



Seattle Area Archivists  
P.O. Box 95321  
Seattle, WA • 98145-2321  
seattle.area.archivists@gmail.com  
<http://www.historylink.org/saa>

Fall 2008

Newsletter

Note from the Chair

2

MOHAI Poster  
Preservation Project

4

A Life in a Box

6

Digitization of Rare  
Maps at UW

8

Ruth Kirk Moving Image  
Collection at Film

9

King County Archives  
Opens its Doors Online

10

News Briefs

11

Call for Proposals

13

## Fall Meeting

October 23, 2008

'To the Limit of Our Integrity': How We Do Our Work  
**NARA – Pacific-Alaska Region**  
2:00-4:00 PM

Guest speaker will be Scott Cline, of Seattle Municipal Archives, who will present his paper titled "'To the Limit of Our Integrity': How We Do Our Work," which he recently presented as part of a panel at the Society of American Archives meeting in San Francisco. The meeting will begin with announcements from the Seattle Area Archivists steering committee as well as an update from our State Archivist Jerry Handfield on the activities of the Washington State Historical Records Advisory Board (WSHRAB).

## October is Archives Month

Archives Fair 2008 – "At Home in the Archives"  
October 27, 2008  
9:00 AM – 3:30 PM  
**Seattle City Hall**  
**Washington State Archives Month Website**

Seattle Area Archivists will be coordinating the Archives Fair. If you'd like to have your institution represented at the fair, contact **Gina Rappaport**. Please let her know if you will be participating, what your needs are in terms of tables, electrical outlets, or any additional materials as soon as possible.

## Remember to Renew!

Annual membership fees are due November 21, 2008.

## Note from the Chair

Dear Members!

It was only a few years ago I attended my first Seattle Area Archivists meeting at the prompting of Karyl Winn, one of our organization's founders and a great mentor to me. Now, I am excited to be writing to you as your new Chair. SeaAA provides an important forum for our archival community; so many of us are lone arrangers or staff of underfunded institutions and it can be difficult to attend the bigger meetings or be involved in professional activities on a wider scale. SeaAA allows us to convene and exchange news and ideas and just be around other archivists, without having to travel far and wide.

Our new committee has been brainstorming on how we can enhance our programs and membership, and we've come up with some new activities for the coming year in addition to our regular meetings. The informal survey we emailed to you over the summer received a favorable response and many of you expressed interest in our proposals, so we have gone ahead and made plans. Our two new extra-curricular activities are the **Archives Reading Group** and "**Café des Fonds: A Seattle Archives and History Cafe**" (formerly referred to as "Archives on Tap").

Call me crazy but I miss the required readings of graduate school. The intent of the **Archives Reading Group** is to read and discuss current and past archival literature in a seminar-like setting, without the academic pressures! The group will meet every other month, and discuss several readings to be selected by members of the reading group on a rotating basis. Details will be available at the October 23 meeting.

**Café des Fonds** is modeled after "Science on Tap" events that take place in pubs and will explore various topics in archives. In addition to being educational, **Café des Fonds** will foster a bit of socializing as it will meet "after hours" in a tavern or similar location. More details at the October 23 meeting.

Finally, I would like to mention our **forthcoming programs**. For our fall program on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, we are very pleased to have Scott Cline, Archivist for the City of Seattle, give an encore of his talk presented at the Society of American Archivists this year. His excellent talk, titled, "**To the Limit of Our Integrity': How We Do Our Work**" is not to be missed. I am also excited to announce the Washington State Historical Records Advisory Board (WSHRAB) will also be attending our October meeting, which includes archivists from around the state. Our own State Archivist, Jerry Handfield, will give us an update on the activities of the WSHRAB.

Our **winter program** (probably February) will feature presentations given by graduate students in the field of archives and history. As Rand Jimerson pointed out at the Northwest Archivists conference last May, "graduate students have opportunities for in-depth research that many practicing archivists, with daily work responsibilities, sometimes lack." This program should spark lively discussion among working archivists and serve to formally welcome these students into the professional community.

Our **spring program** (probably May) will focus on the intersection of archives and records management. We have several ideas in the works and will keep you posted.

In addition to all of these programs and events, we are looking into hosting an SAA workshop in the spring. Also, our survey showed that many of you would be interested in tours. We are exploring ideas but please let us know if you have an idea for a tour or would like to give a tour of your repository.

