

The Greater New Orleans Archivists

Newsletter

Fall

1997

Next Meeting
Wednesday, September 17th
Time: 6:00 PM
Dominican Conference Center
540 Broadway St.

Fall Meeting

Our Fall Meeting is being hosted by the Archives of the Dominican Congregation of St. Mary, Wednesday at 6:00 in the evening.

The agenda will include information on the status of the *Guide to Jewish Holdings in New Orleans* with a copy proof of the submitted proposal.

Of special interest, Mr. Mickey Lee from Munters Moisture Control Service of Norcross, Georgia will present a 20 minute slide presentation on his company's services.

1997 Summer Meeting

GNOA President Carol Bartels thanked Tulane for hosting the last meeting and thanked New Orleans Public Library for hosting this meeting. She introduced Irwin Lachoff and Lydia Schmalz to our association. Irwin Lachoff works for Xavier

University Archives. Lydia Schmalz is the Curator of Longue Vue House and Gardens.

Treasurer's Report

Rob Sherer reported on the need to find donors or angels, institutions which would pick up the cost of our mailings and or meetings. Rob also reported on our need to increase dues and or memberships.

Old Business

GNOA Brochure

Voted to give the Genealogy Society permission to reprint the brochure information in their next newsletter. Voted to print 500 copies of the brochure for the Oral History Association meeting in September.

New Business

Proposals

It was announced that we would be making proposals for a dues increase and opening a non-voting associate

membership level for people who work in archives but not in the New Orleans metropolitan area to be voted on at the December Meeting. The proposals will be presented at the Fall Meeting.

Society of Southwest Archives Meeting

Lee Miller reported on the SSA Meeting along with Rob Sherer. Marie Windell spoke and made a call for WPA Records, information should be sent to Mary Linn Wernet at Northwestern State University.

Robb Sherer announced that those who need assistance in recertification (Academy of Certified Archivist) or those who would like him to review their application can give him a call.

Guide to Jewish Holding in N.O.

Cathy Kahn gave copies to representatives of the institutions what Andy Simons had written for their repositories. Representatives were asked to add a small introductory paragraph giving the history of the institution (when founded and 1 or 2 facts about the institution). Deadline to turn back in the updated content and information paragraph was set as July 1, 1997. Information should be sent on disk, Microsoft Word compatible, please. The grant will be submitted to the Southern Jewish Historical Society. Cathy with assistance from Sally Reeves and the rest of the committee would put together the Grant Application, due August 1, 1997.

A tour of the New Orleans Public Library's basement vault took place after the meeting adjourned.

News From The Archives

Archdiocese of New Orleans

The Association of Catholic Diocesan Archivists held their annual meeting on August 27 in Chicago. Charles Nolan was

installed as president for a two-year term; he succeeds Msgr. Francis Weber, archivist of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

The archive now has an automated guide to its 2,200 volume library. The guide was prepared by Janet Adams and volunteer, Connie Birabent. The library specializes in Southern religious history, particularly Catholic history. The library also is gathering 19th century devotional books and has a large collection of constitutions form local religious communities. The archive also has an automated guide to its collection of 375 parish and related histories. The collection concentrates on Louisiana Catholic parishes but includes some histories from neighboring states as well as some booklets on archdiocesan schools, organizations, and religious communities.

Amistad Research Center

Lecture **Ronnie Moore**, executive director of the Institute for Resident Initiatives, talks about his work with public housing residents in New Orleans as part of the **Amistad Research Center's Education and Culture Lecture Series**. Moore recently donated papers and photographs chronicling his work as a civil rights activist and member of the Congress of Racial Equality in the late 1950s and early 1960s.

Exhibit On display in Amistad's mini-gallery is the folk artwork of **Claire Foster Burnett**, a native of New Orleans and longtime public school teacher here and in the Philippines. Her works include collages and dioramas featuring dolls made from clothespins. This exhibit will be on display through September 30.

