

LOUISIANA ARCHIVES & MANUSCRIPTS ASSOCIATION

LAMA NEWSLETTER

ARCHIVES NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

FALL/WINTER 2018

Louisiana Tech University Hosts 2018 Annual Meeting



Lee Miller holding his I. Bruce Turner Distinguished Service Award with Nolan Eller (right).

The Louisiana Archives and Manuscripts Association held its annual meeting on October 26th, 2018 at Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, Louisiana. The meeting hosted forty attendees from sixteen different institutions from across the state. We were also honored to be joined by State Senator Michael Walsworth, the chair of the special Senate Task Force on saving Louisiana's Historical Records. The meeting consisted of five educational sessions in addition to the annual business meeting. The meeting was opened by Vice President Nolan Eller, with welcoming remarks from Dr. Terry McConathy, Provost of Louisiana Tech University and Dr. Donald Kaczvinsky, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts at Louisiana Tech University. Following the welcoming message, Senator Walsworth addressed the attendees about his task force, and the importance of protecting and saving Louisiana's archival heritage. In the opening remarks, Vice President Nolan Eller recognized the Society of Southwest Archivists, Society of American Archivists, LSU SLIS, Louisiana Tech University, the Lincoln Parish Museum, and the Lincoln Parish Visitors Bureau for the sponsorships and support they provided for the meeting.

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The first session, “LGBTQ Archives in New Orleans” was a panel discussion exploring how New Orleans archives are building relationships with archivists and organizations in the LGBTQ community in order to preserve their records and make them accessible for research. The panel was led by Andrew Mullins, III (Library Associate for Archives Processing and Digital Initiatives at the Louisiana Research Collection at Tulane University) and featured Lee Miller (Head of the Louisiana Research Collection at Tulane University), Phillip Cunningham (Library Reference Assistant/Cataloger at the Amistad Research Center), and Bernadette Birzer (Archivist for Collection Management and Digital Initiatives at the Newcomb College Institute). The panelists discussed their experiences creating relationships with members of the LGBTQ community, processing physical and digital collections, and supporting digital scholarship projects focused on LGBTQ history in New Orleans.

The second session, “Archiving the Web@EBRPL: Building a Community History Web Archive” was presented by Emily Ward, CA (Digital Archivist/Librarian II Special Collections at East Baton Rouge Parish Library). In her session Emily discussed East Baton Rouge Parish Library’s experience building a local history web archive, and more specifically, their creation of a collection development policy and a case study about their outreach endeavors.

The third session, “Supporting Scientific Research in Louisiana Historical Archives” was presented by Courtney Kearney (Scholarly Engagement Librarian/Physical Sciences and Data Management at Tulane University) and Andrew Mullins, III (Library Associate for Archival Processing and Digital Initiatives at the Louisiana Research Collection at Tulane University). Their session explored how a historical archives, such as the Louisiana Research Collection, can support STEM research by identifying collections with scientific value, describing them using scientific terminology, and notifying the research base about their availability.

The fourth session of the day was a student poster session. The session featured four posters showcasing the research of Louisiana State University SLIS students Benjamin Schexnayder, Erin Voisin, Natalie Worsham, and Catherine Sampson. The students presented their research to the attendees and were available throughout

the day for discussion about their research. This session was generously supported by LSU SLIS.

Following the fourth session we adjourned for lunch. During the lunch Vice President Nolan Eller presented the I. Bruce Turner Distinguished Service Award. This award is given in recognition of the outstanding dedication and service to LAMA and for valued contributions to the archival community of Louisiana. This year’s award was presented to Lee Miller (Head of the Louisiana Research Collection at Tulane University). Andrew Mullins, III spoke briefly about Mr. Miller’s accomplishments and mentorship, and presented him the award. Following lunch we had our fifth and final educational session of the annual meeting “The Great Divide: Research Before, During and After the Information Age”. This panel discussion was led by Sharon Wolff, CA (Assistant Archivist at Northwestern State University) and featured Howard Margot (Curator at The Historic New Orleans Collection), Michelle Riggs, CA (University Archivist at Louisiana State University Alexandria), and Nolan Eller (University Archivist at Louisiana Tech University). The panel discussed the differences between pre and post information age research methods and mindsets, and looked at how the widespread access to the internet has changed the way research is conducted.

After the educational sessions, Vice President Nolan Eller conducted LAMA’s business meeting in place of former President Helen Thomas. Ms. Thomas resigned from her position in August to pursue an employment opportunity outside of the state of Louisiana. Vice President Eller opened the meeting thanking Helen for her years of service and all of her numerous accomplishments for LAMA and for the archival community in Louisiana. Following the opening remarks, the membership approved the minutes from last year’s meeting, and the Treasurer Aimee Everett presented the treasurer’s report. Ms. Everett reported that the current balance as of October twenty-second, 2018 was \$12,744.32. The organization awarded two \$300.00 continuing education scholarships and also made a \$300.00 donation in honor of Florence Borders to the Kingship Senior Center.

