

Louisiana Archives and Manuscripts Association

NEWSLETTER, SEPTEMBER 1990

P.O. BOX 51213 • MAIN POST OFFICE • NEW ORLEANS • LOUISIANA 70151-1213

1990 ANNUAL MEETING PLANNED

Plans have been made for the 1990 Annual Meeting, to be held on Saturday 8 December at Howard Tilton Memorial Library on the Tulane University campus in New Orleans.

Three speakers will address the group: Mary Linn Bandaries of Northwestern Louisiana University will talk about policies and practices in Louisiana archives. After a coffee break, Judy Bolton of LSU, BR, will discuss copyright laws and how they effect what we can expect from archives. The afternoon speaker will be Morgan Peoples, author of a new work on Earl Long, who will tell us of his experiences in gathering material for his publication.

There will be a brief business meeting prior to the lunch break.

In an effort to encourage pre-registration, we have a special offer: for those whose registration is received by 30 November, the fee will be \$15.00, which will include lunch at Tulane's University Center. Those who wait to register on the day of the event will pay \$10.00 at the door and provide their own lunch. Meals will be available at the University Center for late registrants.

WE HAVE A NEW NAME

At last, its official! Friends of the Archives of Louisiana has received approval from the Secretary of State's Office to become Louisiana Archives and Manuscripts Association - LAMA.

We have the same address, the same officers, and the same purposes. Whatever the name, we are dedicated to promoting the use of the archives of our state and to encouraging the deposit of materials in these facilities.

Current officers, who will hold those positions until the Fall of 1991 are Wilbur B. Menerary (Tulane University), president; Mary Linn Bandaries (Northwestern Louisiana University), vice-president; Yvette Guillot Boling (genealogist), secretary; Collin B. Hamer, Jr. (New Orleans Public Library), treasurer. Directors are Bruce I. Turner, Robert S. Martin, Robert Judice, Charlene Cain, Wande B. Head and Jean Schmidt.

Join us in our effort to make Louisiana's archives - public and private - outstanding. The new fiscal year begins 1 December, so now is the time to join or to renew your membership. Our culture and our history are awaiting us.

LOUISIANA ARCHIVISTS IN MOTION

A number of significant staff changes have taken place in the last few months. Michael James Foret has resigned from his position at Nicholls State University to accept a position as Assistant Professor of History at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. Foret received a Ph.D. in History in May from the College of William and Mary.

Dr. Guillermo Namez Falcon assumed the position of director of the Latin American Library of Tulane University on August 15, 1990. He succeeds Dr. Thomas Niehaus, who is leaving to pursue theological studies. Prior to this appointment, Dr. Namez Falcon was on the staff of the Rare Books and Manuscripts division of the Tulane library.

Robert A. Shaddy is the new head of Special Collections, Manuscripts, and Archives at Louisiana Tech University in Ruston.

THE 1920 CENSUS IS COMING

The National Archives will open the 1920 census for research beginning on March 2, 1992. They are now in the process of preparing microfilm copies from the existing census films (the records exist only in microfilm format). Every effort is being made to produce the best quality possible, within the limitations presented by the original film.

The catalog of the 1920 census will be published in the spring of 1991, giving libraries and individuals time to prepare orders for copies of the microfilm. Advance orders for complete sets, or for all films of a given state, that are received by September 1, 1991 will be shipped on the March 2 opening date. The National Archives Microfilm Rental Program will have its complete set available in time to begin filling orders on March 2 as well.

INDEXING NEW YORK PASSENGER SHIP LISTS

Precision Indexing, a subsidiary of American Genealogical Lending Library, intends to index the passenger ship lists for the Port of New York for 1847-1896, years for which no index is available. Approximately 15 million names are believed to be contained within these lists, and volunteer transcription help is needed. As a volunteer, you would be sent film from which to extract names and personal data for all passengers. Your work will be added to a database, and, eventually, you will be provided with a microfilmed copy of the parts of the completed work which are of interest to you. For more information contact:

Jeffery Lensman
Project Director
Precision Indexing
P.O. Box 303
Bountiful, UT 84010
or call (801) 298-5468.

