

Louisiana Archives and Manuscripts Association

Fall/Winter 2008

LAMA News

LAMA Board Meeting Minutes

SSA Houston, TX—Thursday, May 22, 2008

Members present: Trish Nugent, Howard Margot, Clifton Theriot, Phyllis Kinnison, Peggy Carter, Bruce Turner, Laura McLemore, Lee Leumas

Members absent: Elizabeth Dow, Doug Harrison, Neil Guilbeau

Vice president/president elect Trish Nugent called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Trish agreed to fill in for President Rose Tarbell who resigned in April and moved back to Phoenix, AZ.

Spring Board meeting: Board members agreed to hold the spring board meeting in either Lafayette at ULL or in New Orleans at Loyola.

Annual Meeting: The 2008 annual meeting will be held in New Orleans at Loyola and/or HNOC

Board members discussed the possibility of having a reception associated with the meeting. The two possible sites include the old Ursuline Convent or the Historic New Orleans Collection. Lee will check the availability of the Convent and Howard will check with HNOC.

It was suggested that LAMA offer an invitation for the reception to Secretary of State, Jay Dardenne.

A two day program may be offered with a workshop on a Thursday and the meeting on the

Friday. SAA and Solinet were suggested as possible sources for workshops. It was also suggested that LAMA invite the LSU student chapter of SAA to participate/co-sponsor the workshop. Chris Brown is the current President of the LSU student chapter. The chapter has offered workshops in the past through either SAA or Solinet.

It was suggested that LAMA publicize the annual meeting with history departments at the various Universities.

Session topics

A suggestion was made to offer a session on using student interns in Archives. This could be a panel discussion on how to structure an intern program. The panel would include archivists and students who have been involved with these programs in the past.

Another possible session could include LOUIS / digital library committee

Southern Archivists Conference SAC:

Tennessee hosted SAC 2008. It was noted that only two LAMA members attended the meeting in Nashville--Kathie Bordelon from McNeese and Elizabeth Dow from LSU.

A request has been made by other SAC members to organize a meeting to discuss the future of SAC. Two representatives from each state (LA, AL, TN, MS) will meet to decide if SAC should be a separate organization. The \$500.00 seed money that is due to LA from this year's meeting will be held by MS until a decision can be made about SAC. Bruce Turner, ULL and Kathie Bordelon, McNeese were nominated

(Continued on page 2)

Inside this issue:

LAMA News	1-2
News from LAMA Institutions	2-5
Book Reviews	6
Events/ Exhibitions	6

LAMA News (continued from page 1)

Board Meeting Minutes (*continued from page 1*)

to represent LAMA.

LAMA Scholarship:

There was only one application received this year. The scholarship was awarded to Lee Leumas of the Archdiocese of New Orleans. The money will be used to cover expenses for her to attend the International Congress on Archives. The conference will be held in July 2008 in Malaysia. Lee will be presenting on disaster recovery along with Alfred Lemmon and Mark Cave of HNOC.

Treasurer/Membership Report:

Bruce reported that the membership had decreased slightly. There was no treasurer's report.

Newsletter Report:

Phyllis reported that approximately 57 issues of the spring newsletter were mailed to members. Extras were given out at SSA Houston

Louisiana Historical Association:

The next conference of the LHA will be held in Monroe in 2009. Suggested topics for the archives session of the program were discussed.

It was decided that "Holdings of Religious Archives in LA" would be the theme of the archives session at LHA.

Possible speakers would include:

- Lee Leumas-Catholic Archives
- TBA-Baptist Seminary
- TBA-Jewish Archives
- TBA-Native American Archives

The meeting was adjourned.

News from LAMA Institutions

University of Louisiana at Monroe Library Special Collections Receives Conservation Bookshelf

By *Cyndy Robertson*

Treasured objects and artifacts held by the ULM Library Special Collections will be preserved for future generations with help from the *IMLS Connecting to Collections Bookshelf*, a core set of conservation books, DVDs, and online resources donated by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the primary source of federal funding of the nation's museums and libraries. IMLS and its cooperator, the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH), will award a total of 3,000 free sets of the IMLS Bookshelf by the end of 2009.

"We are very pleased to announce the recipients of the IMLS Bookshelf in the second round of competition. These libraries, museums, and archives are in the forefront of our call to action on behalf of America's collections," said Anne-Imelda Radice, Director of IMLS. "According to a recent national survey, our important collections are at great risk, and without them, the American story simply cannot be told to future generations."