Following the treasure's report, the meeting moved to old business. The membership approved the 2016 and 2017 revisions to Bylaws, and Michelle Riggs presented information on the LHA's "Saving Our History" initiative. The meeting next moved to new business. The membership briefly discussed the new Statement on Inclusion that was approved by the board in March of 2018, and the new Newsletter editor Bernadette Birzer (Archivist for Collection Management and Digital Initiatives at Newcomb College Institute) was introduced. The membership briefly discussed LAMA's use of online payments and registration and the LAMA Listserve. Zach Tompkins (Louisiana State Archives) also gave a brief statement on news from the state archives.

LAMA awarded two continuing education scholarships this year. In the spring the Kathie Bordelon Continuing Education Scholarship was awarded to Raegan Sterns to support her attendance at "Black Communities: A Conference for Collaboration", and the fall Marie Windell Continuing Education Scholarship was awarded to Jasmaine Talley from the Amistad Research Center to support her attendance at the 2019 annual meeting of SAA. These scholarships are wonderful resources and all are encouraged to apply.

Per the bylaws, elections were held for the positions of Vice-President/President-Elect, Treasurer, and three board memberships (2 regular, 1 interim). The nominating committee presented the following slate of candidates:

- * **Vice President/President Elect** - Chelyon Woods (Director of the Ernest J. Gaines Center at the University of Louisiana - Lafayette)
- * **Treasurer** - Aimee Everett (Associate Curator at The Historic New Orleans Collection)

Directors with terms expiring in 2020:

- * **Zach Tompkins** (Archivist at the Louisiana State Archives)
- * **Leslie Bourgeois** (Archivist at Louisiana Public Broadcasting)

Interim Director with term expiring in 2019 to fill Chelyon Woods vacated seat:

- * **Christina Bryant** (Archivist at New Orleans Public Library)

There were no nominations from the floor, and the slate was approved by a vote of acclamation. Thank you to all of these individuals for their service to LAMA! If you would like to be more involved in LAMA or perhaps wish to serve on the board or in another capacity please reach out to one of our officers or board members.

With the conclusion of the business meeting, some attendees toured the Louisiana Tech Archives and Special Collections and the nearby Lincoln Parish Museum.

I want to personally thank all of the attendees, presenters, and sponsors for your role in making this meeting successful, with special thanks to Joyce Chandler and Tanya Arant from Louisiana Tech University. This meeting would not have been possible without your help and support. I would also like to thank Helen Thomas of Nicholls State, Aimee Everett from The Historic New Orleans Collections, Edward Benoit of LSU SLIS, and Michelle Riggs from Louisiana State University at Alexandria for your guidance and assistance.

Our 2019 annual meeting will be held on the campus of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, in Lafayette Louisiana. We hope to see you there!

Nolan Eller
LAMA President

LAMA Annual Meeting Photos



LAMA members attend the 2018 Annual Meeting at Louisiana Tech University on October 26.



Panelist Andre Mullins III, Tulane University Archives and Special Collections; Lee Miller, Louisiana Research Collection, Phillip Cunningham, Amistad Research Center, and Bernadette Birzer, Newcomb Archives and Vorhoff Library Special Collections talk about LGBTQ materials in their collections.



(Top left) Andrew Mullins III (Tulane University Archives and Special Collections) and Courtney Kearny (Howard-Tilton Memorial Library) talk about using primary resources for STEM research. (Right) Emily Ward during her presentation about building a local history web archive. (Bottom left) Andrew Mullins III after presenting Lee Miller (Louisiana Research Collection) with the I. Bruce Turner Distinguished Service Award, with Nolan Eller (LAMA President).



LAMA Annual Business Meeting Minutes

October 26, 2018

Louisiana Tech University Campus, Ruston, LA

Meeting convened at 2:18 pm

Minutes

President Nolan Eller (who assumed the role of president upon the resignation of President Helen Thomas, who moved out of state) opened the meeting.

Secretary Riggs read the minutes from last meeting. There were corrections suggested, which Riggs made. Mary Linn Wernet moved to approve the minutes as amended, Brendan Carrell seconded, and the motion passed.

Treasurer Aimee Everett presented the Treasurer's report (attached). Howard Margot moved to approve the report, Cheylon Woods seconded, and the motion passed.

Old Business

Update to Bylaws: The LAMA Executive Board voted to affirm the 2016 and 2017 revisions made to the bylaws at the August Executive Board meeting. These revisions were presented at the last two annual meetings, and the revisions were again circulated via email to the membership on August 21, 2018. There are also two paper copies of the revisions available for review. In accordance with Article X, Section A, Item 2 these revisions must be presented for review at the next annual meeting at which time, a quorum being present, a majority of the active members present and voting shall decide whether or not to approve the amendments and allow them to remain in effect." Zach Tompkins made the motion to approve the bylaw revisions as presented, Mary Linn Wernet seconded, and the motion passed. A final copy of the bylaws will be circulated to the membership, and they will be updated on the LAMA website once they are prepared. Much gratitude to all involved with the revision, especially Mike Courtney, Katie Oubre, and Helen Thomas.

