

# Louisiana Archives and Manuscripts Association Newsletter

Spring/Summer  
2002

## LAMA News

### Annual Meeting

The 2001 annual meeting was held November 9 at the Louisiana State Archives. State Archivist Dr. Florent Hardy, Jr., gave the opening address, followed by a series of presentations on collecting and preserving non-print media. Speakers were Mary Hebert Price of the T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History at Louisiana State University, Charles Chamberlain of the Hogan Jazz Archive at Tulane University, and Bruce Turner of the Archives and Special Collections Department at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Officers elected at the meeting were Susan Tucker, vice-president/president-elect, and Irene Wainwright, secretary. Kathie Bordelon and Mark Martin were elected to the Board of Directors. After the meeting, many attendees toured the Rural Life Museum.

### LAMA Scholarship

The 2001 scholarship was awarded to Dale Sauter, the Assistant Archivist at Northwestern State University, to attend the Society of Southwest Archivists' 2002 con-

ference in Flagstaff. His report is included in this newsletter.

### 2002 Scholarship

The Louisiana Archives and Manuscripts Association will offer a \$250 scholarship, designed to provide funding for continuing education. The recipient must be a member of LAMA. Preference will be given to candidates who have not previously received the award, and who have limited access to institutional funding for workshops, conferences and other archival educational programs. This award is intended to recognize commitment to the profession. The recipient will be expected to prepare an article for the LAMA Newsletter describing the workshop, seminar, conference, or other educational opportunity attended with the scholarship monies.

To apply, send a letter describing the continuing education event you wish to attend, how it will enhance your work

as an archivist, and why you need outside funding, to: Susan Tucker, LAMA Scholarship Committee Chair, Newcomb Center for Research on Women, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA 70118; email [susannah@tulane.edu](mailto:susannah@tulane.edu).

### LAMA and the Louisiana Library Association

In recent years the idea of LAMA becoming a section of the Louisiana Library Association has been discussed, but never generated much support. That idea has been abandoned, but the LAMA Board has agreed it would be a good idea to pursue less formal ties with librarians. To that end, notice of the 2001 LAMA meeting was posted on the LLA member listserv. At least one library sent staff members to the meeting to learn more about non-print media. LAMA also co-sponsored (with the Subject Specialists Section) a program on Caring for Historic Documents at the LLA annual

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## LAMA News (Continued)

conference in March. Elizabeth Dow, who teaches archives classes at the LSU School of Library and Information Sciences, gave an excellent presentation geared toward librarians who have secondary responsibility for manuscript materials. Although scheduling conflicts prevented many from attending the session, it was very well received.

### Southern Archives Conference

The Society of American Archivists met in Birmingham in August, so the Southern Archives Conference will not hold a conference this year. Also, it was Mississippi's turn to host the meeting, and the State Archives is in the throes of a major construction project which would not have been finished in time. Instead, SAC met at the Birming-

ham Public Library during the SAA meeting, August 21. The next SAC meeting will be in 2004, when Mississippi will be delighted to show off their new facilities.

## LAMA Scholarship

**The 2001 scholarship was awarded to Dale Sauter, Assistant Archivist at Northwestern State University, to attend the Society of Southwest Archivists' 2002 conference in Flagstaff. He wrote this report for us.**

I was fortunate enough to have been the recipient of the 2001 LAMA Continuing Education Scholarship. I applied this award to the *West By Southwest Cultures and Collections SSA/CIMA Annual Meeting* in Flagstaff, AZ. I found it a rewarding and educational experience.

I arrived early enough to attend one of the opening day workshops. The workshop I attended was *Grant Writing for Archivists* presented by Ann Hodges, Gerald Saxon, John Crain and Tom Clareson. Although I have a little experience with grant writing, this presentation helped refresh my memory on good strategies and practices for successful grant writing. I also encountered a few tips and suggestions that I had not thought of or heard before. There were also helpful handouts at the

workshop, including some actual examples of past successful grants.

The keynote speaker this year was Dr. Peter Iverson, author and Regents' Professor of History at Arizona State University. Dr. Iverson is known for his research on the history of Native Americans, and this is what he focused on in his presentation. I had already noticed that some of the sessions were going to be covering current activities in tribal archives. This talk again peaked my initial interest in the topic, so the first session I attended was concerning Native American archives. Through the three individual presentations, I was made aware of the outstanding cooperation that had been achieved among various tribal archives. I really felt this presented a good example for all types of archives to embrace what can be accomplished through cooperative efforts. This session also brought attention to some of the special concerns that a tribal archives can have in relation to patron use. For example, some tribal archives were open to tribal members, but the general public was required to register and make appointments. Another example given concerned the restriction of material documenting a sacred event that only occurred during a certain part of the year. In this case, it was not deemed appropriate for patrons to

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## LAMA Scholarship (cont.)

view the material during the part of the year when the event was performed. I found this a rather strange concept, particularly since I am used to working within a public institution where restrictions on use are normally less than those found in private settings.

