Institutional Highlight - Special Collections, KSU
Submitted by Tony Crawford, Special Collections, Kansas State University, Manhattan

Special Collections at Kansas State University were established at the Hale Library in 1967; however, an active rare books and archival program did not begin until the early 1980s when a full time Rare Books Librarian and a University Archivist were appointed. In 1997, the department was named after Richard L. D. and Marjorie J. Morse, long time supporters of Hale Library and the department. Approximately 900 researchers visit Special Collections each year and another 2,500 others are assisted by e-mail, telephone, fax, and the postal service. The holdings comprise 25,000 linear feet of records and manuscripts, 100,000 photographs, and 85,000 rare books. The department is open 8:00-5:00, Monday-Friday.

Examples of university records are those of the president’s office, academic and administrative offices, Konza Prairie Research Area, student organizations, lecture series, university governance, 4-H programs, Cooperative Extension Service, Agricultural Experiment Station, as well as different formats such as photographs, university publications, oral histories, broadsides, newspapers on microfilm, and artifacts. The major collecting areas for personal papers include strengths in agriculture and rural life, Kansas history, military history, prairie ecology and environmental issues, cookery (including manuscript cook books), consumer movement, and a diversity of other subjects. Manuscript collections of great importance include the following collections: 1) Clementine Paddleford, the most well known American food writer during the 1945-1965 period; 2) Gordon Parks, two literary manuscripts of the famous photographer, writer, and motion picture director (Whispers of Intimate Things and A Choice of Weapons); 3) Gail Kubik, composer who won a Pulitzer Prize for Symphony Concertante and an academy award for the score of Gerald McBoing Boing; 4) Kenneth Davis, historian who won the Francis Parkman prize for a biography on Franklin Roosevelt; 5) Richard Morse, internationally recognized leader in the consumer movement; 6) Farmland, Inc., historical records of largest regional agricultural cooperative in the U.S.; 7) Alfalfa Lawn Farm, records of ranch near Larned, KS; 8) Robin Higham, noted military historian.

Staff members of the Special Collections includes Tony Crawford (Department Chair, University Archivist) Roger Adams (Rare Books Librarian), Pat Patton (reference specialist), Cindy Harris (collections processor), and Cindy Von Elling (technology specialist). For more information see the KSU Special Collections website at www.lib.ksu.edu/depts/spec/.
Enticed by the glorious weather we had at the beginning of this month (so rare for the first weeks in March!), a mix of 40 area library and museums studies students, Kansas State University Library staff, and KCAA members joined us for our Spring Quarterly meeting at KSU’s Morse Special Collections at Hale Library on March 3. Many thanks go to Tony Crawford, Roger Adams, and the rest of the Special Collections staff for their hospitality and enthusiasm in sharing your collections with us all; the KSU community would be right to realize what value they have at their fingertips: richly diverse resources, delivered forth by attentive and professional staff. (Check out their website at www.lib.ksu.edu/depts/spec/). For those of you who weren’t able to join us that fine Thursday afternoon, I (and I’m sure anyone else who attended – take their word if not mine!) would strongly recommend you make a spring day-trip to do so on your own. You will be pleasantly rewarded!

Members attending the business meeting that afternoon were treated to a full docket of KCAA Committee updates: the next edition of the newsletter was at that time forthcoming, the Minority Internship is gearing up to host a student this year, and the Education Committee has been hard at work coordinating our presence at the Kansas History Teacher’s Association History Expo, April 21-23, as well as developing plans for a History Day fair this fall. Many thanks to all committees and chairs for their creativity and commitment to promoting KCAA via so many different avenues.

Don’t miss this year’s Annual Dinner, to be held Saturday, June 4 at 6:00pm at the Embassy Suites Hotel – Plaza in Kansas City, Missouri. Our featured speaker will be Chuck Haddix, Director of the Marr Sound Archives, UMKC, who will treat us to a presentation about the Frank Driggs Jazz Oral History Collection, acquired by the Archives last summer, and other issues in managing audio collections. Join us for drinks, dinner, and live jazz, as well as the presentation of this year’s Holly Award winner (and the obligatory business meeting!). Mark your calendars now, formal invitations to follow!

Thank you all for your continuing support! Here’s to another active quarter!