Michelle Riggs reported on the Louisiana Historical Association's Saving Louisiana's Archival Heritage (attached), an ad hoc committee expanded to full-blown project co-sponsored by LAMA.

New Business

Statement of Inclusion: This statement (attached) was drafted to correct the oversight of LAMA's lack of such an important declaration. The Executive Board addressed this lack in January of this year, and circulated the Statement in March. Portions of the Statement are included in the newsletter, and the Statement in its entirety can be found on the Website.

New Business

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Election of Officers: We bid a sad farewell to Helen Thomas, to whom Nolan Eller wished to express a debt of gratitude. We also lost a Board member to job relocation; good journey, Sean Benjamin.

The Nominating Committee collated the following slate of nominees:

Cheyron Woods — **Vice - President**

Aimee Everett — **Treasurer**

Zack Tompkins — **Board member**

Leslie Bourgeois — **Board member**

Cyndy Robertson moved to accept the election by acclamation of each nominee, Mary Linn seconded, and the motion passed. Nolan Eller appointed Christine Bryant to hold the Board position formerly held by Cheylon Woods. The new terms for each officer will commence upon the conclusion of the business meeting.

Update on State Archives from Zack Tompkins: The State Archives is currently inundated with records from the 4000+ offices across the state. Many of those offices are small, locals staffed with untrained history workers. Processing those records takes much time, and many records are born digital. Local offices lack Information Technology directors. SHRAB: Position on this board is appointed by the Secretary of State, which is currently up for special election. This election will effectively end current members' terms and require new appointments.

Announcements

LAMA is online! Members may pay meeting registration and annual dues via PayPal. Also, if a member is not subscribed to the listserv and wishes to he or she may find instructions on the Website. LAMA donated \$300 in memory of Florence Borders upon her death. She was an active member of LAMA, worked at Amistad, and will be very much missed by us all. Her family sent a gracious thank-you note in acknowledgement of the gift. Scholarships: Reagan Sterns received the Katie Bordelon scholarship; Yasmine Tally received the Marie Windell scholarship. The next scholarship application deadline is March 20, 2019.

Charles Pellegrin welcomed LAMA members to join Louisiana Historical Association. Their next meeting will be held March 28-30 in Lafayette. Dr. Pellegrin also solicited LAMAns for submissions to the Southern Studies Journal.

Chris Brown suggested that LAMA impose a small service fee to the annual meeting registration to offset PayPal fees.

Heather Pilcher moved to adjourn the meeting —there being no additional business or announcements —Cheylon Woods seconded, and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned 3:02 pm.

Dutifully submitted by Secretary Michelle Riggs

TREASURER'S REPORT 2018

Balance:

September 28, 2018 Billing Statement	\$12,147.21
Current as of 10/22/2018	\$12,744.32

Income:

2017 Meeting Registration/Dues	\$1,585.00
Dues:	\$275.00
SSA Annual Meeting Sponsorship	\$300
Total:	<u>\$2160.00</u>

Expenses:

2017 Meeting	\$516.62
Newsletter	\$88.51
LAMA Website	\$62.93
LAMA Scholarships	\$600
Louisiana Secretary of State fees	\$10
PayPal fees	\$44.62
Florence Borders Memorial donation	\$300
Total:	<u>\$1622.68</u>

ATC Balance: \$2076.10, there has been no ATC activity this fiscal year (amount included in total balance). These funds are restricted for supporting continuing education.

LAMA Membership [47]

Individuals: 21

Institutional: 15

Student: 11

LAMA STATEMENT ON DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

The Louisiana Archives and Manuscripts Association (LAMA) is a statewide professional association that benefits from the participation of people from all backgrounds. Louisiana's varied institutions - and the Association's diverse membership — are committed to the use, preservation, and retention of records. LAMA strives to ensure that its membership; the holdings that archivists and institutions acquire, preserve, manage, and make accessible; and the users we serve; reflect the historical and ever - evolving diversity of society. To guide and clarify our work in this area, the LAMA Board approved this statement adapted from the Society of American Archivists' *SAA Statement on Diversity and Inclusion*, the Society of Southwest Archivists' *SSA Statement on Diversity and Inclusion*, and the Society of California Archivists.

SSA understands diversity to encompass:

- Socio-cultural factors. These factors relate to individual and community identity, and include the attributes mentioned in SAA's Equal Opportunity/Nondiscrimination Policy.
- Professional and geographic factors. Concern about these factors reflects SSA's desire for broad participation from archivists working in various locations, repository types and sizes, and professional specializations.