Folks, this will be a great year for Seattle Area Archivists. We want to celebrate the interesting profession we have chosen (or stumbled into), and strengthen our professional relationships.

Happy fall and Happy Archives Month!

Gina Rappaport  
Chair  
Seattle Area Archivists

### Important Dates

October 7	<b>Local Sightings Film Festival</b>
October 23	<b>Fall Membership Meeting</b>
October 27	<b>Archives Fair 2008</b>
October 28	<b>Association of King County Historical Organizations (AKCHO) Membership Meeting</b>
October 31	<b>Proposals due for 50th Annual RBMS Preconference</b>
November 3	<b>Café des fonds: A Seattle Archives and History Café</b>
November 13-14	<b>Understanding Photographs: Introduction to Archival Principles &amp; Practices, Bellevue, Washington</b>
February	Winter Meeting
March 21-22	<b>Association for African American Historical Research and Preservation (AAAHRP) 2009 history conference in Seattle, Washington</b>
May	Spring Meeting

# Museum of History and Industry

## The Medium is the Message

by Kathleen A. Magner

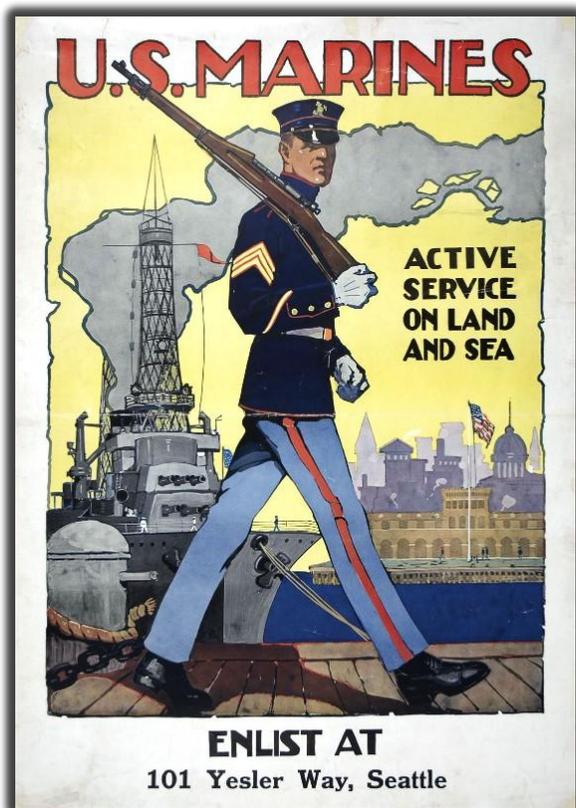


Fig. 1. Courtesy of Museum of History and Industry

Over the years, MOHAI has acquired a number of posters from a variety of sources, including the Sophie Frye Bass Collection and the Seattle Public Library. Recently, MOHAI Library staff completed a Poster Preservation Project, which marks the fourth in a series of preservation grants awarded to MOHAI from the Washington State Library and supported by the Library Services and Technology Act. Through this project over five hundred posters from World War I and World War II have been cataloged in the new iO database, placed in archival sleeves, and re-housed in a new large map cabinet. Each poster was photographed, and the image filed with the catalog record. Library Preservation Assistant, Kathleen A. Magner, completed this invaluable work with

additional assistance from Paper Conservator Carolina Veenstra. Veenstra focused on the fragile and damaged posters, some of which were torn in half, to be repaired; this vital work has allowed the posters to be more accessible to researchers and available for exhibits.

These posters were created at a time when the U.S. Government was attempting to rally support, materials, and human resources behind its war efforts. This poster collection emphasizes the home front war effort and the propaganda campaigns undertaken by the U.S. Government to encourage its civilian base and gain support for military endeavors.

The posters from the World War I era employ poignant questions asking the viewer if they have really done enough for the war effort with the aim of soliciting a donation of funds or volunteers. Patriotic illustrations encourage enlistment and tireless home front efforts in the face of the encroaching enemy. In other illustrations, the enemy is vividly depicted by a pair of blood-spattered boots, shadowy figures lurking behind a helpless woman, or the simple, graphic message of a bloody palm print. Campaigns to raise money for the women and children caught in the midst of the war in Europe and the Middle East, with images of children in tattered clothing and scarves, are also depicted in the posters of this period.