Audrey McKanna Coleman

Corrections/Additions to Dec. minutes
Scholarship – Mary Hawkins
Mary was unable to attend the meeting, but Audrey gave the report in her absence.
1. On November 17, Marilyn Finke and Shelly Croteau became committee members.
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
KANSAS CITY AREA ARCHIVISTS
Spring Quarterly Meeting - Thursday, March 3, 2005, 2:00 pm
Hemisphere Room, Morse Special Collections Department, Hale Library, Kansas State University,
Mid-Campus Drive, Manhattan, Kansas

1. Welcome (Audrey McKanna Coleman, Senior Co-Chair;
   Trish Schurkamp, Junior Co-Chair)
   Trish Schurkamp opened the meeting by thanking Tony
   Crawford and the Special Collections Department at Hale
   Library for hosting the meeting.

   The first order of business was the officer reports.

2. Report of the Secretary (Ann Schultis)
   Ann was unable to attend the meeting; Letha Johnson
   agreed to take the minutes in her place. A motion was
   made to approve the amended minutes from December’s
   Winter meeting. The motion was seconded, and the
   minutes were approved as amended.

3. Report of the Treasurer (Jean Bischoff)
   Jean was unable to attend the meeting, so there was no
   treasury report.

   The next order of business was the reports from the
   committee chairs.

4. Reports of Committee Chairs
   Awards and Nominations—Kim Glover
   Kim reminded the membership that the Publications
   Committee chair was still vacant, and to contact her if
   they were interested in serving as chair. Kim also
   requested nominations for KCAA’s awards. The deadline
   for nominations has been moved up to May 1 since the
   Annual Dinner is a week earlier than usual this year.

   Membership—Marilyn Burlingame
   Marilyn was unable to attend the meeting, but did send
   a report to Audrey Coleman to hand out at the meeting. The
   number of members did not change during the quarter,
   but there was a new institutional member. The
   Membership Renewal forms will go out in the mail before
   the Annual Dinner. The new membership drive will begin at
   the same time.

   Publicity—Judy Sweets
   Judy reported that she was pleased with the advertising
   for this meeting. She has also worked on making sure the
   website is updated, adding photographs to the website
   from the last meeting, and helping to publicize the Minority
   Internship.

   Minority Internship—Letha Johnson
   Letha reported that over 200 posters announcing the
   internship have been sent out to various colleges and
   universities in Kansas and Missouri. Applications are due
   at the end of March, so the committee hopes to pick an
   intern between the end of April and the beginning of May.
   Applications for hosting the intern have also been received.
   Copies of the poster and the guidelines for host
   institutions were available for members to pick it.

   Education—Gloria Creed-Dikeogu
   Gloria reminded the members that volunteers for KCAA’s
   booth at the Kansas History Teachers Association
   Conference/History Expo are needed. A signup sheet was available
   for members. If any institution still wants to have their brochures at
   the booth, they needed to be sent to Marilyn Finke.

   Gloria also gave an update on the planning of the History Fair, the
   focus of which is to provide primary resources for History Day
   students and teachers. The date for the fair will be sometime early
   this Fall. Gloria has received three replies to her message on the
   listserv regarding a volunteer in the Kansas City area to host the fair.
   She also solicited ideas on expanding the focus of the fair to attract
   other types of researchers as well as ideas for the name of the fair.

   The committee is also working on an archives outreach program
   that would consist of a list of speakers available to visit schools or
   other organizations to give presentations and a resource packet.
   Gloria asked members to send her a copy of any packets that their
   organizations currently send out so the committee could get an idea
   of the type of information already available.

   Newsletter—Kara Kelly
   Kara thanks those members who submitted information for both the
   last issue of the newsletter and the upcoming issue. Preservation
   Notes will be in the upcoming issue. Kara also requested that the
   members continue to send in information for the newsletter.

   Publications—vacant (no report)

   Scholarship—Mary Hawkins
   Mary Hawkins was unable to attend the meeting, but Audrey
   Coleman reported that Tammy Kelly from the Truman Library has
   joined the committee.

   The next order of business was to announce the upcoming events.

