Institutional Highlight - Mennonite Library & Archives

Submitted by John Thiesen, Mennonite Library & Archives, North Newton

Located in North Newton, Kansas (just north of Wichita), it might be a stretch of geographic definitions to say that the Mennonite Library and Archives belongs with the Kansas City Area Archivists. (We are about as close to Oklahoma City as we are to Kansas City.) But since there isn’t any other localized archival group anywhere close by, I’ve paid some attention to KCAA over the years and recently got around to finally joining.

The Mennonite Library and Archives is located at Bethel College (founded in 1887). We hold the records of the college, obviously, and are one of two repositories for the denomination with which the college is affiliated, the Mennonite Church USA. As the denominational archives, we also use the name Mennonite Church USA Archives–North Newton. We also hold papers and records of various other Mennonite organizations and individual congregations (mostly for the western half of the country), and we collect personal papers from persons and families having some tie to Mennonite history or to local central Kansas history. You might be surprised to know that Kansas has the highest proportion of total population of Mennonites, Amish, and related groups of any state in the country. About 1.5% of Kansans belong to some such group. (Other states, such as Pennsylvania have higher absolute numbers, but a lower proportion of the total population.)

Our archival and personal papers holdings amount to around 4500 cubic feet, more or less. Our web site, in case you want to browse, is www.bethelks.edu/services/mla/. We are highly unusual in being staffed entirely by certified archivists: I’m the archivist and also co-director of libraries (roughly 75% of my time goes to the archives officially) and the assistant archivist is James Lynch (part-time also).

The formal history of the archives goes back to 1911 when several individuals began to collect church-related documentation. Our earliest archival holding is a congregational record book from the Mennonite congregation in Gdansk, Poland, dating from about 1790. The earliest personal papers go back to the mid-18th century in Germany. The oldest library item is an Erasmus Greek and Latin New Testament from 1522.

One of our most frequently used holdings is the Hopi materials in the H. R. Voth papers. Voth was a Mennonite missionary and pioneer ethnologist of the Hopis in the 1890’s. He is known for his over 2000 photos, mostly Hopi subjects, all on nitrate negatives.
Corner Chair

The Annual Meeting was a wonderful event filled with the sounds of KCAA members intermingling, music and excitement! Audrey and the committees did a fantastic job of bringing members a night to remember.

As we move into another year, I would like to introduce myself. I am Trish Schurkamp, director of the Wyandotte County Museum in Bonner Springs, Kansas. I have been a member of KCAA for three years. I started my museum career in archives. As a student I interned in the Special Collections area at Northwest Missouri State University, as well as at the St. Joseph Museum and the Pony Express Museum.

As I step into the position of Senior Co-Chair, I realize I have much to learn, and rather large footsteps of a truly dedicated leader – Audrey. Audrey has brought new and exciting places to visit at the quarterly meetings, as well as a real desire to see new faces at the meetings. I hope to continue that dedication and desire.

I look forward to a year of learning and fun as we, the officers and members, visit area archives and museums. Knowledge must be shared, and KCAA members are devoted to sharing their knowledge with each other and the community. I hope each of you is looking forward to the coming year! Our first meeting will be in September. Watch for place and time.

If any of the members have suggestions as to places to visit, please do not hesitate to contact someone on the committee to let us know. KCAA belongs to you. We want you to be as excited about the meetings as we are!

Trish Schurkamp

KCAA thanks these sponsors for their generous support of our 2005 Annual Dinner

American Micro Co., Kansas City, MO
Heckman Bindery, North Manchester, IN
Steel Fixture Manufacturing Co., Topeka, KS
Quarterly Meeting Minutes  
KANSAS CITY AREA ARCHIVISTS  
Summer Quarterly Meeting - Saturday, June 4, 2005  
Embassy Suites Hotel, Country Club Plaza, Kansas City, Missouri

1. Welcome - Audrey McKanna Coleman, Senior Co-Chair  
Audrey called the business meeting to order at 8:45 p.m.  
following a delightful program by Chuck Haddix, Sound  
Recording Specialist of the Marr Sound Archives at UMKC  
and host of “The Fish Fry” on KCUR FM. She thanked  
Chuck and the Harry Miller Trio, who performed during  
the cocktail hour and dinner.

2. Report of the Secretary – Audrey for Ann Schultis  
Audrey requested approval of the minutes of the Spring  
Quarterly Meeting. A motion was made and seconded  
and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Jean reported that expenses exceeded income by  
$400.00 with the symposium, scholarships and newsletter  
constituting the largest expenses. On the positive side,  
annual meeting sponsorships offset dinner expenses by  
$500.00. She acknowledged and thanked Heckman  
Bindery, Steel Fixture Manufacturing Co. and American  
Micro Company for their support.

4. Reports of Committee Chair  

Education – Gloria Creed-Dikeogu  
No report

Membership – Marilyn Burlingame  
Marilyn announced that KCAA currently has 158  
members. Membership renewal notices have been  
mailed, but only two have been returned. Additionally,  
Marilyn sent out 144 new membership solicitations, and  
she has received one to date. She plans to send only  
one mail reminder and two email reminders. She  
urged everyone to renew their membership.

Newsletter – Kara Kelly  
Kara thanked committee members for submitting  
reports. She reminded everyone that the newsletter,  
The Dusty Shelf, is published quarterly and deadlines  
coincide with quarterly meeting dates. The newsletter  
includes the meeting minutes and features articles  
about people, projects, new accessions and general  
news of interest to society members. Kara  
encouraged members to submit articles for inclusion in  
the newsletter.

