

Louisiana Archives and Manuscripts Association Newsletter

Spring, 2001

LAMA News

Annual Meeting

The 2001 annual meeting will be held on Friday, November 9, 2001 in the Wade O. Martin Jr. Auditorium of the Louisiana State Archives, located at 3851 Essen Lane in Baton Rouge. State Archivist, Dr. Florent Hardy, Jr., will give the opening address and presentations will be given by Mary Hebert Price of the T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History at LSU, Charles Chamberlain of the Hogan Jazz Archive, Tulane University and Bruce Turner, Head of Archives and Special Collections, the University of Louisiana-Lafayette. After the meeting, an optional tour of the Rural Life Museum is being offered for \$3.50. Registration information will be mailed out in October. Please make arrangements to attend the annual meeting.

Hollis New Newsletter Editor

Buffie Hollis of the New Orleans Notarial Archives has assumed the duties of Newsletter Editor, vacated by Patti Threatt. The board of directors welcomes Hollis

to the position and asks that you send submissions to the newsletter to her at New Orleans Notarial Archives, 421 Loyola Avenue, Room B-4, New Orleans, LA 70112 or by email at bahnnona@mindspring.com. Hollis, who received her MLIS at the University of Pittsburgh in 1997, has been the Assistant Archivist at the New Orleans Notarial Archives for the past four years.

News from the Board of Directors

Since the board meeting held in Lafayette on 12 January 2001, two board members have resigned their positions. Laura Street Conerly resigned for personal reasons in May and Rebecca Hankins resigned in August as she accepted a job out of state. In order to retain some continuity board members, Carol Mathias and Florence Borders whose terms are due to expire with the annual meeting have agreed to remain on the board. Mathias will

complete the remaining year of Conerly's term and Borders will complete the two years remaining of Hankins' term. Two new board members will be elected for a three-year term at the annual meeting.

In an effort to cut the printing and postage costs of the Newsletter, the board has agreed to trim the mailing list. Individuals who have not paid dues in the past three years have been removed from the membership/ mailing list along with any individuals or institutions whose mailings were returned as undeliverable. Efforts are being made to retain the names of institutions and organizations so that one copy of the LAMA Newsletter may be mailed to maintain contact with those who are members or who work for those institutions and organizations.

The board has discussed the creation of a brochure for outreach purposes. It will contain in-

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LAMA News (Continued)

formation on LAMA and a membership application. The brochure can be distributed to students in LSU's library school and at meetings and conferences within the state with the goals of making more people aware of LAMA and increasing our membership. It is hoped that a brochure can be created in time to be distributed at the Louisiana Library Association meeting in March 2002.

The LAMA Board of Directors met twice this summer, on June eighth at Hill Memorial Library and on August tenth at Middleton Library, both on the campus of the Louisiana State University. The main topics of discussion have been the Southern Archives Conference, the formation of a southern regional organization and/or the expansion of the Southern Archives Conference and the LAMA annual meeting.

LAMA Scholarship

No members applied for the \$250 LAMA scholarship prior to June 1, 2001 so the board extended the deadline until October 1, 2001. The scholarship money is intended to provide funding for continuing education and may be used within the next year. 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: Jean Kiesel, LAMA Scholarship Committee Chair, Edith Garland Dupré Library, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, P.O. Box 40199, Lafayette, Louisiana 70504. The winner will be announced at LAMA's annual meeting. The winner will be expected to prepare an article for the LAMA Newsletter describing the workshop, seminar, conference, etc., attended with the scholarship funds.

Southern Archives Conference

There will not be a formal Southern Archives Conference (SAC) in 2002, as the Society of American Archivists (SAA) will be meeting in Birmingham, Alabama in August of 2002. The Society of Alabama Archivists has suggested that SAC hold a business meeting and a reception on the Wednesday evening, August 21, 2002, before the SAA meeting officially starts. The SAC meeting and reception will be held in the Birmingham Public Library, an easy two-block walk from the SAA conference hotel. Two exhibits will be mounted at the library and will be open for the SAC event; one will display snapshots of Birmingham and the other vintage bookplates. As more information becomes available to the LAMA board on this and other SAC events, we will keep the membership posted. As yet, no date has been set for a formal Southern Archives Conference.

A Southern Regional Organization

Dennis S. Taylor, President of the South Carolina Archival Association, held a meeting of the

Presidents of the Southeastern Archival Associations during the Society of American Archivists annual meeting in Washington D.C. The meeting was held in an attempt to bring stronger unity and to share information and resources among the archival organizations in the South (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee). In attendance at the meeting were: Tim Pennycuff, President of the Society of Alabama Archivists; Diana Ruby-Sanderson, representing the Society of North Carolina Archivists; Jill R. Severn representing the Society of Georgia Archivists; Carol Bartels, President of the Louisiana Archives and Manuscripts Association, and Taylor. Discussion centered on the states of Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina joining the Southern Archives Conference and about the possible creation of a new Southern regional organization. This first meeting showed a need for further discussion of the topic and hopefully more dialogue between the states will be forth coming. Information on the Southern Archives Conference will be sent to the other states for review.