LAMA identifies inclusion as our commitment to ongoing and cumulative efforts (e.g., policies, principles, practices, and activities) that engages diverse communities in a welcoming, equitable, and responsive manner.

LAMA seeks to foster inclusion within LAMA, the archives profession, and archival collections and users.

As archivists and archives, the records we hold document the historical past, transform communities, and promote unity and understanding. By embracing diversity and encouraging inclusion, LAMA more effectively and accurately reflects the entire profession, serves a fuller range of stakeholders, increases organizational credibility, and becomes a stronger advocate for the archival field.

We value diversity in all its manifestations and endeavor to encourage public interest in, and public support for, archival facilities serving the people of Louisiana.

Institution and Member News

The Recovering of Ancient Manuscripts

Abstract

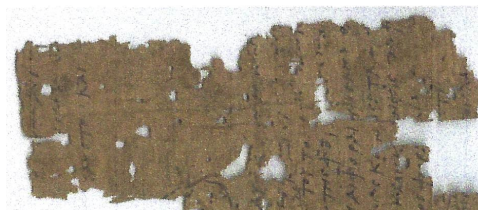
How can unreadable texts be recovered from Palimpsests Manuscripts? How can burned scrolls become readable?

Introduction

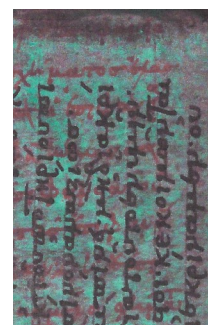
Brent Seales virtual unwrapping methods, and several palimpsests projects has helped to recover illegible manuscripts. The recovery of Palimpsests manuscripts involves both the Archimedes Palimpsests Transcription Project and the Sinai Palimpsests Projects.

Recovery of Lost Palimpsests Manuscripts

A palimpsest is a manuscript where there are two writings on one surface because someone scraped off the original ink on old manuscripts and wrote new text. In antiquity, this was a very common practice caused by a scarcity of parchment (I). The Archimedes Palimpsest is the first lost palimpsest manuscript to be recovered. The Archimedes Palimpsests Transcription Project took at least ten years. The Archimedes Palimpsest is a thirteenth century prayer book that was manufactured by recycling 7 different manuscripts. The majority of its pages comes from a tenth century manuscript, which contains a selection of Archimedes' treatises that are called Codex C. This Codex C contains the oldest surviving text of Archimedes' writings. This work of Archimedes was published in 2011 (II). However, the bulk of this project was completed by 2008. This project had used multispectral imaging to read the mathematician's lost works that was hidden beneath the liturgy of the prayer book. The success of recovering one lost palimpsest led to the Sinai Palimpsests project, which suggests a future for archivists at monasteries to use this technology to recover lost palimpsests (III).



St. Catherine's Monastery, at Mount Sinai, has over 160 palimpsests manuscripts. Most of the palimpsests manuscripts comes from St. Catherine's tower at the North Wall. Father Justin, an American convert to the Greek Orthodox faith, was asked by the Monastery's Abbot to digitize the library's manuscript collection. Father Justin asked the same researchers whom worked on the Archimedes Palimpsests Transcription Project, if they could come to Mount Sinai. This collaboration became the Sinai Palimpsests Project. They recovered some palimpsests by using multispectral imaging, which requires that each page of a book is photographed multiple times while illuminated by different wavelengths of light and colors. The image at the very top and the one below on the right are of the Archimedes Palimpsests manuscript. The image below on the left is of the Sinai Palimpsest (V).



Computer algorithms then analyze these photographs to find a pattern, which allows for the greater distinguishability between the two texts. The Sinai Palimpsests Project has recovered lost Greek Myths. A single parchment manuscript was often created by using recycled parchment pages from multiple manuscripts, which can be in different languages. This suggests an organized production of parchment manuscripts. This project has even helped reconstruct lost languages such as Christian Palestinian Aramaic (IV). Also, the recovery of charred parchment or papyrus manuscripts with illegible texts is now possible thanks to new technology.