Publicity – Judy Sweets  
Judy reported that her committee has advertised  
meetings and events on list-serves including Emporia  
State University School of Library and Information  
Management (SLIM), KLA, KU Museum Studies,  
University of Missouri School of Library and  
Information Science (SLIS), and Kansas Heritage-L.

She has also submitted photos of meetings and events to  
the KCAA newsletter and website. Judy announced that  
she will be stepping down as Publicity Chair for the next  
membership year.

Minority Internship – Dan Coleman for Letha Johnson  
Dan reported that there were six applicants for the  
internship and the committee interviewed four. Bernardo  
Alvarez was selected. He is working at the Union Station  
Kansas City Archives.

Scholarship – Mary Hawkins  
Audrey reported for Mary that the committee awarded two  
scholarships.

5. KCAA 2005 Award of Excellence – Trish Schurkamp,  
Junior Co-Chair  
Trish presented the award to Chuck Haddix for his  
contributions to preserving the documentary heritage of  
Kansas City jazz. In addition to his archival and radio  
roles, Chuck recently co-authored a book entitled Kansas  
City Jazz: from Ragtime to Bebop with music historian  
Frank Driggs. Chuck was nominated by Mary Conrad.

Wade  
Heather presented the following slate:  
Senior Co-Chair - Trish Schurkamp  
Junior Co-Chair – to be named later  
Secretary - Heidi Hornaday  
Treasurer - Jean Bischoff  
A motion was made and seconded to approve the slate.  
The nominative slate was unanimously elected.

7. Other Business  
Trish presented a bouquet of flowers to Audrey and  
thanked her for her service as Senior Co-Chair this year.  
Audrey recapped the year and thanked her steering  
committee and KCAA membership, encouraging those  
interested in gaining leadership and committee work  
experience to invest in KCAA.

8. Adjournment  
The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Heidi H. Hornaday  
(For Ann Schultis)
Membership Committee
Presently, KCAA has 158 members.

Membership renewal requests were sent out mid May. Two have been received. I do expect membership numbers to drop this year, as I don’t think many of the people who joined at the symposium will renew. The same procedure for renewals will be followed as last year. There will be one mailed reminder and two email reminders. The membership directory should be out in October.

To those of you who do not receive mailings, you will need to print your renewal form from the listserv.

144 new member solicitations went out on May 23. Hopefully, they were received before institutions such as small historical societies had their last meeting.


P.S. to the membership from Marilyn. As of today, June 8, we have more NEW members than we have renewals from you all! Come on you guys, get busy!!

On behalf of the KCAA membership I would like to give Audrey Coleman many thanks for a job well done. Her tenure as Senior Co-chair had many accomplishments. Among them, importantly: symposia after an absence of several years and re-establishment of the newsletter. (And the dinner was put together beautifully!) Thanks Audrey. Also, thanks to Kara Kelly for her work on the newsletter. I know all the KCAA membership is happy to see one on a regular basis.

Awards and Nominations Committee
It has been an interesting and enjoyable year for me as the Committee Chair for the Awards and Nominations Committee. I want to thank Joe Laframboise and Heather Wade who volunteered to be on the committee with me and have been terrific to work with. Thanks goes to Audrey McKanna Coleman as well for all of her guidance and support. Thanks also goes to Mary Conrad, who nominated Chuck Haddix for the Holly Award. Mary did a lot of work researching all of Mr. Haddix’s wonderful archival work in Music. Congratulations to Mr. Haddix, your work is appreciated and inspiring. I look forward to working with everyone at KCAA again next year.

This week is my last week at ESU so if someone needs to reach me they can do so at my personal e-mail, angelina_glover@yahoo.com. We still need volunteers for the Publication and Publicity Chairs as well as committee members.

Minority Internship Committee
The committee’s activities this quarter centered on choosing the intern and further refinement of the process. The committee is also exploring ways to raise funds for the internship.

Six individuals submitted applications for the internship, and four were interviewed. Bernardo Alvarez, Jr., a junior at Southwestern College in Kansas, was chosen as this year’s intern. Mr. Alvarez is doing his internship at the Union Station/Kansas City Museum with Kara Kelly.

I would like to thank the following institutions for also submitting applications to host the intern: the Emporia State University Archives, Library/Archives Division of the Kansas State Historical Society, the Missouri State Archives, and the National Military Heritage Museum.

The committee had a chance to meet on the day of the intern interviews to discuss issues regarding the program.

1. It was decided that next year’s applicants would not be interview. Rather, the application requirements will include three letters of recommendation. The committee feels the letters of recommendation would be of more value in choosing the intern than an interview.
   a. This will allow for a later application deadline, as well as speeding up the choosing of the intern since an interview date will not have to be coordinated.
   b. Interviews will be conducted only if the committee cannot make a decision from the applications.
2. The committee will also be looking into finding funding for the internship. Ideas include:
   a. Grants
   b. Auction or raffle
   c. Lunch or dinner with a speaker
   d. Corporations and/or individuals

KCAA Membership Renewal
Don’t Delay! Use the membership form at the end of the newsletter to renew your membership today.


Get Involved!
The car doesn’t drive itself! Help drive the vision and goals of KCAA by joining a committee or becoming a committee chair. For more information on how to get involved contact Kim Glover via email: angelina_glover@hotmail.com
### KANSAS CITY AREA ARCHIVISTS – ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TREASURER, JUNE 3, 2005

Submitted by: Jean Bischoff, Treasurer

#### BEGINNING ACCOUNT BALANCE JUNE 11, 2004: $18,418.40

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#### ENDING ACCOUNT BALANCE JUNE 3, 2005: $17,978.35

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*Investment principal in certificates of deposit as of 6/3/05:
  * 1 Year CD Commercial Federal (1 no-penalty withdrawal/mo.): $2,593.32
  * 1 year CD Lawrence Bank: $12,471.70

**Checking** 2,913.3* TOTAL : $17,976.35
More Product, Less Process: Pragmatically Revamping Traditional Processing Approaches to Deal with Late 20th-Century Collections

“Cataloguing is a function which is not working.” Put very simply, processing is not keeping up with acquisitions, and has not been for decades, resulting in massive backlogs of inaccessible collections at repositories across the country (and across all types of archival institutions). These backlogs are continuing to grow. And they are weakening the archival profession.

