

# Seattle Area Archivists

## Fall 2003

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## Steering Committee

**Helice Koffler, Chair (206-296-1538)**

**Valoise Armstrong, Vice Chair**

**Jodee Fenton, Secretary**

**Carolyn McClurkan, Treasurer**

**Peter Schmid, Member-at-Large**

### Need to contact Seattle Area Archivists?

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Visit us on the Web at <http://www.historylink.org/saa>

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## From the Chair

### Helice Koffler

As the Seattle Area Archivists begins its 2003-2004 year, I am pleased to report that the Steering Committee recently held a very productive planning meeting. Many good ideas came out of this meeting and preparations for upcoming programs that we hope you will find both interesting and useful are well under way. Please check the "Upcoming Events" section of the Seattle Area Archivists web site regularly (<http://www.historylink.org/saa/upcoming.htm>) or watch your e-mail for the latest information about specific dates and times of meetings and programs.

The Steering Committee also decided to retire its old display panel and approved the purchase of a new display board for use at outreach events. Members of the Steering Committee and volunteers already have begun to develop a display that hopefully will convey the work of the organization. We certainly could use your input in this effort and we would particularly like to hear from those members who might have photographs or other records of past Seattle Area Archivists meetings and events. Please feel free to contact the Steering Committee at [seattle\\_area\\_archivists@yahoo.com](mailto:seattle_area_archivists@yahoo.com) with suggestions; the e-mail addresses of individual committee members are also available in this newsletter and on the web site.

I encourage all of you to send in your membership renewals and join us in what promises to be an exciting year.

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## Getting Acquainted

*Our new 2003-2005 Steering Committee members introduce themselves...*

### Helice Koffler, Chair

I am a native New Yorker, having been born and raised in the Bronx (also the birthplace of Stanley Kubrick, Roberta Peters, and Ace Frehley). The wonderful museums, libraries, and other cultural institutions that I had the privilege of being exposed to while growing up in New York have played a huge role in my life. I earned my undergraduate degree with a double major in Art History and English from Hunter College of the City University of New York, which I soon followed with a Master's degree in English literature, also from Hunter. It was further graduate work in English that first lured me out to the Pacific Northwest when I enrolled in the doctoral program at the University of British Columbia. In the course of doing research for my dissertation I eventually realized that I was having so much fun spending time in many incredible special collections and archives in the United States and England that I decided to make a switch. Having returned to New York, I entered the program at the Palmer School of Library and Information Science, Long Island University and received a Master's degree.

Along the way, I supported myself through various jobs in both the publishing industry and stints in various academic, special, and museum libraries, including the Robert Goldwater Library at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Pierpont Morgan Library, and the American Museum of Natural History. I was truly fortunate to have had the opportunity to be placed at the Fales Library, New York University while working towards my library degree—an unbeatable combination of great collections and a dynamic atmosphere. I rounded off my library school experience with an internship at the Theatre Museum in London, which also offered me a unique chance to indulge my passions for the performing arts and England. After returning from England and completing my degree, I was appointed to a professional position at Fales.

Since relocating to Seattle I have worked as an Assistant Archivist with the King County Archives for nearly four years. While at the King County Archives I have had the chance to do a bit of everything, including reference, outreach, and developing content for our web site. I have processed series from a wide range of county agencies, including records relating to the Kingdome. I also am a volunteer at the Museum of History and Industry, where I have helped to organize ephemera and manuscript collections in the research library. At MOHAI I have been introduced to collections of all shapes and sizes, from the most recent accessions to fresh discoveries from the backlog. In addition to serving on the Steering Committee, I am continuing my term on the Security Committee of the Rare Books and Manuscript Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries, American Library Association. Although I have been in Seattle for quite a while now, old habits do die hard. I still closely follow the seasons of the New York Yankees (sorry, Mariners fans!) and the New York City Ballet, where I was a volunteer for several years. If you open your mind to it, the similarities between baseball and ballet can be startling.

### **Valoise Armstrong, Vice Chair**

I received my B.A. in History from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR). I received my M.A. in Public History, concentrating in Archival Administration, from the same institution. The title of my Master's Thesis was: Sixteenth Century Augsburg and Culinary Change: The Cookbooks of Sabina and Phillippine Welser.

