



Seattle Area Archivists Newsletter

Fall 2004

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Steering Committee & Contact Information

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From The Chair

Peter Schmid

Along with the transition to fall, SAA has seen big changes in the last month. At the September 14 Steering Committee meeting, Helice Koffler, Chair, announced her acceptance of a position in New York and

thus her departure from Seattle and SAA. As the senior member of the committee, I have accepted the position of chair, and Eric Fair, an assistant archivist at King County

Archives, has agreed to finish my term as member-at-large for 2004-2005.

Helice Koffler provided excellent leadership to SAA in the past year, finding engaging speakers and planning tours such as those at Corbis and the Pacific Northwest Ballet archives. She worked hard on outreach opportunities which were expanded during her tenure, helped to establish a guide to Seattle area archives which is now posted on our web site, and brought a real sense of professionalism to our organization. Not least, in the midst of all the frenzied preparations for a move across the country, Helice helped me a great deal in making the transition to chair of SAA.

After nearly five years as an assistant archivist at King County Archives and volunteer work at MOHAI, Helice, a Bronx native and rabid Yankees fan, follows a life-long passion for the performing arts to a new position as cataloger and processor on the New York Public Library's Wilson Project. The project began in 2002 to catalog, process and provide access to the backlog of priceless archival collections in all divisions of the performing arts: Music, dance, theatre, and recorded Sound. As we wish Helice well in her new position, we are also mindful that she will be missed in the archival community, and by myself and others as a good friend.

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New Steering Committee Members

With the departure of Helice for New York, the Seattle Area Archives has four new members. **Lisa Sanders** is the archivist at Lakeside School. She was hired in 2003 to create an archives and begin an oral history program. Prior to that, Lisa was the Director of Information Services at the Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology at the University of Washington. **Birgit Hansen** was an archivist/research director at the Royal Library in Copenhagen Denmark before coming to The United States. While raising a family, she was the vice president of Bellevue Historical Society during its founding years. She is now archivist and librarian at Pacific Northwest Ballet. **Anne Frantilla** is Assistant City Archivist at the Seattle Municipal Archives, where she has worked since 1999. Although she was born and grew up in Seattle, she worked previously at Burroughs Corporation (later Unisys) and then at the Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan. **Eric Fair**, recently hired as assistant archivist at King County Archives, came to Seattle from Chicago, where he was Processing Archivist/Records Analyst at the Archdiocese of Chicago, the largest diocesan archives in the United States.

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Fall Meeting

Our fall meeting will be at the new Seattle Public Library on November 4, 2:30-4 p.m. Jodee Fenton, former secretary of SAA and currently manager of the library's Seattle Collection, will give us a tour of her department. The library is located at 1000 Fourth Avenue. Meet on Level 4 Room 2. Members can take the elevator to Level 4. Room 2 is marked; members will be able to leave coats and bags there. The tour will cover public spaces, including the meeting rooms and

the auditorium. There will be time in the Seattle Room for a more in depth review of the collections.

SAA Archives Launches Guide to Archives in the Seattle Area

A new online directory of local area archives is now available on the [SAA website](#). <http://www.historylink.org/saa/guide.htm> Compiled by intern Toby Harris, the guide serves as an introduction to archives in the area. The guide provides an alphabetical list of repositories, outlining the scope of each institution and providing contact information as well as hours of service. Subject access is also provided to the institutions, giving users suggestions on where to go for genealogical resources, for example, or military history.

The result of hard work and vision by three individuals, many thanks are due to: Helice Koffler, Julie Kerrson and Toby Harris. The guide is very much a work in progress. Please forward comments to the Steering Committee. Only those who responded to the survey were included; but it is not too late to add your institution. Check it out and give us your feedback!

Staff and Repository News

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Providence Archives Renovations Complete

Providence Archives (<http://www.providence.org/phs/archives/>) is proud to announce the completion of a year-long renovation project to expand storage capacity, install a new HVAC system, and build new processing and reference space. Providence Archives collects, preserves, and makes available the historic records of the Sisters of Providence, Mother Joseph Province, and sponsored ministries, including Providence Health System and Providence Services. Institutional and corporate records, manuscripts, photographs, audiovisual materials, and artifacts document the sisters' ministries in education, health care, and social services throughout the western United States from 1856 to the present.