Recovery of Charred Manuscripts

The recovery of charred parchment materials is possible thanks to the University of Kentucky computer scientist professor Brent Seales. Brent Seales was inspired by the hope of reading charred manuscripts and unopened scrolls at Herculaneum. These scrolls inspired him to create this virtual unwrapping software. Seales invented a virtual unwrapping software that produces readable biblical texts from a scroll thought to be beyond rescue. CT scans can pick out ink spots, but the letters are unreadable if they are not assigned to the actual written surface. Seales virtual unwrapping method models the scrolls surface by using mesh triangles. The computer resizes the triangles until the virtual surface makes the best fit of the scroll's surface. The ink spots are then assigned to the right space of the 3D model and then the computer unfolds the entire 3D structure into a 2D sheet. Seales used a machine that scans biological tissue to scan the scroll. The software programs, called Volume Cartography, will become open source software in the future. This method might make it possible to read the scrolls at Herculaneum (V). This technology had made it possible to read parts of a scroll that were badly burned. For instance, the scroll that was found inside the Holy Ark of the synagogue at Ein Gedi in Israel. Brent Seales virtual unwrapping technology revealed literature from the beginning of the Book of Leviticus. This carbonized parchment scroll could not be opened or read. The text recovered is identical to the Masoretic Text and is the oldest such example of it at 2,000 years old. The digital image of the unopened scroll has clear and legible writing. This technique makes it possible to read other brittle scrolls that cannot be opened. The software programs, called Volume Cartography, will become open source software in the future (VI). Pictured below is an image of the virtually unwrapped Ein Geidi Scroll (left) and on the (right) is an image of the charred Scroll (VIII).



Conclusion

These methods developed will become very important to any archives that hosts both antiquity and medieval manuscripts. They will also become important to be able to read the burned scrolls in Pompeii.

“The Recovering of Ancient Manuscripts” continues on page 12

“The Recovering of Ancient Manuscripts” continued from page 11

Footnotes

I Jo Marchant, “Books of Revelation: A New Project to Scan Manuscripts at the World’s Oldest Monastery Is Exposing Amazing Ancient Texts,” *Smithsonian* 48, no. 9 (January 2018): 14, accessed January 8, 2018, Academic Search Complete, EBSCOhost.

II Alexander Lee, “Goals and scope of the Archimedes Palimpsest transcriptions,” *BSHM Bulletin* 28, no. 1 (March 2013): 1-2, accessed January 12, 2018, <https://doi.org/10.1080/17498430.2012.687974>.

III Jo Marchant, “Books of Revelation: A New Project to Scan Manuscripts at the World’s Oldest Monastery Is Exposing Amazing Ancient Texts,” *Smithsonian* 48, no. 9 (January 2018): 18, accessed January 8, 2018, Academic Search Complete, EBSCOhost.

IV Jo Marchant, “Books of Revelation: A New Project to Scan Manuscripts at the World’s Oldest Monastery Is Exposing Amazing Ancient Texts,” *Smithsonian* 48, no. 9 (January 2018): 14, 16, 18, 19, 20, accessed January 8, 2018, Academic Search Complete, EBSCOhost.

V 1. Nicholas Wade, “Technology Unlocks Secrets of a Biblical Scroll,” *The New York Times*, September 22, 2016, New York edition, sec. A. <https://nyti.ms/2d07TEo>. 2. “Research Team Reveals Biblical Text from Damaged Scroll,” *Catholic Library World* 86, no. 1 (September 2015): 6, accessed January 8, 2018, Library, Information Science & Technology Abstracts with Full Text, EBSCOhost.

VI 1. Nicholas Wade, “Technology Unlocks Secrets of a Biblical Scroll,” *The New York Times*, September 22, 2016, New York edition, sec. A. <https://nyti.ms/2d07TEo>. 2. “Research Team Reveals Biblical Text from Damaged Scroll,” *Catholic Library World* 86, no. 1 (September 2015): 6, accessed January 8, 2018, Library, Information Science & Technology Abstracts with Full Text, EBSCOhost.

VI 1. Nicholas Wade, “Technology Unlocks Secrets of a Biblical Scroll,” *The New York Times*, September 22, 2016, New York edition, sec. A. <https://nyti.ms/2d07TEo>. 2. “Research Team Reveals Biblical Text from Damaged Scroll,” *Catholic Library World* 86, no. 1 (September 2015): 6, accessed January 8, 2018, Library, Information Science & Technology Abstracts with Full Text, EBSCOhost.

VII 1. Nicholas Wade, “Technology Unlocks Secrets of a Biblical Scroll,” *The New York Times*, September 22, 2016, New York edition, sec. A. <https://nyti.ms/2d07TEo>. 2. “Research Team Reveals Biblical Text from Damaged Scroll,” *Catholic Library World* 86, no. 1 (September 2015): 6, accessed January 8, 2018, Library, Information Science & Technology Abstracts with Full Text, EBSCOhost.

VIII 1. Nicholas Wade, “Technology Unlocks Secrets of a Biblical Scroll,” *The New York Times*, September 22, 2016, New York edition, sec. A. <https://nyti.ms/2d07TEo>.

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Marchant, Jo. “Books of Revelation: A New Project to Scan Manuscripts at the World’s Oldest Monastery Is Exposing Amazing Ancient Texts.” *Smithsonian* 48, no. 9 (January 2018): 14-20. Accessed January 8, 2018. Academic Search Complete, EBSCOhost.