While in graduate school I completed an internship at the Archives and Special Collections at UALR. I received a graduate assistantship, working first on a cooperative project between the Central Arkansas Library System and the Aerospace Education System and finishing at UALR's Archives and Special Collections. I continued working at UALR in the archives until December, 1998.

At the beginning of 1999 I began working at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) at the Pacific Alaska Region in Seattle. Here at NARA I serve as the primary reference archivist for records of the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service and other natural resource-based Federal agencies. I also serve as the preservation liaison between NARA in Seattle and NARA's conservators in College Park, Maryland.

### **Peter Schmid, Member-at-Large**

I began working in archives and special libraries while earning my Bachelor's degree in English at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City. I started in the preservation department at the library there, encasing rare and fragile maps, and building custom-fitted boxes for old and rare books. I then worked in the Western Americana/Rare books division of Special Collections, providing reference to the collections, indexing the student newspaper, and maintaining the ephemera and newspaper clipping files. I then moved to the Archives and Records Center, processing administrative and departmental files for the archives end of the operation, but also familiarizing myself with the records management functions of a large university. Shortly after graduation, the position of Photograph Curator became available in the Manuscripts Division, and this was my first full-time position. I was able to use my knowledge of university history and the collections there to begin providing reference and organization to the diverse photograph collections, while learning all I could about historic photographs through workshops and conferences.

In 1991, I took the newly-created position in charge of the photographs in special collections at Utah State University in Logan, north of Salt Lake City. Logan is situated in Cache Valley, an agricultural area watered by the Bear River. The collections here were much different from those in Salt Lake, and I learned a great deal about farming practices and the development of agriculture and irrigation methods. Especially interesting were the files and photographs generated by the Agricultural Experiment Station. At the same time, I intensified my specialization in photograph archives, and attended the workshop on the identification and preservation of historic photograph processes at the Image Permanence Institute at Rochester, New York, among others.

In 1999 I moved east to Nantucket Island to work at the Nantucket Historical Association as Photograph Curator. While there only a short time, I was fascinated with the history of the whaling industry, its quick demise and replacement with the tourism industry beginning in the 1880s. I moved back west to Seattle in 2001 and joined the staff at Providence Archives, where I have begun a database for the photograph collections, accession records, and reference records.

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## **Consortium of Heritage Groups To Unveil Unique Online Resource**

### ***Vintage Photos Tell Comprehensive Story of Seattle and King County History***

After two years of work, a group of Seattle and King County heritage organizations led by the **Museum of History & Industry (MOHAI)** and the **University of Washington Libraries** is set to launch a new website that will provide unparalleled access to 12,000 historic images of people, places and events in King County, with detailed captions. The site will be available to students, educators, researchers and the general public beginning **Tuesday, October 28, 2003**, and will be the first of its kind to use an eclectic assortment of rare photographs to tell a variety of stories of this diverse region in a

single place.

The project is unique because it seamlessly weaves together photo collections from twelve distinct organizations from across King County into one comprehensive, searchable database. The large database is an aggregate of twelve smaller ones—each group maintains its own digital collection, yet all are virtually combined at the web site. Funding for this groundbreaking project came from the federal government's **Institute of Museum and Library Services** in the form of a prestigious **National Leadership Grant** to MOHAI in September 2001. Software to organize and post the images on the web came from local company DiMeMa, licensed to the University of Washington. As project staff members present results at national conference and via published reports, communities across the United States may begin to adapt the Seattle/King County model to improve access to their regional history resources.

Groups taking part in the project include: Black Heritage Society of Washington State, Inc.; Eastside Heritage Center; Maple Valley Historical Society; Northwest Railway Museum; Puget Sound Maritime Historical Society; Rainier Valley Historical Society; Renton Historical Museum; Shoreline Historical Museum; White River Valley Museum; and Wing Luke Asian Museum.

For more information, please call 206-324-1126 or visit [www.seattlehistory.org](http://www.seattlehistory.org).

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## **Scott Cline to Head ACA**

Seattle City Archivist Scott Cline was recently elected vice-president/president-elect of the Academy of Certified Archivists (ACA), the national certifying board of the archives profession.

The mission of the ACA is to promote the fundamental standards of professional practice; define the knowledge and abilities necessary to be certified; and to promote mastery of archival principles. In carrying out this mission, the Academy develops, maintains, and monitors the national certifying examination for archivists.