5. Upcoming Events:
   History EXPO 2005:
   Kansas History Teachers Association Conference
   April 21-23, 2005
   Doubletree Hotel in Overland Park, Kansas

   KCAA Annual Dinner:
   Saturday, June 4, 2005, 6:00 p.m.
   Embassy Suites Hotel-Plaza, Kansas City, MO

   Featured speaker: Chuck Haddix, Director of Marr Sound
   Archives, UMKC, and host of KCUR 89.3 FM radio show “The Fish
   Fry”, 8-Midnight, Fridays and Saturdays. The last order of business
   was to attend to any additional business that needed to be
   addressed by the membership.

6. Other Business
   History Day Scholarships Proposal Letha Johnson presented a
   proposal to the membership for KCAA to sponsor a merit
   scholarship to go to a category winner at both the Kansas and
   Missouri History Day state contests for the next two years. After
   a brief discussion, a motion was made and seconded to sponsor
   a $100 scholarship for both state contests. The motion was
   carried. Letha thanked the membership for their approval and
   support of History Day.

Respectfully Submitted, Letha E. Johnson (For Ann Schultis)
Membership Report

Membership now stands at 155. Please add Wyandotte County Museum is now an institutional member. Please add Heather Wade, Emporia, (heatherwade@yahoo.com), Craig Pearman (cpearman@ku.edu), and Ingi House, Emporia State University (CorazondelIng@aol.com) to your membership directory. The annual membership drive will begin in late May, with the mailing of membership renewal forms. Please remit your renewal ASAP so the directory can be mailed promptly in the fall. You may also renew your membership at the Annual Dinner in June. Please see Marilyn Burlingame for details.

Education

The education committee is requesting volunteer to staff the KCAA booth at the Kansas History Teachers Association Conference Friday April 22, 2005. There are one hour spots available between 9:30 a.m. and 2:30p.m. Please contact Gloria if you can volunteer. If you would like your institution’s brochures to be available at the KCAA booth please mail them to Marilyn Finke at the National Archives.

Plans for a History Day Fair in the fall of 2005 are progressing. The fair would most likely be on a Saturday in the Kansas City area. The purpose of the fair is to help students prepare for the history day projects by introducing them to primary source research. The committee is asking institutions interested in hosting the fair to contact Gloria Creed-Dikeogu at (785) 242-5200 Ext. 5445.

The education committee is also developing an archives outreach program and would like your help with gathering member contacts from Archives in various areas across Kansas and Missouri, that could take part in this outreach program to area middle and high schools. This contact list will be used as a referral list for teachers at the schools requesting classroom visits. The aim of archives programming in the schools would be to educate students and teachers about primary resources: where to go to locate primary resources on various subjects in a community, advising students and teachers about specific collections that are available for study at archives in their community, how to use these primary resources in their research and how to cite them correctly using MLA and Turabian Styles. The education committee will work together to develop an outreach packet that would be used by archivists participating in outreach to the schools.

For more information please contact committee chair Gloria Creed-Dikeogu at, (785) 242-5200 Ext. 5445 or by email at gloria.creeddikeogu@ottawa.edu.

The Awards and Nominations Committee

The Awards and Nominations committee would like to request nominations for the Holly Award. The deadline for nominations is May 1, 2005. The award information and form can be found on the KCAA website under Awards. If you have any questions please contact Kim Glover at gloverki@emporia.edu or leave a message at (620) 343-9969.

KCAA Minority Internship

Over 200 posters have been sent out to colleges, universities, libraries, and historical societies advertising this year’s Minority Internship. Students and institutions have already begun to respond. The intern will be selected in April or early May and will then choose among the institutions that have expressed an interest in serving as host.

The current Minority Internship fund will not have enough money for the 2006 internship. Suggestions for fundraising activities or suggestions as to who to approach for funding should be directed to Letha Johnson at the Kansas State Historical Society, (785) 272-8681 Ext. 306 or Ljohnson@kshs.org.

KCAA Annual Dinner!
Saturday June 4, 2005, 6 p.m.
Embassy Suites Hotel-Plaza
Kansas City, MO

Our featured speaker is Chuck Haddix, Director of Marr Sound Archives at UMKC and host of KCUR 89.3 FM radio show ‘The Fish Fry’, 8-midnight, Fridays and Saturdays. Don’t live in KCUR’s broadcast area? Log on to www.kcur.org/ and listen live via the web! Watch the listserv for more information.
The Phase Box Demystified

Archivists are pros at arranging large quantities of unbound sheets of paper into folders and boxes. But what do you do when you have to house a bound volume? If the item warrants a custom enclosure, how do you determine the right type of board to use, and how do you know if the board is safe for long-term storage of archival materials? In this column I will address these issues and provide sources for additional information.