[From Dorot (Newsletter of the Jewish Genealogical Society, via the Federation of Genealogical Societies Forum (Summer, 1990).

SAA'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR POSITION AVAILABLE

Donn C. Neal, Executive Director of the Society of American Archivists, is leaving that position following the SAA annual meeting in September. He will become Director of Congressional and External Affairs for the National Archives and Records Administration.

The SAA, located in Chicago, is thus seeking a new Executive Director to direct all major activities, develop financial resources, and represent the Society to diverse constituents. A detailed position description will be furnished to applicants. Qualifications include demonstrated appreciation of cultural institutions, administrative experience, and financial planning skills. An advanced degree and knowledge of archival work is preferred. The minimum salary is \$50,000 plus benefits.

HURRICANE HUGO, A REPORT FROM THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

[The following is an excerpt from Alan Perry's "After Hugo, a Territorial Archives update," in The Dusty Shelf (April, 1990). Mr. Perry is a staff member with the Archives of the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Dusty Shelf is the newsletter of the Kansas City Area Archivists.]

In the wake of Hurricane Hugo's stormy onslaught, and with the dire emergency phase of recovery passed, we can look back and say that the Territorial Archives was fortunate.

On St. Thomas, we suffered no real damage to our records, office supplies, or equipment. On St. Croix, it looked like we would lose a frightening quantity of the territorial archives in the Florence Williams Library, but, through good fortune and the hard work of many people, only a cubic foot of records was actually lost.

Among the "good fortunes:" Hugo brought relatively modest rainfall--as hurricanes go--and this helped considerably. Afterwards, the trade winds kept air circulating in the Williams Library until power was partially restored to the building in early October. The wind held mildew at bay and helped dry the building's interiors as well as books and documents that were "fanned" open for drying.

Most Danish and early American archives on St. Croix were already moved from the fourth floor (top) of the Williams Library to a small stack room on the second level. Although the window blew out, its overhand, as well as side and top panels on the shelves, kept rain off the records. Leaking water from the demolished roof soaked the carpet and many ceiling tiles in the stack room.

Approximately 14 cubic feet of archive records remained on the top

floor. These suffered considerable damage, and approximately one cubic foot was lost to flying water and falling bookcases. The other 13 cubic feet were salvageable, their condition ranging from damp to wet.

We cleared the third floor of the library as a salvage area and for emergency storage of books and records moved from fourth floor. Toilet paper was largely effective for interleaving between the pages of wet documents and books. After several days, head librarian Wallace Williams located some paper towels, and we shifted to these for some of the interleaving. Some documents and volumes did not require interleaving and were "fanned" open on a table in the direct flow of air from a window. We were prepared to beg freezer space from Mr. Nicasio Nico of Island Dairies, but freezing was not required (freezing halts mold growth and other degeneration when wet records cannot be dried quickly enough to stay ahead of rampaging mold spores. Frozen paper is later vacuum-dried or otherwise thawed and dried).

The result of several weeks' labor was the salvage, in something approaching its pre-Hugo condition, of some 13 cubic feet of bound and loose Danish and early American period archival records. Many library books were also dried and moved to safe locations within the library. The salvaged materials range from invaluable police court case files and official administrative correspondence to books of receipts for office supplies purchased by government agencies. None of the damaged records had yet undergone preliminary processing, so their exact nature awaits later evaluation. Physical recovery, rather than identification, was our overriding purpose during the salvage operation. All salvaged records are now relocated on the second floor,

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THE
Exchange
NEWS NOTES ABOUT THE ARCHIVAL REPOSITORIES OF LOUISIANA

LOUISIANA STATE ARCHIVES, Baton Rouge

EXHIBITS: "A salute to General Claire Lee Chennault" (August 1-September 28)...."Founding Louisiana Families Homecoming" October 1-31...."Baton Rouge Art League plays tribute to Louisiana living artists" (November 4 - 30...."Christmas at the Archives," featuring Chancellor William Davis' miniature soldier collection and Mrs. Jeanette "Rusty" Hopkins' doll collection (December 4, 1990 - January 30, 1991)...."Black Women--Achievement against the Odds," a Smithsonian Institute exhibit presented by Delta Sigma Theta, Sorority, Inc., Baton Rouge Sigma Alumnae Chapter (February 2-28, 1991).