Scott began his term as vice-president in August following the ACA's annual meeting in Los Angeles. In that capacity, he serves on the committee that reviews all potential examination questions, writes new questions for the item bank, and assists in the selection of questions for the 2004 examination.

Scott will assume the presidency of the Academy in August 2004. Following his term as president, he will serve one year as Regent for Nominations, working with the Nominations Committee to develop a slate of candidates for the 2006 ACA election.

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# Collections News

## Providence Archives

Recently processed collections at Providence Archives include the **Providence Seattle Medical Center Photographs** (1890s-2003).



*Providence Seattle, c. 1911.*



*Student nurses in clinical training, 1950s*

Photographs document activities, personnel and departments at the acute care facility sponsored by the Sisters of Providence, as well as images documenting the sisters who worked and lived there. The 1910 building perched atop Seattle's "Pill Hill" has long been a landmark in the city. Recently sold to Sabey Corporation and destined to become a biotech center, the central façade will remain intact while much of the building will be torn down.

The **Providence Mount St. Vincent Photographs** (1923-1990s) document the history of this West Seattle institution that housed both the original "Home for the Aged" as well as the novitiate for the Sisters of Providence 1924-1961.



*Sister in traditional nurse's habit serves coffee to senior residents at "the Mount," c. 1957.*



*Sister at doorway to the novitiate, c. 1936.*

In keeping with its multi-use legacy, the Mount currently offers assisted living, skilled nursing and a variety of clinics, adult and child day care, and a kindergarten.

## Seattle Municipal Archives

### Audiotape Preservation Pilot Project

The Seattle Municipal Archives recently completed a pilot project on preservation and access for audio tape. Reel to reel and cassette audio tapes dating from 1963 to 1978 were migrated to an updated, standard analog format for preservation; and copies made on high quality, digital audio compact disc for access.

The pilot project provided the Archives with cost estimates, information on the condition of existing tapes, and recommendations on file format standards for future digital audio projects. Based on this information the Archives will be able to develop a migration plan for the hundreds of audio tapes in its holdings.

The tapes used in the pilot project include City Council committee meetings on police intelligence gathering, Seattle's growth policies, Westlake Park/Mall deliberations, and the creation of the animal shelter. Also included are public hearings on open housing and the Pike Place Urban Renewal Project. The digital audio will be available for researchers in early 2004.

#### **New Archives Facility**

The Seattle Municipal Archives completed its move into the new City Hall over the summer. The new building provides the Archives with a wonderful research area for City employees and the public, a greatly improved records and photographs processing area, and nearly 2.5 times the storage capacity. Two refrigerated rooms and expansion space will be added during the second phase of the City Hall construction project slated to begin in the Fall of 2003.

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## **Archives Week Calendar**

### **Saturday, October 4th**

**9:00 AM**

**Exhibits open and refreshments**

***Location: Washington State Archives - Olympia***

**9:30 AM – 10:00 AM**

**How Our Volunteers are Preserving Your Rights** - Washington State Archivist, Jerry Handfield.

***Location: Washington State Archives - Olympia***

**10:00 AM– 11:00 AM**

**Family History on the Internet** - Come hear about the latest Territorial Sesquicentennial Projects and the new online census and naturalization database.

Presented by Assistant Secretary of State, Steve Excell and project staff and volunteers.

***Location: Washington State Archives - Olympia***

**11:00 AM– NOON**

**Behind the Scenes Tours** - Your ticket inside the vaults, secret stacks and the preservation lab in the Archives.

***Location: Washington State Archives - Olympia***

**1:00 PM– 3:00 PM**

**Stone Carving and The Territorial Seal** - Master Stone Cutter, Frank Maurer, will demonstrate his skillful art of carving and discuss the official Washington State Territorial Seal he presented to Secretary of State Sam Reed for the people of Washington.

***Location: Washington State Archives – Olympia***

## **Tuesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>**

**10:00 AM– Noon**

**Find the Real Ticket Value of Your Vanishing Treasures** - Bring your historical records and photographs of buildings, homes, streets, businesses and events within Washington State to the Washington State Archives for free preservation advice and possible duplication on CD.