The Archives has been housed since 1972 at St. Joseph Residence, a retirement and nursing facility for the Sisters in West Seattle. The entire building was renovated, beginning in 2003. Archives staff vacated offices in February 2004 (thankfully, we only had to move down the hall!), and returned when work was completed in July.

In 1995, the Providence underwent renovation to add a fire-suppression system and replace standard library shelving with compact units, providing the Archives with a total of 4,743 linear feet of storage capacity. As collections grew with the transfer of records from the closure or sale of several institutions (including Providence Medical Center Seattle), the need for more storage became clear.



New processing area at Providence Archives

The recent renovation has provided an additional 1,197 linear feet of compact storage. The new HVAC system maintains a temperature of 60 degrees (+/- 2 degrees) and 45% humidity. An automatic glass door provides access to the new processing area. The crown jewel of the project is a beautiful new reference room. The project was unusual in that Archives staff were able to work directly with the architect in planning, right down to building material specs and finishing details. The Archives hopes to provide an open house to the facility as the centerpiece of the SAA spring meeting, which coincides with the 20-year anniversary of our organization which held its first meeting at St. Joseph Residence in 1985.



Reference room in renovated Providence Archives

Noted Author Features in Archives Dedication at Lakeside School

The Jane Carlson Williams '60 Archives at Lakeside School brought award-winning author and historian, Jean Strouse, to campus on Friday, October 22, to celebrate the official opening of the Archives. Jean Strouse is the author of *Morgan, American Financier* (1999) and *Alice James, A Biography* (1980), which won the Bancroft Prize in American History and Diplomacy. She is currently Director of the Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers at the New York Public Library and also a Fellow of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

Ms. Strouse spoke with students in several history classes during her visit, and also gave a talk in the school's Pigott Memorial Library entitled "From the Gilded Age to the Information Age: Public Persona of Entrepreneurial Giants". She was also a guest at the Archives' dedication luncheon held in the Refectory Fireplace Room. Also in attendance at the luncheon was Bruce R. McCaw '64, whose generosity provided the seed money in 2002 for the creation of the Archives. The Archives are named in honor of Jane Carlson Williams '60 to celebrate her multitude of connections to the school as St. Nicholas School alumna, parent of two Lakeside graduates (Andrew '88 and Jordan '91), former trustee and Board president, and director of school relations during the capital campaign, *Lakeside Now*, in the mid-1990s. Jane has been an ardent supporter of both St. Nicholas and Lakeside schools and was one of the first to recognize the need for an archives to preserve their histories.

For more information about the archives, please contact Lisa Sanders at 206-440-2895 or lisa.sanders@lakesideschool.org.

University of Washington

After a long career in the UW Libraries, Karyl Winn is retiring on October 1. She will return to her Political Papers position part-time through the end of 2004, however, to complete or stabilize Congressional Papers projects underway. These include the Mike Lowry and the Miles Poindexter Papers begun with WWU intern Megan Carlisle this past summer.

As a founding member of SAA, Karyl has enjoyed working with many Seattle archivists and following the development of their programs and their careers. It is possible that in rainy months she may even use some of the Seattle area facilities! A farewell event for her formal retirement will be planned for December.

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Northwest Digital Archives Goes Live

A new online database providing improved access to archival collections at 13 different Northwest institutions is now available, allowing researchers to learn more about everything from the history of mining to changes in environmental laws or the writings of novelist Zane Grey.

Called the Northwest Digital Archives, the project was coordinated by Oregon State University through a \$350,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. More than 1,800 finding aids are currently available in the database, and well over 2,200 will be available when NEH support ends later this year.

The database can be accessed at <http://nwda.wsulibs.wsu.edu/>.

Member institutions include OSU, University of Idaho, Montana Historical Society, University of Montana, Oregon Historical Society, University of Oregon, Pacific Lutheran University, Seattle Municipal Archives, University of Washington, Washington State Archives, Western Washington University, Washington State University, and Whitworth College.