STAFF CHANGES: New staff members at the State Archives are archivists Dr. James P. Morris and Gregory Leggio.

OTHER NEWS: A decision will be due in October on a grant proposal submitted to the NHPRC which would underwrite a local government records survey statewide.

REPORTER: Paige E. Speligene

SOUTHWESTERN ARCHIVES & MANUSCRIPTS COLLECTION, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHWESTERN LOUISIANA, Lafayette

NEW ACQUISITIONS: USL President's Office Records, 1980-1981 (12 cu. ft.)....Robert F. & Edwin S. Broussard Papers (addition, 2 ft.)....Mary Alice Fontenot Papers (addition, 1 ft.)....Benjamin Kydan Papers (addition, 3 ft.)

EXHIBITS: "Mary Alice Fontenot: Journalist and Author" will be on display in the Jefferson Caffery Reading Room through September, 1990.

PUBLICATIONS: K. Ann Wakefield's article on the Broussard Papers appeared in the Summer, 1990 issue of Louisiana History.

STAFF NEWS: Jean Schmidt became Jean Schmidt Kiesel in May....K. Ann Wakefield, completed her tenure as archivist for the Broussard Papers project in August.

REPORTER: Bruce Turner

ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, MCNEESE STATE UNIVERSITY, Lake Charles

NEW ACQUISITIONS: McNeese Office of Media Services, 1950s--photographic negatives, representing the work of

the campus news service and including photographs used in the yearbook, the campus newspaper, and in the Lake Charles newspaper.

REPORTER: Kathie Bordelon

CAMMIE G. HENRY RESEARCH CENTER,
NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY, Nat-
chitoches

NEW ACQUISITIONS: Velma Hargis Collection (8 cu. ft.)—a genealogy collection relating to the Hargis, Dunkelman, Crow, Sompayrac, and Fitts family lines....Mary Weller Collection, 1960s (1 cu. ft.)—items of particular interest are 8mm films of the 1963 Natchitoches Christmas Festival and the 250th Anniversary Celebration of Natchitoches in 1964.

EXHIBITS: An exhibit of photographs and manuscripts pertaining to Natchitoches Parish during the 1920s and 1930s will be on display through the end of the year. Included are items detailing the 1920s Natchitoches Art Colony and Modern Progress Days, 1930s WPA construction, interviews by the Federal Writers' Project, accomplishments of the Civilian Conservation Corps, and the phenomenal influx of visiting writers.

MEETINGS: Mary Linn Bandaries met with the Cane River Historical Association in June to examine potential exhibit areas and subject matter in the St. Augustine Catholic Church Community Center....In July, she met with the Louisiana Historical Records Advisory Commission in Baton Rouge to discuss the Louisiana State Archives NHPRC grant proposal, "Local Government Records Management Project." The grant was overwhelmingly approved by the LHRAC members. Bandaries wrote summary statements on the views of the members, and the statements were sent to NHPRC for review....She also attended a Louisiana State Archives exhibit meeting pertaining to the genealogy exhibit

that is scheduled for display in the State Archives building during the month of October.

REPORTER: Mary Linn Bandaries

AMISTAD RESEARCH CENTER, New Orleans

NEW ACQUISITIONS: James E. Blackwell Papers, 1926- (31.4 lin. ft.)—Dr. Blackwell served as a Peace Corps officer working in Tanzania and Malawi. Following his tenure in Africa, he worked at the Peace Corps Training Center at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee. He served as director of the Center from 1965 to 1966. This deposit contains correspondence, press clippings, and collected printed items on the NAACP, the Caucus of Black Sociologists, and the Peace Corps....William M. Steen Collection, 1959-1983 (3 lin. ft.)—this deposit of collected printed items by Mr. Steen deals with the trade union movement in both the U.S. and Africa. These items deal with such organizations as the U.S. Department of Labor, the International Labor Office of Geneva, the AFL-CIO, the United Nations, and the International Confederation of Trade Unions. About one-half of the collected items relates to the African trade union movement....Maida Springer-Kemp Papers, 1940- (1.2 lin. ft.)—This collection complements the Steen collection, dealing with the union organizing activities of Mrs. Springer-Kemp, who was a member of the International Ladies Garment Workers' Union. She was a leader in some of the most important struggles of the labor movement in this country. Mrs. Springer-Kemp studied at Ruskin College in Oxford, England, where she met many young Africans, including several who would become leaders in their own countries. She also founded a school for women workers in the garment industry of Kenya.

