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NEWSLETTER

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ASSOCIATION AFFAIRS

March 13 Meeting

The last meeting of the Greater New Orleans Archivists was held at the Historic New Orleans Collection on March 13, 1985. President Florence E. Borders reported on the responses to the questionnaire mailed out in February. A discussion of the suggestion that the number of meetings be reduced brought about an apparent consensus in favor of having three meetings per year instead of the current four. One meeting would be an annual joint meeting with the Greater New Orleans Chapter of the Association of Records Managers and Administrators, one meeting would feature a speaker, and the last meeting of the year would remain as the business meeting. Since tentative plans have already been made for four meetings in 1985, a final decision on changing the number of meetings was deferred until the December business meeting, at which time other questions relative to the future of the Association can also be addressed.

Plans for June Meeting

Dick Allen of the Jazz Archive at Tulane University suggested to Mrs. Borders that the Summer meeting might be held somewhere adjacent to the Mississippi River. He proposes a "bring-your-own-refreshments" format, possibly with some suitable entertainment provided by some of his jazz associates. More to come on this.

Update--Civil District Court Records

On February 7 an ad-hoc group of GNOA members and other interested parties met at the Historic New Orleans Collection to discuss the poor state of the storage facility presently in use by the Clerk of Civil District Court in the old Wildlife and Fisheries Building on Royal St. Housed on the upper floor of the building are all of the Court's original suit records for the period 1900-ca. 1920 (about 400 cu. ft.), along with about 1000 cu. ft. of more recent records. The records are stored in large, waxed "chicken boxes," usually stacked up five high. While each box is numbered and marked with the docket numbers of the suit records to be found inside, the boxes are not in any discernible order, nor are the records in proper sequential order within the boxes. Some records have fallen to the floor and must be stepped over (or on) to get to other boxes. The facility is more or less unsupervised and it appears that anyone who knows how to get to the storage area could do so without the knowledge of anyone in authority.

The group decided that some overture should be made to the Clerk to inform him of the above described conditions and to make him aware of the dangers inherent in allowing such a situation to exist. Lester Sullivan lead a delegation which met with the Clerk on the following day and came to a tentative agreement providing that the older records (the 1900-1920) group should be transferred to the City Archives Collection at the New Orleans Public Library, where the pre-1900 Civil Court records are already on deposit. The group stressed the need for the records to be put in proper order prior to the transfer and that the Clerk be responsible for delivery.

After hearing nothing official from the Clerk, Collin Hamer of the Public Library was told by a patron that a staff member in the Clerk's Office had told her that the office was ready to send the records over to the City Archives in the near future. He quickly contacted the Clerk, who brought him up to date on his plans for the records. These plans involve a proposal to contract for space in the Security Center on Carondelet and Common for the post-1920 records, and the simultaneous transfer of the 1900-1920 records to the City Archives. He needs the approval of the judges of Civil District Court before entering into such an arrangement. The Clerk has at least one potential group of volunteers for the record sorting process. As yet Hamer has heard nothing more on the matter. If necessary, the GNOA may have to be called on to resume pressure on the Clerk to make a proper disposition of these important documents.

INSTITUTIONS

Archdiocese of New Orleans

Charles E. Nolan will speak at the annual meeting of the Association of Records Managers and Administrators (ARMA) in New York City during the month of September. His topic will be the changing roles of archivists and records managers.

Historic New Orleans Collection

The Collection has relocated its Manuscripts and Microfilm reading room to 722 Toulouse St. Researchers may proceed directly to that address and ring for entry.

Alix Samuels has joined the Manuscripts Department staff after having worked part time as an assistant to the Registrar. She will be attending a conservation seminar in April at the Humanities Research Center at the University of Texas in Austin.

Also in April, the Collection is opening a new exhibit on the late New Orleans photographer Clarence John Laughlin. THNOC is also accessioning Laughlin's papers. His photographs were accessioned earlier.

Alfred Lemmon has been working to make the Collection's microfilm holdings as accessible as possible to researchers. Included in the collection are the films of the Louisiana records in Spanish archives, as well as all M and T series National Archives films relating to Louisiana.

Louisiana Historical Center

Edward F. Haas and Steven G. Reinhardt attended the Louisiana Historical Association meeting in Thibodaux. Haas chaired the nominations committee and participated in a panel discussion, "Huey P. Long After Fifty Years, 1935-1985."

Steven Reinhardt's article, "The Selective Prosecution of Crime in Ancien Regime France: Theft in the Senechaussee of Sarlat," has been accepted for publication in European History Quarterly.

Edward F. Haas addressed the Louisiana Landmarks Society on March 4, 1985.

On March 16, 1985, the Genealogical Research Society of New Orleans toured the Historical Center.

Loyola University

Recent acquisitions include:

Records of the Inter-American Center of the Loyola Institute for Human Relations. The collection comprises forms put out by the Agency for International Development (AID), a sponsor of the Center, giving background information (and photographs) on individuals traveling abroad. Forms on many persons active in Nicaragua and El Salvador are included among the records.

The New Orleans Review Collection, ca. 5 cu. ft. of correspondence and manuscripts from the University's literary magazine.

The Basil Thompson Collection, papers of the New Orleans poet and co-founder of the Double Dealer.

Loyola has also been named the repository of the South Central Conference on Christianity and Literature.

New Orleans Public Library

Recent accessions include:

Vieux Carre Commission, Project files, ca. 1960's and 1970's (along with 1 cu. ft. of earlier, ca. 1940s, records found in the Commission office);

City Civil Service Commission, Appeal Records, 1943-1980;

M. Eugene Wright, Jr. Papers, ca. 1971-1984;

Dr. Ambrose Howell Storck Papers, 1931-1953;

Dr. Walter G. Unglaub Papers, 1958-1967.

Larry Telford, microfilm coordinator for the Genealogical Society of the Church of Jesus Christ, Latter Day Saints, has received permission to film the succession, emancipation, divorce, and other genealogically important records in the Civil District Court Collection, 1880-ca. 1920. This project will also film records in the above categories from earlier courts not included in earlier Mormon projects. Wayne Everard has been working to eliminate several record snags in preparation for this project, which should be getting under way this Summer.

University of New Orleans

UNO hosted the Louisiana Purchase touring exhibit sponsored by Secretary of State James H. Brown from March 25 through 29. Held in the archival area of the Earl K. Long Library, the display was open to the public following a March 25 reception sponsored by the French Consul General in New Orleans.

Marie Windell has been awarded an \$80,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to microfilm the legal records of the Supreme Court of Louisiana. This grant ultimately will provide researchers from around the country access to these valuable documents.

Beatrice Owsley attended the Oral History conference of the Louisiana Library Association in Lafayette. Marie Windell attended the Louisiana Historical Association meeting in Thibodaux.

The Archives and Manuscripts/Special Collections Department is currently preparing an exhibit based on New Orleans cuisine. The display, consisting of Creole cookbooks and photographs of New Orleans dining establishments and restaurateurs, will also include a representative sampling from a private collection of tableware used by local restaurants. The display will be housed in lobby cases on the fourth floor of the library.

University of New Orleans--Internship Program

Professor Michael D. Clark, director of the Graduate Program in the University of New Orleans History Department, announces that Ms. Eydie Allene Rymer, a graduate student in the Archives and Records Management program, is currently interning at the Historic New Orleans Collection under the direction of Dr. Patricia Brady Schmit.