Similarly, through the use of strong masculine imagery, the World War II era posters vividly encourage participation in the war effort whether in industry or on the battle field. The growing concerns over spies and saboteurs led to such series as the "Careless Talk Campaign" that used cartoon imagery to illustrate the consequences of discussing

troop movements and logistical details.

Each war also saw major efforts to raise funds through Victory Loan Campaigns and War Bond Drives, creating patriotic pictures tying the purchase of bonds directly to victory against the enemy. Many of these posters were directed at men of enlistment age (see Fig. 1) whereas others were aimed at women at home, who were needed in factories and in support positions of the armed forces. Additionally, those making purchases were implored to consider conserving materials for the war effort, especially gasoline since, at the time, it was in such high demand.

Artists that participated in these campaigns ranged from national icons of the illustration world, Norman Rockwell and James Montgomery Flagg to enlisted men Gordon Grant and Ed White. Seattle took part in its share of locally produced war posters too. The Seattle Girls War Relief Bazaar (see Fig. 2), which took place in December 1917, encouraged University of Washington students to create advertisements promoting the sale of goods for the war effort. Other events, including a Community Chorus that sang in the Seattle Pageant of Democracy and a Women's Parade complete with Service Flags, were also subjects of local posters and advertisements.

The completion of this project will enable these items to be used in future exhibits and enhance access to these materials for researchers. As historical artifacts, these posters richly illustrate how important the home front was to the military, as well as the active role the general American public played in the distant conflict.

*The Poster Preservation Project has been funded in part under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, administered by the Office of the Secretary of State, Washington State Library division.*

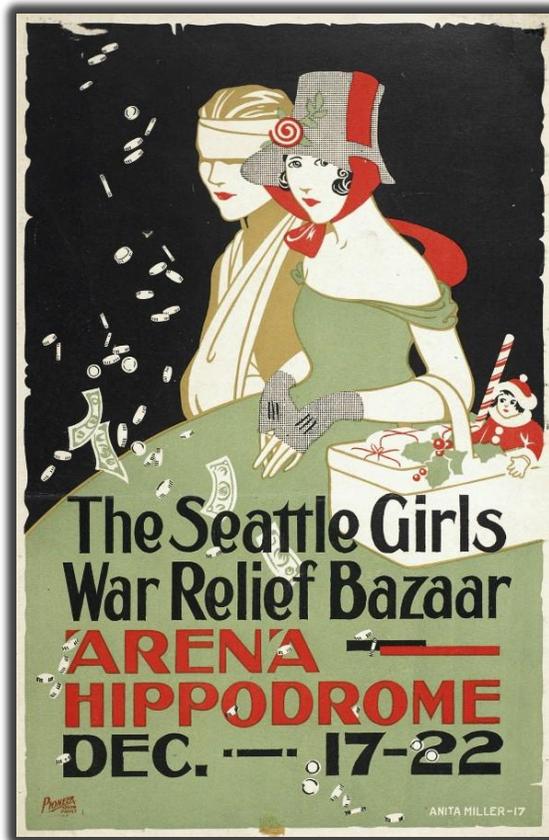


Fig. 2. Courtesy of Museum of History and Industry

## Northwest Archivists Mentoring Program

The NWA Mentoring Program is designed to bring together mentors and protégés, offer recommendations and guidelines that support successful matches, and provide an assessment component for the program to gauge its value to participants and to NWA as a whole.

Applicants should be members of Northwest Archivists, which incurs an annual membership fee of \$15.00 per year. Additional information and an application for membership can be obtained through the [Northwest Archivists website](#).

Applications for mentors/mentees can be found [HERE](#).

## The Winthrop Group, Inc. A Life in a Box

by Richard Hobbs

Archivists lead peculiar lives. You may have noticed this already. At least, I've noticed mine has its odd moments. Even amid a clutter of e-mails, CDs, hard drives, software, iPods, and digital inspirations, I suspect many of us find ourselves relating to a box, a storage box of one size or another.

Heinz Schwartz arrived in my life in a box. On the surface, this was not peculiar; however, as I began to learn about the man whose possessions were now confined to one cubic foot, it got me thinking about some of the strange intersections of recorded life and an archivist's life, about life in a box.