STAFF NEWS: Dr. Keith Winsell has assumed the position of associate director. Dr. Winsell received his doctorate in history at UCLA in 1971, and in 1988 he received a MLS from the University of Maryland. He has taught at several universities, including the University of Kansas, Indiana-Purdue University at Indianapolis, and the University of Indiana. Dr. Winsell's duties at the Center will include surveying and appraising the current holdings, developing a manuscripts and oral history collection program, and formulating a development program that will provide the financial resources to support the collection program.

OTHER NEWS: Executive Director Clifton Johnson spoke in Detroit at a conference on the African American Congregation Church sponsored by the Board for Christian Education of the United Church of Christ; he also mounted an exhibit, and spoke at the Department of Agriculture in New Orleans on the Amistad Incident and the American Missionary Association. ...Assistant Archivist Ulysses S. Richard, Jr., spoke at the Louisiana Historical Association meeting in March; he also received word that his paper on the 1791 Pointe Coupee slave conspiracy would be published in the next issue of the Proceedings of the French Colonial Historical Society; Mr. Ricard also testified at a U.S. Senate hearing on a proposed center on New Orleans jazz to be run by the National Park Service.

REPORTER: Ulysses S. Ricard, Jr.

**THE HISTORIC NEW ORLEANS COLLECTION,
New Orleans**

NEW ACQUISITIONS: Weiss Family Papers, 1879-1941 (154 items)--includes letters to the family of Dr. Carl Austin Weiss after his death. ...New Orleans Woman's Club, 1897-1952....Nancy Brown Phelps Papers, 1858-1859 (14 items)--letters of a

young lady from New Orleans on her travels to India....Millaudon-Benjamin Collection, 1840-1880 (29 items)--correspondence, legal and financial records, and newsclippings documenting the business ventures of Laurent Millaudon and Judah P. Benjamin....Hilda Phelps Hammond Papers, 1918-1949--records of an opponent of Huey Long.

EXHIBITS: "Pelican's Eye View of New Orleans," Williams Gallery through September 29....William E. Groves Collection of Louisiana Paintings, Williams Gallery, opening October 3 (please confirm).

PUBLICATIONS: Vieux Carre Survey by Florence Jumonville has been reprinted....The next issue of Manuscripts Division Update, devoted to land records is due out shortly.

STAFF CHANGES: Jon Kukla has been named Curator of Collections.

REPORTER: Alfred E. Lemmon

**LOUISIANA DIVISION, NEW ORLEANS
PUBLIC LIBRARY, New Orleans**

NEW ACQUISITIONS: Department of Safety and Permits Blueprint Collection, ca. 1982=1987 (addition, ca. 150 prints)--included are additional plans of Louisiana World Exposition structures, plans for the Aquarium of the Americas, and plans for such buildings as the Energy Center and the Windsor Court Hotel....City Council Proceedings, ca. 1979-1885 (addition, 45 cu. ft.)--files and sound recordings....U.S. Census microfilms (additions)--Florida, 1830-1860; Texas, 1850-1880 (including Soundex).

EVENTS/EXHIBITS: NOPL will host the Library of Congress/American Library Association traveling exhibit, "To Make Laws: The Congress of the United States," from October 3 - 31, 1990. The exhibit is funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities; local funding is

being provided by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities. The traveling exhibit will be complemented by an in-house exhibit of manuscripts and government documents relating to the history of the Congress. Congresswoman Lindy Boggs will be the keynote speaker at the October 5 opening ceremony.