A survey of one hundred repositories conducted for this report in 2003-04 showed that 34% have more than half of their holdings unprocessed; 60% of repositories have at least a third of their collections unprocessed. Only 44% of repositories surveyed in 2003-04 permit researcher access to unprocessed collections. These large backlogs are hurting the archival profession in the eyes of our researchers and resource allocators. The 2003-04 survey found that 51% of repositories had researchers, donors, and/or resource allocators who had become upset because of their backlogs.

Why does this problem exist? Certainly, the vast breadth of contemporary manuscript sources and the increasing size of these collections since the 1950s is one cause of huge backlogs. But this fact encompasses another: that the archival profession has been unwilling or unable to change its processing benchmarks in response to the greater quantities of acquisitions. There is good evidence to suggest that we tolerate this situation in part because as a profession we give higher priority, in practice, to serving the perceived needs of our collections than to serving the demonstrable needs of our constituents.

How, then, do we break these chains of unhelpful practice that hold us to inadequate productivity? We need to articulate a new set of arrangement, preservation, and description guidelines that (1) expedites getting collection materials into the hands of users, (2) that assures arrangement of materials adequate to user needs, (3) that takes the minimal steps necessary to physically preserve collection materials, and (4) that describes materials sufficient to promote use. In other words, it is time that we focused on what we absolutely need to do, instead of on all the things that we might do in a world of unbounded resources.

Part of what the survey tells us is that there is wide variation in what archivists believe “generally accepted norms” of processing are. Based on the most recent survey, we can summarize the processing status quo as follows: While archivists have almost entirely given up on item level description, we continue to arrange and do multiple types of minor conservation work at the item level. While we almost uniformly create finding aids that include collection and series descriptions, administrative or biographical notes, and folder lists, barely half of us make our descriptive work accessible through OPACs or web-mounted documents. In both our proclivity for item-processing and our avoidance of on-line cataloging, we evince a dismaying lack of concern for user access to our holdings.

It is, however, in terms of conservation steps that the true conservatism of archival processing most clearly emerges. Sixty-three percent of repositories sometimes, usually, or always remove metal fasteners from 20th century collections; 85% refolder in buffered folders; 52% photocopy clippings onto archival bond paper; a third place torn items in polyester L-sleeves; 20% interleave scrapbooks and/or photo albums with acid-neutral paper. It is a telling point that only three do all of these things, suggesting that there is no consistent conservation ethos at work, but rather a disjointed and haphazard dedication to certain rituals.
Of the repositories who report that more than 50% of their holdings are unprocessed—that is, those who might be assumed to have the strongest motivation to speed processing—88% refolder 20th century collections sometimes, usually, or always, and 58% remove metal. Of the most active repositories in terms of current collecting (those bringing in 250 feet or more of material a year), 84% refolder 20th century collections sometimes, usually, or always, and 55% remove metal fasteners with the same frequency. Thus neither the size of current acquisition efforts nor the extent of a backlog significantly alters a repository's allegiance to the most time-consuming actions that can be undertaken during processing.

Moreover, of the repositories that usually or always remove metal fasteners from 20th century collections, 33 report having 100% of their stack areas properly temperature and humidity controlled. With good climate control, metal fasteners should not rust; why such determination to remove them? Similarly, of the repositories that usually or always refolder 20th century collections into “Archival” buffered folders, 37 have completely climate controlled stacks. It may startle some archivists to learn that there has never been a study done on the effect that standard manila folders have on collection material when stored in proper environmental conditions. In fact, there has never been a study on the effect of buffered folders on collection material stored in proper conditions. We are spending lots of time and money in the hope that buffered folders can make a significant difference.

So despite that fact that we now routinely deal with collections containing 500,000 items, we retain our dedication to performing processing tasks at what is truly the item level. When we realistically look at the staffing resources that we will be able to devote to processing our backlog of collections, we see quite quickly that we can never get the job done. Our reach will always exceed our grasp. We will continue to frustrate ourselves, our resource allocators, and most important of all our users, with little hope of breaking out of the cycle.

Why does this enervating reality endure? It endures for at least three reasons. First, it persists in large part because we allow our pride in craft to get in the way of our real objective: making materials accessible to users. Sometimes the love of craftsmanship degenerates into mere fastidiousness, an obsession with cleanliness and order that serves none of the real business interests of user, repository, or archivist.

Our users, tellingly, seem much less concerned about these housekeeping issues than we do. Only ten percent of users in our small survey indicated that they were at all concerned with level of dirt and tidiness of collections. One respondent, checking the statement “I would accept generally greater levels of dirt and untidiness in processed collections,” added parenthetically “Dirt Sc[h]mirt. Research is a dirty business.”

Second, we have placed preservation far ahead of access in our priorities by establishing as “proper” the removal of metal and complete refolding. There is no clear mandate that this be so—archival manuals and other publications are quite divided on this principle—rather, it seems to be a self-imposed burden. That burden may derive from the heavy legacy of a profession rooted more in service to “the stuff” than in service to patrons, a profession that continues to fetishize the physical items in our holdings even though those now number in the hundreds of millions and contain massive duplication and relentlessly uniform physicality thanks to Xerox and Lexmark.