University of Louisiana at Monroe Library Special Collections is being awarded this essential set of resources based on an application describing the needs and plans for care of its collections. Cyndy Robertson, Coordinator of Special Collections, stated, "The Griffin Photograph Collection and photographs from the Otto E. Passman collection require unique preservation techniques that are outlined in the *Bookshelf*. These collections are earmarked for digitization, a long-term goal for Special Collections. The *Bookshelf* will

greatly assist in the effort to planning and providing information on ways to make these and other collections more accessible to student, faculty and other library patrons."

The IMLS Bookshelf focuses on collections typically found in history or art museums and in libraries' special collections, with an added selection of texts for zoos, aquaria, public gardens, and nature centers. It addresses such topics and the philosophy and ethics of collecting, collections management and planning, emergency preparedness, and culturally specific conservation issues.

The IMLS Bookshelf is a crucial component of *Connecting to Collections: A Call to Action*, a conservation initiative that the Institute launched in 2006. IMLS began the initiative in response to a 2005 study by Heritage Preservation documenting the dire state of the nation's collections. The multi-faceted, multi-year initiative shines a nationwide spotlight on the needs of America's collection, especially those held by smaller institutions, which often lack the human and financial resources necessary to adequately care for their collections. For more information on the conservation initiative, please go to www.ims.gov/collections.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's 122,000 libraries and 17,500 museums. The Institute's mission is to create strong libraries and museums that connect people to information and ideas. The Institute works at the national level and in coordination with state and local organizations to sustain heritage, culture, and knowledge; enhance learning and innovation; and support professional development. To learn more about the Institute, please visit www.ims.gov.

JOIN LAMA TODAY!

News from LAMA Institutions (continued from page 2)

LSU SLIS Faculty Proposes a Specialization in Archives Science

By Elizabeth Dow

The faculty of the School of Library and Information Science (SLIS) at LSU has endorsed a plan to create three distinct tracks in its MLIS degree program, including an archives track. The proposal will now go to upper administrative bodies in the University system to approve, but discussion with upper administrators prior to the decision indicated that the proposal will meet no resistance.

When available, the archives tract will consist of the five required courses all SLIS students must take, four archives-specific requirements, and at least five electives. Because of SLIS' involvement with the Southeast Archives Education Collaborative (SAEC) www.archiveseducation.info archives students at LSU have a choice of at least three and usually four archives-related courses each semester. Through the electives, a student can specialize in a specific aspect of archives management.

SLIS at LSU has offered an archives specialization since 2001 as part of its general MLIS program. This specified track removes those classes that have no bearing on archives and allows the student to concentrate more fully on the archives specialization.

The SLIS faculty endorsed tracks in Information Science and Library Science at the same time it endorsed the Archives track. Each of those specializations will need the five shared required courses, four additional required courses, and five electives. All students will receive the MLIS degree, but each will receive acknowledgment of further specialization. If all goes well, the tracks should become effective by the fall 2009 semester. For more information about the archives track, contact Elizabeth H. Dow, PhD: edow1@lsu.edu.

Dominican Sisters Archives Receives a New Acquisition

By Sister Dorothy Dawes

The Dominican Sisters Archives recently received a copy of *Poet of the Lost Cause, A Life of Father Ryan (1838-1886)* as a gift from Donald Beagle, who co-authored the book with Bryan Giemza. Beagle is the director of library services at Belmont Abbey College in Charlotte, NC and curator of the Father Ryan Archive. This book is a definitive biography of Abram Ryan, Poet Priest of the South, and is hailed as a sterling contribution to the field of southern literary history.

After discovering a short biography of Sister Mary Dominic O'Brien (1846-1900) in *Religious Pioneers* (Dawes and Nolan, Archdiocese of New Orleans, 2004), Beagle contacted Sister Dorothy Dawes, archivist for the Dominican Sisters in New Orleans. Sister Dominic had been a friend and longtime confidante of Father Ryan until his death, and Beagle had discovered material (including a photograph which appears on the jacket) in the *Religious Pioneers* article that filled in some of the lacunae in his research. The interview with Sister Dorothy was able to add perspec-

tive to the Sister Dominic connection in his research.

Beagle and Giemza have researched the life of Father Ryan for years. In 2003 the authors discovered unpublished poems by Ryan in several archives (including a folded, handwritten poem found among Robert E. Lee's effects). The biography is very well presented and is receiving excellent reviews, especially from civil war historians, people interested in poetry, religion, southern and Irish-American cultures, and in the questions raised by the life and work of this very gifted, complex, sometimes enigmatic, and often controversial person.