OTHER NEWS: The National Endowment for the Humanities has granted a six-month extension for the city archives microfilming project. ...NOPL has replaced all of the standard fluorescent lamps in the archives storage area with ultraviolet-filtering "Fade Gard" lamps.

REPORTER: Wayne Everard

HOGAN JAZZ ARCHIVE, TULANE UNIVERSITY, New Orleans

NEW ACQUISITIONS: Dr. Michael Bastide Donation--110 jazz films, ranging from a 1929 Bessie Smith short, Armstrong in Europe (1934), and examples from the swing era (Ellington, Krupa, Waller, & Calloway), to European and U.S. jazz festivals in the 1970s....Tad Jones Donation--approximately 2,500 New Orleans rhythm 'n' blues 45s, plus 250 LPs, including performances by Professor Longhair, Fats Domino, the Meters, James Booker, Huey Smith, Champion Jack Dupree, etc....Raymond Burke Donation--approximately 9,000 78s, cylinders, and LPs from the estate of jazz clarinetist Raymond Burke, including foreign labels, early recorded spirituals, vaudeville, jazz, and field recordings of local musicians; includes a substantial number of V-Discs.

EXHIBITS: "Joe Mares and the Southland Legacy" was installed in May, 1990 and will run through the end of the year. It consists of numerous photographs and art works collected by Mares, owner of Southland Records

and brother of New Orleans Rhythm Kings leader, Paul Mares.

PUBLICATIONS: The summer, 1990 issue of the Jazz Archivist will be available in September.

REPORTER: Bruce Boyd Raeburn

ARCHIVES, LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY IN SHREVEPORT, Shreveport

NEW ACQUISITIONS: YWCA Records, 1924-1988 (4 lin. ft.)--constitutions, by-laws, minutes, scrapbooks, etc....League of Women Voters Materials, 1941-1989 (4.5 lin. ft.)--by-laws, minutes, newsletters, correspondence, and publications.... Stan Wilkins/Dodd College Collection, 1912-1989 (7.5 lin. ft.)--correspondence, oral interviews, photographs, and newsclippings used by Dr. Wilkins in researching his book, Dodd College in Shreveport.

STAFF NEWS: Laura Street is serving as interim archivist.

OTHER NEWS: The grant project to index 19th century Shreveport newspapers (funded by the Gannett Foundation) has completed indexing for the Shreveport Times for the period 1871-1891.

REPORTER: Laura Street

HURRICANE
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where fans have completely dried them.

Like all of us in the Virgin Islands, the Territorial Archives will remember Hugo as the calamity it was, but will recover and move on.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORKING GROUP
ON STANDARDS FOR ARCHIVAL DESCRIPTION

- 1) The Society of American Archivists should establish a standards board to oversee the process of developing, implementing, and revising standards within the association and to provide an active liaison with other standard-developing organizations whose work affects archival practice.
- 2) The SAA should establish a full-time staff position devoted to coordinating the development, implementation, and monitoring of description standards and to the training of archivists in their use.
- 3) The SAA should provide sufficient resources to participate fully in the deliberations of organizations that control the development and implementation of those library standards that are also employed in archival description. SAA should require its designated representatives to these groups to report to SAA Council and the profession in a timely and effective manner.
- 4) The SAA should become a voting member and participate fully in the work of the National Information Standards Organization (NISO Z39).
- 5) Archivists in the U.S. should establish formal links to the description standards working groups in Canada and the United Kingdom to work toward a broadly-based Anglo-American agreement on standards for describing archives and manuscripts.
- 6) The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) should work to develop more effective means for informing the professional archival community about its research-in-progress relating to description standards.
- 7) NARA should take a strong leadership role in the development and application of standards that will ensure long-term access to and preservation of electronic records.
- 8) The Library of Congress (LC) plays a critical role in the development and maintenance of standards used for archival description; SAA should communicate regularly with the offices in LC that conduct this work to ensure that archival needs and concerns are addressed.
- 9) SAA should endorse Archives, Personal Papers, and Manuscripts (APPM) as a standard for archival descriptive cataloging and establish a formal process for the continuing review and updating of APPM.
- 10) All archival and library education programs should include instruction in archival description that addresses the use of existing standards and the potential application of those under development.
- 11) Archivists should seek funds to support the preparation of a basic handbook on standards and their application in the practice of archival description.
- 12) Since one of the primary purposes of archival description is to provide access to archival materials, research should be conducted to discover how users currently obtain access to materials to provide a benchmark for the improvement of archival description and the subsequent development of standards.
- 13) In order to achieve a better understanding of the information