Wade, Nicholas. “Technology Unlocks Secrets of a Biblical Scroll.” *The New York Times*, September 22, 2016, New York edition, sec. A. <https://nyti.ms/2d07TEo>

“Research Team Reveals Biblical Text from Damaged Scroll.” *Catholic Library World* 86, no. 1 (September 2015): 6. Accessed January 8, 2018. Library, Information Science & Technology Abstracts with Full Text, EBSCOhost.

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Centenary College Archives Renovation

The Centenary College of Louisiana Archives and Special Collections recently completed a series of renovations begun in spring 2017. This transformed multiple areas throughout the archives – the reading room, collections storage areas, processing room, and supplies room. The most significant improvement involves the installation of a high-density mobile shelving system capable of storing 2,000 linear feet of collections. The shelving system was funded through grants awarded by the Centenary Muses and the William C. Woolf Foundation. With these renovations, the archives department can more efficiently perform its functions. Researchers have more space to work, the processing area is now adjacent to an archival supplies room, and the collections storage area has gone from “over capacity” to “room to grow.” On August 28, 2018, the archives hosted an open house for the renovation funders, Centenary community, and public. The event included tours of renovated areas and a display of items from twenty collections. Visitors snapped photos of Albert Einstein’s letter to Centenary’s president in 1938, inspected “Things You Should Know About Subversive Influences in Methodism” published in 1963, and learned about future digitization projects of Louisiana United Methodist newspapers. People also visited the processing room where archives student workers Olivia Brignac and Ellen Atkinson explained their work while cataloging Centenary administrative files from the 1850s.

Centenary College Archives Reading Room



**For more information contact Chris Brown, Centenary College Archivist,
at 318.869.5462, or archives@centenary.edu.**

*Chris Brown
Centenary College of Louisiana Archivist*

LPB Preserves *En Français* Series through CLIR Grant



In April 2018, Louisiana Public Broadcasting (LPB) received a Recordings at Risk grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) to preserve the first six seasons of the *En Français* series. Through this grant project, LPB was able to send 176 episodes of the series to Scene Savers in Covington, Kentucky, for digitization. After receiving the digital files from the vendor, these episodes have now been catalogued and are freely available for streaming on the Louisiana Digital Media Archive. The *En Français* series will also be featured as a Special Collection on the American Archive of Public Broadcasting at americanarchive.org. You can visit <http://www.lpb.org/frencharchive> to browse and

stream episodes from the entire series. *En Français* aired on LPB from 1980-1993 and has not been available for viewing in decades. The series was produced in partnership with the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL) and is the only original LPB series broadcast entirely in French. It presented interviews, stories, and performances in French that were of interest to the state's French speakers. The series also helped to fulfill LPB's mission of preserving the French language in Louisiana. The *En Français* series features a treasure trove of interviews and performances by the pioneers and stars of Cajun music, including Dewey Balfa, Hadley Castille, Zachary Richard, and Michael Doucet. The series also includes annual performances of original plays in Cajun French by Le Théâtre 'Cadien, a local theater group from Lafayette. Additionally, the series includes a strong focus on Acadian history and cultural traditions, including a 1985 documentary shot in France that marks the 200th anniversary of the arrival of the Acadians in Louisiana called *A la Recherche d'Une Nouvelle Acadie: Une Odyssée Acadienne*, or *In Search of a New Acadia: An Acadian Odyssey*. Several episodes of the series also feature conversations and debates on the French language spoken in Louisiana and the differences between "traditional" French and the Cajun French dialect. Another major theme of the series is Louisiana's enduring connection to the Francophone world, especially Quebec, Canada, and France. Lastly, the series also includes multi-episode visits to several French-speaking parishes, including St. Landry, Evangeline, St. Martin, Avoyelles, and Natchitoches. The Recordings at Risk grant program is made possible by funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. It supports the preservation of rare and unique audio and audiovisual content of high scholarly value. The Council on Library and Information Resources is an independent, nonprofit organization that forges strategies to enhance research, teaching, and learning environments in collaboration with libraries, cultural institutions, and communities of higher learning. To learn more, visit www.clir.org.



Council on
Library and
Information
Resources



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LAMA Kathy Bordelon Continuing Education Scholarship Recap

On April 23-25, 2018, I attended the inaugural Black Communities: A Conference for Collaboration in Durham, North Carolina. This multi-disciplinary conference was organized by the University of North Carolina's Institute for African American Research and its NCGrowth project. The conference was held at the historic Carolina Theatre, significant for being Durham's first to admit African Americans in 1963. Receiving the Louisiana Archives and Manuscripts Association's Kathy Bordelon Continuing Education Scholarship assisted me in participating in the conference's pop-up exhibit session. I was invited to share images from my *Unshuttered, Uncovered: Northwest Louisiana's Black Photographic Legacy* research project which highlights the area's early Black studio photographers. I appreciated the opportunity to display and discuss historical photographs documenting the contributions African Americans have made to Shreveport and Bossier City.

