set the course." In addition to supervising the academy outreach activities, Lee hopes the Outreach Committee can become a voice for member concerns within the academy.

News Notes

Society of Southwest Archivist

*(message from Lee Miller)

For the first time in several years, members of GNOA and archivists from Louisiana in general were under-represented at the annual meeting of our regional archival association, the Society of Southwest Archivists. Only three archivists from New Orleans attended: Florence Borders, Alfred Lemmon, and Leon Miller. From the rest of Louisiana, only two attended: John Caldwell and Carol Mathias.

A record number of over 150 persons attended the Albuquerque meeting. SSAers from Louisiana make up the second largest SSA membership group by far and this has usually been reflected in annual meeting attendance. Even with the low turnout from Louisiana this year, however, Louisiana archivists still made important contributions to the meeting. John Caldwell chaired the session "Trash or Treasure? Artifacts, Ephemera, and Maps in Archives." Alfred Lemmon and Carol Mathias attended as

members of the Society of Southwest Archivists Executive Board and Lee Miller attended the board meeting as chair of the Publications Committee and editor of the *Southwestern Archivist*.

Louisianians particularly made an impact in the recent SSA elections. Faye Phillips, head of Special Collections at LSU-Baton Rouge, was elected SSA President, and SSAers elected Bruce Turner to their Executive Board. Bruce will also lead local arrangements for the 1998 SSA meeting in Lafayette.

We look forward to a strong New Orleans and Louisiana turnout at next year SSA meeting in Galveston.

Oral History Association Annual Meeting in Philadelphia October 10-13, 1996

The OHA Annual will meet at the Holiday Inn Select Center City. The meeting's theme will be "Oral History, Memory, and the Sense of Place." Among the featured speakers are Robin D. G. Kelley (New York University) and Spencer Crew (Smithsonian Institute). For registration information, contact the OHA, P.O. Box 97234, Baylor University, Waco, Texas 76798-7234. Phone: (817) 755-2764; Fax: (817) 755-1571; e-mail: OHA_Support@Baylor.edu

The OHA invites proposals for papers and presentations for its 1997 Annual Meeting to be held September 25-28, 1997 in New Orleans. The theme of the meeting is "Looking In, Looking Out: Retelling the Past, Envisioning the Future." The OHA also invites applications for three awards to be presented in 1997 that will recognize outstanding work in the field. Awards will be given for a **published book** that uses oral history to advance an important

historical interpretation or addresses significant theoretical or methodological issues; for a **nonprint format production**, including film, video, radio programming, exhibition, or dramatic production, that makes significant use of oral history to interpret a historical subject; and to a **precollegiate teacher** who has made outstanding use of oral history in the classroom. In all cases, awards will be given for work published or completed between Jan. 1, 1995 and March 30, 1997.

Awards are honorific and will be announced at the Association's annual meeting held in New Orleans. For guidelines and submission information, write Rebecca Sharpless, Executive Secretary, Oral History Association, Baylor University, PO Box 97234, Waco, TX 76798-7234; OHA_Support@Baylor.edu. Deadline for receipt of all nomination materials is April 1, 1997.

Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts

Preservation overview surveys of paper-based collections by the CCAHA are available at a greatly reduced rate, thanks to the generosity of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

CCAHA announces two workshops for 1996: *Instituting a Conservation Environment Monitoring Program* and *Have You Got the Blues? Architectural Records: Their Identification, Management, Storage, and Treatment*. For further information please contact Preservation Services Office, Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts, 264 South 23rd Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103.

**SAA Continuing Education
Workshop/Fall 1996
HNOC**

The Society of American Archivist will give a workshop at the Historic New Orleans Collection December 7, 1996. The workshop is titled *Automation Finding Aids*. It will introduce basic concepts for using simple database programs to automate creation of repository guides, finding aids, and indices. The instructor will be Richard Pearce-Moses, archivist at the Heard Museum, Phoenix, Arizona. For information regarding registration contact the Sales Office and indicate workshop #9633, (800) 521-7111; HNOC, 533 Royal Street, New Orleans, LA (504) 523-4662. The deadline for reservations is November 6, 1996.

GNOA New Members

Mr. Norbert Raacke from NOMA has joined the organization. Welcome to the GNOA.

**The Greater New Orleans
Archivists Newsletter**

Please send submissions to Rebecca Hankins, care of The Amistad Research Center, Tilton Hall/Tulane University; New Orleans, Louisiana 70118-5698.
(504) 862-3229; fax: (504)865-5580;
e-mail: hankins@mailhost.tcs.tulane.edu.

**The Greater New Orleans
Archivists Officers**

Carol O. Bartels, President
Rebecca Hankins, Secretary
Robert Sherer, Treasurer

ROOM 218
MILLER HALL
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY
PLACE:
5:30 P.M., TUESDAY, Sept. 17, 1996
TIME:
NEXT MEETING

Greater New Orleans Archivists
Newsletter
c/o Rebecca Hankins
The Amistad Research Center
Tilton Hall/Tulane University
New Orleans, LA 70118-5698

MR RAYMOND BERTHELOT JR
XAVIER UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS LIBRARY
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