As the person who frequents the lone desk for the Archives of the Washington State Jewish Historical Society, housed by cooperative arrangement at the University of Washington Libraries' Special Collections, I received a phone call recently that brought Heinz Schwartz into my life. The caller was a Seattle woman who at one time had been his attorney, and now was wondering if I might be interested in a box of old letters and photographs for the Jewish Archives.

A week later, I went to the attorney's office to review the box. I began to learn about Schwartz and the box that represented the remains of his life, in fact, his entire family. Heinz Schwartz died in 2005 in his mid-70s. He had been a bookkeeper, and by temperament was quiet and unassuming. He liked to garden. As archivists, we learn not to make snap judgments about records and people, about what is important and what is not. This was a case in point.

Schwartz had no living family members. His substantial estate, settled in a landmark

probate case, had been divided among several local Jewish community organizations. The National Holocaust Center in New York had taken most of his personal effects. Somehow, this lone box was unseen and remained to be found later by his one-time attorney. Here I was holding all the remnants of Heinz Schwartz and his 75 years in my hands.

It quickly became clear I was looking at much more than a box of old correspondence and family pictures. It was a window on a man's life and on an extraordinary time in world history. The window offered visions of a beautiful child, an adoring family, and an entire way of life in a different time. It also offered a glimpse of one of the darkest, most horrific periods in human history.

The box contained photos of Schwartz as a baby, as a young man, and as an adult. There were images of his father and mother, and of village life in Weimar Germany. There was a schoolbook from Heinz's youth and several dozen letters, most in German, written between 1939 and 1941. The postmarks bore the infamous Nazi Swastika and most had been mailed to Heinz's father; the address --Shanghai, China.

Heinz Schwartz was born in 1930 in Germany, the only child of Jewish parents, who themselves had been single children in their families. He came into this world on the cusp of the Nazi era. He was three years old when Adolf Hitler rose to power, and he was nine at the time the Nazis launched their bid to establish the Third Reich, initiating World War II. Schwartz's family was able to flee Nazi Germany in 1939.

They became part of a small wave of Jews who managed to escape the Holocaust. During World War II, there seemed no hope for European Jews fleeing the Nazi terror; but, Shanghai offered hope. It became the destination of earlier waves of Jewish emigrants between 1843 and 1937, when many fled bitter anti-Semitism and pogroms in Europe. In the late 1930s, when other potential havens for Jewish refugees were closing their doors, Shanghai had no entry requirements and was known as the freest city in the world. Heinz Schwartz and his parents, and some 20,000 other German and Austrian Jews escaped certain death and found survival in Shanghai.

By the end of WWII Shanghai was home to approximately 24,000 Jews. Afterward, with the founding of Israel, then the founding of Communist China in 1949, many Jews emigrated to Israel, the United States, and other countries.

By the early 1950s, the Schwartz family had made their way to Seattle. For the next five decades, Heinz Schwartz's life was, by outward measures, rather unremarkable. He thrived here, attended synagogue, gave generously to others, and lived a good and prosperous life. Oh, yes, and, he left us a box.

On the one hand, the box holds such a meager bit of personal treasures. On the other, it holds a wealth of symbols, information, history—not just one man's history, or one ethnic group's history, but our collective history, yours and mine.

I realized that the box also offers us a bit of wisdom: as humans, we experience the worst from our brethren, yet, we survive, and in our survival we offer hope to others. Concentration camp survivor, Victor Frankel, comes to mind, who in his 1946 classic, *Man's Search For Meaning*, wrote, "Man is capable of changing the world for the better if possible, and of changing himself for the

better if necessary."

I began to wonder, what would my box hold, when that is all that is left behind of my years here? Perhaps there is another lesson. It's not the size of the box, not the color and shape of the box, nor even how many boxes we leave to some university and its special collection of manuscripts. It's what's inside the box.

Thank you, Heinz Schwartz.