The sessions I gravitated to the most were those pertaining to personal collections and community archives. They included *Black Communities, Then & Now*, a *Project Backup Scan-a-thon* workshop, and *Black Community Histories: Documented, Digitized, and Displayed*. These sessions provided examples of mutually beneficial partnerships between formal collecting institutions and community organizations. Documentary filmmaker Thomas Allen Harris described his *Digital Diaspora Family Reunion* during the plenary keynote. He asked the audience to consider why family photo albums matter and how they can be used to bring about reconciliation and social change.

In addition to sessions of interest to archivists, the conference examined the vitality of Black communities from various perspectives including environmental, financial, political, recreational, and religious. *Stop Thinking and Start Writing: Journaling for Personal Discovery & Stress Relief*, *The Craft of Filmmaking*, and *Black Experience: Arts and Nature* are meetings that have particularly remained with me since my time at the conference.

The Kathy Bordelon Continuing Education Scholarship allowed me to represent Louisiana to a diverse audience of academics, researchers, and community members. I made connections and gained valuable information to guide the next steps of *Unshuttered, Uncovered* which will include a traveling and online exhibit. I am looking forward to next year's conference. Black Communities: A Conference for Collaboration is currently soliciting proposals for the 2019 meeting and I enthusiastically encourage LAMA members to attend.



For information regarding Black Communities: A Conference for Collaboration, 2019, please visit: <http://blackcommunities.unc.edu/2019/>.

For more information on the LAMA Kathy Bordelon Continuing Education Scholarship, please visit: <http://www.louisianaarchivists.org/>

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Resource Review: The American Prison Writing Archive (APWA)

On November 14, 2018, Newcomb College Institute at Tulane University (NCI) had the pleasure of hosting a Lunch Time Discussion with Doran Larson. Larson is the Walcott-Bartlett Chair of Ethics and Christian Evidences and Professor of Literature and Creative Writing at Hamilton University in Clinton, New York. He is also the Project Director of the American Prison Writing Archive (APWA) which can be found on Hamilton University's Digital Humanities Initiative (DHI) page (<http://apw.dhinitiative.org>). During his lecture, Larson talked about the American prison system, how the project originated and how it ultimately resulted in the creation of a digital repository.

In 2010, Larson started a prison writing program that was developed into a book called, *Fourth City: Essays from the Prison in America*, published in 2012. The content for the book is based on over seventy incarcerated individuals' handwritten essays which were collected via the program. After the book was published, Larson continued to receive an abundance of essays by inmates from all over the United States. The essays not only document prisoners' witness accounts of life and culture behind bars, they also contain data on a mass-scale level that can be used to create awareness and support research that seeks to change the broken American incarceration system. It is because of the program's continued participation and the significance of this primary resource that the APWA exists online today.

The APWA digital repository consists of 1,767 digitized essays written by prisoners from forty-eight states within the U.S. Each essay has been digitized and published into an online repository hosted by Islandora. According to the APWA website (2018), submissions to the archive are encouraged by anyone with *first-hand experience and whose interactions directly affect day-to-day prison life*. Guidelines for submitting essays to the archive can be found on the website via the *permission-questionnaire* form. This form covers eligibility, style, topics, and permissions. The *permission-questionnaire* essentially doubles as a way to collect metadata for use as display content and search criteria within the archive. For example, search terms like: Essay Titles, Grouped Authors, Grouped States, Author names, Author Attributes, Prisons, Languages, and States are all data derived from the completable form. Search results can be limited by Ethnicity, Gender Identity, Sexual Orientation, Religion, Veteran Status, State, and Prison name. By conducting a simple search using "Browse all" and limiting the results to "Gender identity", and then by "State", APWA was able to display that based on this collection of 1,767 essays, only 67 of the essays were written by women and these women represent only 22 of the 50 states.

As far as searching the actual textual content, the essays are handwritten, so, there is an ongoing initiative for each one to be transcribed in order for Optical Character Recognition (OCR) to enable searchable, machine-encoded text.



The APWA encourages anyone interested to apply as a volunteer transcriber, doing so is an efficient way to use the collection while also contributing to its accessibility and cause. Anyone who becomes a volunteer transcriber is given guidelines on how to best transcribe the essays and use the transcription template provided.

The AWPA is definitely a resource that scholars from all disciplines (interested in imprisonment) can utilize. A plethora of research topics can be derived from the Archive's online content, for example: public health conditions, mental health-before and after incarceration, history, literature, politics, art, slavery, human rights, social justice, and more. Not only is the APWA an example of a successful digital scholarship project that uses primary resources, it is also one that aims to help solve a growing human rights problem by actively creating awareness and supplying scholars with data they can use to support their research.

