

GREATER NEW ORLEANS ARCHIVISTS NEWSLETTER

YOU ARE INVITED TO A MEETING
OF THE
GREATER NEW ORLEANS ARCHIVISTS
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1982
AT 6:30 P.M.
STAFF LOUNGE
EARL K. LONG LIBRARY
MEETING FOLLOWED BY REFRESHMENTS

AMISTAD RESEARCH CENTER

Acquisitions

The Center has received the personal papers (ca. 20 cu. ft.) of Samuel C. Kincheloe (1890-1981), a gift of his widow, Mrs. Evah Kincheloe of Georgetown, Ohio. Dr. Kincheloe taught at the University of Chicago, Chicago Theological Seminary and the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta. He was a longtime trustee of LeMoyne College in Memphis and Tougaloo College of Mississippi and served as president of Tougaloo from 1956 to 1960.

Mrs. Elise Clark Rousseve of Boston has given the Center small collections (ca. 1.0 linear ft. each) of personal papers of her father and husband. Her father, Sherman Lewis Clark (1865-1929), was a graduate of Atlanta University and served from 1887 to 1927 as principal of Knox Institute, an American Missionary Association school for blacks in Athens, Georgia. Her husband, Ferdinand Rousseve (1904-1965) was a native of New Orleans. He held degrees in architecture and fine arts from M. I. T., the University of Chicago, and Harvard University. After teaching at Howard, Southern, and Xavier universities, he founded, in 1955, the fine arts department at Boston University and served as its chairman until his death. Among the many homes and buildings designed by Dr. Rousseve are the stadium at Southern University, St. Jude Catholic Hospital in Montgomery, Alabama, and, in New Orleans, Central Congregational Church and the homes of Dr. Andrew J. Young and Dr. Joseph M. Epps. Throughout his life, Ferdinand Rousseve was active in race relations work and he received the prestigious Opportunity Award from the National Urban League and the Hoey Award for Interracial Justice from the Catholic Interracial Council of New York.

Dr. Marguerite C. Thompson of Brooklyn, New York, presented a collection of documents relating to archaeological excavations of Weeksville, a nineteenth-century black community, and the use of the artifacts found there in curriculum development by the Bank Street School.

The Center has been designated the official repository for the records of the American Committee on Africa, which was established in 1952 to support and work with the freedom movements in Africa. The inactive files (ca. 360 cu. ft.), now being packed in New York for shipment to the Center, contain voluminous correspondence from every important African leader of the last thirty years and extensive documentation on the three All African Peoples Conferences, the Organization of African Unity, and the independence celebrations in most African nations.

Grants

A two-year grant of \$83,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities allows the Center to process nine collections which document civil rights activities in the twentieth century. Under the grant, two archivists, Harold J. Handy and Frank J. J. Miele, joined the staff on June 1. Handy has served on the faculty of Chinchuba Institute for the Deaf, and, immediately before coming to the Center, he was part-time archivist at Loyola where he arranged the papers of Moon Landrieu. Miele, a former teacher at Isidore Newman School, is a candidate for the Ph. D. degree in history at Tulane. Handy is processing the records of Operation Crossroads Africa. Other collections to be processed under the grant are the records of the Race Relations Department of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, the Human Relations Office of the Unified School District of Berkeley, California, the Committee on Civil Rights of Metropolitan New York, the National Committee Against Discrimination in Housing, and the Race Relations Information Center (Originally the Southern Education Reporting Service) and the personal papers of Fannie Lou Hamer and Lloyd Davis.

Grants totaling \$56,000 from the Louisiana Committee for the Humanities, The Wisner Fund, and the Twenty-First Century Fund will support the development by Lester Sullivan of five slide and videotape productions on Afro-American history. One of the shows will tell the story of the Amistad incident and the educational work of the American Missionary Association which grew out of that incident. The other four focus on Louisiana. They are entitled "The Carribean Connection," "Claiborne Corridor: Culture and Heritage," "Nineteenth-Century Afro-Louisianians," and "The Modern Civil Rights Movement." These shows, with study guides, will be loaned without charge to any organization or institution that wishes to present them. While most of the pictures and documents used in the shows will be drawn from the holdings of the Center, the collections of other repositories will be researched and permission requested for photographing essential documents.

Staff Activities

The executive director, Clifton H. Johnson, spoke to a National Convocation of Black Clergymen of the United Church of Christ in Detroit in April. He participated in a International Consultation on Human Rights in Baltimore in August as one of fifty invited representatives from Canada, Barbadoes, France, Belguim, Italy, the United Kindom, Canada and the United States. He spoke on September 6 for the Centennial celebration of Central Congregational Church in Atlanta, Georgia.

Florence Borders, senior archivist, was the principal speaker for the fifth annual fund-raising banquet of the Cincinnati Chapter of Friends of the Archives. She spoke and developed an exhibit of Afro-Louisiana writers at Southern University in New Orleans during National Library Week. In the spring she gave poetry readings to two classes at George Washington Carver School.

Lester Sullivan, archivist, selected and arranged an exhibit at Dillard University for the meeting of the South Central Conference of the United Church of Christ. Items from the Center's collections about churches, schools and other institutions of U.C.C. in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas were displayed.