## Café des Fonds



### A Seattle Archives and History Café

**Monday**  
**November 3, 2008**  
**7:00-8:00 PM**

**College Inn Pub**  
**4000 University Way NE**  
**Seattle, WA 98105**  
**(206) 633-4441**

**Grassroots Archives and the  
Transcription of the Underground**

**Join us for an exciting discussion about  
starting and maintaining a grassroots  
archives organization in the Seattle area.**

**Please RSVP to Heather Davis**  
**hcddavis@mac.com**



## University of Washington

“According to ye latest and most Exact Observations”: Digitizing Rare Maps at the University of Washington Special Collections  
by Sarmila Chowdhury Franklin

In an essay on the history of cartography, scholar J. B. Harley writes:

For many centuries maps have been employed as literary metaphors and as tools in analogical thinking. There is thus also a wider history of how concepts and facts about space have been communicated, and the history of the map itself---the physical artifact---is but one small part of this general history of communication about space.<sup>1</sup>

Whether a devoted scholar of cartographic history, one can always marvel at the beauty, scale, and unique qualities of antique maps, as well as their relationship to geographic spaces they seek to illustrate and the information they convey. From mythical sea beasts afloat in an abyss of blank, unexplored seas to the elaborate carving up of the “New World,” rare maps demonstrate not only a change in geographical knowledge, but also the progression of Western civilization’s conception of the world as it has aged over the past five hundred years.

As part of the continued commitment of the Special Collections Division of the University of Washington Library to support and promote the study of history and its own collection of rare and archival material, the Division is in the process of bringing online over one hundred rare maps, dating between the 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Through a combination of careful large-scale scanning techniques, ContentDM software, and intensive scholarly research on each map’s creation and historical context, the new world maps database, upon completion, will allow scholars, historians, and researchers access to rich color digital images of the rare maps.

The project began in June 2008 as the brainchild of Kristin Kinsey, Digital and Visual Materials Specialist in the Special Collections Division. Due to her fervent devotion and affinity for these maps, Kinsey set aside time for the digitization of the maps. After identifying the cataloged and uncataloged rare maps in the collection, Kinsey oversaw the map scanning and the formation of pertinent metadata that would apply to the maps. University of Washington Information School student, Sammy Franklin, also aided in the construction and format of metadata and continues to conduct historical research for each map.

While still in process, the rare maps database is projected to be fully available to the public by spring 2009.

<sup>1</sup> Harley, J. B. “The map and the development of the history of cartography,” in *The History of Cartography Volume I: Cartography in Prehistoric, Ancient, and Medieval Europe and the Mediterranean*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1987.

### Association of King County Historical Organizations

#### Membership Meeting

Thursday  
October 28, 2008  
9:30 AM

**King County Archives**  
1215 East Fir Street  
Seattle, Washington

# University of Washington

*The Tribe and the Professor* and *In Partnership with Time*  
Films from the Ruth Kirk Moving Image Collection

## Local Sightings Festival

Northwest Film Forum

Program Information:

*The Tribe and the Professor* and *Partnership with Time*

Tuesday, October 7, 2008  
7:00pm

Northwest Film Forum

1515 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Seattle WA 98122

Phone: (206)329-2629

[Northwest Film Forum](#)

[Local Sightings Film Festival](#)

[Local Sightings Film Schedule](#)

Program Description:

*In Partnership with Time* and *The Tribe and the Professor* are two gems from the Ruth Kirk Moving Image Collection housed at the University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections. Ruth Kirk is a writer and photographer who has published over three-dozen books including topics related to the Northwest. Her husband, Louis Kirk, was a national park ranger, naturalist and PBS producer affiliated with the Clover Park and Tacoma school districts. Together, the Kirks produced numerous curriculum audio-visual materials and prime time broadcast programs. Their film work, created from the late 1960s to the 1990s, included subjects such as Northwest Coast Native American fishing rights as guaranteed by treaty; the dilemma of whether totem poles still standing at abandoned villages should be preserved or left to rot; archaeology in Washington and British Columbia; desert ecology and alpine meadow life.

*The Tribe and the Professor, Ozette Archaeology* (1978) documents the work of

Professor Richard Daughtery and his students from Washington State University as they uncover a longhouse buried in a 300-year-old mudslide at Cape Alava, Washington. Throughout the course of the eleven-year archaeological dig the Professor's team works closely with the Makah tribe to catalog and preserve over 55,000 artifacts found during the excavation. The film was awarded a local Oscar by the Academy of Film Science and Arts.

*In Partnership with Time: Historic Preservation in Washington* (1981) is an exploration of historic preservation efforts in the state of Washington. Take a tour of local historic structures including pop architecture like the Hat and Boots and the Java Jive, local institutions like Pioneer Square and the Pike Place Market and examples of technological heritage such as the Snoqualmie Steam Railway and the Virginia V. Also visit small towns like Republic and Malo in Northeast Washington, an archaeological project at Fort Vancouver and historic Ebey's Landing on Whidbey Island.