National News

Library of Congress Documents Reactions to September 11, 2001, Tragedy for Posterity

The American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress has called upon folklorists across the nation to document on audio tape the thoughts and feelings expressed by citizens following the tragic events of September 11, 2001. These recordings and supporting documentary materials will become part of the Center's Archive of Folk Culture, the largest and most significant archives devoted to the folklore and traditional culture of Americans and of the many cultural groups from around the world that have enriched American life. Founded in 1928, the Archive is now repository to over 2 million items.

With the "September 11, 2001, Documentary Project," the American Folklife Center is building upon a unique precedent. On December 9, 1941, renown folklorist Alan Lomax, who was serving as the head of the Folk Archive, sent an urgent message to folklorists around the United States to collect "person on the street" reactions to the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the declaration of war by the United States. Recordings were made in all parts of the country in which people expressed their immediate reactions to this cataclysmic event. Interviews were conducted with shoemakers, electricians, janitors, oilmen, cab drivers, housewives, students, soldiers, and physicians. People of many ethnic groups and ages are represented in these interviews expressing their opinions on the political, social, financial, and military aspects of the Pearl Harbor attack.

These field recordings were sent to the Library of Congress where they were used to create a series of radio programs and distributed to schools and radio

stations. This unique documentary collection is still housed at the American Folklife Center and continues to be an invaluable aural resource.

Sixty years later, in this time of national crisis and mourning, the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress has issued a call to the folklore community to provide such a service to the nation today through the "September 11, 2001, Documentary Project." The Center will collect and preserve the audio-taped interviews and supporting materials that present the personal experience stories of average Americans in the wake of the terrorist attack and to what many have called "an act of war." What were they doing when they heard? How have their lives been changed? These materials will be deposited in the Center's Archive of Folk Culture, where they will be preserved for and made available to future generations. To receive copies of interview release forms or for further information on the September 11, 2001, Documentary Project, please contact the American Folklife Center: (202) 707-5510; folklife@loc.gov.

The American Folklife Center was created by Congress in 1976 and placed at the Library of Congress "to preserve and present American Folklife" through programs of research, documentation, archival presentation, reference service, live performance, exhibition, public programs, and training. The Center includes the Archive of Folk Culture, which was established in 1928 and is now one of the largest collections of ethnographic material from the United States and around the world.

Louisiana State Archives

State Archives Celebrates 45th Anniversary

Louisiana State Archives celebrated its 45th Anniversary during the week of July 9-13, recognizing

its mission to inform the public of the importance of the preservation and accessibility of historical documents, artifacts, and resources. Attended by Clerks of Court, historical buffs, genealogists, re-

Louisiana State Archives (Cont.)

searchers and patrons, the week's activities began with a welcome from Secretary of State Fox McKeithen. Secretary McKeithen stressed the importance of making individuals aware of the great impact history has on our daily lives and the prominent role State Archives plays in this respect. An open house and a tour of the Archives by State Archivist and Director Dr. Florent Hardy, Jr. followed.

Two presentations were made daily and topics ranged from the preservation of Louisiana's heritage, its unique architecture and political history, scrapbook development, genealogical research, and document conservation. Also highlighted were Louisiana's role in the Civil War, as well as women's role in the evolution of Louisiana government. On exhibit during the celebration were internationally famous Louisiana artist, George Rodrigue's "Oak Trees, Cajuns and the Blue Dog" as well as the popular American Italian Exhibit.

Conservation Lab

The Conservation Lab at the Louisiana State Archives has been busy assisting Clerks of Court with the care of their archival records. On August 23, Conservator Doug Harrison delivered a presentation entitled "Proper Conservation Procedures for Original Documents" to the Clerks of Court Institute in Baton Rouge. The lab is currently processing colonial records from St. John Parish. The records date from 1753 and continue through the end of the territorial period. Through the volunteer efforts of Ms. Judy Riffel, an active member of the State Archives support group, Le Comité des Archives de la Louisiane, the records have been arranged chronologically by the date of each instrument. Ms. Riffel hopes to begin a descriptive inventory in the near future. The lab has also recently restored a large property ownership map of St. John parish from 1908. The map was mounted and framed with archival materials and will be hung in the St. John Courthouse.