The next session I attended concerned the role of the university archivist in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. From this session I got an idea of the number of different roles a university archivist must play in today's world. The presenter also gave tips on ways to help balance the many tasks necessary for this job. Another presenter spoke to the familiar predicament of an institution running short of space storing paper in what was predicted in the past to be a paperless age. In particular, he referred to the growing problem of production of voluminous records as the result of university research reports. The last presenter presented his paper, *Mad Archive Disease: Archival Spongiform Encephalopathy, The Loss of Corporate Memory, and the Death of Institutional Archives*. I found this an interesting look at some of the problems in the archival field today. At the time of writing, the paper was available via the Internet at the following address: [www.infomgmt.homestead.com/files/mad\\_archive\\_disease2.htm](http://www.infomgmt.homestead.com/files/mad_archive_disease2.htm). I would recommend a

look to those who have not already seen this.

The final session I attended included presentations by institutions with collections documenting minority communities. These included an exciting online exhibit documenting East Texas African American history, a collection of Hispanic activist material, and information on a new immigration museum in south Texas. I thought this session complimented the American Indian session I also attended. I believe these sessions presented examples that other archives can use in developing collections of minority peoples. This conference also gave me opportunities to meet other Louisiana archivists, as well as many in the CIMA group that I would probably have not had a chance to meet otherwise. All and all, I think it was a great conference. This was only my second SSA conference, but they seem to get better each year. Nearly everyone I talked to that has attended SSA conferences commented that it was one of the best in years, if not the best ever. I thank everyone for giving me the opportunity to participate in this conference.

## Louisiana State Archives

### Archives Welcome/Tours

The Louisiana State Archives recently played host to

- Lafayette Natural History Museum Director and staff
- State Department of Education Retired Educators
- LSU Campus Club
- Seven seminars jointly sponsored by the Secretary of State's Office, Baton Rouge City Constable's Office, YMCA of Greater Baton Rouge, Office of State Attorney General Richard Ieyoub, and the Louisiana Trial Lawyers Association

- St. Jude Catholic School (Baton Rouge) 7th graders
- French Conversation Class
- South Beauregard Eighth Graders (DeRidder)
- Lagniappe Tours
- Canary Islanders Heritage Society

### Conservation Lab

The staff of the Conservation Lab have been involved in preservation work on the colonial records from St. John the Baptist Parish, evaluating the condition of a World War II scrapbook, and hosting a booth at the recent Clerks of Court convention with information about records management, disaster re-

## Louisiana State Archives (Cont.)

covery, and preservation.

### Records Management

Louisiana State Archives is working with Louisiana's Chief Information Officer and agency records managers to develop administrative rules and regulations for scheduling records, standards for micro-filming, standards for electronic record-keeping, and for the preservation of historical records. A final recommendation is expected in the near future.

Records Center documents were received from: Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Health and Hospitals, Division of Administration - State Purchasing, Division of Administration - Risk Management, Division of Administration - Office of Statewide Reporting, and Louisiana Legislative Auditor.

Records management technical assistance was provided to: Louisiana Department of Civil Service, Department of Corrections, Department of Education, Department of Health and Hospitals, Department of Insurance, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Public Safety, Lottery Commission, Assumption Parish Police Jury, City of New Orleans, East Baton Rouge District Attorney's Office, St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Department, Tensas Basin Levee District, and Village of Grosse Tete.

### Consortia/Partnerships

- America 2000/Catahoula, Concordia, Franklin, Morehouse, and Tensas Parish Consortium for scanning historical documents housed at State Archives for availability on the Internet
- TAHIL - Teaching American History in Louisiana/Louisiana State University and East Baton Rouge and surrounding parishes. Archives serves as a content provider focusing on scanning information pertaining primarily to the Louisiana Purchase and former Governor and United States Senator Huey P. Long.

### Louisiana Historical Records Advisory Board

### (LHRAB)

The Governor-appointed LHRAB met at State Archives on Wednesday, March 20, 2002. Guest speaker was David Pilcher, Director of Electronic Records, Mississippi State Archives.