The book was recently reviewed in *Southern Cross*, the southern Catholic newspaper published in Savannah, GA; unfortunately a similar story about the book, slated to appear in the *Mobile Register*, has been delayed temporarily by Hurricane Gustav. Additionally, the authors have been invited to speak at the upcoming Southern Festival of Books, to be held in Nashville, TN on October 10-12. According to Beagle, he and Bryan Giemza will be giving a talk on their book on Friday, October 10th (3:30-4:30, Room 31).

LSU Special Collections Completes NHPRC Grant

By Tara Z. Laver

The LSU Libraries Special Collections is pleased to announce the completion of a 3.5 year NHPRC grant to microfilm the Louisiana Police Jury Minutes Transcriptions created by the Louisiana Historical Records Survey during the New Deal. In paper form, the collection totals 206 cubic feet and resulted in 581 35mm reels.

Police juries are the governing body of Louisiana's parishes, and 60 of Louisiana's 64 parishes are represented in the collection. Their meeting minutes and ordinances document local government responsibility; parish budgets and taxes, citizen participation in and expectations of government; settlement of the state's rural areas and changes in land ownership; local ordinances governing slavery and local attitudes about it, as well as the changing status of African Americans after emancipation. The records reflect topics such as the development of education for blacks and whites, the battle to control yellow fever, livestock maintenance, transportation, and flood control and levee-building. The records also contain genealogical information, useful in identifying ancestors' places of residence, death dates, and role in their communities.

Microfilming was necessary to preserve these important historical records, as the transcribers used poor-quality wood-pulp paper, which had become embrittled to the point where every use was damaging. Further, the order of the collection was at times confusing and incorrect. In addition to the physical access problems, intellectual access to the transcriptions was hampered by an inadequate and difficult to use finding aid. Therefore, the collection was also reprocessed and a new and improved finding aid

(continued on page 4)

News from LAMA Institutions (continued from page 3)

(continued from page 3)

produced. The pdf version is available at <<http://www.lib.lsu.edu/special/findaid/2984.pdf>>.

The LSU Libraries will make copies of the microfilm available to library patrons, both at LSU and via interlibrary lending, and positive use copies of the film are available for purchase. For more information about these services, please contact Special Collections Public Services, Hill Memorial Library, Baton Rouge, LA 70803; phone 225-578-6568; fax 225-578-9425; or through our website at <http://www.lib.lsu.edu/special/ref.html>. A second set of the microfilm will also soon be available to the public at the State Archives of Louisiana.

Andrée Bourgeois, now with Access Sciences Corp, Houston, TX, served as the project graduate assistant, and Tara Laver, Curator of Manuscripts, was the project director. Elizabeth Dow, Associate Professor of Library and Information Science, was invaluable in refining the mark-up and display of the EAD version of the finding aid, and former LSU SLIS student Jennifer Pino, now employed at Boston University, also assisted with tagging.

LSU SLIS Receives Grant for Archives Program

By Elizabeth Dow

The Institute for Library and Museum Services (IMLS), a federal funding agency, has granted LSU \$280,000 to spearhead a three-year effort to establish a sustainable program of continuing education for archivists in the states of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. Elizabeth H. Dow, who heads the archives track in the School of Library and Information Science, will serve as Principal Investigator.

In the proposal to IMLS, Dow argued that in the states of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama – the Mid-Gulf Coast South – historical repositories of all sizes depend in part, and in some cases completely, on the work of staff who have little or no formal training in the proper management of archival materials. For the sake of its historical records, the Mid-Gulf Coast South, which has no regional organization for archivists, needs an organization dedicated to addressing its need for continuing education in the management of historical documents.

The project began in July 2008 and runs through June 2011. During its first 18 months, the project will focus on arranging for and offering continuing education (CE) opportunities in all three states. During the second half of the grant period, it will continue to offer CE opportunities but will focus on developing the organizational and financial structures of an organization that will continue to offer the CE opportunities after grant funding has ended.

Initially Dow and Laura McLemore, Head of Archives and Special Collections at LSU-Shreveport, will represent Louisiana on a Steering Committee which will establish schedules and procedures. Julia Marks Young, Director of the Archives

and Records Services Division of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History in Jackson, and Jennifer W. Ford, Head of Special Collections at the J.D. Williams Library of the University of Mississippi will represent Mississippi while Tracey Berezanski, Assistant Director for Government Records in the Government Records Division of the Alabama Department of Archives and History, and Martin Olliff, Director of the Archives of Wiregrass History and Culture and Assistant Professor of History at Troy State University Dothan, will represent Alabama. Within the first year, the Steering Committee will ask the states' professional organizations to provide another representative to the Steering Committee.