World Wide Web projects:

- Creation of Ships Registry Genealogical Database for Internet
- Presentation of Louisiana Cookbook Cavalcade Exhibition on Internet. This will include images of books on display, and possibly several videos of cooking events at Archives.
- America 2000 media server will provide means to make many of the records in the State Archives available to the people of the State particularly teachers who can use these documents and photographs to enhance and improve the content of their course offerings.
- The State Archives has served as a Content Provider in the Louisiana State University sponsored, multi-agency produced, Teaching American History Grant Program application to the United States Department of Education. Focus will be on the Huey Long Papers as well as issues relating to the Louisiana Purchase.
- Digitization of Old State Capitol/State Archives film and video collections (300 hours) for local viewing.
- Thanks to the efforts of the New Orleans Birth Indices Volunteers, we have recently uploaded the complete 1897, 1898, 1899 and the 1900 New Orleans Birth Indices for access at the Archives Research Library.
- Our most recent addition to the Secretary of State web site is the Confederate Pensions Applications Index Database.

In the past few months we have had visitors and researchers from the states of Washington, California, Minnesota, Illinois, Arizona, Florida and the District of Columbia as well as all of our bordering states.

The Louisiana State Archives is free and open to the public seven days a week. For further information, please call (225) 922-1000 or check out the Secretary of State's web page at <www.sec.state.la.us>.

Upcoming Events:

Louisiana State Archives (Cont.)

The State Archives is currently preparing a Records Management Handbook to assist state and local agencies with their Records Management Programs. The handbook will provide users with legal citations, references, a step-by-step strategy for developing a Records Management Program, a question and answer section, and information on how to inventory records series, the appraisal of records to determine retention value, and the

proper formal writing of a retention schedule. The handbook will also be incorporated into the Department of State's official web site.

Society of American Archivists

The following article was received from the host committee for the 2002 SAA Conference:

Birmingham in 2002

In 1984, I accepted a job at the Alabama Department of Archives and History after working in Cincinnati for seven years. At the time, I thought I was making a three to four-year commitment to Alabama and the South. As we prepare to welcome the Society of American Archivists to Birmingham in 2002, I find myself examining the reasons I moved south and the reasons I have stayed for nearly 18 years.

I came because I wanted to experience firsthand what it was like to live in another region of the country and specifically the Deep South. Once I became immersed in the culture, I found many of my preconceived ideas to be dated, slanted or totally wrong. My image of the region, like that of many people raised north of the Mason-Dixon Line, was based on images presented by the media and impressions developed in my youth during the Civil Rights Movement. Those images are now nearly forty years old.

I have stayed for a variety of reasons. The first reason is the people. In a world where politeness has increasingly disappeared, Alabama is a place where courtesy is evident in word and gesture. It is a place where extended families and small town connections are still woven tightly into the fab-

ric of society. It is a place where people "hug your neck" and ask how your mamma is doing, where they make eye contact and take the time to truly talk to you. Come to Birmingham and experience southern hospitality.

Then there's the food. Fill your plate with butter beans, collard greens, turnip greens, fried okra, fried green tomatoes, corn bread, fried bread, sweet potato soufflé, sweet potato pie, fried catfish, fried chicken, fried steak with rice and onion gravy, chicken and dumplings, corn bread dressing, barbecue, banana pudding, red velvet cake, caramel cake, boiled peanuts, and yes, grits. The names of the peas alone could fill a book: black-eyed, field, purple-hull, pink-eye-purple-hull, white-acre and crowder, just to name a few. Come to Birmingham and go to a barbecue joint or to a local eatery and get meat and three (vegetables) and experience southern cooking at its finest. And if down-home cooking is not your style, you can choose among upscale restaurants featuring cuisine ranging from the classic to the eclectic.

It is the music. The South, Alabama and Birmingham are home to country, the blues, jazz, and gospel. The Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame honors great jazz artists with ties Alabama with exhibits conveying the accomplishments of Nat King Cole, Duke Ellington, Lionel Hampton, Erskine Hawkins, Clarence "Pinetop" Smith, and Sun Ra. Birmingham is also the home of a long tradition of gospel singing, especially a cappella quartets.

Society of American Archivists (Cont.)

It is the art. The region is proud of a rich tradition of folk culture and outsider art. Potters, quilters, basket makers, painters, and sculptors abound. The works of these crafts people and artists are displayed in galleries throughout the United States. In addition, the Birmingham Museum of Art is home of the Beeson Wedgwood Collection, the finest and most important collection of eighteenth-century Wedgwood china outside of England. The museum is also widely known for superior examples of Buddhist and Hindu sculpture; Chinese, Japanese, and Korean paintings and ceramics; and an outstanding collection of sub-Saharan African textiles, sculpture, and masks.

It is the history. Spanish, French, and British settlements grew amidst the Native American population. Alabama witnessed the beginnings of two of the most influential events in United States history: the Civil War and the Civil Rights Movement. Many of the events surrounding the Civil Rights Movement occurred in Birmingham. Visit the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, a monument to the courage of countless individuals who, during the 1950's and 1960's, confronted the racial discrimination of American society. Nearby is the 16th Street Baptist Church, the site of the 1963 bombing, and Kelly Ingram Park, home to stunning sculptures commemorating the struggle for freedom.