Acquisitions **New Orleans Old Timers Baseball Club Collection (1918-1987;**

.4 linear ft.) Papers of this New Orleans club founded in 1959 to honor and keep alive the history of Negro baseball players. Donated by the club president and founder, Walter Wright, the papers include correspondence, news clippings and, numerous photographs of Negro Baseball League players including a 1918 photograph of the S.C. Railroad Team, 1920 Caulfield Ads, a 1923 Milwaukee team that was the first to go to the top in the National Negro League, and a 1947 photo of Jackie Robinson. **James E. Conyers, Jr. Papers** (.4 linear ft.) Dr. Conyers' papers have been acquired as a part of Amistad's Afro-centric Archives Initiative. This donation includes a copy of his dissertation titled "An Evaluative and Descriptive Analysis of Selected African American Studies Departments and Programs" submitted to the Temple University Graduate Board, August, 1991; also an article published in The Negro Educational Review titled "An Intellectual Biography of Charles H. Wesley: An Oral History", July-October, 1996. **Amma Ghartey-Tagoe Papers** (.4 linear ft.) A Kansas resident and recent graduate of Manhattan High School in Manhattan, Kansas, her dramatic performance of the Amistad Incident won her the \$60,000 scholarship prize and 1st place in the National History Day competition. This donation of materials includes a video of Ms. Ghartey-Tagoe's award-winning presentation in which she narrates the story as a descendent of the Africans. Also included is a copy of the article she wrote for National History Day News in which she relates how she developed her project; and a copy of Kansas Heritage with Ms. Ghartey-Tagoe on the cover with an article about her presentation. **Chicago Chapter Friends of Amistad**

Research Center (.4 linear ft.) Donated materials from Mr. Lee Jackson, a long-time Chicago resident and active member of the Chicago Chapter of the Friends of the ARC. This addition to the Chicago Friends papers includes two folders of photocopied photographs of students from Talladega College in Talladega, Alabama. Copies show students at Savery Library, Reunion participants, fraternity members, and the 1947 Freshman Class. Also included are news articles, a church program, and the 1997 commencement exercises program from Wendell Phillips High School Academy. **William E. Malbrey** donation. A 54x52x16 inch replica of *La Amistad* schooner constructed by Mr. Malbrey is on display in the main reading room at Amistad. Equipped with masts, sails and lighting, this ship is an exact replica of the famed schooner on which the Africans revolted and eventually won their freedom.

Historic New Orleans Collection Williams Research Center

Gerald Patout has joined the staff of the Williams Research Center as Head Librarian.

Miniature theatres were a popular form of family entertainment in 19th century France and French-speaking Louisiana. Multiple theatrical images were printed on large sheets, cut out and assembled, and used in home performances. The Historic New Orleans Collection features a selection of these colorful prints in the exhibition **Les Images d'Epinal: Overture to Theatrical Prints** on view in the Williams Gallery now through September 27th. The town of Epinal, located in the Vosges district of France, was the center for color printing as early as the 17th century. One of Epinal's earliest printers, the Pellerin

firm, produced theatrical images that entertained parents and children throughout Europe and Louisiana. A variety of these 19th-century Pellerin prints, on loan from a private collection, are displayed in the exhibition. These images include historical and dramatic characters, costumes, backdrops, scenery, and props for miniature home-theatrical performances. A surviving parlor theatre used in a New Orleans household is also displayed with other local items. The exhibit is free and open to the public Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., at 533 Royal Street.

Recent acquisitions A manuscript copy, ca. 1770, of the 1802 book by **Charles Gravier Vergennes**, "*Memoire Historique et Politique sur la Louisiane.*" **Callendar Family Papers**, 79 items, consisting primarily of World War I correspondence between Sara Seago Callendar and her children. Records of the **Alexander Milne Home School for Girls**, 3.5 linear feet, which includes letters, minutes, financial records, architect sketches, blue prints, a watercolor survey of Milne property, property auditors' reports, court briefs, Orleans Parish grand jury reports and items related to Jean and Kate Gorden. The Center obtained a **Noticias Curiosas** which contains "Diario de las ocurrencias en la Expedicion para la Provincia de la Luiciana, Ciudad del Nuevo Orleans y Rio de Mississippi" written in 1769.