The project will start by using the growing number of free Web-based educational materials as its workshop materials. It will bring local practitioners together with an experienced professional to work through the Web-based materials in groups. The professional, "The Mentor in the Room," will answer questions, clarify concepts, and generally offer support as the participants work through online units. Ideally, no participant will need to travel more than an hour from home, so the mentor and classmates can become a supportive local network.

These CE opportunities will cost little enough that repositories or individual workers can afford to take them on a regular basis, but they will not be free. The grant pays for the extraordinary costs of creating this project which includes support for the organizational meetings, publicity materials, administrative assistance, etc., but it does not include funds for the cost of providing the CE opportunities. The Steering Committee will develop a pricing structure based on the actual cost of presenting them, estimated in the proposal to IMLS as from \$20-\$50 per participant.

This need for continuing education isn't unique to Mid-Gulf Coast region; if successful, this project will develop a model that could very well apply to any region with similar needs.

The John Breaux Collection Project at LSU Libraries Special Collections Comes to an End

By Phyllis Kinnison and Robert Lay, Jr.

Retired Senator John Breaux (D-LA) donated his office papers to LSU Libraries Special Collections in 2004, and Special Collections received a grant from the U. S. Department of Education in the amount of \$297,600 to process them. Processing of the collection began in August 2005 with the processing team consisting of Faye Phillips, Project Director; Phyllis Kinnison, Project Archivist; and Jacob Kimrey and Alanna Skinner, Library Associates. The project – now in the hands of Tara Laver, Curator of Manuscripts Collections; Phyllis Kinnison, Project Archivist; and Robert Lay, Jr., Library Associate – will come to an end in October 2008.

(continued on page 5)

News from LAMA Institutions (continued from page 4)

(continued from page 4)

In 1972 John Breaux was elected as a Democrat to represent the Seventh District of Louisiana in the U. S. House of Representatives in a special election to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Representative Edwin Edwards. Upon his election he became the youngest member of the U.S. Congress at the age of 28. Congressman Breaux served on three committees and one subcommittee: the House Select Committee on Committees, the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee (of which he became the senior member), the House Public Works and Transportation Committee, and the Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation and the Environment (of which he was chairman). To address the problem of wetlands loss, Breaux and Senator Malcolm Wallop (R-WY) authored an amendment to the Sport Fish Restoration Act (known as the Wallop-Breaux Amendment) that increased the excise tax on sport fishing products in order to provide funds for wetlands restoration projects not only in Louisiana, where wetlands loss was the greatest of any other state, but nationwide. Breaux served in the House of Representatives for fourteen years.

In 1986 Breaux was elected to the U. S. Senate to replace the retiring Senator Russell Long. His main concern while in the Senate continued to be the preservation and restoration of wetlands, which led to the passage of the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act, S. 3252 (also called the Breaux Act). The act established a fund to support wetlands restoration projects using the same excise tax strategy as the Wallop-Breaux Amendment. Since it was only authorized for ten years in 1990, Breaux introduced S. 1119 in 1999, which reauthorized the Breaux Act until 2009. Before leaving office in 2005, Breaux pushed through S. 2495 once again reauthorizing the Breaux Act and providing funding until 2019.

As a senator Breaux served on several committees including Commerce, Science, and Transportation; Finance; Senate Rules; various subcommittees; and the Special Committee on Aging, of which he was chairman. In 1996 Breaux was instrumental in the passage of the welfare reform and health insurance reform bills. He chaired the National Bi-Partisan Commission on the Future of Medicare and co-chaired the National Commission on Retirement Policy where he fought to strengthen Social Security and Medicare.

Breaux was also an important leader in the Democratic Party. In 1993 his colleagues elected him to the position of Deputy Majority Whip, which he would hold for the remainder of his career. He was also a founder of the Centrist Coalition and a founder and chairman of the Democratic Leadership Council, an organization advancing a progressive agenda for Democratic politicians. Breaux remained in the Senate until his retirement early in 2005.

The John B. Breaux Collection consists of four subgroups—*U.S. Senate Office Files*, *Campaign Files*, *Social Files*, and *U.S.*

House of Representatives Files. The first three subgroups have received extensive processing, but the House subgroup, consisting of 251 boxes, will receive only minimal preservation measures and be included in the container list database. In addition to the usual paper formats found in a Congressional papers collection, the Breaux Collection contains photographs, microfilm, VHS tapes (31 boxes), audio tapes, CDs, DVDs, maps, memorabilia, monographs and scrapbooks.