Third, it persists because we have allowed techniques appropriate to a different age to survive unchallenged in an era dominated by collection materials that are profoundly different in both volume and character. Techniques and expectations that made great sense when acquisitions consisted of a relatively small volume of carefully created document types, that were each truly unique, and that were often visually and artifactually impressive, make no sense in an era where acquisitions comprise a huge amount of frequently redundant material, in myriad forms, with no inherent appeal apart from their informational content.

To view the authors' recommendations for change, conclusions, and citations please go to the following location:
Reflections on “Silly Love Letters”

I'm sorry, but if you're looking for attempts at thigh-slauling humor, you'll have to fast forward to the next issue of The Dusty Shelf. At this moment, I'm reserving the right to be reflective.

“Silly love letters”: The few times they were mentioned at all, they were usually characterized as “silly love letters,” “those mushy old letters from the War,” or other dismissive phrases. Neatly tied with string into bundles and put into shoe boxes, even my mother admitted once that she wasn't sure why she kept them all those years. They were the letters—or to be precise, copies of the microfilmed V-Mail—that Dad sent her during the three years he was in North Africa, Corsica, mainland Italy, and Brazil during World War II. They dated for less than a year before the War broke out and he enlisted, but he proposed to her before leaving for training in Florida and fulfilled that pledge a few months after returning in 1945.

“Silly love letters”: Written by a man who could be very verbal, but rarely wrote anything, let alone regular correspondence for nearly three years. Though my father was not on the front lines—a telephone lineman in civilian life, he set up communications equipment for combat troops while overseas—nevertheless he did receive enemy fire on a number of occasions, was once wounded, and endured a night lost in the Sahara Desert, among other experiences. Like other soldiers, he artfully attempted to convey information to his mother about his locations and activities in ways that would elude Army censors. We know now that soldiers were under orders to be reticent about his locations and activities in ways that would elude enemy fire on a number of occasions, was once wounded, and endured a night lost in the Sahara Desert, among other experiences.

“Silly love letters”: Kept in shoe boxes on wooden shelves in the basement of a small ranch house in the new subdivision of Roeland Park, hundreds of homes built on Kansas pastures for returning veterans and their new brides. Private correspondence between two young people in love and separated by war, a war that by the 1950s was very much in the past. Certainly not the kind of thing that a curious youngster should have access to. Now there were more important things to accomplish: going to work every day, providing love and sustenance for a growing family, adding to the house, trying to grow grass and trees, volunteering at school and church. War experiences were over, done with, and never discussed, the few exceptions being short answers to direct questions and the rare swapping of stories with others who had also served.

“Silly love letters”: And then they were gone. I don't remember if I was in college, in graduate school, or in my first apartment. Mom mentioned that the basement had flooded and that almost everything in it had to be discarded, including “those old letters of your father’s from World War II.”

“Silly love letters”: A documentary account—the truth admittedly possibly altered by military orders, censorship, and masculine reticence—of three years of wartime experiences. As he got into his 80's, Dad increasingly became disoriented and confused, and by 2002, the Alzheimer's was so bad he had to ask Mom which war he served in. By 2004, he knew Mom and other family members but had no recollection of any experiences aside from his early childhood.

“Silly love letters”: Telling archivists to preserve things is truly “preaching to the choir,” but we can't emphasize the obvious enough: Our human minds and memories are finite and frail, and, like the “silly love letters” in the basement, subject to obliteration in an instant. It's unfortunate, but often the tangible expressions of our lives—such as our letters, diaries, records, furniture, and other personal possessions—will be here far longer than we. When one of my grandmothers passed away, I recall thinking bitterly how cruel it was that her sofa might last another hundred years, but her innate personality was gone from us forever. But it is those possessions, and in particular, the documentary evidence of their lives, that we must hold, preserve, cherish, and ensure that others can benefit from them.

We need to continually encourage those with whom we come in contact with to act now, today to preserve the historically significant documents and artifacts that they may own. If they are embarrassing or sensitive, restrict access for however long a period seems appropriate. My mother-in-law and her mother were instrumental in the work of the Socialist Party in Kansas in the early 1900s, but, fearful of the repercussions of the McCarthy era in the 1950s, my mother-in-law destroyed most of the Party's correspondence that “named names.” Take whatever measures are necessary to protect yourself and others, but protect the documents, too: somewhere, other than the basement, where they will be preserved and can be used by future generations to try to understand the past.

“Silly love letters”: In the maelstrom of emotions as we made preparations for Dad's memorial service, the “silly love letters” kept returning to my mind. Maybe the unsatiated curiosity of someone who reads other people's personal documents for a living or the stress blew the letters' significance out of proportion in my mind. I'm sure Mom still wouldn't let me read them if they were here, and that's probably the way it should be: They were personal messages between my parents, after all, and her feelings should be respected. And even if I were able to do so, perhaps there wouldn't really be anything of historical value; maybe they were just mostly romantic nonsense between two young people smitten with each other. But one can argue that even “romantic nonsense” might have historical significance. Perhaps my grandchildren, or their grandchildren, might be curious in the year 2105 or so about an ancestor's World War II service in the same way we're curious about our Civil War ancestors and the experiences they endured in their war. But the “silly love letters” are gone, and with them a portion of our heritage.