Exhibits "Everything, everything, no matter how commonplace and how ugly, has secret meanings. Everything." stated **Clarence John Laughlin**, an extraordinary photographer whose mysterious and enigmatic images have placed him in the realm of great American artists. A retrospective of his images

entitled *Haunter of Ruins: The Photography of Clarence John Laughlin* will be on view at the Historic New Orleans Collection from October 7, 1997 through March 21, 1998.

Clarence John Laughlin (1905-1985), a self taught artist, lived and worked in New Orleans most of his life earning a modest living as a freelance architectural photographer and lecturer. Laughlin's personal library of 30,000 volumes of varied topics attests to the wide range of literary influence underpinning his photography. The exhibition includes sixty-five original Laughlin photographs and a selection of his writings and letters from the archives of the Historic New Orleans Collection. The photographs feature the decaying monuments and Southern landscapes that made the photographer famous, along with a number of mysterious still lifes, portraits, and cemetery views. *Haunter of Ruins* will be free and open to the public Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. at 533 Royal Street. A book inspired by the exhibition will be available from Bulfinch Press. The exhibit included the compilation of sixty-nine original, never-before-seen duotone photographs along with selections from Laughlin's writings and letters. These materials are presented in tandem with two introductions and six essays written by prominent writers who share an affinity with the photographer's work. Compiled by the Historic New Orleans Collection, which houses most of Laughlin's photographs and writings, the essays are by Jon Kukla, John H. Lawrence, Andrei Codrescu, Ellen Gilchrist, Shirley Ann Grau, Jonathan Williams, Albert Belisle Davis and John Wood.

*Reminder: If you are a member of the GNOA and are not currently receiving the Historic New Orleans Collection Quarterly

and would like to do so, please send your name and mailing address to: "Mailing List," Historic New Orleans Collection, 533 Royal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, 70130.

New Orleans Public Library Louisiana Division

The City Archives has received 50 sets of blueprints from the **Historic Districts/Landmarks Commission** and several hundred sets from the **Department of Safety and Permits**.

Wayne Everard attended the Annual Meeting of the Society of American Archivists in Chicago. At the meeting, he chaired the Local Government Records Roundtable and was installed as in-coming chair of the Government Records Section. Wayne's article "Resources for Researchers: NOPL's Louisiana Division" appeared in the August 1997 issue of *Preservation in Print*.

Greg Osborn will join the staff of the Louisiana Division on September 15.

The Archives/Special Collections section of NUTRIAS, NOPL's web site, continues to grow. Recent additions include a finding aid and inventory for the records of **Mayor Andrew McShane** (1920-1925); an Index to *Employers' Liability Agreements Filed in Civil District Court*, 1915-1955 (in progress); a finding aid and index to **Criminal Cases Tried by the Orleans County Court** (1805-1807) and **City Court** (1807-1813) created by Yale history student **David Mascari**; and a transcription of the **WPA** translation of the *Inventory of Letters, Petitions and Decrees of the New Orleans Cabildo*, the *New Orleans Conseil Municipal* and the *New Orleans Conseil de Ville* (1770-1835). all of these addition can be accessed from the Archives and Special Collections link in

NUTRIAS (home.gnfn.org/~nopl/spec/speclist.htm).

Touro Infirmary Archives

Touro Infirmary celebrated its 145th birthday on Tuesday, August 26th with a party, and a display of historic photographs, provided by the Archives.

The *Guide to Jewish Holdings in New Orleans* was sent on time to the Southern Jewish Historical Society. **Cathy Kahn** thanks everyone who helped in assembling this draft submitted for a grant.