The Northwest Digital Archives finding aids database is housed at Washington State University.

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Archives Week

The first week of October was Archives Week in Washington State and it was fully celebrated in the Seattle area. The Puget Sound Regional Branch of the State Archives provided tours for the public. The National Archives sponsored beginning genealogy classes.



SAA Display at Archives Expo

Several Seattle area archives participated in "Archives Expo" at Seattle City Hall, bringing exhibits of holdings and services for the public to peruse. Seattle Area Archivists had a booth as well. Dale Stirling of Intertox spoke about using maps in historical research. He brought samples from his research, for the audience to peruse.



Perusing maps at Archives Expo

And King County Archives held an open house and tour. It was a full week!

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Other News

“Crossing Organizational Boundaries” Lead Partners Receive Award

As lead partners in a 12-member partnership collaboration, Crossing Organizational Boundaries, the [Museum of History & Industry](#) (MOHAI) and the [University Of Washington Libraries](#) wish to announce that they received a Certificate of Commendation from the American Association for State & Local History at its annual conference in St. Louis. The Certificate was awarded for their work as lead partners in the Crossing Organizational Boundaries project. Supported by a National Leadership Grant from the Institute for Museum a& Library Services, the project brought 12 large and small organizations together to produce a website of 12,000

historical images of Seattle and King County, Washington. The website King County Snapshots, can be reached at www.kcsnapshots.org.

CDs of Society of American Archivists Annual Meeting in Boston

In case you missed the meeting or particular sessions at the last Society of American Archivists meeting in Boston, a full set of CDs is available for loan through Providence. If anyone would like to borrow them, please contact Loretta Greene at 937-4600.

SAA Workshop

Seattle Area Archivists are still in the planning stages for hosting a Society of American Archivists workshop here in Seattle in late May or early June of next year. Several members and non-members expressed interest in a basic archives workshop. SAA requires at least 11 members to be registered one month prior to the workshop. More information will be forthcoming. Please contact a member of the Steering Committee if you are interested.

Washington State Council for the Social Studies

Three Seattle area archivists presented to the Washington State Council for the Social Studies on Saturday October 9 at a Fall Inservice Conference for teachers. Susan Karren of NARA put together a session with Deborah Kennedy of King County Archives and Anne Frantilla of Seattle Municipal Archives entitled "Power Records in Government Archives." The session presented different approaches to using primary sources to teach Social Studies. The session was well attended and the teachers were an enthusiastic audience.

Western Association of Map Librarians

The Western Association of Map Librarians held their fall 2004 meeting in Seattle September 15-18. Co-hosted by The Seattle Public Library and the University of Washington Libraries, most of the meeting took place in the new Central Library and was the first profession meeting to take place in the new building. Featured speakers focused on regional developments in mapping and Geographic Information Systems. Presenters included: John Loacker, President of Kroll Map Company, who spoke about the history of his company, Tom Nolan, the City of Seattle GIS, spoke about maps created for the City of Seattle and the City's GIS program, and Anne Frantilla, Assistant City Archivist, whose talk "Shacks to Urban Villages: Maps in a City Archives" featured a demonstration of the historical maps cataloging project currently in development at the Archives. Social events included a reception at the Metskers Map Store in the Pike Place Market and the Panama Hotel and Tea House in the International District. The meeting was preceded by an organizational meeting for a Washington Map Interest Group, intended to be an informal professional association for communication and resource sharing. Librarians from several sectors were present for this meeting including local and state government, public and private higher education institutions, and The Seattle Public Library. For information about joining the group's listserv, please contact Anne Zald zald@u.washington.edu

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Calendar

November 4 2:30-4:00 PM Seattle Area Archivists Fall meeting at Seattle Public Library

January 6-9, 2005 [American Historical Association](#) Annual Meeting in Seattle Theme Archives and Artifacts

March 5, 2005 [Pacific Northwest Historians Guild](#) Conference

March 16-20, 2005 [American Society for Environmental History](#) Conference
Houston

April Northwest Archivists Conference, Reno Nevada

September 21-18, 2005 [American Association for State and Local History Conference](#),
Pittsburgh