Birmingham was also the South's first truly industrial city due to its close proximity to iron ore, coal and limestone deposits. Visit Sloss Furnaces National Historic Landmark, a 32-acre blast furnace plant where iron was made for three-quarters of a century. Now a museum of history and industry,

the site preserves an extraordinary collection of buildings, industrial structures, and machinery. Sloss is the only 20th century blast furnace in the country that is being preserved and interpreted as a museum.

In Birmingham, go golfing on one of the many nearby courses including the nationally known Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail. Take in a Birmingham Barons game (this is the team for which Michael Jordan played). Enjoy the bonsai at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens. Visit the zoo or Birmingham's state-of-the-art science center, the McWane Center and IMAX Dome Theater. In addition, Birmingham has cutting edge medical facilities and several universities, as well as the amenities of any urban area. A population of nearly 1,000,000 makes the Birmingham area truly a city, but a city with a distinctly southern flavor.

The South is a complex and changing region with a fascinating history and a promising future in which Birmingham will play a central role. We welcome you to our home in 2002, and hope you will come to experience some of the warmth and grace of the South. Come and see where history was made and is being made. See the changes of the last forty years. Come see why Alabama has become my home.

Submitted by
Alden N. Monroe, Chair of the 2002 SAA Host Committee
Alabama Department of Archives and History

Newly Acquired/Processed

Louisiana State Archives

New collections received:

- Microfilm of Minute Book of the Vestry of St. James Episcopal Church in Alexandria dated

1848 to 1912

- William Abadie oral history and copies of newspaper articles related to his termination from his job as a State Trooper and body guard to Earl Long, Civil Service hearings and rein-

Newly Acquired/Processed (Cont.)

statement to his State Trooper job and copies of proceedings leading to Long's commitment to a mental hospital

- John Underwood Rochester Collection of family documents and photos from the 19th and 20th centuries in Louisiana and other states. Includes extensive genealogy of the Rochester family that dates back to the city named for them in New York state.
- Dr. Dominic A. Cangelosi Collection of several volumes of published acts of the Louisiana Legislature dated 1908 to 1936
- Sandra Smith Collection of miscellaneous photographs from Bryan Clemmons' tenure as Sheriff of East Baton Rouge Parish
- Vernon Parish Clerk of Court records from the 1960's and 70's
- Mortality Census Schedules for Louisiana dated 1850, 1860, 1870 and 1880
- Rosale F. Matranga Collection of a Sons of Shriners' band photograph taken in Washington, DC in 1923
- Lucille B. Denham Collection of family history charts for the Wright, McCaskell and Sommers families
- Johnnie and Annie Esworth Fugler, Sr. Collection of a WWII quilt made in 1944 by the women of the Live Oak Methodist Church in Watson, Louisiana. Family members paid 10 cents to have the name of their loved ones who were in the military placed on the quilt.
- Francis Adolph Carles family Civil War era cannonball
- Secretary of State Records including: 2000 and 2001 sample and absentee ballots, 1999 propositions and vacancies, 2000 published Louisiana Presidential returns by precinct, 1998 and 1999 notary bond renewals
- Governor's 1999 and 2000 Executive Orders, Proclamations and Pardons
- Insurance changes 1977 to 2000

Louisiana State Museum

The Louisiana State Museum recently received the donation of an important collection of local music artifacts, including a taped oral interview that traces the history of the Community Concerts As-

sociation of New Orleans. The gift, graciously given by Ms. Dorothy Schlesinger, also consists of rare autographs by artists such as Leonard Bernstein, Van Cliburn, Leontyne Price, Victor Borge, John Browning, and José Greco. With the exception of Leonard Bernstein's autograph, which appears on a place card, the autographs grace the program covers of the different presentations these talented performers made in New Orleans.

At public auction recently, the Louisiana State Museum made an exciting new acquisition – Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong's February 9, 1952 letter to New Orleans journalist Betty Jane Holder recalling his life as a young boy growing up in the Crescent City and the joyous Mardi Gras day he celebrated in 1949 reigning as King Zulu. Before being incorporated into the State Museum's new facility in Baton Rouge, opening in late 2003, the letter was proudly displayed August 3-5, 2001 at Satchmo SummerFest, a free celebration honoring the 100th anniversary of Armstrong's birth.

LSU Libraries Special Collections

The Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections at LSU Libraries Special Collections recently received the donation of the professional papers of nationally-recognized Baton Rouge architect John Desmond.