BOARD SPECIFICATION:
The board used to construct boxes is similar, if not identical, to what is used for document boxes. There are a number of considerations to keep in mind when selecting board for a project. First, the paperboard should have a pH in the alkaline range—over 7 on the normal pH scale from 0 to 14. The pH is a measurement of the quantity of hydrogen ions in solution, which means that when the pH is over seven, alkaline species outweigh acidic ones. The pH scale is logarithmic, so that a pH of 8 is ten times more acidic that a pH of 9. To be completely accurate, no board is really “acid-free,” but rather contains relatively more alkaline content than acidic. An inexpensive pH pen provides a simple manner of determining if a given board is alkaline.

In addition, the board should be lignin-free. Lignin is a sticky substance that helps hold the tree together when it is alive, but it is detrimental to the longevity of paper. Lignin contributes to the yellowing of paper and can lead to degradation.

Finally, board for long-term storage of papers should contain a 3% alkaline buffer (usually calcium carbonate). The buffer is added to the paper so that, as the board paper ages and naturally-occurring acids are produced, the alkaline material in the buffer should be able to neutralize the acids and protect the contents of the box.

TYPICAL TYPES OF BOARD:
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BOXES:
Staff at the Library of Congress developed the phase box as a temporary solution to address the millions of books in poor condition under their purview. Since there was no way to fully treat such a large collection, staff decided to construct relatively simple and inexpensive housings to contain damaged items as a first phase of treatment. The hope was that this action would be followed by a second phase that would involve more intensive, single-item treatment. Hence the phrase “phase box” was coined—although today we recognize that putting something in a box may be all the treatment a particular item might ever receive.

There are many variations of the phase box, but most are constructed out of 60 pt. board. The simplest to make without extensive equipment are constructed from two strips of board—one cut to the height of the box and the other cut to the width. The board cut to the width is creased around the book, then the second board cut to the height is creased around the first. The two strips of board are adhered together and the box fastened with string ties or Velcro.

The tuxedo box is ideal for materials that are thinner, because the thicker board used for a phase box cannot be creased close enough together to house thin items. The tuxedo box is also made from two pieces of board, usually 20 pt. in thickness. Tuxedo boxes are constructed in the same manner as a phase box, but have a slit and flap closure.

A newer type of box, affectionately called a “pizza box,” can be made on a machine. This type of box is fashioned from a single piece of corrugated board and hinges open just like the box in which your dinner is delivered. Many commercial binderies offer a box-making service, at a cost of a few dollars per box for a custom-made housing. You measure height, width, and thickness, send off the measurements, and a box is returned to you ready to assemble and with a label printed and attached, should you desire. Please find a list of box vendors at the end of this article.

Of course there are also fancy, cloth-covered custom enclosures made for very precious items. These boxes are made by a conservator or commercial bindery and can cost anywhere from $25-$100 or more per item. Very few items in a typical archive will warrant such a costly housing.
Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics, University of Kansas

The Reagan Presidency was the subject of the Dole Institute's 2005 Presidential Lecture Series in February. The featured speaker for the series was Lou Cannon, Reagan biographer, award-winning journalist and author of five books about Reagan including the acclaimed President Reagan: The Role of a Lifetime. Other speakers during the month were Jim Hooley and Andrew Littlefair, former Reagan Advance Team, Jack Matlock, who presented a program called, Reagan and Gorbachev: How the Cold War Ended and Frank Donatelli, Richard Wirthlin, Ed Rollins and Craig Shirley, who gave a program entitled: Electing Reagan: The Presidential Campaigns. A month-long exhibit of Reagan images from the Dole Archives highlighted important events in the Reagan Presidency Visit them at www.doleinstitute.org

Truman Presidential Museum & Library

As part of its commemoration of Bess Truman's 120th birthday, the Truman Presidential Museum & Library opened for research on Monday, January 31, 2005 featuring a small group of important manuscript materials relating to Mrs. Truman. One of the items is a letter that Harry Truman wrote to Bess on December 5, 1941. It is properly part of the Truman Library's “Dear Bess” collection of over 1,300 letters from Harry to Bess