We need to continually encourage those with whom we come in contact with to act now, today to preserve the historically significant documents and artifacts that they may own. If they are embarrassing or sensitive, restrict access for however long a period seems appropriate. My mother-in-law and her mother were instrumental in the work of the Socialist Party in Kansas in the early 1900s, but, fearful of the repercussions of the McCarthy era in the 1950s, my mother-in-law destroyed most of the Party's correspondence that “named names.” Take whatever measures are necessary to protect yourself and others, but protect the documents, too: somewhere, other than the basement, where they will be preserved and can be used by future generations to try to understand the past.

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Midwest Archives Conference Fall Meeting

Join your colleagues for the MAC’s Fall 2005 meeting on the beautiful campus of Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana September 29 through October 1, for a gathering that promises to meet the diverse needs of Midwestern archivists of all backgrounds.

The Indiana Memorial Union, one of the largest student unions in the country (see www.imu.indiana.edu/index.html) and a peerless academic meeting center, will play host to the meeting. The IMU boasts many amenities, including well-appointed hotel rooms, several eateries, a bookstore, cozy lounge areas and meeting rooms – even a bowling alley, arcade, and billiards room – all available to MAC attendees!

A set of program offerings that will focus on archival education has been created especially for this meeting, designed to explore fundamental archival tasks from various perspectives. Learn more about appraisal, collecting, preservation, outreach and other activities through a combination of sessions and mini-workshops that will allow both novices and veterans opportunities to equip (or re-equip) themselves for the next steps in their archival career. Additionally, there will be pre-conference workshops on the Describing Archives Content Standard (DACS), caring for artifacts in the archives, and hands-on repair of manuscripts and prints. A Vendors’ Fair and Information Fair will round out the helpful offerings.

The meeting will include a set of tours and other offerings that will allow attendees a chance to get to know the local archival, historical and cultural landscape. A welcoming reception at IU’s fascinating William Hammond Mathers Museum of World Culture, a restaurant tour, new members’ dinner and a Friday-night “Bowl-A-Rama” are just a few of the events to entice the meeting-goer. Tours will include the Archives of Traditional Music, the Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender, and Reproduction, IU’s high density storage facility (with its state of the art conservation lab), a leisurely look at the “Old Crescent” area of campus, and a fun “ghost walk” through the meeting locale itself.

Beyond the scheduled tours, attendees can take in lots of other great events, activities and local fare both on campus and in the surrounding area, like the IU School of Music’s presentation of Mozart’s Cosi fan tutte, a performance by the Count Basie Orchestra, live theater offerings, Bloomington farmer’s market, and any number of ethnic restaurants, all of which has earned the city of Bloomington praise by the national press for its small-town feel and big-town offerings.

Mark your calendars NOW for MAC Fall 2005 in the Hoosier Hills of Bloomington, Indiana, September 29 through October 1. Further information will be added periodically to the meeting’s website, www.midwestarchives.org/bloomington.

Kentucky To Become Part Of Largest Regional Archives Organization

Kentucky’s historic treasures and those who preserve them have found new friends across the Midwest as the Commonwealth of Kentucky has been added to the membership states of the Midwest Archives Conference (MAC), the country’s largest regional professional organization of archivists. The alignment brings to archivists and allied professionals across the state of Kentucky a host of professional development opportunities and positions the state’s wealth of historic records in greater light within the profession. Previously, Kentucky was not part of any regional organization.

The Midwest Archives Conference was founded in 1972 by archivists in seven Midwestern states. Over time, the number grew to twelve. At its recent spring meeting in Chicago, MAC members voted unanimously in favor of making Kentucky the thirteenth member state acknowledging the important contributions Kentucky archivists have made to MAC in the past, the state’s cultural and geographic connections with several MAC states, as well as its non-aligned status.

Chadwick Owen of the University of Louisville and Chuck Hill from Eastern Kentucky University brought the proposal to MAC’s governing council in the fall of 2004 on behalf of the Kentucky Council on Archives (KCA), a statewide professional organization. At their members’ meeting this past April 29 in Chicago, MAC members voted unanimously in favor of the proposal. Nancy DeMarcus of the University of Kentucky and Debbie Whalen of Eastern Kentucky University were on hand to accept the good news on behalf of the KCA. Also present were Hill, as well as Lisa Carter and Deirdre Scaggs, both of the University of Kentucky.

The Kentucky Council on Archives, formed in 1976, has over 100 members and will continue in its mission to aid in the preservation of Kentucky’s historic records while encouraging its members to join MAC for expanded professional development and networking opportunities.
Missouri State Archives
The Missouri State Archives website, www.sos.mo.gov/archives/ was selected by readers of Family Tree Magazine as one of the twenty-five best websites in the country.

The Missouri State Archives hosted more than 2600 students from around Missouri for “Archives Alive” performances, bringing Missouri history to life. Molly and Delores traveled back to the early days of the territory we now know as Missouri, and told the story of the earliest Missourians, and those who settled here in the 1800s. These forty minute performances were sponsored by the Friends of the Missouri State Archives, with additional support from the A.P. Green Foundation and Target Stores.

KU Medical Center Archives
The University of Kansas School of Medicine is celebrating its centennial during the year 2005. Founded in 1905, the Medical Center has experienced many “firsts” over the past 100 years, as documented by archivist Nancy Hulston. The complete list of significant achievements at KU Med can be found at www.kumc.edu/centennial/

The KU School of Medicine has produced a booklet titled One Hundred Firsts based on Nancy’s research. If anyone would like a copy of the booklet contact Nancy at (913) 588-7243 or nhulston@kumc.edu.

An exhibit on the history of the KU School of Medicine combined with artifacts either owned, used or invented by Kansas physicians is on display in the foyer of the Clendening Library. The exhibit can be viewed from 8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, and will be on display until the end of the year. A traveling exhibit is also available. For additional information on the exhibit contact Nancy Hulston.