### Media Coverage

- KTBS Channel 3 Shreveport/DEQ "Records Storage"
- WBRZ Channel 2 Baton Rouge Arthur Hardy Mardi Gras Exhibit
- Human Performance Institute brochure, Covington/LA Spring 2002/Invitation to tour State Archives
- WBRZ Channel 2 Baton Rouge Misty Foster World War II Scrapbook - Pacific Arena (aired 2/28 and 3/3)
- Southern Living - picture taken during Archivist's visit of historic Donaldsonville
- The Advocate, 2/15/02 - West Florida Revolution picture and caption/Archives
- The Advocate, 2/16/02 - West Florida Revolution article/Archives
- The Hammond Sunday Star, 2/17/02 - West Florida Revolution article/Archives
- WAFB Channel 9 Baton Rouge Huey P. Long Assassination interview, 4/3/02 - to be aired in May

### National History Day Regional Sponsor Presentations

- Sons of the American Revolution - Baton Rouge Chapter (BRCC)
- Barksdale Air Force Recruits Elysian Fields High School (Texas)
- Shreveport Rotary - Downtown Chapter Baton Rouge
- Chapter of National Association of Federal Retirees Association
- LSU Cajun French Class
- Canary Islanders Heritage Society/Belle Rose
- Lake Charles Kiwanis

## Society of Southwest Archivists

The Society of Southwest Archivists announced that the Louisiana Archives and Manuscripts Association, the Greater New Orleans Archivists, and the Society of Southwest Archivists will hold a joint meeting in New Orleans. from May 22-24, 2003. To help you plan for the meeting, the Local Arrangements Committee has created a website for the event at: <http://specialcollections.tulane.edu/SSA/SSA2003.htm>.

This will be a rare opportunity for LAMA members to attend a major archival meeting in their own state, so we're hoping for a big LAMA turnout. The Bicentennial of the Louisiana Purchase will be celebrated in 2003, and New Orleans will be bustling with special events and visitors from around the world. To help place that historic event in context, the program committee has chosen the theme "Cultural Celebrations and Commemorations: Archives, Memory, and History." Robert S. Martin, Director of the Institute of Museum and Library Services in Washington, DC, will be our keynote speaker. Bob is the first archivist to lead IMLS. LAMA members know Bob well, as he is a past LAMA president and the former head of Special Collections at LSU, Baton Rouge. Jane E. Nokes, corporate archivist for Scotiabank Group in Toronto, past president of the Association of Canadian Archivists, and president of the Academy of Certified Archivists, will host a pre-session meeting. To propose a paper or session, please contact Kathlene Ferris at [kferris@unm.edu](mailto:kferris@unm.edu). The conference hotel is the Embassy Suites in New Orleans' Arts and Warehouse District. The district is a restaurant, art gallery, museum, and shopping area that is wonderful for walking and families. To mention only a few of the area's offerings, Emeril's Restaurant and the Louisiana Children's Museum are across the street from the hotel, the National D-Day Museum is one block away, the Ogden Museum of Southern Art is two blocks away, the RiverWalk is three blocks away, the Aquarium of the Americas is four blocks away, and the French Quarter is only five blocks away. Our conference room rates are valid for May 21-25, so this will be a wonderful opportunity to come early, stay late,

bring your family or friends, and enjoy the Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial in New Orleans. The meeting website includes information about travel arrangements, area archives, the Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial, links to New Orleans web resources, information about financial aid to attend the meeting, and "insider tips" for enjoying our city. Even if you can't attend our May meeting, our website will still be helpful for planning a trip to New Orleans whenever you may come, so please visit our website at: <http://specialcollections.tulane.edu/SSA/SSA2003.htm>. We will update and expand our website throughout the year, so please check back often for new features and information.

But for now, plan to explore the streets where pirates and voodoo queens once walked, and where celebrity chefs and archivists still do. See you in May!!

The Society of Southwest Archivists held its annual meeting in Flagstaff Arizona May 16-19, 2002. The newly elected officers are Carol Roark, president; Kathleen Ferris, vice-president/president elect; Cindy Smolovik, secretary; Robert L. Schaadt, treasurer; and executive board members Carol Bartels, Shelly Henley Kelly, Mark Lambert, Michael McColgin, Gerri Schaad, and John Slate. Next year the annual meeting will take place here in Louisiana. The SSA will come to New Orleans, May 22-24, 2003 and celebrate the Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial. Chair of local arrangements is Alfred Lemmon and the local arrangements committee consists of Lee Miller, Charles Nolan, Sally Reeves, Brenda Square, Susan Tucker, Tara Zachary, Carol Mathias, Mark Cave and Jason Wiese. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend the SSA's annual meeting when it is here in our own state. For more information on the Society of Southwest Archivists and membership forms please visit the website at <http://lib-04.lib.uh.edu/ssa/ssa.htm>.