Desmond is a native of Hammond, with a degree in architecture from Tulane University. After his service in the Navy during World War II, he earned a master's at M.I.T. and worked for a firm in New York and for architect A. Hays Town in Baton Rouge. In 1952 he opened an architectural practice in Hammond, with a dual practice in Baton Rouge for 10 years, and since the early 1970s has been solely in Baton Rouge, where his work has shaped much of the city's public image. He has also taught architecture classes at LSU and Southern University and is the author and illustrator of *Louisiana's Antebellum Architecture*.

Newly Acquired/Processed (Cont.)

The approximately 140 linear feet of papers span the years ca. 1960-2000, and they include office files such as correspondence, construction meeting minutes, schematics, reports, change orders, and shop drawings for each project or building; design development drawings and renderings; specifications and construction drawings; photographs and slides. These records document many of Baton Rouge's most recognizable and important buildings from Desmond's first conception of how the building would look through the construction and engineering of the finished product.

Other acquisition highlights for the Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collection include the following:

- Baton Rouge Council on Human Relations. 2 linear feet, 1965-2000. Non-profit civic organization formed to promote desegregation and improved race relations and in which many LSU faculty participated. Includes correspondence, minutes, committee records, issue and event material, printed items, and membership files.
- Baton Rouge Ku Klux Klan Records. 90 items, 1928-1939. Correspondence, printed items, financial and legal documents, and miscellaneous items of the Ku Klux Klan in Baton Rouge.
- Doussan Family Letters (70 items, 1827-1872). French émigrés who settled in the Baton Rouge area; the patriarch of the family was formerly a soldier under Napoleon. Letters to his brother in France relate to settling and establishing the family in Louisiana, crops, and contemporary events.
- David Hunt Letters, 95 items, 1804, 1810-1811, 1815-1818, 1820-1839. Letters received by David Hunt, who, like many early Natchez settlers and wealthy plantation owners was a native of New Jersey. He and his uncle, Abijah Hunt, owned several plantations, mercantiles, and cotton gins in the Natchez area. Letters include personal and business letters from his brothers and financial agents.
- McMurran Family Letters. 116 items, 1854-1870. Letters of the prominent McMurran family of Melrose, Natchez, Miss., relate to women and family, slavery and the Civil War.
- Reynaud (Charles) Papers. ca. 1 linear foot, 1927-1994. Former LSU law professor's papers pertain to desegregation in Baton Rouge. Reynaud spoke out against the movement to close public schools to avoid desegregation and testified before a legislative committee about the matter in 1958. His papers are comprised of newspaper clippings, notes, letters of support, copies of his testimony, and speeches. Papers of his wife, LSU psychology professor Marian Reynaud Baun, are also included. Her materials contain reports of campus committees, which she chaired, that studied and made recommendations for the equalization of treatment for female students, and records of the Friends of Public Education at University Methodist Church, Baton Rouge.
- Rich (J.D.) Papers. 20 items, 1864-1867. Military correspondence, orders, telegraphs, legal papers, statements and accounts of a 1st lieutenant in the U.S. 80th Colored Infantry stationed in New Orleans and Bonnet Carre', La., and provost marshal in St. John the Baptist, St. Charles, and St. James parishes. The collection reflects the military administration of civil affairs such as education and legal disputes by the military, the effort to collect taxes and establish schools for freedmen, and aid given through the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands.
- St. James Parish Justice of the Peace Ledger. 1 volume, 1847-1858. Kept by five different justices of the peace during the antebellum period, the ledger records both commercial and criminal report records. St. James was an old, immensely rich and politically powerful sugar cane parish and this span of over ten years of criminal records allows a window into regional law and disorder. Of particular note are the revelations of African-American slaves as witnesses, perpetrators, and victims in the parish's crimes.

Newly Acquired/Processed (Cont.)

- Wright (Charles L.) Papers. ca. 250 items, 1884-1942. Wright was the manager of Excelsior Cypress Company's operation in St. James Parish, which centered around the company town Timberton. Photographs, correspondence, and printed materials relate to labor, lumber harvesting and marketing, and the town of Timberton, which no longer exists.

McNeese State University

The McNeese Archives recently acquired and processed two new collections. The City of Lake Charles Mayor's Office Collection contains documents donated by the Mayor's office including topics programs, federal files, fire department files, a general file, public works and city court documents. The Lake Charles Cemetery Association Collection contains materials from two early cemeteries in Lake Charles, Orange Grove and Grace-land Cemetery. The collection includes burial listings, abstracts, deeds, plot plans, and many other items from 1892 - present. The McNeese State University Office of Media Services Collection has been greatly enlarged with the addition of photographs from that office. These reflect many areas of campus life and date from the 1970's to the present.

New Orleans Public Library Louisiana Division/ City Archives

The City Archives has received seven boxes of documents and records from the office of Council Member Cynthia Willard-Lewis. The materials were created/collected by former members Ellen Hazeur and Lula Breaux. Also received are three

boxes of records from the Mayor's Office of Federal and State Programs and four boxes of sound recordings from the Council Fiscal Office. They include tapes of Council Budget Committee meetings/hearings and tapes of Council Rivergate Committee meetings.