In addition to the “Dear Bess” letter, copies of records of the Community Services League will also be opened. The Community Services League, formerly the Community Welfare League, was organized in Independence, Missouri in 1918, and Bess Truman (still Bess Wallace then) is credited as being one of the organization's founders. She remained active in the organization at least until 1945, when the League thanked her for being honorary Vice President and for remaining part of the organization despite her busy life in Washington. The records include three ledgers, covering the years 1918-1919 and 1930-1931, as well as several loose items. Bess Wallace Truman is listed 14 times in the earliest ledger, each listing representing some task undertaken for the League. One listing—which reads, “Miss Wallace shoes from Caspar”—shows that she was conducting League business on June 24, 1919, four days before she married Harry Truman. The records were recently discovered by the Community Services League which agreed to the deposit of the copies in the Truman Library.

A copy of the letter to Bess Truman of December 5, 1941 and samples of the Community Services League records are available online.

The Truman Presidential Museum & Library and the Harry S. Truman Library Institute, in cooperation with the Midwest Center for Holocaust Education, will host a one week national teacher conference from July 10-15, 2005. Leading scholars will present information and teaching strategies on the following topics: the legal and historical foundations of war crime prosecutions, the Holocaust's legacy, the Nuremberg and Tokyo war crimes tribunals, the legal issues and precedents resulting from those trials, and post-WWII prosecution for acts of genocide and war crimes occurring in other nations.

Teachers of students in grades 8 and above who can apply the knowledge and skills gained from this workshop with their students are encouraged to apply. We encourage applications from both the Greater Kansas City area and teachers from other parts of the United States. Scholarships for underwriting participation may be available for eligible educators.

To apply for this conference please contact Mark Adams at the Truman Presidential Museum & Library at mark.adams@nara.gov or call (816) 268-8236. Scholarships for underwriting participation may be available for eligible educators.
Union Station / Kansas City Museum
On February 2, Union Station /Kansas City Museum Archives, opened its doors to the general public and researchers. Open three days a week, Wednesday through Friday from 1 to 4:30 p.m. the archives includes a small reference library as well as its historical collections. Although not available for browsing, the collections may be accessed through card catalogues and a computer database. Researchers may request materials to view. Researchers may continue to make appointments Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The archive is located in the administrative offices of Union Station. For more information contact Archivist Denise Morrison at (816) 460-2052.

Upcoming exhibits include:  
*September 11: Bearing Witness to History.* Reflect on the horrific day that changed America in this stirring exhibit from the Smithsonian Institution. This special traveling exhibit features images, objects and stories that document the historic day and its impact. It provides an opportunity to pause, remember and reflect—for each of us to bear witness to history. This exhibit will be at Union Station from May 21-Aug. 14, 2005.


Unity Library & Archives
The Unity Archives recently opened a new exhibit titled “Spirituality in Native American Culture.” The exhibit will be on display through May 26. Native rituals and ceremonies use aspects of the environment and culture. The exhibit explores diverse examples of contemporary spirituality and how objects illustrate beliefs. The objects include a buffalo skull, a pipe, a fan of turkey feathers, a medicine bag, Navajo wool weaving, and others. Items for the exhibit are on loan from Mary Blocher, a ministerial candidate, who lived on the Navajo Reservation for seven years as a teacher. She is known as a pipe carrier and spiritual leader among the Lakota and Navajo people.

Dwight D. Eisenhower Papers Available Online
The Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission, cooperating with Johns Hopkins University Press, published an electronic reproduction of the eight volumes of “The Papers of Dwight David Eisenhower” that is available online at www.eisenhowermemorial.org

These volumes, which may be the last collection of presidential papers to appear between book covers, are now the first to appear on the internet. Every printed word of each document is precisely reproduced in a pleasing visual and fully searchable format. The site includes standard and advanced search engines, document links from each entry in the original indexes, and newly indexed and searchable chronologies. Historians, political scientists, independent scholars, students and interested people everywhere can now explore the personal presidential papers of the man who led America through the early Cold War, several international crises, and one of the longest periods of sustained peace and prosperity ever experienced by the citizens of the United States.

The papers were collected and organized by a team of highly credentialed scholars at Johns Hopkins University under the guidance of editors Louis Galambos and Daun van Ee. The Dwight D. Eisenhower Library in Abilene, Kansas, was the principle supplier of documents, but public and private archives throughout the world were also scoured for relevant papers.