You can find additional stories and photographs on KU Medical Center’s history at www.kuhistory.com.

National Archives and Records Administration- Central Plains Region
The National Archives - Central Plains Region has recently participated in two interactive distance learning workshops with Central Missouri State University, Department of History. Staff at NARA presented original records to undergraduate students enrolled in an American History survey class. Students were then expected to analyze a document as part of their course curriculum and exams. By having video conferencing equipment available on-site, the staff has found this to be a useful tool to aid in educational outreach and a convenience!

Are We There Yet???? There’s nothing quite like the family summer vacation. For those who visit the Central Plains Region branch of the National Archives and Records Administration this summer, they can tour some of America’s premier vacation spots by viewing a small, temporary lobby display—Road Trip!

Road Trip! features photographs and other documents contained in the records of the Central Plains Region. Highlights include photographs from Yellowstone National Park, Mount Rushmore, and postcards which feature sites such the Statue of Liberty and homes of Hollywood stars. “The majority of items in this exhibit come from records we have from the National Park Service,” said archives specialist Lori Cox-Paul, who created the display. “We hold records from the Midwest Regional Office, headquartered in Omaha. We have some great photographs of the national parks as a result.”

However, other items were pulled from U.S. District Court cases, as well as Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary inmate case files. “There was one inmate who received some amazing postcards which we are using in this exhibit. Unfortunately, for him, he probably never saw them as they were considered contraband, confiscated, and put into his inmate case file,” said Cox-Paul. The lobby display will be on display June 1 through August 31, 2005.
Regional News

Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics

Dole Institute Now Offers A Monthly “White Glove” Tour of the Dole Archives. The Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas has begun offering monthly “White Glove” tours of Senator Robert J. Dole’s personal and political archives. The June archival tour will be on Friday, June 17 at 9:30 am. In July, the tour will be on Saturday, July 16 at 1:00 pm.

The monthly behind-the-scenes tour includes a visit to the reading room on the upper floor of the Institute, where local and out-of-state visitors can research information contained in the Dole Collection. Guests also will tour the archival storage area in the lower level. The storage area holds more than 4,000 boxes of Bob Dole's personal and political papers and more than 25,000 photographs related to Dole’s personal life and political career. The final leg of the tour will take guests into the archival processing room where staff and volunteers process the papers, photographs and artifacts that make up the Dole Collection. Jean Bischoff, Senior Archivist says, “Those who've taken the “White Glove” tour have rated it as one of the high points of their visit to the Institute. We're very pleased that this tour will be a monthly event open to everyone.”

There is no charge for the thirty minute tour but space is limited so early reservations are recommended. Reservations can be made by phone at (785) 864-1420 or (785) 864-1405, or by email at bischoff@ku.edu or asweets@ku.edu.

The Nazarene Archives

The Nazarene Archives will be well-represented at the host denomination’s Twenty-Sixth General Assembly in June in Indianapolis. This quadrennial event will be the last before the denomination’s centennial in 2008. The archives will have two exhibits there: A Hymnal of Faith, debuted at the last General Assembly and will return to this one: and a new exhibit focusing on the centennial theme.

Truman Presidential Museum and Archives

Truman Presidential Museum & Library opens New Films and Sound Recordings featuring Harry S. Truman Speaking Off the Script.

On Friday, May 6, the Truman Presidential Museum & Library will open one-and-half hours of film and eleven hours of sound recordings from the Screen Gems Collection. This collection of outtakes was created during the production in 1961-1963 of the television documentary, Decision-The Conflicts of Harry S. Truman. Truman is often featured speaking off the script or without a script during his time on camera and before the microphone.

Among the film segments being opened, one shows Truman saying of the Ku Klux Klan, “We don’t need to have government by sheet. I don’t like it. They’re no good”; in another he says his mother disciplined him when he was a boy with the assistance of a slipper; in another he recalls that when at the Potsdam Conference Stalin toasted the firing squad that would execute 50,000 Nazi war criminals, Winston Churchill said, “Britain would never be a party to a mass murder program,” and walked out of the meeting; and in another he tells the young people who come to the Truman Library “The next generation’s going to be in your hands, and it’s going to be up to you.”

The sound recordings being opened include several interviews conducted by Merle Miller, author of the best selling Plain Speaking. Miller interviews former President Truman several times, and also Truman’s sister Mary Jane Truman, his cousin Ralph Truman, and his associates Eddie Meisburger, Rufus Burrell, and W. Averell Harriman.

The Screen Gems Collection is available for research in the Truman Library’s audiovisual research room. For further information, please contact Pauline Testerman (816) 268-8228 or email pauline.testerman@nara.gov

Kansas City Public Library- Missouri Valley Room

Deep Throat found at Kansas City Public Library! A photograph of Mark Felt, now known to be the real Deep Throat is part of the South Central Business Association Collection—a collection of a businessman’s group associated with the 31st and Troost shopping area in KC, MO. The group had numerous luncheons and dinners over the years, and invited quite a few prominent civic, business, and entertainment personalities as guests and speakers. Mark Felt was probably either a guest or a speaker at one of these gatherings when he was with the FBI in Kansas City, and his portrait ended up in the records of the group. For more information about the collection: http://www.kclibrary.org/localhistory/collections.cfm?CollID=89).
Truman Presidential Museum and Library

The Truman Presidential Museum & Library and the Harry S. Truman Library Institute, announce a year-long collaborative partnership with the Arthur W. Diamond Law Library at Columbia University Law School and the Jacob Marcus Rader Center at the American Jewish Archives to commemorate the “Legacy of the Nuremberg War Crimes Trials.” The partnership commences with the opening of a joint web site, “The War Crimes Trials at Nuremberg,” which can be found at www.trumanlibrary.org/whistlestop/study_collections/nuremberg/.