Nicholls State University

The Archives at Nicholls State University recently received a collection of 675 original death notices. Before the advent of daily newspapers death notices were placed in various public places around the community to inform people about the death and funeral arrangements of area residents. Most of the death notices in this collection concern individuals from Assumption Parish and are dated around the turn of the century. The oldest is from 1869. Many of the older notices are written in French. The collection was donated to the Archives by Celine Verret of Plattenville.

Vernon Parish Library

The Vernon Parish Library has a small archival collection of local history. Four collections that have been cataloged are the Dolores O. Bullock Owen Collection, the Joe J. Hicks Collection, the Jane Parker McManus Collection, and the Leghorn Times Herald Collection.

Exhibits

Hill Memorial Library

An exhibition focusing on Francophone culture in 19th-century New Orleans is on view this fall in Hill Memorial Library. *Résonances Créoles/*

Creole Echoes is a joint project of the Center for French and Francophone Studies and the LSU Libraries. The exhibition, prepared by Jean-Marc Duplantier and Frédérique Spill, investigates how Creoles built and tried to maintain a group identity

Exhibits (Cont.)

for themselves during an era of change from Francophone to Anglophone dominance in New Orleans. Grant funding from the French Senate supported the publication of a printed catalog of the exhibition; an LEH grant will enable the mounting of an electronic exhibition that will be available this fall at www.lib.lsu.edu/special/exhibits/creole. The exhibition is on view through November 3.

Beginning November 12 in Hill Memorial Library, the U.S. Civil War Center will present *Blue and Gray for Boys and Girls: Selections from the Michael Lehman Williamson Collection of Civil War Books for Young People*. The exhibition will feature more than 50 children's books on the American Civil War published from 1862 to 2001. Leah W. Jewett, Director of the Center, has selected the books and provided informative commentary on the authors and genres represented. A lecture by scholar James Marten, Professor of History at Marquette University and an expert on Civil War children's literature, is planned for November. The exhibition will be on view November 12, 2001 - March 3, 2002, in the second floor gallery. Prints from artist Edwin Forbes's post-war portfolio *Life Studies of the Great Army* will be displayed simultaneously in the first floor gallery.

The Historic New Orleans Collection

Currently on display through December 1, 2001 at the Williams Research Center of the Historic New Orleans Collection is *Oblivion's Blight: Girod Street Cemetery (1822-1957)*. The Williams Research Center is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 A.M. through 4:30 P.M. and is located at 410 Chartres Street. On permanent exhibition at the Williams Research Center is *Louisiana Sites and Citizens: Selections from the Permanent Collection of Paintings*.

On display through December 29, 2001 in the Williams Gallery of the Historic New Orleans Collection is, *In Search of Yesterday's Gardens: Landscapes of 19th-Century New Orleans*. The Wil-

liams Gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 A.M. through 4:30 P.M. and is located at 533 Royal Street. Opening 12 January 2002 will be the exhibition, *This Vast Country of Louisiana: 1682-1731* which will remain on display in the Williams Gallery through 11 May 2002.

The Historic New Orleans Collection is a museum and research center dedicated to the history of New Orleans and Louisiana. The public is invited to tour the Collection's galleries, house museum, and exhibitions and to use its research facilities. Admission to the Williams Gallery and the Williams Research Center is free. Tours of the History Galleries and the Williams Residence at 533 Royal Street are offered at 10:00, 11:00 A.M.; and 2:00, 3:00 P.M. with a \$4.00 admission charge. Groups of eight or more and school groups, call (504) 523-4662 for reservations.

Louisiana State Archives

Current Exhibits:

- *Holidays of Many Languages* ---- Eight cultural organizations representing holidays
- *American Italians of Louisiana* --- Highlighting families, sports, music, military, arts, religion, commerce, public service
- *Louisiana Native Scenes* - Darlene Boucher Photographer
- *Oak Trees, Cajuns, and Blue Dogs; The Art of George Rodrigue*

Upcoming Exhibits:

- *Louisiana Cookbook Cavalcade* -- Cookbooks from schools, churches and professional chefs in Louisiana. Demonstrations by celebrity chefs and/or culinary tools -- September 16 through January 31, 2002
- *Louisiana Native Americans* -- March 1 through May 31, 2002
- *Louisiana In The Navy* -- July through December, 2002
- *Runnel's School (East Baton Rouge Parish) Juried Art Show*, May 2002

Exhibits (Cont.)