The great historical significance of the papers comes not only from the documents themselves, but from the richly detailed and cross-referenced footnotes provided by the editors. These vital writings give each paper a context and bring a fullness of meaning and understanding to the reader. In addition, a complete presidential chronology sets out where the president was and with whom he met for every day of Eisenhower’s two terms.

The electronic reproduction of *The Papers of Dwight David Eisenhower* will be part of an Eisenhower National Memorial to be created in Washington, D.C.
Manuscript and Microfilm collections now cataloged at KSHS

The following records are now input into the ATLAS database, giving researchers information regarding their research queries:

Both the Eula Gentzler and Kansas State Nurses’ Association (KSNA) manuscript collections are available for your needs regarding nursing.

Supreme Court Justice William Johnston’s collection is catalogued and ready for researchers. His wife’s collection is also available. Lucy B. Johnston was involved in the Suffrage movement and as such made a name for herself too.

Railroad buffs will be interested in the following collections: Atchison Topeka & Santa Fe, and the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railway.

Religious collections include The First Christian Church of Coffeyville, and Immanuel Lutheran Church.

The military is represented as well, including, Samuel Ryan Curtis, George A. Custer, Frederick Funston, and two GAR posts located in Garnett and Mulberry Grove (Mulberry) respectively.

Politicians of note are as follows: William Avery, the United States Representative 1955-1965; Frank Carlson, served in the Kansas House, Governor’s office, and both Houses of Congress; James Denver was Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Territorial Governor and an Army Officer, and John J. Ingalls, police judge, probate judge, and Territorial Legislator.

For those interested in Native American materials we have Indian Mission schools, the generic Native American collections which deal with a variety of tribes like the Cheyenne and Iowa tribes.

Women’s collections are to be found as well, including Avis Carlson, Emma Clifton, Anne Davies, Edith Dillon, Kansas Women’s Christian Temperance Union, and the Kansas Press Women are available to name but a few.

The Great Plains Association of Chemistry Teachers in Liberal Arts Colleges collection reflects an organization of chemistry teachers at non-tax supported liberal arts colleges in Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and Texas.

Perhaps one of the most interesting collections deals with the Hyer Boot Company. This Olathe based company is credited with inventing the Cowboy Boot.

Collections regarding individuals include the following: The Robert E. Feighn and William Eicholtz collections both deal with medical subjects. Charles S. Gleed was an ardent Republican, and active in party politics at both the state and national levels. The Billiard family of Topeka fame are represented as a research collection. J. B. was Topeka’s mayor from 1910 to 1914. His run for Governor in 1912 was unsuccessful but J. B. was a successful businessman. Abzuga (Zu) Adams was the daughter of Franklin G. Adams, the State Historical Society’s first director, and provides insights into the early development of KSHS. The Adair collection deals with both John Brown, and the founding of the State Insane Asylum in Osawatomie.

Should you wish to see what is available, as new collections are constantly being added, search at the following http://lib.wuacc.edu/search/ Under “Title” type in either collection, diaries, or papers and a list will come up. The format, whether it is, manuscript or microform (microfilm) will print in parentheses. It is then a matter of choosing for your own tastes. The location of the materials will be found toward the top of the page. Any further information can be received by contacting the reference staff at reference@kshs.org They will be able to assist you and give you the accompanying fees involved.
NHPRC Budget Zeroed Out for FY2006!

More than 150 federal programs are slated to be slashed or eliminated in the FY2006 budget recommendations released by the White House on February 7. In that proposed budget, the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) has been targeted to receive NO funding. This will mean no funds for the grants program and no funds for staffing to support NHPRC programs. In addition, the overall budget for the National Archives and Records Administration has significant decreases in other areas of importance. For more information see www.archivists.org.

Society of American Archivists Congratulates New NARA Head, Calls for Due Process in Future Archivist of the United States Appointments

The Society of American Archivists (SAA) today congratulated Dr. Allen Weinstein on his confirmation as Archivist of the United States, a position that places him at the head of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). “During informal conversations, Dr. Weinstein has expressed his commitment to the independence of NARA and pledged collaboration with professional archival organizations,” SAA President Randall C. Jimerson said today. “We look forward to working closely with him as he assumes this vital leadership position.”