### **Dusting Off Those Small and Forgotten Collections: My Experience and Lessons Learned**

By Dale Sauter, Assistant Archivist, Northwestern State University

After recent experiences, I have grown to appreciate those small, possibly unused or forgotten collections that are in our archives. Under normal circumstances, when we start at an institution, we do not know our collections well, other than their broad strengths. Such was the case for me. Soon after coming to my institution my supervisor suggested I familiarize myself with the collections. As a way to get started, she also told me to find a collection I was interested in, and do something with it. Since we normally have rotating exhibits approximately every three months, and the current exhibit had been up this long, this avenue seemed like the likely way to proceed.

I have long had an interest in motorcycles and motorcycle culture and history, and as luck would have it, I discovered a collection focusing on this subject. What I found was the H.G. Hawthorne Collection, which documented Hawthorne's co-founding and tenure as Secretary-Treasurer in the Natchitoches Motorcycle Club from 1948-1949, as well as club activities. To be honest, I was really surprised to find such a collection. For one, I did not think I would be so fortunate to find a materials catering to one of my specific interests. And secondly, since we document a relatively small town, and surrounding rural areas, I did not expect there would have been a club of this nature established at such an early date.

Some of the most renowned history covered by our collections includes the Creole people of the Cane River area, as well as the founding of Natchitoches in 1714 by St. Denis as the first permanent settlement of the Louisiana Purchase. Being great subjects of interest, these histories have been, and continue to be well documented both locally and nationally. Since these subjects are getting the attention they deserve, and this research tends to focus primarily on the eighteenth and nineteenth century, it was a bit refreshing to find something that was a change of pace and from the twentieth century.

The materials in the collection include original minutes, certificates of official registration with the American Motorcycle Association (AMA), correspondence with AMA, race programs, race posters and assorted memorabilia collected while on road trips throughout the South. I was quite pleased, yet surprised at the variety and condition of the materials present. When one considers the stereotypical activities of a motorcycle club, documentation of activities through the preservation of their artifacts does not come to mind.

Once I got familiar with the materials, I realized some added advantages in using a collection of this nature. For one, considering that many of the members were relatively young at the time of their activities, I assumed that there was a good chance that many of these individuals could still possibly be around and willing to speak of their experiences. Furthermore, since this is a rather small community, I thought the task of finding these people might be a bit simpler. This turned out to be the case. Though many are deceased, to date I have found five members still alive, only one of which is not willing to speak of his experience.

Though I had a personal interest in this collection already, as it happened the subject matter is a rather popular topic in the realm of academic research and study. Through further research, I found several theses and dissertations relating to motorcycle culture, most of which were published within the last five years. There are also many books on the subject by noted motorcycle historians. One ongoing project started in late 2000 at the New York State Museum documents history of the motorcycle industry in the state through exhibits and forthcoming publications. Other recent big news was the opening of *The Art of the Motorcycle* at the Guggenheim Museum, an exhibit that included 125 actual motorcycles of historical

## Article (Cont.)

significance. This exhibit proved to be the most popular exhibit in the museum's history.

In summary, I believe it is all too easy to forget about those collections in our institutions that are small or rarely used by researchers. It seems it is good practice for new and old staff to periodically re-familiarize themselves with their holdings. Just like trends in historical research, the interests of archivists are continually changing and expanding. Reviewing current holdings can provide opportunities to pursue our own interests in a professional capacity, as well as promote our institution to new researchers who may not have been aware of various collections and subject areas we retain. It is always rewarding and enjoyable to work with materials that hold a particular interest of ours. There is also the possible added bonus of getting firsthand accounts of events thorough oral histories of surviving participants. Good luck in your

## Newly Acquired/Processed

### Louisiana State Archives

Donations include Donaldsonville Capitol Sketch and original brick of the building's foundation - Fort Butler Foundation Frances Thurman - Family Tree Joseph Edward Noble, Jr. - Bush Family Tree Photograph of Stephanie Plantation - home of the second wife of Louisiana's first Governor, William C.C. Claiborne and mother of William C. C. Claiborne, Jr., Louisiana Secretary of State, 1837 Opelousas Chamber of Commerce - Thomas Directories/phone directories The Boulet Family, 1630-2002 Exhibits East Baton Rouge Talented Arts Program Arthur Hardy Mardi Gras Exhibit Don Edwards - Louisiana Wildlife Artist Exhibit/ Partnership Southeastern Louisiana University's West Florida Revolution Exhibit (the Original West Florida Republic Constitution) which will be a traveling exhibit throughout the Florida Parishes throughout 2002 and 2003.