Louisiana State Museum

On October 12, 2001, the Louisiana State Museum will premier *Float Designs of the Golden Age*, a new exhibit curated by Mardi Gras historian Henri Schindler, highlighting the classic early Carnival artwork used as the basis for parade designs from the 1870s through the 1950s. Many of the most widely acclaimed Carnival artists are represented in the exhibit including Charles Briton, Léda Hincks Plauché, Bror Anders Wikstrom, Carlotta Bonnacaze, Jennie Wilde, Cenellia Bowers Alexander, and Louis Andrews Fisher. The exhibit will open in conjunction with the release of Schindler's new book of the same title. The exhibit will be housed in the Presbytere's changing exhibit gallery, part of the building's fantastic, permanent exhibit, *Mardi Gras: It's Carnival Time in Louisiana*, one of the city's most recognized attractions. The exhibit will remain on display through April 2002. Items for this display are from the collections of the Louisiana State Museum, Tulane University Special Collections, the Historic New Orleans Collection, and Mr. Schindler. This exhibit was made possible by funding from Taylor Entergy Company.

McNeese State University

On Sunday, September 9, 2001, at 2:30 p.m., McNeese State University's Frazar Memorial Library hosted a lecture and reception in conjunction with the Louisiana State Division of Archaeology's exhibit, *El Nuevo Constante: An Eighteenth Century Spanish Shipwreck from Cameron Parish, Louisiana*. The lecture was given by Paul E. Hoffman, Professor of History at LSU and co-author of the book, *The Last Voyage of El Nuevo Constante*. The exhibit, which features artifacts excavated from the wreckage of the ship, will be on display at Frazar Memorial Library until October 31, 2001.

University of Louisiana at Lafayette

The summer exhibit in the Edith Garland Dupre Library stairwell celebrated the centennial of the Louisiana oil industry, and featured materials from the Southwestern Archives and Manuscripts Collection and the Louisiana Room collection.

News from LAMA Institutions

Diocese of Shreveport

The October monthly meeting of the Ark-La-Tex Chapter of ARMA International will be held at the Catholic Center in Shreveport and will include a presentation on disaster planning for businesses. Presenter will be Eugene Barattini, representing the Caddo/Bossier Office of Emergency Preparedness.

Dominican Sisters Congregation of St. Mary

The Dominican Sisters Congregation of St. Mary has changed its web address to <www.dominican-sisters.net> Visit us, and write in the guest book! St. Mary's Dominican High School has its own

web site <www.stmarysdominican.org>.

Friends of the Cabildo

The Friends of the Cabildo are proud to once again host the ever-popular Ghostly Galavant. In its fifteenth year, Ghostly Galavant 2001 promises to be the biggest and best yet. New Orleans Historic French Quarter is the stage where participants have the opportunity to visit residents' private courtyards to hear from historic and fascinating ghosts who played a pivotal role in the history of our great city. The event is set to take place on Saturday and Sunday, October 27 and 28, 2001 from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Tours depart every twenty minutes

News from LAMA Institutions (Cont.)

from the 1850 House Museum Store located at 523 St. Ann Street on Jackson Square. Tickets are only \$15 for adults and \$10 for children. For more information, please contact Ariana Ganak at (504) 523-3939 or check us out on the web at www.gnofn.org/~fcabildo.

The Historic New Orleans Collection

Third Saturday, a continuing program at the Williams Research Center, 410 Chartres Street, serves as an introduction to research at the Williams Research Center. On Saturday 20 October 2001, the focus will be *Grave Matters: Sources for Cemetery Research at THNOC*. Sessions are held in the reading room of the Williams Research Center. Please call (504) 598-7171 for reservations.

On Saturday, 19 January 2002, the Historic New Orleans Collection will hold its annual Williams Research Center Symposium. The theme for the upcoming symposium is *The French Empire in North America: From Canada to Louisiana, A Shared History*. The symposium will be held in the Grand Ballroom of the Omni Royal Orleans Hotel, 621 Toulouse Street, New Orleans. A \$25.00 registration fee is required; for information please call (504) 598-7171.

McNeese State University

Ryan P. Semmes has been hired as the new Assistant Archivist for McNeese State University. He comes to us as a recent graduate from the College of Library and Information Science at the University of South Carolina. Also, he is currently working on his thesis for a Master's of Public History at the University of South Carolina. Ryan has worked as an assistant at the South Caroliniana Library at USC, the South Carolina Department of Archives and History and *The Sporting News* in St. Louis, Missouri. He attended Mississippi State University as an undergraduate and is from Natchez, Mississippi. We are very happy to have Ryan at McNeese and he is looking forward to becoming an active member of LAMA.

The McNeese Archives and Special Collections Department received a gaming grant to enlarge the area of the archives office. The expansion will almost double the size of the current office. The department is also applying for another gaming grant for shelving for a recently acquired off-site storage area.

McNeese State University: A Photographic History is scheduled for release in October. Archivist Kathie Bordelon authored this Arcadia Publishing Company's College History Series title. It contains over 200 photographs and captions describing the university since its founding in 1939.