At the same time, SAA reiterated its concern that the process of nominating a new Archivist of the United States "was undertaken outside both the letter and the spirit of the law" and compromises the political independence of NARA. For more information see www.archivists.org

 unity Library and Archives

Microfilming continues on periodicals from the Archives. The periodicals collection documents the history of the Unity religious movement's publishing. The movement published six magazines in its 116 year history. Many of the earliest copies of these periodicals are fragile and in various states of deterioration. The project continues the preservation of Unity Magazine, Good Business, Progress and other periodicals.

Historic Garment District Museum of Kansas City

Group Looking For Tales From The Closet

If it is true that "clothes make the man," it is also true that clothes make the city—at least in Kansas City, which was once one of the largest garment manufacturing centers in the country. At one time, one in every seven women in the country was wearing a coat made in Kansas City.

Yet, much of the information on this industry is fast disappearing. This has prompted the Historic Garment District Museum of Kansas City to begin research for a book on the garment industry in Kansas City from 1875 to 1975. It will follow the rise and fall of garment manufacturing the metropolitan area and how it affected the development of the city.

The group has begun compiling oral histories from people active in all phases of the industry. It is also trying to identify and locate information available to assemble a history and timeline and to uncover what caused the district to grow and flourish here and what caused it to disappear in the 1970s.

Anyone who knows the whereabouts of records, newspaper clippings, company histories, personal accounts, or memorabilia from the garment industry should contact Sybil Kahn via e-mail at nkahn@kc.rr.com or via phone at (816) 561-1113.

Spencer Research Library, University of Kansas

The University of Kansas’ Spencer Research Library has entered the web-publishing phase of its initiative to create web-accessible EAD records for all manuscripts and archival collections.

Nearly 1,500 finding aids from the Kansas Collection have been converted from paper versions into their electronic counterparts, with Spencer librarians, archivists, and student assistants now generating a number of original created-in-EAD finding aids. Manuscript and archival holdings from the University Archives and Special Collections departments will become available in the following weeks.

To browse Spencer’s manuscript holdings online, visit http://spencer.lib.ku.edu/collections/index.shtml. Search options eventually will be expanded beyond the current browse list and keyword search. Each of Spencer’s EAD finding aids will have MARC counterparts in the KU Online Catalog, which will contain a link to the corresponding online finding aid. Finding aids are also indexed through Google, and will appear as hits in Google searches.

Reference staff have already received inquiries from researchers throughout the country who have located the EAD finding aids online.
Unity Library and Archives
Unity Library and Archives is happy to announce that Eric Page is the new Archivist and Reference Librarian.

Emporia State University Libraries and Archives
Heather Wade has been appointed archivist at Emporia State University. Heather has a B.A. from Seton Hill College and an M.A. in history from George Mason University. She comes to Emporia from Elmira, N.Y., where she was archivist at the Chemung County Historical Society.

Billington Library at Johnson County Community College
Sharron Uhler has been appointed Archivist. Her contact information is:
Billington Library
Johnson County Community College
12345 College Boulevard
Overland Park, KS 66210
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Center for the History of Family Medicine
Donald Ivey started on Monday, March 7 as the new Manager of the Center for the History of Family Medicine (formerly the Archives for Family Practice) at the American Academy of Family Physicians Foundation. Don is moving here from the City of El Paso, Texas, Division of Records Management, where he served as Archives & Records Manager.

Kansas City Public Library
Missouri Valley is currently hosting an intern.
Rebecca Power recently completed her M.L.S. at Southern Connecticut State University. She has worked with map cataloguing, photographs, indexing and processing archival collections.

Shawnee Indian Mission
Alisha Cole is the new Site Administrator and Curator at the Shawnee Indian Mission.

Union Station/ Kansas City Museum
Union Station Kansas City has recently added an important collection to its historical archives. The Greater Kansas City Council of Camp Fire Girls alumni organization has donated their organizational papers as well as ceremonial gowns, banners and other ephemera. The Kansas City, MO council of Camp Fire Girls was the first in the nation to organize after the group’s founding in 1912. Some of the highlights include a unique three-generation collection of Camp Fire Girls memorabilia from one local family, photo scrapbooks and illustrated annual reports of the summer camps of the 1920s from both the Johnson County, KS and Kansas City, MO councils, council charters, individual scrapbooks and alumni reunion tapes. For more information, contact Archivist Denise Morrison at (816) 460-2052.