***Location: Washington State Archives – Olympia***

**10:00AM-12:30 PM**

**Beginning Genealogy** - An introductory class into the fascinating world of family history.

***Location: NARA-Seattle***

**12:30 PM**

**Behind the Scenes Tour** - Take this ticket into the stacks of NARA and see the treasure trove of Federal documents we are preserving for you.

***Location: NARA-Seattle***

**2:00 PM**

**Family History on the Internet** - Come hear about the latest Territorial Sesquicentennial Projects and the new online census and naturalization database. Presented by Jerry Handfield, Washington State Archivist

*Location: NARA-Seattle*

**4:00 PM– 6:00 PM**

**Open House and Tours** - Learn about original Federal records, microfilm publications, finding aids and NARA online resources of use to the academic and educational community. Open to the general public.

*Location: NARA-Seattle*

## **Wednesday, October 8<sup>th</sup>**

**9:00 AM–3:00 PM**

**Seattle Archives Fair at New Seattle City Hall** - Sponsored by the City of Seattle in the Bertha Knight Landes Room, adjacent to the lobby on Floor 1 of City Hall. Ten Seattle repositories will exhibit profiles of their rich resources. Staff available to answer questions about their services and holdings. Visitors can also see the new City Hall research facility. Lead artist for City Hall, Beliz Brother, will speak at 11 AM about her use of Seattle repositories in her art.

*Location: "New" Seattle City Hall*

**11:00 AM– Noon**

**Jumbo Scan Demonstration** - See the first giant scanner in the Northwest and be the first to view the Washington State Constitution scanning project. Presented by Adam Jansen, Washington State Digital Archivist.

*Location: Washington State Archives – Olympia*

## **Thursday, October 9<sup>th</sup>**

**10:00 AM**

**Behind the Scenes Tour** - Take this ticket into the stacks of NARA and see the treasure trove of Federal documents we are preserving for you.

*Location: NARA-Seattle*

**11:00 AM – NOON**

**History of the Washington Lottery** - A free ticket to this fun and entertaining story of the Washington Lottery. Presented by Washington Lottery Special Events Coordinator, Terri Gedde Butler.

***Location: Washington State Archives – Olympia***

**4:00 PM– 6:00 PM**

**Open House and Tours** - Learn about original Federal records, finding aids and NARA online resources of use to the legal community particularly in areas of environmental, natural resource and Native American research. Open to the general public.

***Location: NARA-Seattle***

## **Friday, October 10<sup>th</sup>**

**1:00 PM-2:00 PM**

**Re-Dedication of the State Archives Building** - The Archives Building is celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Former Governor Albert D. Rosellini will re-deliver the 1963 speech that he gave at The dedication of the Archives Building. Governor Rosellini served as Washington's governor from 1957 to 1965 and signed the law establishing the Records Management Act and the Washington State Archives. Secretary of State Sam Reed presiding.

***(Reception immediately following)***

**2:00 PM – 4:00 PM**

**Open House and Tours**

***Location: Washington State Archives, 1129 Washington Street, SE – Olympia***

**12:00 PM – 3:00 PM**

**King County Archives Open House** - Tour the facility, see the recently remodeled office space and new research room, and view recent acquisitions and other material from the collections. King County Executive Ron Sims is scheduled to attend.

***Location: King County Archives - Seattle***

## **Saturday, October 11th**

**10:00 AM – 11:00 AM**

**German Genealogy Research** - A guide to researching naturalization records and helpful suggestions for searching your German ancestry. Presented by Jewell Dunn.

***Location: Washington State Archives - Olympia***

**11:00 AM – Noon**

**Miracle on Washington Street: The story of the 1909 Aberdeen Time Capsule** - Terri Juillerat, State Archives, and the Aberdeen Museum of History, Curator, Dann Sears present a pictorial demonstration of how they saved moldy, wet records.

***Location: Washington State Archives – Olympia***

**1:00 PM and 4:00 PM**

**Tour and presentation** - What is an "archives? What kind of information does it hold? How can you use it? Why should you care? Come in and find out. Please RSVP to [msaunder@bcc.ctc.edu](mailto:msaunder@bcc.ctc.edu) or (425) 564-3950.

***Location: Puget Sound Regional Branch of Washington State Archives, Pritchard-Fleming Building, Bellevue***

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