The web site, hosted by the Truman Library, will contribute to scholarship on the legacy of Nuremberg by displaying the rich variety of historical material housed in these three institutions. More than 200 photographs and 2,000 scanned images of documents are from the three institutions are included. The site also showcases related educational programs and events that will follow in New York City, Cincinnati and the Kansas City metropolitan area.

Materials featured on the site include records of the World Jewish Congress held by the American Jewish Archives and official reports and photographs submitted by Supreme Court Justice Robert H. Jackson to President Harry S. Truman, who had appointed Jackson chief U.S. prosecutor at Nuremberg.

On July 10 through 15, 2005, the Truman Library in cooperation with the Midwest Center for Holocaust Education will host a one week national teacher conference, War Crimes and International Law: The Legacy of Nuremberg. Leading scholars will present information and teaching strategies on the following topics: the legal and historical foundations of war crime prosecutions, the Nuremberg war crimes tribunals and the legal issues and precedents resulting from those trials, and post-World War II prosecution for acts of genocide and war crimes occurring in other nations.

Three public programs will accompany the teacher conference. On July 10, Michael Berenbaum, director of the Sigi Ziering Institute at the University of Judaism, will speak at the Jewish Community Campus in Overland Park, KS on the continuing impact of the trials of Nazi war criminals. On July 12, a program presented in partnership with the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law will feature a panel of experts speaking on the law of war. A program on July 14 at the Truman Library will feature John Q. Barrett and Jonathan Bush, the biographers respectively of prosecutors Robert Jackson and Telford Taylor. All programs will be at 7:00 pm. Additional public programs will follow including an event at the newly opened education center at the Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati on Sunday, September 18, 2005, co-sponsored by the Hebrew Union College’s Ethics Center.

Emporia State University Archives

The ESU Archives has received a Kan-Ed Content grant of $20,714 to begin the preservation and digitization of photographs in the historic Walter M. Andersen Collection. Walter Andersen, known locally for decades prior to his death in 2001, as “the man with the pictures,” worked for the railroad and devoted much of his free time to his passions: photography and local history. In addition to his original photography, he collected and copied historical images of Emporia and surrounding communities and the railroad in Kansas.

The Andersen Collection, now housed at ESU Archives in the Anderson Memorial Library, consists of approximately 12,000 prints and 20,000 negatives of photographic images dating from the 1860s to the 1990s. Approximately 600-1,200 images will be preserved and digitized in the next year. Kan-Ed funds will provide for temporary personnel, supplies and equipment needed to ensure that the collection is accessible to the public for many years to come.

Missouri State Archives

In November 2003, volunteers from the St. Louis Genealogical Society, in a collaborative effort with the Missouri State Archives and the St. Louis Circuit Court, began sorting three partially-complete sets of naturalization index cards with citations to corresponding naturalization record books of the St. Louis Circuit Court. The Society then compiled information from the records into a searchable database for naturalizations in the St. Louis court system from 1816 through September 1906. Volunteers are transcribing naturalization data from various county record books and from Supreme Court of Missouri record books to produce a database of immigration information. The project is ongoing. When complete this database will include naturalizations recorded throughout Missouri. See www.sos.mo.gov/archives/naturalization/.

The Land Patents Project at the Missouri State Archives is an ongoing project to transcribe information from the state-issued land patents to create a database of patent information, useful in placing an individual in a specific location at a specific time. Other record series that will be included in this project will be Individual Land Surveys, 1804-1823 and Tax Deeds, 1847-1878. The information contained in the land patent database includes name of purchaser, county, date of purchase, legal land description, and microfilm location for copy of full entry (reel number, volume and page number). The Land Patents Project is ongoing. Additional land patents will be added to the database as completed. See www.sos.mo.gov/archives/land/.
Women Artists Archives National Directory

Call for Participation - ALL ARCHIVAL REPOSITORIES holding primary source material about women visual artists active in the U.S. since 1945, are invited to be included in WAAND – the Women Artists Archives National Directory – an innovative Web directory under development by Rutgers University Libraries and on the Web at http://waand.rutgers.edu.

WAAND is designed as a research tool for scholars, artists, curators, students, and collecting institutions around the world, as well as researchers in cultural and intellectual history, American studies, material culture, and women's and gender studies. It will direct users to primary source materials of and about contemporary women visual artists active in the U.S.

Participating repositories will be asked to complete an online repository survey form for each artist in their collections, describing the nature of the primary source materials they hold. The WAAND repository survey form will be ready for release by summer 2005. Please sign up now if you wish to receive the survey upon release.

WAAND users will be able to access data through artist name, archival repository, or collection title. The directory will also be structured for fielded searching on such access points as art genre, style and movement, and the geographic regions of the artist's activity. WAAND has been funded by the Getty Foundation.

WAAND’s principal investigators are Dr. Ferris Olin, head of the Margery Somers Foster Center, Rutgers University Libraries, and long-time curator of the Mary H. Dana Women Artist Series at the Mabel Smith Douglass Library, and Judith K. Brodsky, Rutgers distinguished professor emerita in the Department of Visual Arts, Mason Gross School of the Arts, and founding director of the Rutgers Center for Innovative Print and Paper (RCIPP). Members of the WAAND Advisory Council include Mary Garrard, professor emerita, American University, and author of The Power of Feminist Art; Camille Billops, artist, filmmaker, and founder of the Hatch-Billops Archives, New York; and Janis Ekdahl, retired chief librarian, Museum of Modern Art Library, New York.