Jackson County (MO.) Historical Society
Jackson County Historical Society recently received donations to purchase an historic Jackson County, Missouri, ledger dating from 1836-1860. From initial investigations it appears to be a financial collections register listing such things as fines collected by County Sheriffs for illegal offenses by individuals (like $10 fine imposed on two members of the Younger family for “gambling at cards”) and fees collected for the issuance of business licenses. The ledger was likely one of items saved by clerk Samuel D. Lucas during the Civil War when he feared the County Courthouse in Independence might be burned and he took all the county records to a fire proof vault in Kansas City until after the War. Future research may yield new insights into county officials, residents, and more far reaching topics such as Jackson County’s role in outfitting westward travelers in the 1830s through 1850s (a business license for a man named Sutter has been noted, for instance). The Society has an ever-expanding website where you may sign up for its free, monthly e-mail newsletter.

Kansas City Public Library
Missouri Valley Special Collections at Kansas City Public Library has received a donation of about two hundred photographs from retired photographer Robert Askren. Mr. Askren was co-owner of Harkins Photo Company and his work documents Kansas City places, events and people from 1948 to about 1983.
KCAA Gears up for History EXPO 2005

Mark your calendar for the 79th annual conference of the Kansas History Teachers Association to be held at the Doubletree Hotel, Overland Park, Kansas, April 21-23, 2005. The conference will be held in conjunction with the Central Plains Conference on History and History EXPO 2005. Numerous papers, special sessions and events have been arranged by the sponsoring host, National Archives Central Plains Region.

Kansas City Area Archivists will sponsor a booth featuring information not only about KCAA, but about many of our member institutions at History EXPO 2005. The EXPO is something of a trade-show that showcases the broad range of public history in the area and serves as a marketplace of ideas. It will provide the opportunity to display, share, and promote your organization with educators, historians, the public, and other institutions. You are urged to help at the KCAA booth if you can, contact Gloria Creed-Dikeogu to sign up for a time, but especially you are invited to attend the conference.

The conference will begin Thursday afternoon with sessions and panels followed by a keynote address by noted author Thomas Frank in the evening. The sessions and EXPO 2005 swing into gear Friday morning at 8:00 and continue all day culminating with a “party on the prairie”, BBQ, and an evening with John Wayne at the National Agricultural Center and Hall of Fame in Bonner Springs. Sessions continue on Saturday morning and the conference concludes with the keynote luncheon.

Friday also includes two pre-register special sessions, both for credit. The first, “The History Writing Workshop” will be taught by Kevin Wilmott, Virgil Dean, Marilyn Holt, Gerald R. George, Brian Burnes, and the keynote speaker, Geoffrey Ward. The second workshop will be a Teaching History Workshop, offered to teachers for professional development credit.

Stop by the EXPO, which will be free and open to the public, or register for the full conference. Some events are still being planned and it is not too late to register. To receive a conference registration form via email, contact Marilyn Finke, NARA – Central Plains Region at marilyn.finke@nara.gov. We look forward to seeing you in April!

KCAA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

The annual membership drive will begin in late May. Membership renewal forms will be mailed.

Membership renewals & address changes should be sent to:
Marilyn Burlingame
UMKC Archives
5100 Rockhill Road
Kansas City, MO 64110-2499
(816) 235-1539, FAX: (816) 235-5500
or e-mail: BurlingameM@umkc.edu
Our ability to study and understand the past rests on the availability of historical materials for examination and research. At work throughout the Kansas City region are people dedicated, either through professional responsibilities or personal interest, to making historical materials available for use by identifying, collecting, and preserving the records of our heritage.

The Kansas City Area Archivists, a local professional association of archivists, manuscript curators, librarians, historians, and others, seeks to unite those individuals interested in the advancement of archival collections in the Kansas City area, and in preserving the documentation of our past.

The Dusty Shelf is a quarterly publication by the Kansas City Area Archivists. We honor exchanges with other organizations.

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Kansas City Area Archivists is a local non-profit organization serving archivists in Eastern Kansas and Western Missouri. Annual membership dues: $15 individuals, $30 institutions, $10 students, $50 sustaining institutions, $100 supporting institutions.

We're on the Web
www.umkc.edu/KCAA