### Louisiana State University

The Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections at the LSU Special Collections is pleased to announce the availability of two new guides to its manuscript holdings on Jews and 20th-century wars and military conflicts. Available on the web at <http://www.lib.lsu.edu/special/pubs.html>, the guides provide an excellent starting point for research in these areas. Each guide includes an alphabetical and chronological list of collections related to that topic, and entries for each collection detail the date span, contents, and stack locations of the materials, as well as biographical and his-

torical information about the people or organizations documented therein. The papers of Jews, Jewish organizations, family papers with references to Jews, and other collections that document Jewish history are represented in the Jewish guide. These manuscripts are varied in nature, ranging from the account books of Jewish merchants to tickets for a charity event benefiting the Jewish Widow's and Orphans Home in New Orleans. Personal papers, newspaper clippings, a diary, a scrapbook, and other artifacts are present in the manuscripts groups and range in date from the late eighteenth to the late twentieth centuries. Information about the life of Jews in the region can be obtained not only from the papers of Jews themselves, but also from references to them by others. Prominent Jewish figures whose papers are listed include Isidore Cohn, Simon Gumbel, Samuel Haas, and Joseph Simon. Kate James, a graduate assistant studying library and information science, compiled the guide.

The guide to collections on 20th-century wars and conflicts describes collections, or parts of collections, which document the roles of Louisiana natives and residents and Louisiana State University in American involvement in 20th century wars and conflicts. Materials related to wars/conflicts of people without a Louisiana connection are also listed. The guide covers World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War and is divided into a section on each. It describes soldiers' and civilians' letters, diaries, newspaper clip-

## Newly Acquired/Processed (Cont.)

pings, pamphlets, and scrapbooks from the war years. Additionally, later sources such as post-war reminiscences, oral history interviews, and records of veterans' groups materials dealing with the war as memory and experience are also identified. Finally, also present are materials relating to the aftermath of war and political situations and conditions in the U.S. and abroad. LSU's manuscript holdings on 20th century wars and military conflicts are an excellent primary source for researchers. Many natives, residents and LSU students were involved in the wars/conflicts as soldiers, sailors, pilots, Marines, nurses, politicians, and journalists. During World War II, Louisiana's Camp Livingston served as a prisoner of war camp and Camp Beauregard was a military training facility. The mood on the LSU campus during war-time, the role of the media in the Vietnam War, and African American and women's involvement in the wars are also covered. Library science students Amanda Graves and Kate James compiled the guide.

### New Orleans Public Library, Louisiana Division

In preparation for an expected acquisition at the beginning of May consisting of approximately 1000 boxes of records from Mayor Marc Morial and various city agencies as the Mayor leaves office, the City Archives has moved 1100 cubic feet of seldom-accessed or -microfilmed records to temporary off-site storage. These records, and others, will be re-located to permanent off-site storage later this year.

The City Archives has completed processing of several large collections including the New Orleans Health Department Records, 1898-1996; the Records of the Office of the Mayor, 1862-1920 (completed by an intern from Oberlin College, who worked with us in January); and the criminal records of the Second Judicial District Court (Sixth and Seventh Municipal Districts of New Orleans), 1876-1880. Finding aids for these collections can be accessed in NUTRIAS.

The Louisiana Division has completed a long-term project to re-house and re-inventory the James Harrison Dakin Collection of architectural drawings and lithographs. The original Dakin drawings have been put into mylar sleeves and housed in a new map case. In addition, the inventory of the Dakin Collection has been added to NUTRIAS, the NOPL website, along with low-resolution digital versions of the drawings, taken with a digital camera. The inventory and images can be found at [nutrias.org/dakin/dakin.htm](http://nutrias.org/dakin/dakin.htm).

Also now available in NUTRIAS is a transcription of A.P. Bertin's General Index to All Successions, Opened in the Parish of Orleans, From the Year 1805, to the Year 1846. This index references successions, wills, and estate inventories opened in the Court of Probates. The online version can be found at [nutrias.org/inv/probates/probias.htm](http://nutrias.org/inv/probates/probias.htm).

The City Archives has added to NUTRIAS an "Alphabetical and Chronological Digest of the Acts and Deliberations of the Cabildo, 1769-1803: A Record of the Spanish Government in New Orleans," a transcription of the name/subject digest compiled by the WPA from their English translations of the Cabildo records. (<http://nutrias.org/inv/digest/digest.htm>).

Also recently added to NUTRIAS is a transcription of the "Index to the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for New Orleans, 1885-1896. Since there are no separately published indexes for the Sanborn volumes produced prior to the 1908/1909 set, this online index is intended to provide ready access to volume/page references for addresses appearing in the early volumes. (<http://nutrias.org/info/louinfo/sanbornindex/sanbornindex.htm>).