New Orleans Public Library Louisiana Division/ City Archives:

A number of additions have been made to NUTRIAS, NOPL's website (<http://nutrias.org>) during the last few months:

- An inventory of the audio tapes in the Joseph Culotta, Jr. Collection. The collection contains tapes of "Let's Talk It Over," one of New Orleans' first radio call-in/interview programs, which aired on WTIK from 1965-1986 and from 1986-1990 on WNOE. Topics discussed on "Let's Talk It Over" range widely. Political events and social issues on a local, national and even international level figure prominently (e.g., elections and ballot issues on all levels, Riverfront Expressway, Hurricane Betsy, Mississippi River Bridge tolls, legalized gambling, Vietnam, student demonstrations, police brutality, urban renewal, the women's movement). The program also discussed a virtually unlimited variety of other topics, among them history, popular culture, hobbies, religion, and education. The list of guests is similarly varied—elected officials, civil service employees, civic and business leaders, educators, religious leaders, attorneys, sports figures and coaches, academics, representatives of organizations and movements, authors, medical professionals, etc. The Culotta inventory can be found at <http://>

News from LAMA Institutions (Cont.)

nutrias.org/culotta/ltio.htm.

- An inventory of the audiotapes from NOPL's NEH-funded "Jambalaya" Program, a series of lectures, discussions, exhibits, and other activities examining the culture and history of New Orleans held at NOPL during the late 1970s. Between 1977 and 1980, Jambalaya presented 194 events featuring 284 speakers, panelists, and performers. Participants and/or correspondents included Tennessee Williams, Stephen Ambrose, Walker Percy, Paul Prudhomme, Ellis Marsalis, Dutch Morial, Charles Neville, Clarence John Laughlin, Joan Martin, Jonathan Williams, Lillian Hellman, Cleanth Brooks, Enrique Alferez, John William Corrington, John Duffy, Peter Feibleman, James K. Glassman, Shirley Ann Grau, Sheldon Hackney, Peter Kalisher, Moon Landrieu, Charles Moore, Victor Schiro, and Leonard Slatkin. Topics explored in the series included the New Orleans Mardi Gras; urban setting; economy; literary scene; film-making; radio and television; music; children's books; politics; the melting pot; New Deal art; journalism; the Mississippi River; cuisine; environment; medicine; education; and future. Some programs focused on related topics as they pertained to South Louisiana outside of the Crescent City. Sound recordings were made of most of the events and the original reel-to-reel tapes were duplicated on cassettes for research use. The Jambalaya inventory can be found at <http://nutrias.org/~nopl/inv/jambalaya.htm>.
- We continue to add photographs to the website, notably to the Victor H. Schiro Collection and the WPA Collection, and to the "Recent Additions" section of the photos page, which can be found at <http://nutrias.org/photos/photolist.htm>.

Photographs from the Louisiana Division collections continue to be used each week in the "Nostalgic New Orleans" segment of WYES' Step-in' Out program.

Wayne Everard will speak to a meeting of the Louisiana Historical Society on September 11 on resources available in the Louisiana Division and

City Archives.

Collin Hamer will speak to the Jefferson Genealogical Society on September 13 on substitutes for the lost 1890 federal census.

The Louisiana Division's semi-annual "Genealogy for Beginners" workshop, sponsored by NOPL, the Genealogical Research Society of New Orleans, and the Friends of NOPL, will be held on November 17 at the Main Library, 219 Loyola Ave. The class is free, but pre-registration is required since seating is limited. Those interested in attending should call the Louisiana Division at 596-2610 to register.

University of Louisiana at Alexandria

The James C. Bolton Library at LSUA will open its new Archives Room October 18, 2001.

University of Louisiana at Lafayette

The Bayou State Periodical Index is now available online at www.libris.ca/bayou, through the generosity of the Louisiana Library Association. The database currently covers 1996-1999. Plans are to include 2000 in the December update and 2001 in March, bringing the file up to date.

I. Bruce Turner, Curator of Archives and Special Collections, has been promoted to full professor and has been reappointed to the Friends of the Edith Garland Dupre Library/BORSF Professorship. Jean S. Kiesel, Louisiana Room Librarian, has been appointed to the Drs. Gloria S. and Robert W. Cline/BORSF Professorship.

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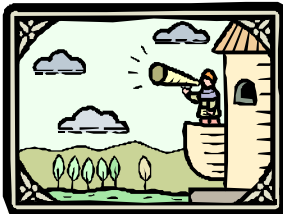
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2001 Annual Meeting



Registration materials for the 2001 Annual Meeting at the Louisiana State Archives in Baton Rouge on November 9, 2001 will be mailed in mid-October. The agenda and registration form are available online now at the LAMA website: www.nutrias.org/lama/lama.htm.