Miscellaneous

Yes Ma'am: Black Household Workers in New Orleans, a documentary film produced under a grant from the Louisiana Committee for the Humanities, won first prize for social commentary in the 1982 American Film Festival. Florence Borders has prepared a discussion guide to use with the film, which was produced by Gary Goldman.

For the second consecutive year, the Consortium on Research Training held its coordinator's seminar at the Center in May. Speakers were Dr. Willa B. Player, a former president of Bennett College and former director of Division College Support of the U. S. Office of Education, Mabel P. McLean, president of Barber-Scotia College, and the Center's executive director. Colleges participating in the consortium are Barber-Scotia (N. C.), Claflin (S. C.), College of the Virgin Islands, Florida Memorial, Harris-Stowe (Mo.), Huston-Tillotson (Texas), Jarvis (Texas), Miles (Ala.), Oakwood (Ala.), Paine (Ga.), Prairie View (Texas), Stillman (Ala.), and Wiley (Texas).

ARCHIVES: ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW ORLEANS

The Archives of the Archdiocese of New Orleans are under the jurisdiction of the Chancellor, Reverend Monsignor Earl C. Woods. The staff consists of: Dr. Charles E. Nolan, Associate Archivist, Father J. Edgar Bruns, Archdiocesan Historian, Miss Claire O'Donnell, Director, and Mrs. Eva Davis, Secretary.

Requests to use the historical archives and genealogical requests should be submitted by mail to: Archives of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, 1100 Chartres Street, New Orleans, LA 70116. Such inquiries should be addressed to the historical or genealogical division rather than individuals for prompt handling.

Early Catholic cemetery records from the city of New Orleans have recently been accessioned. The collection consists of 90 items, mostly large bound volumes of internment records, and includes the years 1833 to 1974. The collection is composed of: St. Louis Cemeteries, 1833-1973 (46 items); St. Joseph Cemeteries, 1855-1972 (27 items); St. Patrick Cemeteries, 1847-1974 (12 items); St. Roch Cemeteries, 1881-1907 (3 items); and St. Vincent de Paul Cemeteries, 1945-1972 (2 items). There are gaps in several sections of the cemetery records.

The archives recently acquired a computer to assist in the accessioning and describing of its historical and sacramental records.

ST. MAURICE PARISH OF NEW ORLEANS by Charles E. Nolan, Associate Archivist, is scheduled for publication in October, 1982.

THE HISTORIC NEW ORLEANS COLLECTION

Cathy Kahn has been named Manuscripts Registrar.

Alfred Lemmon has been named Manuscripts Cataloger. Alfred has just completed his cataloging of the Cane River Collection, a collection of several thousand items. He has produced a very detailed guide to the papers for use by researchers in the Library reading room. In addition to his own cataloging work, Alfred is directing the processing and cataloging of the Alton Oschner Papers and the records of the YMCA of Greater New Orleans. The records of the YMCA were acquired by THNOC this summer. Included in the records are the original archives of the YMCA, consisting of the original minute book (1852) and minute books from the nineteenth and the early twentieth centuries, correspondence, a report of the relief work of the "Y" in the yellow fever epidemic of 1878, and several hundred photographs.

The Community Concert Association (now defunct) has donated all of their scrapbooks (1964-1970), and a set of concert programs (1970-1982, 81 items) to the Collection. This material is an important addition to our Performing Arts Collection.

LOUISIANA HISTORICAL CENTER

Dr. Stephen Webre has departed the Louisiana Historical Center effective July 30, 1982. He has received an appointment as Assistant Professor at Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, Louisiana.

Joseph D. Castle has been promoted to the position of Curator of Manuscripts and Steven G. Reinhardt has been promoted to the position of Associate Curator of Manuscripts effective August 30, 1982.

MORGAN CITY ARCHIVES

Thomas E. Redard is now serving as archivist at the Morgan City Archives. He holds a BA Degree from the University of Illinois, an MA Degree from the University of Texas, and is a Ph. D. candidate (1976-1982) from Louisiana State University. Educational highlights include membership in Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, Phi Alpha Theta, and Phi Eta Sigma honorary societies and "High Distinction in History." He is the author of "The Election of 1844 in Louisiana A New Look at the Ethno-cultural Approach" Louisiana History XXII (Fall 1981). From 1976 to 1981 he was a Teaching Assistant at LSU, Department of History.

A grant from the National Historical Records and Publications Service in 1979-1980 enabled the volunteer staff of the Morgan City Archives to develop further and make more readily accessible for research a centralized source of information pertaining to the history of Morgan City, St. Mary Parish, and the Atchafalaya Basin.

Officially dedicated in February of this year, the ceremonies were attended by representatives of the State Archives and Les Comite des Archives, City of Morgan City, The Morgan City Fund, and St. Mary Parish Police Jury, each of which played an important role in the establishment of this small but significant municipal archives.

A grant was awarded this year by the Louisiana Committee for the Humanities as partial funding to establish a permanent black history section, utilizing oral histories from longtime residents. A humanist-in-residence is collecting the materials and will present them to the public through progress reports and a culminating program in the fall. The project entitled "Morgan City Area's Black Heritage" is directed by the archives commission chairman, Mrs. Lela King Lehmann.

EDITOR'S NOTE: News from all of the participating organizations was not included in this newsletter because the information was not received by the editor by the deadline. I urge you to submit your news for the next issue of the newsletter before the deadline.