### McNeese State University Archives

Collections that have recently been processed and are available to the public:

The E. R. Gammage Collection:

This collection consists of interesting photographs and stories produced from around the world by Westlake, LA photographer E. R. Gammage. The

## Newly Acquired/Processed (Cont.)

bulk of the collection is photographs of wildlife in Southwest Louisiana, but it also consists of scenes from cities around the world, including New Orleans, Paris, Camembert and London, early 1920's.

The Karl Everett Ashburn Collection:

This collection contains the original manuscripts of speeches and articles written by economist Karl E. Ashburn, aide to Governors Earl Long of Louisiana and A. B. Chandler of Kentucky and Dean of Commerce at McNeese State College, 1951-1958.

The Michael K. Dees/Board of Regents Collection:

Former Board of Regents member, Michael K. Dees, donated to the McNeese State University Archives his collection of correspondence and official documents from the 1990s. Included in the collec-

tion is information relating to almost every public institution of higher learning in Louisiana.

The Gulf Biologic Station Collection:

Copies of the *Bulletin* of the Gulf Biologic Station, 1902-1910, as well as photographs and various other related materials have been processed and are now available to be accessed by the public. These materials document the biological research that was done by the state of Louisiana in Cameron Parish at the beginning of the twentieth century. These copies were made from originals housed at Tulane University and donated to the McNeese State University Archives by Mike Tritico and the environmental group CLEAN.

University of New Orleans

## Exhibits

The Historic New Orleans Collection

Tabasco is hot, jazz is hot, and summer in New Orleans is hot, hot! From August through November a variety of material related to heat will be on view in the exhibition, TOO DARN HOT, at the Williams Research Center. Objects displayed include books, posters, advertisements, and photographs of sources of heat and the many ways New Orleanians have found to beat it.

The exhibition TOO DARN HOT is free and open to the public Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 A.M. until 4:30 P.M. on the second floor of the Williams Research Center, 410 Chartres Street. For more information call 598-7171 or check our website at [www.hnoc.org](http://www.hnoc.org)

The Historic New Orleans Collection announces the opening of *A Visible Presence, A Legacy of Service: 275 Years of the Ursulines in New Orleans* on Tuesday, June 25, 2002, at 533 Royal Street. The exhibition will remain on view through Saturday, December 14. The year 2002 marks the 275th anniversary of the arrival of the Ursuline nuns to New Orleans. They came in 1727 to edu-

cate women and administer the colony's military hospital. In the ensuing centuries, the Ursulines have been a visible and enduring presence in the city.

Through two colonial administrations and the transfer of the territory to the United States, the Ursulines played a significant role in shaping the religious, social, and economic life of New Orleans. Although enclosed by convent walls, they were often at the center of events that made Louisiana an object of international interest and historical importance. President Thomas Jefferson wrote to the nuns shortly after the Louisiana Purchase to assure them that they would be denied neither their property nor their educational mission under American rule. In 1815, their chapel became the rallying point for women of all races as they gathered to pray for the victory of General Andrew Jackson's troops against the British at the Battle of New Orleans.

The exhibition illuminates the history of the order's activities in New Orleans through paintings, objects, books, and documents, many of which were drawn from the archives of the Ursulines in New Orleans and The Historic New Orleans Collection.

## Exhibits (Cont.)

On view will be a variety of artifacts relating to the educational mission of the order from the late 19th century to the present. Early 20th-century photographs taken by Mother St. Croix of the convent architecture and the activities of the Ursuline nuns will be on display, as well as the camera she used. Visitors to the exhibition will be able to hear recordings of the oldest surviving manuscript music in the Mississippi River valley and listen to recorded translations of letters written in 1727 by Ursuline nun Marie-Madeleine Hachard to her family in France. A noteworthy document on display is the actual letter written by President Jefferson to the nuns in 1804. The Collection has worked closely with Ursuline scholar Dr. Emily Clark and Ursuline archivist Sister Joan Marie Aycock, OSU, in the selection of items for the exhibition.

*A Visible Presence, A Legacy of Service: 275 Years of the Ursulines in New Orleans* is free and open to the public Tuesday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information and program schedule call The Historic New Orleans Collection at (504) 523-4662.

### Louisiana State Archives

Upcoming exhibits (2002):

- Louisiana in the Navy Exhibit
- The Native American Exhibit
- Louisiana Society of Animal Artists Photographer Greg Guirard Exhibit
- Highland Road Artists Associated
- Women in the Arts River Road/Baton Rouge Artists Guild
- Exhibit of Artists: Kathy Miller Stone, Diane Pecnik, and Joyce Linde.