Bernadette Birzer

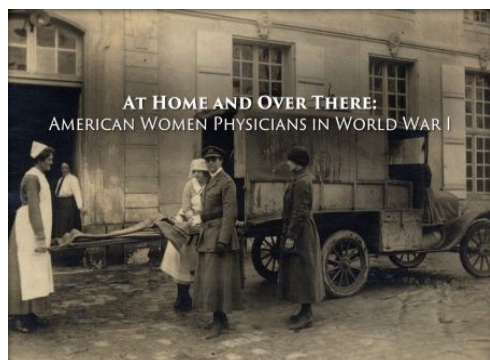
LAMA Editor and NCI Archivist

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Upcoming Events

Matas Library Exhibition:

American Medical Women's Association (AMWA) - At Home and Over There: An exhibition of American Women Physicians in World War I, open through January 22, 2019



The Rudolph Matas Library of the Health Sciences is hosting an exhibition curated by the American Medical Women's Association (AMWA). *At Home and Over There: An exhibition of American Women Physicians in World War I* is mounted at the entrance of the Matas Library on the 2nd floor of the Hutchinson Building (1430 Tulane Avenue). The exhibition is available to the public weekdays, 8 am – 5 pm, when the building is open (closed December 24-January 2, 2019).

"When the United States entered World War I in 1917, many American women were still fighting for the right to vote. President Woodrow Wilson found himself needing to "sell" a war to a country reluctant to engage in a conflict on foreign soil. Government and industry had to focus

on the immense needs of the war effort. For the first time in history, the government created a propaganda agency to popularize the war. Women were directly targeted and encouraged to support the war effort by working as nurses abroad or working on the home front in a variety of positions previously held by men....At the time, women physicians numbered less than 6% of all U.S. physicians, but despite their small numbers, an estimated 30% were eager to serve, a percentage that compared favorably to that of their male colleagues. Yet the Army refused to commission women physicians in the military..." excerpt from exhibit flyer.

Learn more about the work of women physicians in World War I in an exhibition and short film by the American Medical Women's Association (AMWA). www.amwa-doc.org/wwi-exhibition. Please contact Mary Holt, Matas History Librarian, Information Services, Tulane University at mholt@tulane.edu for more information.

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Amazônia Ocupada

Photograph Exhibit Opening and
Presentation by João Farkas

Friday, February 8, 2019 at 3 p.m.

The Latin American Library
4th floor, Howard-Tilton Memorial
Library
Tulane University



Amazônia Ocupada features the work of Brazilian photographer João Farkas, who documented the mass migration of workers from throughout Brazil who came to the Amazon basin in the 1980s and 1990s to try their luck in gold mining, logging and cattle ranching, often with devastating effects on the environment and the indigenous peoples of the region. The exhibit also includes rare books, maps, and other material from the special collections of The Latin American Library tracing Western conceptualizations of the Amazon region beginning with the earliest post-contact explorations in the 16th century to 20th century narratives about the region.

João Farkas is one of Brazil's leading documentary and environmental photographers with projects that document life in the coastal village of Trancoso, Bahia, the carnival masks of Maragogipe, Bahia, and the world's largest tropical wetland, the Pantanal, as well as the occupation of the Amazon. <https://www.joaofarkas.com/>.

A related symposium featuring historians and anthropologists of the Amazon region will be held on Saturday, February 9 in Jones Hall 100a, from 9am to 5pm. More information forthcoming. Please contact LAL@tulane.edu for more info.

Louisiana Historical Association 2019 Annual Meeting

The 2019 LHA 61st Annual Meeting will take place March 28-31 at the Garden Plaza Hotel in Lafayette, La.

The Garden Plaza Hotel is located at 2032 NE Evangeline Thruway, Lafayette, La. Guest room reservations can be made by calling (337) 233-6815. Please state that you will be attending the LHA meeting in order to receive a discounted room rate.

RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO INSURE PRICE AND AVAILABILITY.



For more information please visit: <https://www.lahistory.org/event/2018annual-meeting-2/>

Seasons Greetings & Happy New Year!





Louisiana

Archives & Manuscripts Association

410 Chartres St.
New Orleans, LA 70130

LAMA MISSION AND MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

The Louisiana Archives and Manuscripts Association (LAMA) promotes the role of archives in the preservation of national, state, and local heritage by cooperating with Louisiana's public and private archival repositories in their work of collecting, preserving, and making accessible to the public manuscript, printed, graphic arts, and audio materials of historical significance.

If you have not paid your LAMA dues for 2017, please consider doing so. Also encourage those who work with historical records to join the organization if they are not members. Membership forms are available in this newsletter and on the LAMA website.

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Membership in LAMA entitles you receive the *LAMA Newsletter* and invitations to the Association's annual meetings. LAMA members also automatically become members of the Southern Archives Conference (SAC), an umbrella organization of Southeastern state archival organizations, encompassing the state organizations of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Tennessee. SAC meets every other year in one of the membership states.

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