management needs for the effective administrative, physical, and intellectual control of archival materials, archivists should give the definition of an archival information architecture a high priority on their research agenda and seek the resources for its development.

- 14) Archivists should thoroughly evaluate existing description practices and systems in order to encourage development and implementation along the most effective lines.
- 15) Archivists should explore the concept of authority control for archival materials, define the multiple types of authority records required in archival information systems, work for their acceptance through MARBI, and develop information systems that fully exploit the potential for authority control to enhance access and use.
- 16) Developers of controlled vocabularies used for subject and name indexing should provide thorough guidelines for assigning terms during the description of records and for searching databases that employ the vocabularies.
- 17) Archivists should explore further the integration of cataloging rules for archival materials, special media materials, library materials, and museum materials.

For a detailed discussion of these recommendations, and background information on effort to address the question of description standards for archivists, see the current (Fall, 1989) issue of The American Archivist.

ELECTRONIC RECORDS MEETING

The Minnesota Historical Society announces a "Working Meeting on Research Issues in Electronic Records" to be held January 24-25, 1991 in Washington. Funded by the NHPRC the meeting is intended to identify and address research problems and questions relating to information in electronic form.

Several key organizations involved in electronic records issues will be invited to send representatives. Experts in various fields concerning such records will also be invited to participate. Applications are now being solicited from others who want to attend.

To ensure full professional involvement from the beginning, project director Linda Goff (Minnesota Historical Society) and the planning committee are requesting that any individual, institution, or professional association interested in helping to shape the research agenda submit suggestions about electronic records issues and questions. Questions and topics identified through this process will form the basis for the meeting's discussions.

Those wishing to attend the meeting should make application by submitting a letter proposing research topics for the agenda and stating why they want to attend and what they can contribute. Funds are available for travel and for per diem expenses, but the number of participants is limited.

The deadline for submitting questions and topics to be considered, and/or for applications to participate, is October 15, 1990. Send questions/topics and/or applications to:

Lisa Weber
NHPRC
National Archives-NPR
Washington, DC 20408

JOINT TECHNICAL COMMISSION STUDYING PERMANENCE OF MAGNETIC MATERIALS AND
OPTICAL DISKS

The Audio Engineering Society (Subcommittee S4) and the American National Standards Institute (Committee IT9) have joined in establishing a Joint Technical Commission. At a June, 1989 meeting, Commission members agreed that the scope of their mission would be

"to write standards, test methods, recommend practices and specifications pertaining to the life expectancy and retrieval of information recorded on optical and magnetic systems (including media) and to promote communication and coordinate the exchange of information among those involved in this field."

The Commission organized five task forces to pursue these goals. Task Group I will prepare definitions

dealing with the life expectancy of photographic film, magnetic materials, and optical disks which can apply to all three media. Task Group II will prepare two storage and handling recommended procedures, one on magnetic material and the second on optical disks. Task Group III will prepare a document on transfer technology which will address the need to transfer from an obsolete media and/or format to a current one. Task Group IV will prepare specifications on optical systems and Task Group V on magnetic systems. In keeping with the scope of the Commission, the latter two groups will be involved not only with the permanence of the media itself, but also with the associated hardware and software.

PROFILE

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1990, she participated in an SAA workshop on library standards for archival description. Closer to home, Ms. Reeves is in her second year as newsletter editor for the Greater New Orleans Archivists.