For further information or to partner with WAAND, please contact:
Nicole Plett, WAAND Project Manager, Mabel Smith Douglass Library, Rutgers-The State University of New Jersey, 8 Chapel Drive, New Brunswick, NJ 08901-8527 Phone: 732-932-9407, ext. 27 email: waand@rci.rutgers.edu
website: waand.rutgers.edu
**People in the News**

*The Nazarene Archives*

Congratulations to archives assistants Meri Janssen, Kara Lyons, and Steven Martinez. All three completed the three-year Master of Divinity degree and graduated from Nazarene Theological Seminary on May 11. Meri, who processes manuscript collections and undertakes research requests, will remain at the Nazarene Archives in a full-time capacity. Steven, who has been audio-visual archivist for two years, leaves the archives on June 30 to return to his native California, where his wife is entering medical school. In early May, Kara transferred to a full-time position as editorial assistant in another Nazarene headquarters department.

*Emporia State University Archives*

ESU Archives added an Archives Assistant (Processing and Description) position this spring. Ms. Shari Scribner, formerly an archives and government documents cataloger at Pittsburg State, will begin working at ESU Archives on June 6. Shari is responsible for processing and cataloging archival acquisitions and creating appropriate finding aids for the collections. Max Krause, who had worked as Archives Assistant (Reading Room Supervisor) for the past two years, left in May. His position will be filled this summer.

*Archives Technician - Job Opening*

The Unity Library and Archives at Unity School of Christianity seeks part-time technician to provide reference services and perform specific archival functions. Experience in a similar position or equivalent college level course work related to library or archival procedures preferred. Digital technology skills and knowledge of Unity or other theological fields preferred. The Unity Archives collects records and manuscripts of the international Unity religious movement. Possibly some evenings and weekends. For more information see www.unityonline.org.

**New Acquisitions**

*The Nazarene Archives*

Our new collections include the family correspondence of R. T. Williams, a leading general superintendent (bishop) of the Church of the Nazarene from 1915-1945. Over a cubic foot of correspondence between Williams, his wife, and their sons throws considerable light not only on their family relationships but on events within the church, which are described with a frankness that often does not occur in official papers.

The archives also received a notable Roger Winans Collection. Winans was the founder of the denomination’s districts in Peru. His collection includes dozens of photographs and slides, correspondence, postcards, and artifacts from South America during the 1920’s-1940’s.

*Kansas City Public Library- Missouri Valley Room*

Missouri Valley Special Collections has expanded its holdings concerning local musicians Joe Sanders and Carleton Coon by obtaining two collections. The Harvey Rettberg Papers, ca. 1950s-1990’s [bulk 1960-1970’s], are an additional source of research and information on Joe Sanders, Carleton Coon, and their Nighthawks musical group as well as the later jazz music scene. Harvey Rettberg and Clyde Hahn founded the Coon-Sanders Nighthawk Fan Club in 1959, at Sunset, South Carolina. Not only are the Coon-Sanders Nighthawks featured in the collection, but the collection also reflects Mr. Rettberg’s interest in the field of jazz music and jazz musicians and reflects his interest in this type of music in general. The finding aid may be found at: www.kclibrary.org/localhistory/collections.cfm?collID=118

The Fred Edmiston Papers consists of the various materials collected and used by Fred Edmiston in writing his recent book The Coon-Sanders Nighthawks: the Band That Made Radio Famous. Included are photocopied newspaper accounts of the band while on tour, photographs, taped interviews, correspondence, etc. This collection is available for research although not fully processed at this time. The department already has a large collection of Joe Sanders’ material conveyed earlier in the 1960’s by his wife.

The Kansas City Landmarks Commission has recently donated items to our department. These include color photographs of the Art Commission Awards, city healthcare related images, slides, maps, etc.
Kansas City Area Archivists
MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please return to: Marilyn Burlingame, UMKC Archives, 5100 Rockhill Road, Kansas City, MO 64110-2499.
Phone: (816) 235-1539, FAX: (816) 235-5500 or e-mail: BurlingameM@umkc.edu
Renewal Deadline: August 15, 2005

Mail to home address (Office address is default) □
No listing in Membership Directory □

Receive mailings by email only □

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**KCAA MEMBERSHIP LEVELS OF SUPPORT**

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- **Affiliate** $10.00
  - For employees of Supporting Institutional Members
  - This dues level allows: Same as Individual level above plus participation in KCAA activities by an additional non-voting representative of the institution at members’ price.

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  - Please include copy of current student I.D. or registration.
  - This dues level allows: Same as Institutional level above plus participation in KCAA activities by two additional non-voting representative of the institution at members’ price. Also, any employee of a Supporting Institution may join at the Affiliate rate with full membership privileges.

- **Institutional** $30.00
  - This dues level allows: Voting privileges, one free copy of the *Dusty Shelf* and participation in KCAA activities by one representative of the institution and one copy of all KCAA publications at members’ price.

- **Sustaining Institutional** $30.00
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- **Supporting Institutional** $30.00
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**KCAA COMMITTEES… WHICH ONE IS RIGHT FOR YOU?**

- Awards/Nominations
- Education
- Membership
- Minority Internship
- Newsletter
- Publications
- Publicity

**YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT ARCHIVAL EDUCATION**

KCAA Scholarships provide support to KCAA members to attend conferences, workshops, and other educational opportunities they may otherwise be unable to afford. The Minority Internship Fund supports qualified minority high school or college students’ participation in hands-on training at area institutions. Please be generous.

KCAA Scholarship Fund $__________________________
Minority Internship Fund $________________________
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
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

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