### New Orleans Public Library

The Louisiana Division's current exhibit, "New Orleans Choo Choo: A Short History of Railroads in New Orleans," uses original materials from the City Archives and other special collections housed in the Louisiana Division to provide a brief look at the long history of railroads in the Crescent City. The exhibit will remain on view on the third floor of the Main Library (219 Loyola Ave.) through the

end of 2002. It is also available online at <http://nutrias.org/exhibits/choochoo/choochoo.htm>.

### McNeese State University

It was the grandest moment in the Lake Charles Little Theatre's history. Page after page of *Life* magazine - the edition of June 14, 1948 - showed why the community theatre was, in the magazine's words, "one of America's livelier experiments in cultural democracy." *Life* relented to a persistent letter-writing effort by Little Theatre co-founder and perpetual director Rosa Hart. It dispatched photographer Michael Rougier and writer-researcher Mary Leatherbee to distant Louisiana to see firsthand just what made the Lake Charles Little Theatre such a model community effort. *Life* photographer Michael Rougier was in Lake Charles from May 10 through May 23, 1948. He saw the final rehearsals and the opening night performance of "The Great Big Doorstep," a little-known comedy about a poor Cajun family. Rougier took more than 1,200 photographs of the theatre's Stable Playhouse, a converted Wells Fargo stable on Bilbo Street; the actors as they rehearsed their scenes; the backstage volunteers; and anything else that seemed interesting. A month later, *Life* devoted eight pages and 24 pictures to the story. (Banners Series program written by Brett Downer and Sonny Marks).

Sixty-four photographs from *Life*'s visit have been framed and were on display during the month of April as part of the McNeese State University Banners Series. They will be on display at the McNeese Library throughout the month of May. The Lake Charles Little Theatre was chosen for the feature in *Life* magazine because of community involvement. Director Rosa Hart was known for stating, "I don't want actors! I want homefolks!" The photographs in the exhibit all "capture the joy of theatre, the warmth of the community effort and the look and feel of Lake Charles of yesteryear." The photographs are all from the Rosa Hart/Lake Charles Little Theatre Collection in the McNeese Archives.

## Exhibits (Cont.)

### University of New Orleans

The second annual UNO authors' exhibit and reception was held in the E. K. Long Library during

Library Week to honor the publications which have been added to this collection since spring, 2001.

## Publications

### Le Comité des Archives de la Louisiane

In 2002, the society published two new books, "A Soldier's Journey," *The Civil War Diary of Henry C. Caldwell, Co. E, 7<sup>th</sup> Louisiana Infantry, CSA*, by Keith Bauer, and *Shreveport Civil Death Records, Volume I, 1874-1902*, by Judy Riffel, Charles Tolle, and Barbara Strickland. Volume II will be published in January. For more information, contact Le Comité at P.O. Box 44370, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, or [j.a.riffel@att.net](mailto:j.a.riffel@att.net).

### Louisiana State Museum

"A Closer Look", An Executive Summary of State Archives.

### Northwestern State University

Three recently completed publications whose authors utilized the center's resources have been released: *American Cemetery* by Payne Williams; *Legends of Oakland Plantation* by Sandra Haynie; and *Two Gardeners: A Friendship in Letters* by Katherine S. White.

### Religious Community Archivists of Greater New Orleans

The Religious Community Archivists of Greater New Orleans (RCAGNO), a group begun in 1993 by Sr. Dorothy Dawes and Dr. Charles Nolan, is preparing to publish an anthology of biographies of sisters, brothers and priests of Louisiana. Thirty-one manuscripts have been completed by twenty-eight authors on subjects (vowed members of Catholic religious communities) from the eighteenth to the twentieth century. The Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities has awarded a grant of \$4,000 for this project. This is one of six Louisiana Publishing Initiative grants for 2002-2003. Dawes, who is archivist for the Dominican Sisters Congregation of St. Mary, is project director; she and Nolan, archivist for the Archdiocese of New Orleans, are editors. Dr. Ethel Chachere Simpson, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, where she is head of archives and manuscripts, Special Collections, is copy editor. Simpson is a native of Opelousas, LA. Generous gifts have been received from the Greater New Orleans Archivists, the Domini-

## News from LAMA Institutions

### Le Comité des Archives de la Louisiane

Le Comité des Archives de la Louisiane elected the following officers at its annual meeting on September 15<sup>th</sup>: Damon Veach, President; Veda Thornhill, First Vice President; Marianne Fisher-Giorlando, Second Vice President; Cherryl Forbes Montgomery, Third Vice President; Jane Gardner Aprill, Secretary; and Judy Riffel, Treasurer.

### Nicholls State University

Carol Mathias has been named Interim Director of Ellender Memorial Library at Nicholls State University for the coming year. Cliff Theriot has been named Interim Archivist.