Perhaps the best way to illustrate Sally Reeves ability to convert her talents and energy into successful projects is to describe what she has accomplished at the Notarial Archives since becoming archivist. With the support of Custodian Hainkel she was able to restore the Genealogical Society of Utah donor copies of notarial microfilms to the Archives and retire the original volumes from use on the photocopy machines. She and Mr. Hainkel then developed plans for, and brought to fruition, a vault area for the oldest volumes in the collection.

A great deal of her time over the past year has been devoted to the preparation and refinement of a successful grant proposal to the National Endowment for the Humanities, Office of Preservation, for funding to inventory, repair, clean, conserve, and rehouse the Archives' collection of 19th century drawings. Ms. Reeves is now hard at work administering that project. At the same time she is also supervising a newly embarked on in-house microfilming effort to preserve the numerous 19th and 20th century record volumes that were not included in an earlier Genealogical Society of Utah filming expedition.

The New Orleans Notarial Archives is clearly benefiting from its association with Sally Reeves. We can only hope that her successes there will inspire other court officials to take more active roles in the preservation of the important records entrusted to their care.

PROFILE OF AN ARCHIVIST

Two years ago the Louisiana archives community received a refreshing jolt of energy with the appointment of Sally Reeves as archivist of the New Orleans Notarial Archives. Anyone who has worked with Ms. Reeves knows that she has the will and determination to make a success out of any endeavor she undertakes. We are fortunate that she has made one of our oldest archival repositories the focus of her professional endeavor.

The Notarial Archives was established in 1867 to house the collected acts of the notary publics commissioned to serve in New Orleans since the French colonial period. Now housed in the basement of the Civil Courts building, the Archives holds thousands of volumes of 18th, 19th and 20th century acts of sale, wills, inventories, contracts, and other legal documents. Also included among its holdings is a collection of 5039 drawings of 19th century buildings in New Orleans. These works of art were produced primarily as illustrations of properties to be sold at auction. Today they serve as excellent sources to show us what the Crescent City looked like in the last century.

Ms. Reeves is the first professional archivist employed at the Notarial Archives in its 123 year history. The position came about in 1988 when the legislature passed an act requiring the newly-appointed Custodian of the Notarial Archives to hire an archivist. Sally Reeves applied for the job; Custodian John Hainkel wisely hired her.

It would have been difficult to come up with a person better qualified for her job. Prior to her appointment Ms. Reeves had been doing research in the Archives for seventeen years, during which time she developed an understanding of the records housed there and an appreciation for their uniqueness and importance. In addition to her experience with the collection itself, she was also a recent (1983) graduate of the University of New Orleans History Department's M.A. program in Archives and Records Administration.

An alumna of the Academy of the Sacred Heart and of Newcomb College, Ms. Reeves has been active in numerous historical and community organizations since the early 1970s. She has served on the boards of the Louisiana Landmarks Society, the Preservation Resource Center, and the Orleans Parish Criminal Courts Renaissance, Inc., and is a past president of the Vieux Carre Property Owners, Residents, and Associates, Inc., as well as a honorary member of the Friends of the Cabildo board. Currently she serves on the boards of the St. Charles Avenue Association, the Louisiana Historical Society, Bring Our Streetcars Home, Inc., the Newcomb College Alumnae Association, and the Louisiana State Museum.

A long association, both as contributor and as co-author, with the Friends of the Cabildo New Orleans Architecture series is just one of Ms. Reeves' accomplishments in the field of historical research and writing. She has also co-authored Grand Isle on the Gulf--an Early History (1979) and Historic City Park: New Orleans (1982), the latter with her husband, William Dale Reeves. Ms. Reeves most recent publication is Legacy of a Century: The Academy of the Sacred Heart in New Orleans (1987). In addition to these published books, she has also compiled, as a private consultant, numerous reports on various historical sites throughout the New Orleans area.

Since becoming a working archivist Ms. Reeves has taken an active part in the Society of American Archivists, including her presentation of a paper on the Academy of the Sacred Heart at the 1989 annual meeting in St. Louis. In August,

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LOUISIANA ARCHIVES AND MANUSCRIPTS ASSOCIATION
(formerly Friends of the Archives of Louisiana)
P. O. Box 51213, New Orleans, LA 70151-1213

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