The Senate Office Files include his dealings with fellow senators and representatives, meetings of the commissions and committees on which he served, voting records within the Senate, research materials on important issues, and Democratic Party activities. The files kept by Senator Breaux's legislative staff are included here, especially those of his projects director, Johnny Broussard. The subgroup also contains press materials, which include a photographic collection of Senator Breaux's period in office. Some of the issues covered in the Senate Files include the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the Central American Free Trade Act (CAFTA), healthcare reform, waterways and fisheries, taxes, Social Security, welfare reform, base closures in Louisiana, military construction, oil and natural gas, preservation and conservation of wildlife and its environment, and homeland security.

A major portion of the collection consists of case files which contain personal information of constituents. The processing team decided to examine that section for personal information and discard it rather than restrict it. Since that type of information can also be found in other parts of the collection and after researching the issue on the Congressional Papers Roundtable, a use form was created to ensure the privacy of individuals. When they sign the use form, researchers agree to use sensitive or personal information only in statistical aggregate, not to reproduce in any way any personal information, and not to publish direct quotes or entire forms of personal information.

The project archivist, the digital services librarian and a member of the IT team established a web presence for the project during its first year by designing and adding one page to the Special Collections website. The page described the processing that took place each of the three years. The current page can be accessed at <http://www.lib.lsu.edu/special/breaux.html>.

As the processing of the Breaux Collection draws to an end, a curating team consisting of Tara Laver, Curator of Manuscripts Collections; Leah Jewett, Exhibitions Coordinator; and Tracy Hall, Exhibitions Graduate Assistant – with input from Phyllis Kinnison and Robert Lay, Jr. – has begun planning for the opening and exhibition of the collection in the fall of 2009.

LAMA Website

<http://www.louisianaarchivists.org/>

Book Reviews

Heritage Preservation Produces a Guide to Help Institutions Navigate Federal Disaster Aid Agencies

By Phyllis Kinnison

Heritage Preservation, the national, non-profit advocate for the proper care of all cultural heritage, recently produced the *Guide to Navigating Federal Emergency Management Agency and Small Business Administration Disaster Aid for Cultural Institutions*. The purpose of the publication is to provide a general guide to institutions seeking federal funding to aid in disaster response and recovery.

The *Guide* begins with frequently asked questions about the application process and questions about applying for assistance from the Small Business Administration as well as FEMA. It includes a list of state emergency management agencies and their contact information. The publication contains eligibility policies for private nonprofit (PNP) facilities, private nonprofit museums, and collections and individual objects. Almost half of the guide consists of the forms required to request financial aid in the event of a disaster.

A disclaimer declares the information in the guide is current as of July 2008. Updates as well as the contents of the publication are available at www.heritagepreservation.org/federal.

Events/Exhibitions

After Katrina: Salvaging Photographs of Pre-Storm New Orleans

In commemoration of the third anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, LSU Libraries Special Collections presents "After Katrina" an exhibition on display July 21 – November 8, 2008 in Hill Memorial Library on the LSU campus. The exhibition features images salvaged from the studio of New Orleans photographer Donn Young in the weeks following the flooding accompanying Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Young's compelling post-storm photos of the Crescent City round out the exhibition, which is being held in conjunction with the exhibition "40 Days and 40 Nights" on display at the Louisiana State Archives. Young will give a lecture open to the public in Hill during September.

Donn Young, official photographer of the Port of New Orleans, suffered the fate of many Lakeview residents when Katrina and Rita devastated the city in 2005. His home and studio were flooded, and many of his photographs, taken throughout his 35-year career, were damaged or destroyed. Members of the LSU Libraries' Special Collections staff retrieved the surviving photographs, negatives, and CDs containing digital images, and evaluated, cleaned and conserved the materials that were salvageable. Young donated what was salvaged to the LSU Libraries, and in December, 2005, the National Endowment for the Humanities awarded LSU Libraries Special Collections a grant, which helped complete salvage and cataloging of the Young materials.

The Donn Young Collection features a range of photographs covering topics of commercial, political, and personal interest, including weddings, political events, architecture, and festivals.

The images offer a glimpse into daily life in the Big Easy. A selection of images from the collection is available online via the Louisiana Digital Library at <http://www.louisianadigitallibrary.org>.



Madonna
of
Desire
by
Donn
Young

LAMA Annual Meeting

The Annual meeting of the Louisiana Archives and Manuscript Association will be held in New Orleans on Friday, November 14th. Please check the LAMA website at <http://www.louisianaarchivists.org/> for meeting and registration information.

Invite your parish Clerk of Court to join LAMA!

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LAMA Newsletter

It is never too early to send in news items for the next LAMA newsletter. Deadlines are March 15 for the Spring/Summer issue and September 15 for the Fall/Winter issue.