The screening will include program notes and comments from Hannah Palin, Film Archives Specialist. At this writing, Ruth Kirk and Professor Richard Daughtery will be in attendance and will be available to answer questions. These films were recently preserved by the University of Washington Libraries as part of an ongoing effort to save our visual history and to make it accessible to the public.

## King County Archives

Online, and "At Home" on October 28th

The King County Archives is celebrating Archives Month 2008 with the official launch of not just one, but two completely revised and enhanced web sites! These web sites will serve to introduce some lesser-known collections to a wider audience, and also to help direct clients to other sources of King County's widely dispersed older records.

The [main web site](#) provides basic information (who, what, where)-- but also offers a host of tempting new pages for exploration: expanded examples from some of our photograph collections, and for the first time, examples of our extensive graphic materials collections; lists of holdings on some specialized topics (law enforcement, health, transportation); and a greatly expanded Genealogy and Vital Records section that features -- again for the first time ever-- a complete and comprehensive summary of King County marriage records, from the very first marriage (David Denny and Louisa Boren in 1853) to the present day! You can also find here online exhibits, including our latest, "[At Home in King County](#)," prepared in honor of Washington's Archives Month theme, "At Home in the Archives."

Our second Web site, [King County Historical Property Records](#), contains not only information relevant to individual properties and their owners, but also short discussions of such esoteric topics as: King County zoning history, sources of building plans, the absence of older King County building permits, pre-1972 short platting, and the gradual change of county road names to numbered streets and avenues.

A special feature of the Historical Property Records site is the Neighborhood History page. Here, intrepid researchers who have obtained a County Assessor's photograph of

their home can find sources of information about the King County community or neighborhood of which their home is a part. Yes, we do have records for some Seattle neighborhoods too!

The new web sites will be showcased at the King County Archives' annual Archives Month open house on October 28, from 12:00 to 3:00 PM. Guests will also be able to view archival treasures from the vault, take a tour of the King County Archives facility, and enjoy interactive displays. Refreshments will be available. You can find us at:

King County Archives  
1215 East Fir Street  
Seattle, WA 98122

We are located between 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> Avenues, one block north of E. Yesler Way.

If you need more information please give us a call: (206) 296-1538.

✓ Apply for grants  
✓ Meet with donor  
✓ Book conference hotel  
\_\_Renew membership with  
Seattle Area Archivists

It's that time of the year . . .

Don't forget to renew your  
membership!

The annual membership fee is  
due November 21<sup>st</sup>.

## News Briefs

### Providence Archives

In August, Loretta Greene and Emily Hughes Dominick of Providence Archives in West Seattle made a trip down to Providence St. Joseph Medical Center in Burbank, California to assess and pack up a large transfer of materials from the former St. Joseph Medical Center Historical Society. As part of its mission to preserve and share the history of the Medical Center community, the Historical Society collected items relating to the history of the hospital including paper records, medical books, audiovisual materials, and artifacts. The accession contains over 30 cubic feet of materials that will be incorporated into the existing collection for St. Joseph Medical Center at Providence Archives.



### University of Washington Libraries Special Collections

#### *New Collections*

#### Carsten Lien papers

**Size:** 27.36 cubic feet

**Dates:** Circa 1980's-2005

**Scope and Content:** Research files, correspondence, manuscripts, photographs, clippings, government publications, reports,

audio reel tapes, microfilm, index card files, and maps, primarily relating to Lien's books, *Olympic Battleground: The Power Politics of Timber Preservation*, and; *Exploring the Olympic Mountains: Accounts of the Earliest Expeditions, 1878-1890*; and a planned book on the Cascade division of the Northern Pacific Railroad.

#### Ronald P. Phillips papers

**Size:** 29.86 cubic feet

**Dates:** 1863-2004

**Scope and Content:** The Ronald P. Phillips papers document the personal and professional activities of long-time Seattle Symphony Orchestra clarinetist Ronald P. Phillips (1906-2004) and his first wife, Gladys Bezeau Phillips (1892-1978). The materials consist of biographical material, books, clippings, correspondence, musical scores, newsletters, notes, pamphlets, periodicals, photographs and photographic material, printed ephemera, scrapbooks, scorecards (golf), souvenir books, and yearbooks/directories.