Tulane University University Archives

Beginning in September, the Tulane University Archives will have an exhibit celebrating the **Sesquicentennial of Tulane College** (formerly the College of Arts and Sciences). The exhibit will be in the new exhibit room in Jones Hall and will be open to the public during the Special Collections' hours of 8:30-5 M-Th. After Special Collections finishes its move to Jones Hall, the exhibit will also be open on Fridays 8:30-5 and Saturdays, 9-1.

Xavier University Archives and Special Collections

University Archives received 42 linear feet of photographic proof sheets (1970's and '80's) from the school's **Public Affairs and Communications**, 14.4 feet of videocassettes from the **Drexel Center for Continuing Education**, and 10.8 feet of office records (1988-1994) from the **Dean of Arts and Sciences**.

Special Collections received Records of the **Ninth Ward Citizens Voter's League** from **Richard Boseman**, director of Xavier's Annual Fund and Alumni Relations. Organized in 1958, the League

is the oldest surviving black political and civic organization in its New Orleans neighborhood. Mr. Boseman served as president of the group in 1975-1977 and 1986-1990. Xavier Interlibrary Loan Librarian **Edward McDonald** donated Records of the **University of New Orleans (U. N. O.) Black Caucus**, of which he was the first secretary. Your **Metropolitan Business Civic Club** (formerly the Young Men's Business Club) of New Orleans added 7.8 linear feet (1919-1980) to its continuing collection, including most notably complete bound sets of the organization's annual *Blue Book*, newsletter *Action*, and president's and treasurer's reports.

Theater, movies, and music are represented in some interesting small accessions. The accession of a playbill and an elaborately illustrated program from the 1943 stage production of *Carmen Jones* provides a reminder of the lead role's now forgotten originator, Muriel Smith. A postcard of a scene from the movie *Sensations of 1945* shows Cab Calloway and his orchestra and is marked "Palace Theatre, Spur, Tex." Charles Strouse's Broadway musical *Golden Boy* (1964) was based on the Clifford Odets play and starred Sammy Davis, Jr. The colorful program for the show includes photos taken by Davis himself. A first edition of Walter Mosley's detective novel *Devil in a Blue Dress* (1990) was acquired for Rare Books in 1992. Now, we have acquired the unpublished screenplay adaptation by **Carl Franklin** for the 1995 movie starring Denzel Washington. *Marian Anderson: A Decade of Great Song in America* appeared in 1946. It is a handsome and well-illustrated souvenir book. So also is *A Tribute to Marian Anderson*, which was issued in 1966 for the tribute given by the

Negro Actors Guild of America and chaired by Ed Sullivan. Four photos of Louis Armstrong in later life (ca. late 1960's) show him singing with a white band. *Miles* (1995) is a Caliban Press edition limited to one hundred and twenty copies. It contains a memorial to Miles Davis written by Amiri Baraka in 1991, one day after the trumpet player's death. An exotic edition on handmade and handcolored paper, it bears a woodcut of the great Bop musician by Guy Berard.

Staff Associate Archivist **Irwin Lachoff** completed the arrangement of the **U. N. O. Black Caucus Records** (1989, 0.2 linear feet), the **Ninth Ward Citizens Voter's League Records** (1940-1982, 1.4 feet), the **Dorothea Schlesinger Cahn Collection** (1941-1995, 0.4 feet), the **Joseph Cohen Articles** (1955-1993, 0.4 feet), and an addition to the **Gladys Dena Freeman Cahn Papers** (1939-1963, now measuring 0.6 feet). In July, he joined Cathy Kahn, Archivist of Touro Infirmary, and Dr. Wilbur Meneray, Head of Special Collections of Tulane University, to lead an archives workshop for Congregation Chevra Thilim.

Research Archivist **Eric Joseph** joined the staff early this year. He holds a B.A. in General Studies from the University of New Orleans and worked for five years in the Louisiana Division of the Main Branch Orleans Public Library. He is an alumnus of the Congo Square Writers' Collective, associated with the Free Southern Theater of New Orleans. He represented Xavier Archives on a panel of the local Father's Day program memorializing Beat poet Allen Ginsberg.