### Northwestern State University

These have been busy times for the staff at the Cammie G. Henry Research Center. We are happy to announce the recent arrival of a full-time para-

## News from LAMA Institutions (Cont.)

professional, Madeline Meziere. Ms. Meziere is from the local area, and will prove invaluable to our day-to-day functions. So far, she has updated our guide to genealogy resources at the center by adding entries of new materials. She is now in the process of creating a database of ledger entries concerning educable children in Natchitoches Parish during 1899 from the DeBlieux Collection.

We recently participated in NSU's annual Research Day. Mary Linn Wernet designed an exhibit of materials published by NSU faculty over the years. The exhibit was debuted at a reception held in the center on the evening of Research Day. Dale Sauter presented a paper on the Natchitoches Motorcycle Club of 1948-49.

The staff was also part of the annual meeting of the Louisiana Folklore Society held in Natchitoches. Mary Linn Wernet exhibited electronically scanned images of 1920's Cane River culture from the Melrose Scrapbook Collection, and Dale Sauter presented a paper and a small exhibit on the Natchitoches Motorcycle Club of 1948-1949.

The annual meeting of the Louisiana Association of Museums was also held in Natchitoches this year. Mary Linn Wernet prepared exhibits highlighting some of our important collections. Dale Sauter participated in a panel discussion in which he emphasized the importance of an archives component within a museum consortium group.

Mary Linn Wernet attended the Louisiana Historical Records Board Meeting.

Mary Linn Wernet provided images of Kate Chopin to KETC public television of St. Louis for their broadcast on St. Louis history premiering on May 13, 2002.

### University of New Orleans

Two new staff members have begun work in the Louisiana and Special Collections Department:

James Lien, with a B. A in English from Tulane

University, has worked as a freelance journalist and published articles in the Times-Picayune and Gambit, among others.

Katy Stowe, with a B. S. in Social Science Education from Northwestern State University, has moved from the Reference Dept. to Louisiana and Special Collections.

In other news, a review/essay by Marie Windell of When the devil came down to Dixie, Ben Butler in New Orleans, by Chester G. Hearn (LSU Press, 2000), has been published in the fall edition of Gulf South History Review.

Marie also presented two papers, based on Louisiana Supreme Court case files, for the UNO Speakers' Bureau, on Indian land titles (lost in one generation), and their purchasers. She is presenting a paper for the Gulf South History and Humanities Conference, Galveston, in October, on sources for Gulf South History in the Supreme Court of Louisiana Collection of Legal Archives. Among many cases of interstate activity, such as the slave trade, land sales, shipwrecks, machinery, banking, etc., there are more melodramatic actions, such as attempts to run the Civil War blockade.

Marie was recognized at the University of New Orleans Honors Program Convocation in April for her contributions to UNO Honor Students. She assisted the University Relations Office to select a series of photographs of early campus life. Framed oversize prints of these nostalgic scenes will hang in UNO campus buildings.

## Call for Papers

The Society for Southwest Archivists will hold its next Annual Meeting May 22-24 at the Embassy Suites in New Orleans, Louisiana. The year 2003 marks the bicentennial of the Louisiana Purchase. With that in mind the program theme, "Cultural Celebrations and Commemorations: Archives, Memory, and History" reflects the role of archives in planning, celebrating, and documenting cultural and historical events.

Sessions may revolve around how archives are used for planning celebrations, examples of documenting commemorations, what audiences archivists can reach during anniversary events, use of new technologies in conjunction with celebrations, and how public memory and history diverge. Proposals for papers on other topics related to archival issues are also welcome.

We encourage full session proposals, although individual paper proposals will also be accepted. Each session is 90 minutes long and typically includes three presentations. Full sessions with two presenters will be considered. Session planners are encouraged to include participants representing more than one type of institution and participants from more than one SSA state.

The Program and Local Arrangements Committees request that session participants avoid the need for LCD projectors and especially Internet connections. This is due to high rental cost and access fees at the conference site.

Proposals may be sent to any member of the SSA Program Committee, preferably via email. Include the following information:

Session Title  
Brief description of session  
Name of session organizer  
Affiliation  
Address  
Email address  
Phone number  
Names and affiliation of each presenter  
Title of each paper  
Brief description of each paper

Submission deadline is DECEMBER 6, 2002.

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# Louisiana Archives and Manuscripts Association

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## **2002 Annual Meeting**

Mark your calendars for the 2002 LAMA Annual Meeting. It will be held at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette on November 15. The program will explore the use of exhibits in archives. Registration is \$20.00, and pre-registration is not required. An agenda and driving instructions were mailed out under separate cover and can also be found at <http://nutrias.org/lama/fallmtg02.htm>.