#### Empty Space Theatre records

**Size:** 62.1 cubic feet

**Dates:** Circa 1970-2006

**Scope and Content:** The third and largest accession of the Theatre's records (51.26 cubic feet) contains productions files—including audiovisual materials—and administrative files dating from its inception through its termination in 2006.

#### *New Staff*

Jennifer Spamer joined the staff of the University of Washington Libraries Special Collections on April 1 as Acquisitions Specialist. She oversees the accessioning of all new manuscripts/archives/photograph collections. Jeni is a recent graduate of the University of Michigan's School of Information, and comes to the UW from a

contract position at Microsoft.

### Upcoming Events

The Pacific Northwest Collection will be highlighting recent archival acquisitions in an exhibit, December 2008-February 2009, in the Special Collections Lobby, Allen Library South.

### National Archives and Records Administration— Pacific Alaska Region (Seattle)

#### Staff News

NARA's Pacific Alaska Region (Seattle) regrets to announce that archivist **Sarah Nelson** will be leaving our staff October 24<sup>th</sup>. Sarah was married on September 20<sup>th</sup> and is now living with her husband in the Skagit Valley.

### Pacific Northwest Lesbian Archives

On September 15<sup>th</sup> Pacific Northwest Lesbian Archives launched its new website, which included a fresh new look and interface. The collections page is still under construction, but will be completed in the coming months. If you would like to visit the new site and find out about upcoming events click on the image below.



## NEW WORKSHOP

Sponsored by  
**Society of American Archivists**

*Understanding Photographs:  
Introduction to Archival Principles and  
Practice*

November 13-14, 2008

**Bellevue Community College**  
Washington State Archives  
Puget Sound Branch  
Bellevue, Washington

“While photographs are some of the most versatile and heavily used resources in archives, many professionals lack any specialized training in how to deal with them effectively. This introductory workshop teaches the basics of how to manage and care for photographs. You will discover how standard archival techniques can be applied successfully to photographs in eight modules: appraising and acquiring; reading and researching; identification and handling; preservation, storage and housing; accessioning and arrangement; description and cataloging; copying; and public service and outreach.

“This is the first in a series of courses based on the SAA publication, [Photographs: Archival Care and Management](#), by Mary Lynn Ritzenthaler and Diane Vogt-O'Connor, with contributions by Helena Zinkham, Kit Peterson, and Brett Carnell. Workshop fee includes the book. (\$50 value!).”

You can learn more and register for this workshop by clicking [HERE](#).

# Call for Proposals

The **Association for African American Historical Research and Preservation (AAHHRP)** will hold its 2009 history conference in Seattle, Washington on Saturday and Sunday, March 21-22, 2009.

AAHHRP is now accepting proposals for individual papers, panels, original documentaries, and workshops for its 2009 Biennial Black History Conference. Scholars, historians, genealogists, librarians, archivists, published authors, and graduate students from the United States and other countries are encouraged to submit proposals based on previously neglected or unfamiliar black history and culture. Individuals engaged in the preservation of black history at historic sites, museums, and history societies are also encouraged to submit proposals.

The conference theme, "Black History: Full Disclosure," allows a wide range of topics including, but not limited to:

- Black "Radical" Organizations
- Economics
- Education
- Fine Arts
- Forgotten Black Leaders and Pioneers
- Imperialism
- Law
- Literature
- Local History
- Media
- Miscegenation
- Politics
- Religion
- Unheralded Men and Women
- Women's Movements

In addition, AAHHRP desires proposals that illuminate the history of Africans in Europe, Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, Central America, South America, and Asia.

Abstracts should not exceed 500 words, and must include the paper's provisional title, the author's title and name, affiliation, mailing address, country, contact phone number and e-mail address. The abstract should be sent with a short bio (300-word maximum) to [AAHHRP2009Conference@comcast.net](mailto:AAHHRP2009Conference@comcast.net). For workshop approval, submit details, including special requirements (300-word maximum); for original documentaries, provide short description (300-word maximum). All submissions must be in English.

Graduate students should indicate "Debut Paper" if it will be its first presentation at an academic conference. Debut papers may be grouped together at the conference, with prizes awarded based on comprehensiveness of research, presentation technique, adherence to time limits, and other factors. Authors of the first and second place selections will receive \$200 and \$100 respectively to help defray the costs of attending the conference.