Lester Sullivan, University Archivist and Assistant Librarian for Special Collections, went to Dallas for the first Descriptive Standards Institute of the

Society of American Archivists. He appeared in *Holy New Orleans*, a television documentary by Peggy Scott Laborde for WYES-TV. During the summer, he attended the seminar entitled "Rethinking African-American History and Literature through Autobiography, Part 2" held by the Faculty Resource Network at New York University. The Summer 1997 *Faculty Resource Network Up-date* carried an illustration and an article about the Xavier Archives exhibit that he organized following last year's Part 1 of the autobiography seminar. Lester has also been recertified with the ACA.

Outreach Activities Two large oil paintings by **Numa Rousseve**, late head of the Xavier Art Department, were loaned to the Xavier University Art Alumni Association's show at the local gallery of the Black Arts National Diaspora, Inc. In August, the staff provided research on music for a television spot by Ron Swododa of WVUE-TV on local black activist Avery Alexander.

***News Notes**

Oral History Association Conference-September 25-28 New Orleans, LA

The OHA conference, *Looking In, Looking Out: Retelling the Past, Envisioning the Future* will present a wide variety of discussions, papers, workshops, and panels. The conference site is The Royal Sonesta Hotel located on Bourbon Street.

The Conference will include a variety of tours New Orleans neighborhoods, historical sites and evening dinner tours hosted by locals and notable oral historians.

For further information contact the OHA (817) 755-2764; e-mail: oha_support

@baylor.edu; <http://www.baylor.edu/~OHA>.

Increasing Access to History 1997 Society of Georgia Archivists Annual Meeting

The 1997 Society of Georgia Archivists Annual Meeting, **Increasing Access to History**, will be held from November 13-14 at the Callaway Gardens Inn in Pine Mountain, Georgia. Supported by funding from the Georgia Humanities Council, the Georgia Historical Records Advisory Board, and the Georgia Historical Society, these two days will include instruction and discussion on scanning, digitizing, and access.

Highlights of the meeting include **Peter Hirtle** of Cornell University will present a day-long overview entitled, *Introduction to Digital Imaging in Archives and Libraries*.

Kris Kiesling of the University of Texas at Austin will present a half-day session entitled, *An Introduction to Encoded Archival Description (EAD)*. She will discuss using Standard Generalized Markup Language (SGML) to encode finding aids according to the EAD standard document type definition (DTD) for inclusion on the World Wide Web.

The meeting registration deadline is **October 31** and the hotel registration deadline is **October 13**. For more information regarding the meeting please contact Frank Wheeler, Georgia Historical Society at 912/651-2207 or e-mail: wheeler@hargray.com.

Library of Congress

Manuscript division releases 1994-1995 Acquisitions Report. This issue highlights the diversity and breadth of the Library's manuscript collections. Acquisitions cover a wide scope of issues, including: literature,

politics, business, culture, science and diplomacy. Collections include the papers of Donald T. Regan, Secretary of the Treasury during the Reagan administration and the collection of *Invisible Man* author, Ralph Ellison. The report is illustrated with photographs and sketches describing many of the collections with separate essays.

SOLINET

National Endowment for the Humanities is providing SOLINET with \$1 million to support a fourth cooperative preservation microfilming project. The one-year project will preserve 10,500 deteriorated volumes of brittle monograph and serial collections covering aspects of the history and culture in the U.S., Brazil, Great Britain, Ireland, Africa, and the West Indies. Tulane University's Brazilian social science serials will be a part of the 16 libraries and archival collections filmed.

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

GNOA New Members

Mr. Irwin Lachoff of Xavier University and Ms. Lydia Schmalz of Longue Vue House and Gardens have joined the GNOA. Welcome to our organization.

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

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