The submission deadline is **October 31, 2008**. If you are not ready to submit a proposal at this time, but plan to submit one before the deadline, please let us know. Please note that proposals are reviewed upon receipt.

If you are interested in being a session chair, please provide your name, affiliation, brief bio and research interest(s), mailing address, country, contact phone number, and e-mail address to [AAHHRP2009Conference@comcast.net](mailto:AAHHRP2009Conference@comcast.net).

Click [HERE](#) for information about AAHHRP's 2007 black history conference. For additional conference details, please contact [AAHHRP2009Conference@comcast.net](mailto:AAHHRP2009Conference@comcast.net).

The **50th Annual ALA/ACRL/Rare Books and Manuscripts Section (RBMS) Preconference "Seas of Change: Navigating the Cultural and Institutional Contexts of Special Collections"** will be held in Charlottesville, Virginia June 17-20, 2009.

The Rare Books and Manuscripts Section (RBMS) of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL), a division of the American Library Association (ALA), seeks proposals for short papers to be delivered at the 2009 preconference, "**Seas of Change: Navigating the Cultural and Institutional Contexts of Special Collections.**" As the 50th anniversary of the RBMS preconference, this year represents an important moment in the history of the Section and its affiliated professions. While we intend to celebrate the Section's achievements we also want to look broadly at how the profession has evolved over the last fifty years in respect to social, cultural, technological, economic, and academic changes and - more importantly - how we will need to respond to changes in the future. Several distinguished individuals will speak from the perspectives of academic research universities, research communities, professional organizations and library education, collecting and the book trade, publishing and the popular consumption of print materials, domestic and international academic library systems.

The short paper session, "**New and Emerging Voices,**" is designed to present the points of view of new special collections professionals on the nature of our collections, institutions, and work in the future. In this program we plan to feature people new to the profession of special collections: recent graduates of library and information studies programs, experienced librarians making a career change, and members of groups traditionally

underrepresented in the archival, rare book and manuscript library professions. We want to hear why they have been drawn to the field at this point in time, what achievements and changes they hope to make, and where they see the cultural and institutional tides taking us.

A variety of subjects can be explored in a short paper and might include, but need not be limited to, the following:

- The changing role of the artifact in research and the classroom
- Technology and its role in the development of new patron communities
- The place of special collections in the context of our parent organizations
- The relevance of paper-based collections in a digital future
- The role of digital resources within special collections
- The definition of special collections in a digital age
- New types of collections and/or modes of collecting
- Changing relationships between libraries, archives, and museums

Each paper selected will be allotted 20 minutes for presentation. Papers will be delivered in small groups and audience response will be encouraged. Proposals should not exceed 250 words and should be submitted with full contact information by **October 31, 2008** to:

R. Arvid Nelsen, Chair, RBMS  
 Preconference Program Committee  
 E-mail: nels0307@umn.edu  
 FAX: (612) 625-8054  
 POST: Charles Babbage Institute  
 211 Elmer L. Andersen Library  
 222 - 21st Avenue South  
 Minneapolis, MN 55455

A website devoted to the preconference will be available shortly [HERE](#). Decisions and notification about proposals will be made via

email by **December 1, 2008**.

Submissions are encouraged from all interested parties, including graduate students in relevant disciplines. Preference for this session of short papers will be awarded to librarians and archivists new to the Special Collections field, experienced librarians who have made a career change to Special Collections, and professionals from traditionally underrepresented communities. If you would like to apply for this preference, please provide a short statement about your background and your eligibility.

Funding is not available from RBMS to support travel costs, however RBMS annually provides full and partial scholarships, through a competitive scholarship program. All applicants are assessed against established scholarship criteria. Speakers are not guaranteed an award, and will not be automatically considered - a completed scholarship application is required from all applicants for scholarships. Detailed information about the 2009 scholarship program will be posted online in early 2009 [HERE](#). Applications will be due in **April 2009** and award recipients will be notified by **May 2009**.



### **Steering Committee Members**

#### **Chair**

Gina Rappaport  
*NOAA*

#### **Vice-Chair**

Richard Hobbs  
*The Winthrop Group, Inc.*

#### **Secretary**

Emily Hughes Dominick  
*Providence Archives*

#### **Treasurer**

Kathleen Crosman  
*NARA – Pacific-Alaska  
Region*

#### **Member-at-Large**

Heather Davis  
*Lake Washington  
Technical College*